

DREAM Board Meeting Agenda

August 26, 2006
DREAM Office
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Chair Report

(old business and new business)

Chair, Jon Harris
(5:30pm)

Q & A*

(answers to questions brought up through homework)

Executive Director, Mike Loner
(5:50 pm)

Discussion #1: Board's Top Priorities...TAKE II!

Jon Harris
(6:10)

The discussion's goal is for the board to create an agreed upon list of board "top priorities". Everyone should come to the meeting with an idea of what you think should be the board's "top priorities".

Talking Points

- Do you agree with the final list of "top priorities?"
 - Which, if any, "top priorities" are missing from the list?
 - Are there any that should be taken off this list?
- Generally speaking, how do we as a board act on these top priorities? (Do we discuss them? Form committees to focus on them? Write policy? etc.) Which are most urgent to address?
- How do we monitor progress throughout the year on these policies

I have included a copy of Bree's notes to help with this discussion.

Comments from the August 2006 Homework

1) July Meeting Minutes - Accepted

2) Executive Directors Report: July 2006:

- Congratulations to all of you on a summer well done. I'm curious to hear how orientation of new staff will be juggled with so much happening in the fall!
- Mike - great report! Congrats on Camp. Congrats to outgoing staff, and congrats on the grant!

3) New Monitoring Policy – EL 5

EL 5.1 Accepted

EL 5.2 Accepted

EL 5.3 Accepted with condition

- This is something I believe the board needs to look at very closely. For example, if the board decides that one of it's priorities this year is that DREAM begin to examine itself for expansion/replication to other regions in the not-too-distant future, then i would expect to see mention of fudning for some type of internal review or even a small feasibility study...this can be applied to any one of the priorities that are set.

EL 5.4 Accepted

EL 5.5 Accepted

EL 5.6 Accepted with Condition

- Although the Board has policies, we have not yet marked those that are priorities this year.

EL 5.7

- Accepted

EL 5.8

- I wanted to throw out that I had spoken with UVM business school, and they have a variety of specialized internships, ranging from marketing, to helping with books, etc. Are they a potential source for cheap help, either with cooking the books or with an audit?
- ? - i didn't see this reflected in the budget, but maybe i'm just dum.

EL 5.9 Accepted

- very exciting.

EL 5.10 Accepted

EL 5.11 Accepted with condition

- In general the financial management of DREAM is solid, and this area is no exception. But I wonder if this EL may require at least a rough plan for long term growth. There may be such a plan that I am forgetting, and I know that a lot of thinking has gone into the future development of camp. But it is hard to balance short term needs and long term growth without some specific growth goals (other than camp plans and acheiving ends). For example, the \$50,000 seems to be used wisely, especially if it will be paying off the required summer camp improvements, but if expanding full time salaried staff, or starting an office in New Hampshire, or spending more resources to expand within VT were long term

goals (just random examples), there may have been another forward-thinking way to allocate at least part of the resources.

4) Re-Monitoring Policy

None

5) Board Proposals

A) Jon Harris: Follow up to Board Retreat

- I thought I had figured out this priority setting process, but you may need to remind me or go over in the beginning of the meeting: are we using our agreed upon priorities to improve or add to policy, or to come up with a separate annual budget priorities document (that specifies within ends the things we think are most important to focus on in 2007), or both?

I don't see proposal B - did it not make it into this document or is that leftover from previous HW?

- Hey Jon, I don't see the second proposal here...maybe we could just check it out at the meeting.

I'd love for everyone to have an opportunity to speak about their ideas for priorities at the meeting...and then, through an iterative process marked with discussions after each draft, nail down our top priorities. It would be nice for our priorities to have board "reason" attached to them...ie, WHY and for what strategic purpose has the board decided to set this particular priority...