

STEM School Board of Directors Meeting

March 14, 2017
5:30pm – 7:30pm
Elementary School Library – second floor

8773 Ridgeline Blvd. | Highlands Ranch, CO | 80129

Minutes

I. Call to Order

i Roll Call

- Meeting called to order at 5:37 PM
- Board Members: Tracy Scroggins, Mark Alpert, Nicole Smith (phone), Jeff Berg, Rudy Lukez, Roy Martinez
- Staff: Dr. Penny Eucker , one SAC representative, and Leanne Weyman

ii Pledge of Allegiance

-Mark Alpert

II. Reading of the mission statement

-Tracy Scroggins recited the mission statement.

III. Review and approval of previous board meeting minutes

- Approved by Roy and seconded by Rudy. All in attendance approved.

IV. Executive Director's report

i Recent accomplishments and events

- John Irwin Award
- 9th place out of 345 school for high school
- Top ranked high school in Douglas County
- Multicultural evening
- Day at the Capitol
- MIT Competition
- Middle School Math Competition
- STEM in the News
- DCSD featured our school. Third Coast Percussionists
- Newsletter Format
- Rural Colorado Day at STEM
- Cortez Partnership: District leadership from Cortez and STEM representatives toured schools in Cortez to discover ways we can effectively partner. Cortez staff will visit STEM in April.

- College Board Hanban: Chinese teachers with a \$13,000 subsidy to launch our program. Two-year rotation for visa reasons. Decided to terminate our partnership so we can have stability to build our Chinese program. K-5 will have a rotation of French, Spanish, Chinese.
- Changes for 2017-2018: middle and high school will be modified block schedule. Elementary school will begin at 7:40 before middle and high school. Staggered drop off and pick up meet traffic plan criteria of time separation. BASE will continue to offer supervised care from 6:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

ii Budget report

- Same as the last time

iii Enrollment status and projections

- Accepted 1850 students for 2017-2018. 56 high school students are CE and off campus. CareerWise students will have a flex schedule. Must complete five classrooms for extra space.

iv Financial status and projections

- DCSD salary: new pay scale. STEM is slightly above. New teachers start at 40k. Exit interviews of departing teachers usually cite personal or professional reasons for leaving and not salary. Up to 5% retention bonus paid to every teacher every year where funding is available. Audit to match the DCSD offering for next year.

SAVE THE DATE:

March 17th for working meeting

STEMCom

We have a playground!

V. SAC update

- Naomi E. came and gave a college and career counseling session. This was similar to the information that was given to the sophomores.
- Buddy system for new families to pair up with a family that has been at STEM for a while. K-12 offered a buddy family with students in a similar age group. Summer 2017 that are registered with families that are current. It will be included in the newsletter.
- Parent survey will be sent out in April.

VI. Fundraising

- STEM Computes: This is modeled after Colorado Gives. Roy presented this concept.

VII. Modification of student fee policy

- Look at SkyView fee schedule. Modify language in regards to consequences for non-payment to “including **but not limited to**”. Rudy moved to approve. Tracy seconded. All approved.

VIII. Class A Directors

- Interviews for all three candidates are on Friday, March 17th. There are currently two slots open that are parent directors.

IX. Highlands Ranch Business Park Representation

- Rudy: Robert is now doing 90% of this and is attending quarterly meetings.

X. Public Comment

- None

XI. Planning Session scheduled for 3/17

- Begins at 8:00 a.m.
- Will discuss branding
- Reach alignment and begin the consultant-sector brands

XII. Adjourn Public Session

- Rudy moved to adjourn the public session

XIII. Convene executive session to discuss real estate matters

The Board may vote to recess into executive session pursuant to §24-6-402(3)(a)(II), C.R.S., to confer with the school attorney, in order to receive legal advice or concerning pending and/or imminent litigation and pursuant to §24-6-402(3)(a), C.R.S., and pursuant to §24-6-402(3)(b)I for personnel matters.

STEM School and Academy Board of Directors

P.J. Eucker PhD
Executive Director
March 14, 2017



TSA- Again!



TSA- Best Chapter MS and HS



John Irwin Award

- Received the John Irwin Award- 100% of the years eligible.
- Blue Ribbon Award- have not applied but will initiate the process

Colorado School Grades

- Our high school moved up to 9th place out of 345 schools
- Top ranked high school in Douglas County
- Middle school also moved up- 20 places
- Based on growth scores and growth is most challenging for students scoring highly proficient

Multicultural Evening



Day at the Capitol



MIT Competition



Middle School Math Competition



STEM in the News



Highlands Ranch Herald



DCSD featured our school

- Third Coast Percussionists- General Ahearn's connection through Mark Alpert
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUFEnc0W-4&feature=youtu.be>

Newsletter Format

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUfEsnc0W-4&feature=youtu.be>
- <http://www.cpr.org/news/story/history-isn-t-just-facts-and-dates-at-this-dougco-stem-school-it-s-talking-robots>

Rural Colorado Day at STEM

- Over 20 agencies invited and 12 participated
- Arickaree Schools closed for the day and partnered with job-alike teachers for sharing of ideas
- Industry partners helped lead the emerging partnerships including our own Panther Industries
- Highly energizing and positive day

Cortez Partnership

- District leadership from Cortez and STEM representatives toured schools in Cortez to discover ways we can effectively partner.
- Cortez staff will visit STEM in late April for more discovery of mutual goals
- Funded by the Nathan Yip Foundation

College Board Hanban

- The College Board has provided Chinese teachers with a \$13,000 subsidy to launch our program
- Two year rotation for visa reasons
- Decided to terminate our partnership so we can have stability to build our Chinese program
- K-5 will have a rotation of French, Spanish, Chinese and then choose a language to study in middle school. High school will have that language through AP.

Changes for 2017-2018

- Middle and high school will be modified block schedule
- Elementary school will begin at 7:40 before middle and high school
- Staggered drop off and pick up meet traffic plan criteria of time separation
- BASE will continue to offer supervised care from 6:30am-6:00pm

Financials and Budget

- **70 days in reserve (benchmark is 45 days)**
- **55% for salaries and benefits (50-70%)**
- **12% for debt (< 17%)**
- **Accrued \$865,000 for first 6 months**

Enrollment

- Accepted 1850 students for 2017-2018
- 56 high school students are CE and off campus
- CareerWise students will have a flex schedule
- Must complete five classrooms for extra space

DCSD and STEM salary comparison

- We use the DCSD salary schedule to establish our base offering.
- Because we are a challenging STEM school, we offer more competitive salaries to recruit and retain teachers.
- Exit interviews of departing teachers usually cite personal or professional reasons for leaving and not salary.
- Up to 5% retention bonus paid to every teacher every year where funding is available. So far, we have honored this pledge.
- Audit to match the DCSD offering for next year.

Save the Date

- March 17th for working meeting
- STEMCom- April 1
- Senior Night- May 17
- Graduation- May 19
- 2017 Holiday party- December 21

We have a playground!

- Thank you Board of Directors for allocating funds for this joyful addition!

