

DIA Board Meeting

October 29, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM

Mr. Culver made the motion to approve the Agenda; 2nd by Mr. Lewis.

Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed with no edits. Mt. Merritt made the motion to accept the minutes, 2nd by Mr. Mitchell.

Public Announcement:

The resume for Gwyn Ross was reviewed; Mr. Cason stated she was out ill, and would not be in attendance. Mrs. Ross, who attended the last Board Meeting, is being considered for a Board Member position. Mr. Cason went on to state that Mrs. Ross worked with DIA on obtaining the property for the main campus, and would have to recuse herself if any decisions have to be made concerning future land acquisition to ensure there would be no conflict of interest.

Mr. Merritt stated he did not see a conflict, and the Board voted to approve Mrs. Ross as the newest DIA Board Member. Per Mr. Cason, on-boarding will start immediately.

Building Bond Update

Mr. Cason stated they had a call with BB&T Capital Markets. Information presented to the investors is being reviewed by the Board Members – presentation to be taken out and reviewed by Board Members.

**Projections have been provided and is in hand of investors. We would like to have this closed by December. Mr. Merritt stated we want to bring \$10.6 ml to our books as an asset; obtain a flat rate (rate is still being negotiated) and a buy-out option. Payments to the investors would be made twice a year.

Mr. Cason stated there is more information to come and they will have to call and Executive Meeting.

**It was noted that the work Bambo has done for the bond transaction, can also be utilized for the renewal.

Special Guests – T-Mobile

Peter – local Government Rep and Steve, from Miami

Peter shared a PP presentation and discussed the program they are looking to offer DIA. In this vein, they deal strictly with education/government entities.

Currently 30% of students have no internet connectivity at home and T-Mobile wants to help bridge this gap. Their requirement is that 40% of our students must receive 'free' or 'reduced' lunch. Under this plan, DIA can receive \$200/student toward their mobile internet devices, including hotspots, laptops and tablets. Affordable; 2-year contract for unlimited plan, \$20/month. They will provide service and support; they offer filtering and static IP to ensure children can only view age-appropriate sites. Free lines would be capped at 2 gigabytes and T-Mobile would provide 30% of the funding. Peter further noted that they do not approve all Charter Schools that apply for the program.

Dr. Payne stated she could see the value here, as most students don't have internet access, except for their parents' cell phones, and this plan would allow them to do homework after school and away from home. Mr. Cason stated they are looking at a couple options but needs to have a more in-depth discussion with Dr. Payne. This would need to be a line item in the budget, as DIA would be responsible for the bill and device tracking.

Financial Update – Felicia Johnson

DE46, a mandated state report, was reviewed; causing an adjustment in how we report. We will move forward with focusing on budget maintenance. September YTD, we have an \$88k surplus and are paying debt timely. Mr. Cason believes everything should be lined up by next month. As required by our by-laws, a policy must be reviewed each month; Financial Policy will probably be next.

State Dept of Education report

Mr. Cason noted that we are now better at report preparation as we have a better understanding of segments; that 6 segments = 1 FTE. This came about from us being 'educated' by Specialists from the DOE. As a result of this understanding and reporting correctly, we should receive an increase this year (approx. \$200-300k) vs a haircut. The new sheet will be out in November

CCRPI report

Dr. Payne stated that results were released on October 25th and our score increased by 1.5 from last year. This is a public report and will be shared with our parents. Mr. Cason added that due to the County scoring lower, it will help us short-term, but hurt us in the long-term.

School Operation Updated

We have to meet academic standard 3 out of 4 years and we have done this. Academics will be more weighted now.

Board members have to register for November training; the next one will be in February.

Old Business

Still working on the new logo; should have this ready for the November meeting.

Lighting will be installed on campus (security)

In November, the renewal and expansion needs to be discussed.

The tax credit is underway.

New Business

New board member

No Public Comments

Hearing none, meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM