

DPA Board Meeting

May 4, 2023 – 3:00 to 4:30pm

Zoom



AGENDA

- Welcome Orlena!
- Board Approvals
 - March Board Minutes
- CEO Updates & Discussion
- Finance Updates & Discussion
- Deep Dive Topic: Draft Academic Plan
- Upcoming Board Meeting Dates



MISSION

Digital Pioneers Academy's mission is to **develop the next generation of innovators**. We prepare scholars to meet the highest academic standards, while cultivating the strengths of character necessary to both graduate from 4-year **colleges** and thrive in 21st century **careers**.



DPA Scholar

- ★ Innovators
- ★ CEOs
- ★ College graduates
- ★ Professionals with high paying high demand jobs
- ★ Community builders

Board Approvals

Minutes March 22, 2023 (1 of 2)
Board Meeting (Zoom)
3:30pm

Attendance

Board Present: Mary Wells, Kevjorik Jones, Mashea Ashton, Sara Batterton, Henry Hipps, Legend Burge, Simone Scott, Paul O'Neill (at 4:10)
Board Absent: Orlena Nwokah Blanchard

DPA Members Also Present: Sarah Hanson

Action Items

- The board voted unanimously to approve the December board minutes.

Discussion

The meeting was called to order at 3:34. The motion was made by Kevjorik Jones and seconded by Sara Batterton. Unanimous approval.

Principal Ashton first shared the big headline that DPA was approved for a five year renewal with two conditions. QSR and academic plan. The first QSR is taking place in April. Ms. Batterton asked how the school was thinking about the academic plan and 9th grade on track data. Principal Ashton shared the partners she is working with on the academic plan, and also the plan for DPA 10th grade scholars to take additional 40 hours of history to receive the credit needed for 9th grade on track. Mr. Hipps recommended reviewing academic plans of other schools with conditions and Ms. Wells recommended that the academic plan refer to the strategic plan recently completed. Ms. Batterton suggested that now is the time to think about an academic committee for the board, to which Ms. Wells and Principal Ashton agreed. Ms. Scott asked about how Python Time (enrichment) would be included in the plan, and Principal Ashton shared more about how the programming is working during the week and on Wednesdays.

Principal Ashton then shared the latest details of student enrollment for the 2023-24 school year. April 1st is the lottery and May 15th is the deadline for parents to accept a seat, although there is always a lot of movement from May to October. Right now, DPA does not plan to enroll new students at 10th and 11th grade, but will accept 20 new 9th graders. There is a lot of demand for DPA high school, and DPA is also working hard to re-enroll current families.

Minutes March 22, 2023 (2 of 2)
Board Meeting (Zoom)
3:30pm

Discussion (continued)

Principal Ashton updated the board about the school memorial in honor of Keenan Anderson, Jakhi Snider and Antione Manning and also about DPA's first National Honor Society.

Next, Ms. Hanson updated the board on DPA's financials as of December 2022. Principal Ashton reminded the board of the facilities planning that the school is also doing - looking at facility options and working through our budget. During the finance conversation, Principal Ashton shared that DPA is continuing to work with The St. James. It continues to be one of the best options in terms of offering space and great coaching for enrichment and athletics. DPA has not been able to use the lower campus gym the way they had expected. Given the conflicts of interest, we are going through the procurement process with The St. James to ensure we are compliant in working with them.

Next, Principal Ashton reviewed DPA's strategic plan with the board. She asked the board, what is resonating with you about the plan, and what questions does it raise? Mr. Hipps and Mr. Jones asked about Google and Amazon, opportunities to partner with UDC as a talent pipeline. The board had a discussion about partnership opportunities to support as a talent pipeline, agreeing that it is very hard to attract and retain computer science talent. Ms. Wells asked about how the core academic model in middle school is getting DPA students ready for computer science, and encouraged DPA to stay focused on the model. Principal Ashton agreed and shared that a great facility is important to families and students. She also shared that the dual teacher model in middle school has been very effective. Principal recapped that she heard excitement from the board, encouragement to ensure we have the right model (program, talent and operations) as we add 11th and 12th grade so students are prepared for the industry.

Principal Ashton concluded the meeting sharing opportunities for the board to visit DPA this spring. The next board meeting is on May 4th where DPA plans to present the FY24 budget for approval.

Ms. Wells motioned for meeting to end, which was seconded by Mr. Hipps. The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

CEO Updates + Discussion



PARCC + AP Computer Science Testing is Here!

- AP Computer Science Exam for our 10th graders will take place on May 8
- PARCC Exams for the 22-23 school year will take place over three weeks in May, from May 9 through May 24
 - Week 1: ELA
 - Week 2: Math
 - Week 3: Science (8th and 9th grade only)



DPA Student SY23-24 Enrollment Update (1 of 2): New Student Enrollment

Below is an update on our new student enrollment for next year. We are in the midst of a big push to convert “offers out” to fully enrolled students, and working hard to recruit additional 6th and 7th grade students.

Grade	6	7	8	9	10	11
New Student Enrollment Target	120	30	16	30	17	0
New Students Fully Enrolled	31	7	5	6	5	0
New Students - Partially Enrolled	19	5	2	7	2	1
New Students Offers Out	45	17	17	17	15	0
Total Students (so far)	95	29	24	30	22	1

*Data as of 5/1/23



DPA Student SY23-24 Enrollment Update (2 of 2): Student Re-enrollment

Below is an update on our returning student re-enrollment for next year. We are in the midst of a big push with our dean team and other school team members to have as many students as possibly fully re-enrolled by May 15th.

Grade	7	8	9	10	11
Student Re-enrollment Target	90	104	90	103	83
Students Fully Re-enrolled	29	36	35	46	30
Students - Partially Re-enrolled	12	6	4	2	2
Students - Still to Re-enroll	56	59	53	63	51



DPA SY23-24 Hiring Update

- Hiring for 2023-24 school year in full swing!
- New Hires
 - 3 confirmed new hires so far
 - This is an addition to 8 folks being hired since January, who we expect will remain for next year
- Returning Team
 - Expecting 56 returning team members



DPA Football “Kick-Off” Event

Last week, we held an Upper Campus Celebration of the Launch of our DPA Football program. Super Bowl Champ, Author and Philanthropist, Kyle Arrington, spoke and the Players Coalition announced a \$100K donation in support of the program! We have set up a [GoFundMe](#) to further support the launch.





8th Grade Promotion Ceremony

Our 8th grade promotion ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 14th at 3pm at our lower campus. We hope you will be able to join us!



Finance Updates + Discussion

February Financials



February Financials: Executive Summary

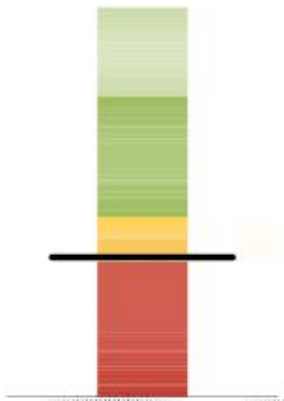
- **Based on current projections, we will end the year with 47 days of cash (one more than January).**
- **Our projected revenue increased \$34k this month (\$336k over budget) due primarily to an increase in our NSLP reimbursements.**
- **Our projected expenses increased \$187k this month (\$670k over budget) due primarily to the new lease accounting rules that is offset in cashflow adjustments and a smaller increase in student events.**
- **Grants are still delayed due to OSSE turnover, but our goal is to submit reimbursement for ESSER by April**



February Financials: Key Indicators

Days of Cash

Cash balance at year-end divided by average daily expenses

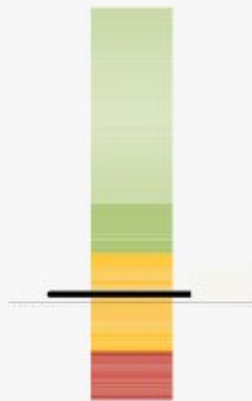


47 DAYS OF CASH AT YEAR'S END

The school will end the year with 47 days of cash. This is below the recommended 60 days, and 1 more day than last month.

Gross Margin

Revenue less expenses, divided by revenue

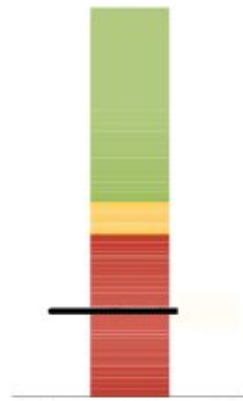


0.8% GROSS MARGIN

The forecasted net income is \$139k, which is \$374k below the budget. It yields a 0.8% gross margin.

Grants Invoiced

Federal grants requested divided by federal grants awarded.

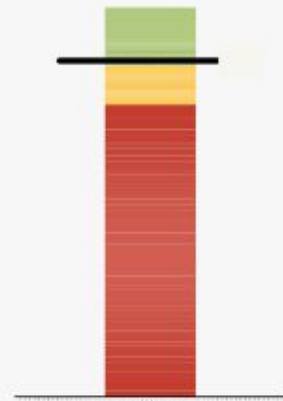


22% GRANTS INVOICED

Additional drawdowns will occur in the coming months.

Forecasted FAR

Forecasted calculation of PCSB's Financial Audit Review (FAR) at year-end



FORECASTED FAR SCORE:86

The Financial Audit Review (FAR) is the PCSB's annual evaluation of the school's financial and operational position.



FY24 Budget Timing Update

- We are working with EdOps to finalize our draft FY24 budget.
- We are going to schedule a mid-May draft review with finance committee, and will aim for budget to be approved by DPA board at June meeting.
- As part of our budgeting process, we are planning for procurement with our largest vendors.



FY24 Budget: *Likely Contracts for Renewal for FY24*

- Contracted Consulting Services
 - EdOps
 - MGT Kitamba
 - Mango Strategies
- Contracted Building Services
 - M & G
 - PMM
- Curriculum
 - XanEdu
- Professional Development Services
 - Vernon Riley
 - The Achievement Network
 - Reading Achievement Partners
 - Teaching Well
- Special Education Services
 - Fairgreen
 - Paradigm Therapy
 - Sound Mind Associates
 - The Speech Therapy Company
- Student Transportation
 - Deadwyler
- Technology / Internet
 - PowerSchool
 - DNS



FY24 Budget:

Likely Contracts for Procurement for FY24

- Food Services
 - Genuine Foods
- Contracted Consulting Services
 - Donna MacAlester
 - Uber
- Contracted Building Services
 - Emcore
 - New Hope Free Will Church
 - iGlobal Security
 - Studio 27
- Professional Development Services
 - Ben Marcovitz
 - CodeHS
- Special Education Services
 - Living and Growing
- Student Enrichment
 - St. James
- Student Transportation
 - HopSkipDrive
- Technology / Internet
 - Apple
 - Facebook
 - Google
 - OutFront Media



Long-term Facilities Update

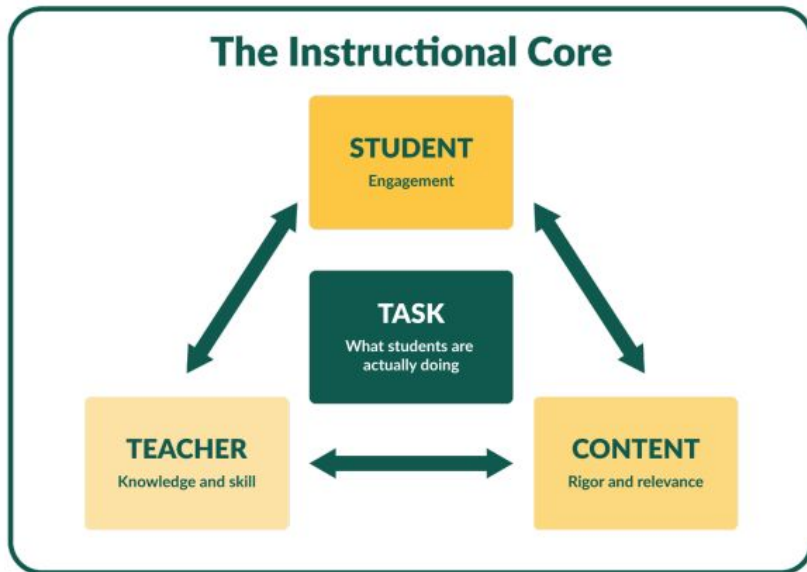
- We are continuing to work with EdOps to develop our five year pro-forma for long term facilities options
- Continuing to explore the V Street and Springarn opportunities
 - For V Street:
 - An agreement with Turner Agassi would need to be in place by 6/30/23
 - This may not be the right opportunity/timing, however participated in a facility walk through on Wednesday
- At a future meeting, we will have EdOps facilities team present

DPA Academic Plan



DPA Academic Plan (1 of 2)

This week we submitted our draft academic plan to PCSB, as part of our renewal conditions. Our focus is on “Improving the Instructional Core.”





DPA Academic Plan (2 of 2)

1. Focus: Improve Teacher Effectiveness (Teacher)

- Strategy 1: Support teacher training and retraining around lesson design and delivery
- Strategy 2: Implement teacher professional growth systems to support teacher growth
- Strategy 3: Strengthen teacher practice through external/internal coaching, mentoring, and support

2. Focus: Strengthen Core Instructional Program & System (Content)

- Strategy 1: Continue Implementation of High-Quality Curriculum Resources
- Strategy 2: Refine the implementation of professional learning communities to focus on improving Tier 01 instruction
- Strategy 3: Implement instructional rounds across grade bands and content areas

3. Focus: Strengthen the Use of Data (Scholars)

- Strategy 1: Tighten the alignment of interim assessments to state assessments to support comparison
- Strategy 2: Establish data teams to analyze data and support the development of improvement plans
- Strategy 3: Invest teachers and scholars in the data process through school-wide and classroom data talks



Upcoming Board Meeting Date

- Thursday, June 15, 2023: 3-5:00pm