

STEM School Board of Directors Meeting

September 6, 2016
5:30pm – 7:30pm
High School Commons

8773 Ridgeline Blvd. | Highlands Ranch, CO | 80129

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

i Roll Call

Meeting Called to Order at 5:40PM

Board Members: Rudy Lukez, Jeff Berg, Roy Martinez, Nicole Smith (by teleconference)

Staff: Dr. Penny Eucker, Cameron Ryan

Others: SAC CoChairs; Karyn Weiffenbach and Renee Borchert, one parent attendee

ii Pledge of Allegiance

II. Reading of the Mission Statement

Jeff Berg read the mission state

III. Review and Approval of Previous Board meeting minutes

Roy Martinez moved to approve 8/2/16 minutes. Jeff Berg seconded. All in attendance approved.

IV. Executive Director's Report

i Recent accomplishments and events

ii Budget report

iii Enrollment status and projections

iv Financial status and projections

Penny Eucker presented report. Powerpoint presentation attached.

V. Appointment of new Board Secretary

Jeff Berg indicated desire to serve in position. Roy Martinez moved to appoint Berg. Nicole Smith seconded. All present approved.

VI. Proposed resolution regarding Class A Directors

Tabled until October 2016 BOD meeting

VII. Outbrief from Strategy Session at DMNS on 5 August

Nicole Smith gave a brief overview of session with recommendation for work toward an approved Strategic Plan and suggestions that BOD better define direction in regards to replication. Discussion suggested second DSCD campus might be best next step. Key open questions remain in the areas of milestones, branding, due diligence, financial options, DCSD opinion, leadership and training. Charter management organization as a possible umbrella and/or a STEM Leadership Academy or Training Institute are possible avenues to support replication. The MARS team has initiated opportunities which could be expanded toward a more formal Training Institute.

VIII. Discussion with SAC Representatives

Co-Chairs, Karyn Weiffenbach and Renee Borchert, gave a report of the first SAC meeting of the academic year. The meeting was held on 8/31 and had approximately 14 attendees. The committee plans to meet on the third Wednesday from 6:00-8:00PM of each month. At least one of the committee chairs plans to attend BOD meetings to provide regular SAC updates.

Karen Johnson represented Leanne Weyman and Cody Blackburn to provide perspectives from the Principals on the committee. Three faculty one each from the elementary, middle school and high school levels serve on the committee.

Productive discussions concerning driveline including possible consequences for violation of requirements/signed documents and a committee for solutions, blue print for final footprint of campus (playground, sand boxes, landscaping, retention pond, sports courts ...), Friday study hall structure and community concern over supplemental life lesson activities which are mandatory but not graded transpired during the SAC meeting.

Chairs can update information like agendas and minutes under SAC link on website.

Rudy Lukez guided agenda item to a brief TMP discussion. Under Robert Hoornstra's guidance, 8 committees are working toward improving the driveline and neighbor relations. Bussing is a very expensive option. RTD park and ride remains a possibility to help relieve pressure from the driveline. Landscaping will improve physical appearance of the campus. The TSA program reduces number of vehicles in the afternoon driveline. A more permanent gate on Northridge LLC (Koomer) common ingress/egress to Ridgeline awaits settlement of claims by Northridge LLC. K-2 playground is in the process of obtaining required permits then bids followed by construction with completion expected in the first part of October.

IX. Public Comment

- 1) Karyn Weiffenbach raised the question as to whether Academy classes/extracurricular/sports activities are considered STEM activities. Outside families (home schooled or from some other school) may think they are not representing STEM. The idea of including STEM is team names arose. Subsequent discussion supported the attitude that students in Academy activities represent STEM regardless of whether the student is indigenous to STEM or not. The topic falls into the larger consideration of branding.
- 2) Karyn Weiffenbach noted that Colorado Academy has a bus that drops off at public thoroughfare near Village Inn
- 3) Karyn Weiffenbach indicated that the Pledge of Alliance and morning announcements were no longer a daily occurrence. Penny Eucke noted that a daily pledge is a state requirement and that the staff might be in the process of determining the best time during the day to address the requirement.
- 4) Rudy Lukez brought up the possibility of non-profit effort to obtain a Flagpole with the potential for Eagle Scott project by student(s).

X. Determine Need for Planning Sessions Prior to Next Board Meeting

Tuesday 9/13 meeting on marketing branding is on tap. The Board did not identify a need for additional planning sessions

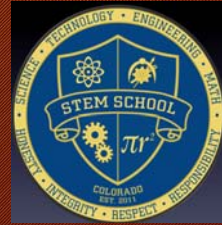
XI. Adjourn Public Session

Meeting adjourned at 7:05.

XII. Convene executive session to discuss personnel related issues

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.

Board determined executive session was not needed



Board Report

P.J. Eucker PhD
Executive Director
September 6, 2016

Celebrations!



Art Gallery in a storage room- students are proud of their contributions

STEM Cheerleaders



STEM Students at Work



Skill-packed learning centers



Enrollment

- Built our budget on a range of 1550-1620 students
- Wait list of 1200 students concentrated in grades 2-8 with vacancies in grades 1 and high school
- Advertisements running to fill those classes
- 31% ethnic diversity
- 7% FRL
- Girls remain in the minority

Ad running in Highlands Ranch Herald

**STEM School
and Academy**

Now Serving Students K-12

Relevant, Rigorous, Real World Education
Where Character is Key

Limited Openings For High School or Grade 1:

Ranked 11th out of all Colorado High Schools
Boettcher, Coca-Cola and National Merit Scholars.
Best in Douglas County!

Problem based learning and 21st century skills are
embedded in learning through the use of technology,
critical thinking, and collaboration to engage
students in authentic and real world issues.

info@stemhigh.org or 303.683.STEM (7836)

Tours are open to the public every
Wednesday at 10:00 or by appointment

 **STEM School and Academy**
8773 South Ridgeline Blvd.
Highlands Ranch, Colorado



**"She just programmed a
spherical robot at age 5"**

Financial Dashboard

- Cash balance- \$5,163,000
- Days in reserve- 75 days in STEM account
- Net income for 2015-2016- \$412,631
- % Facility cost: 12% (benchmark is below 17%)
- % Revenue for salaries and benefits- 59% (benchmark is 50-70%)
 - Years past:
 - 2014-2015 58%
 - 2013-2014- 66%
 - 2012-2013- 61%

Informational Technology Update

- The Zayo 1 Gbps connection is active.
- Wireless access sign-in - We will begin testing logging into the wireless network to provide the ability of tracking we page usage.
- Few complaints about connectivity now that we are on our own service

Morale- how to measure and improve

- Instituted our monthly staff survey starting in September
- STEM supported Happy Hour- appetizers only/ cash bar
- Bronco-themed pot luck
- College Friday- last Friday of month
- All new staff are paired with a mentor
- We ask- what can we do to make it better for you?

The Academy

- Board Meeting August 26th
- Suggested moving classes to the school umbrella
- Operational and leadership board
- One person to serve on both to keep in sync

The Academy Classes

- Several hundred are signed up for classes
- Mentors are teachers, parents and community members
- Sports are through the Academy if not CHSSA

STEM Spirit!

