

DPA Board Meeting

October 6, 2022 – 3:00 to 4:30pm

DPA Lower Campus



AGENDA

Building Tour (15 minutes)

Board Meeting (60 minutes)

- Review and Approve Minutes
- Proposed New Board Members
- DPA Enrollment Update
- DPA Budget Update
- DPA Academic Update (separate slide deck)
- Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

Executive Session (15 minutes)

- Recommended Disciplinary Actions



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

Minutes August 31, 2022 (1 of 2)
Board Meeting (via Zoom call)
4:00pm

Attendance

Board Present: Mary Wells, Paul O'Neill, Henry Hipps, Orlena Nwokah Blanchard, Mary Wells, Kevjorik Jones, Legand Burge, Mashea Ashton (recused from STJ), Sara Batterton (recused from STJ)

Board Absent: Chase Glass

DPA Members Also Present: Katie Thaeder; EdOps Members Present: Jacob Crouse, Elizabeth Pillion

Action Items

- The board voted to approve the June 23rd board meeting minutes (Sara Batterton and Henry Hipps abstained given absence from 6/23 meeting)
- The board voted in executive session to approve the school compensating The St. James for the spring enrichment/sports programming they provided, and approved the school partnering with The St. James again this upcoming school year (Mashea Ashton and Sara Batterton were recused due to conflicts of interest).

Discussion

Mashea Ashton introduced Elizabeth Pillion, who is the school's new EdOps finance support, and Katie Thaeder, who is taking notes for today, and supporting DPA finance and operations. Ms. Ashton shared overview of the meeting: review and approval of the previous board meeting minutes, CEO update and then upcoming board dates before moving to executive session.

Mary Wells motioned to approve June 23rd board meeting minutes. Kevjorik Jones seconded and the minutes were approved. Sara Batterton and Henry Hipps abstained from voting because they were not present at the meeting.

Ms. Ashton shared in her update that the school is working hard on student enrollment. Right now the school has 528 students fully enrolled and is hoping to grow that number slightly ahead of the school year start. Ms. Ashton, when asked by Mr. Jones, explained what distinguished a scholar who is mostly enrolled versus fully enrolled. Ms. Ashton and the board also discussed the No Shots, No School Mandate in DC. At this time, DPA is not experiencing students unenrolling from school given the mandate.

Minutes August 31, 2022 (2 of 2)
Board Meeting (via Zoom call)
4:00pm

Discussion (cont'd)

Ms. Ashton shared an update on hiring and that DPA has close to 28 new hires to start the year. New team members are a mix of brand new teachers and teachers bringing 4-8 years of experience who really identify with the school's mission. Ms. Ashton shared that DPA is working with two search firms to hire a Head of the Upper School and a Managing Director of Operations. She also shared that the school operations team is stretched very thin, and they are identifying ways for school leaders to support as they hire for that team.

Ms. Ashton and Ms. Pillion then discussed with the board the school's end of school year cash position of 19 days, which is below our target of 45 days. They shared that the school was closely managing the cash position throughout and that the cash position was due to a delay in federal grant reimbursements, private grant disbursements, and several large purchases made in advance of the upcoming school year. Ms. Pillion then shared ways that the school has adjusted processes to mitigate the potential for this situation in the future, and Kevjorik Jones suggested the school consider a line of credit.

Ms. Ashton concluded this portion of the board meeting by sharing upcoming board meeting dates. The next meeting will be in person on 10/6.

Executive Session

Once in Executive Session, Ms. Wells and Ms. Blanchard briefed the board on Ms. Ashton's performance review that was conducted this spring. Going forward, her review will take place annually. Ms. Wells noted that in the future they will use more data in the review, but data was more challenging given the pandemic. Overall, Ms. Ashton was lauded for her strong leadership and vision, and her perseverance over the last four years. Looking ahead, the board would like Ms. Ashton to continue focusing on student impact, organizational culture and institutional sustainability.

Ms. Ashton and Ms. Batterton then recused themselves from the call while the board discussed and voted on the school's request for approval to pay The St. James for programming provided last spring, and for the school to partner with The St. James again this upcoming year. Approval is needed due to conflicts of interest for Mashea Ashton and Sara Batterton. Ms. Wells motioned to approve, the motion was seconded, and all voted in favor of approving.

The meeting then adjourned.



Proposed New Board Members

Latonya Fields + Simone Scott





Student SY22-23 Enrollment Update

SY 22-23 Grade	SY 22-23 Original Goal	SY 22-23 Contingency Goal	SY 22-23 100% Enrolled + Have Attended School*
6th	120	100	96
7th	120	100	116
8th	120	100	103
9th	120	100	117
10th	120	100	85
Total	600	500	517



DPA Budget Update

- In spring 2022, the board approved a budget for the 22-23 school year that assumed an enrollment of 600 students across 6th to 10th grade.
- In July, projecting enrollment to be lower than expected, DPA worked with EdOps to craft a 500 student contingency budget, which we are sharing to date.
 - This contingency budget largely differs from original budget in that it assumes a lower amount of staff overall.
- As of October 4th, DPA has 517 students fully enrolled at Stage 5 enrollment



22-23 Originally Budgeted Org Chart

Total Budgeted FTE: 87

DPA Board of Directors

CEO & Executive Director

Head of Lower School

Dir. of Special Populations

MD of Operations (Vac)

Director of College

Director of Talent

Head of Upper School (Vac)

DCI

AP, 6

AP, 7

AP, 8

Tech Man.

Data Man. (Vac)

2 Assoc Dir

1 Ops Assoc

Asst Head AP, Hum

AP, Math & CS

Head of Enrich.

SW / Wellness

6th Grade
5 STEM
5 ELA
2 SPED
2 Dean

7th Grade
5 STEM
5 ELA
2 SPED
2 Dean

8th Grade
5 STEM
5 ELA
2 SPED
2 Dean

Sec

9th Grade
1 ELA
1 MATH
1 HIS
1 SCI
1 CS
3 SPED
2 Dean

10 Grade
1 ELA
1 MATH
1 HIS
1 SCI
1 CS
3 SPED
2 Dean

1 AD
2 Enr
1 Spa



22-23 Contingency Budget Org Chart

Total Revised FTE: 77

DPA Board of Directors

CEO & Executive Director

Head of Lower School

Dir. of Special Populations

MD of Operations (Vac)

Head of Upper School (Vac)

DCI

AP, 6

AP, 7

DOO, LC (Vac)

Data Man. (Vac)

DOO, UC

Tech Man.

Asst Head AP, Hum

AP, Math & CS

Head of Enrich.

SW / Wellness

6th Grade
5 STEM
5 ELA
1 SPED
2 Dean

7th Grade
5 STEM
5 ELA
1 SPED
2 Dean

Assoc Dir

Ops Assoc

Assoc Dir

Ops Assoc

Sec

8th Grade
1 ELA
1 MATH
1 HIS
1 SCI
1 CS
1 SPED
2 Dean

9th Grade
1 ELA
1 MATH
1 HIS
1 SCI
1 CS
1 SPED
2 Dean

10 Grade
1 ELA
1 MATH
1 HIS
1 SCI
1 CS
1 SPED
2 Dean

2 Enrich
1 SPA

DPA Academic Update

(see attached deck)



Upcoming Board Meeting Dates

- Thursday, December 8, 2022: 3-5:00pm
- Thursday, January 19, 2023: 3-5:00pm
- Thursday, March 16, 2023: 3-5:00pm (in person meeting)
- Thursday, May 4, 2023: 3-5:00pm
- Thursday, June 15, 2023: 3-5:00pm

Executive Session