

**STEM School
Board of Directors Meeting**

June 4th, 2019 5:30pm – 7:30pm
High School Commons

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

i Roll Call

- Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM
- Directors present: Mark Alpert, Roy Martinez, Thomas Wendling. Tracy Scroggins, Jeff Berg, Nicole Smith, and Brian Sapp were present via telecom. Heidi Elliot joined the meeting at 6:10 PM via telecom.

Director absent: Rudy Lukez

ii Pledge of Allegiance

- Mark Alpert initiated.

II. Reciting of the Mission Statement

- Roy Martinez read the mission statement.

III. Class B Director Terms

This agenda item was carried over from the cancelled May 2019 BOD meeting.

Prior to action on this agenda item, the terms for the Class B Directors were

B1 Tracy Scroggins	May 2021 (extended May 15, 2018 BOD meeting)
B2 Nicole Smith	May 2021 (extended May 15, 2018 BOD meeting)
B3 Mark Alpert	May 2021 (extended May 15, 2018 BOD meeting)
B4 Jeff Berg	May 2019 (extended at April 4, 2017 BOD meeting)
B5 Rudy Lukez	May 2019 (extended at April 4, 2017 BOD meeting)
B6 Roy Martinez	May 2019 (extended at April 4, 2017 BOD meeting)

Jeff Berg summarized the history leading to these terms and indicated that the board needed to address the terms of four Class B Directors to established future alignment with the August 2018 amended bylaws stipulating appointment of two Class B Directors to three-year terms each year in May.

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Tom Wendling motioned to extend the terms of Jeff Berg and Rudy Lukez to the end of May of 2020. Mark Alpert seconded. All active Directors present approved. Heidi Elliott and Rudy Lukez were not present during this vote.

Tom Wendling motioned to extend the terms of Nicole Smith and Roy Martinez to the end of May 2022. Mark Alpert seconded. All active Directors in attendance approved. Heidi Elliott and Rudy Lukez were not present during this vote.

The approval of these motions established the BOD Class B Director terms as follows

B1 Rudy Lukez	May 2020	(extended at June 4, 2019 BOD meeting)
B2 Jeff Berg	May 2020	(extended at June 4, 2019 BOD meeting)
B3 Tracy Scroggins	May 2021	(extended at May 15, 2018 BOD meeting)
B4 Mark Alpert	May 2021	(extended at May 15, 2018 BOD meeting)
B5 Nicole Smith	May 2022	(extended at June 4, 2019 BOD meeting)
B6 Roy Martinez	May 2022	(extended at June 4, 2019 BOD meeting)

IV. Review and approval of previous board meeting minutes

- Roy Martinez motioned to approve the 4/2/2019 minutes.
- Tom Wendling seconded.
- All Directors in attendance approved.

V. Executive Director Report

- See attached power point slides for further information contained in the Executive Directors Report.
- The May 7th Board of Directors meeting was canceled.
- There was a tremendous outpouring of support after the May 7th tragedy.
- There was much support from the community: \$48k Colorado Succeeds crowdfunding, MindSpark brought food for 200 people, PRA and DCSD charter schools made tee-shirts for STEM.
- Dr. Eucker described the apprenticeship program at STEM.
- STEM has the highest SAT scores in the school district. The 7th highest in the state.
- Graduation took place at the Dove Valley Broncos practice facility.
- Playfield is finally being built over the summer.
- STEM won an eCyberMission state award and was a national finalist. This competition is hosted by the Air Force.
- US News gave STEM a top ranking (based mostly on testing data)

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- We are fully enrolled for the 2019-20 school year, and we are adding one Kindergarten class.
- Our waitlist has 65 families added.
- We have a 4.3% increase in PPR (per pupil revenue).
- Election: STEM has made a request for Class A Director applications. There are 6 candidates. 2800 parents will be asked to vote. The election has been delayed, but we will have it over the summer. Brian Sapp commented that Heidi Elliott and himself were appointed to temporary terms until the election. Jeff Berg suggested that the board check with the candidates to make sure they are still sure that they still want to run. There are two Class A Director openings for the 6 candidates.
- There are enrichment program summer camps underway for elementary, middle, and high schools. Subjects include theater, dance, and Lego robotics.
- Brian Sapp made a comment that for the next agenda, we should include discussion of teacher and administration retention.

VI. Proposal and discussion for a Board Committee for School Security

- Brian Sapp has been appointed as the chair of a committee that will include parents outside experts, and at least one other board member. The committee will coordinate efforts with DCSD and State committees working on school security. Tom Wendling had a question whether committee membership would include administration representation as well, and it was confirmed by Mark Alpert that administration members would also be part of the committee.
- Heidi Elliott joined the meeting on the phone at 6:10 at this point in the meeting.

VII. SAC Update

- Tom Wendling commented that there was no SAC meeting since the last Board of Directors meeting. The SAC will have its next meeting in August. Karen Johnson gave the SAC update and noted that data has been compiled from the Parent Survey, which closed this May 1st.

VIII. PTO update

- No PTO officer was available to give an update; however, Karen Johnson gave a brief report on recent PTO activities.

IX. Mission-Vision update for new contract

- Roy Martinez moved to amend the Mission Statement to be “Never Stop Innovating”. Tracy Scroggins seconded. Jeff Berg commented that he would have liked to see the

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word “education” in the Mission Statement. The vote on the motion went forward, and all present Directors approved the motion.

X. Public comment

- A parent noted that no-one among government, police, or administration has stepped up to accept responsibility for the tragedy of May 7th and the “covenant of safety had been broken”. The same parent noted that no leader has stepped up to accept responsibility. This person also noted that bullying is an inappropriate use of technology.
- A parent noted that there have been suicides at Arapahoe High School in the aftermath of that school’s shooting and wanted to know if the school was self-analyzing to know what went wrong on May 7th.
- A parent who has a child coming to the school for the first time said that the Board of Directors should answer questions about what sort of security measures the school has, and what are the board’s assurances that our children are being made safe?
- A parent of a former student at the school challenged the validity of the school’s defamation suit made against an anonymous caller to district board member Wendy Vogel in December.
- A parent of student raised awareness of the Watchdog Dads program for elementary schools, gave a Roxborough school as an example, and described how the program could be implemented at STEM.
- A parent of a former student is expecting to hear about mental health issues and what STEM is planning to do for students’ social and emotional needs.
- An individual noted that social attitudes regarding guns in the U.S. is “messed up” and offered his experience outside of the U.S. to help in forming less “group think” solutions.
- A current parent of two STEM students thanked STEM administration, board and teachers for the emergency training and for taking care of students. The parent praised teachers, PTO, SAC, and Board of Directors for having mental health professionals and providing every opportunity to help heal after the event.
- A parent thanked school staff, administration, and board and expressed appreciation. This parent wants to hear more about the school’s plans for mental health and safety and realizes that the safety plan cannot be 100% public.
- A parent suggested a forum where parents can discuss school issues directly with school leadership.
- Mark Alpert commented that the board really appreciates the public comments.

XI. Adjourn public session

XII. Convene executive session

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The Board may vote to recess into executive session pursuant to:

C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(e)(I): Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators

C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(b): Conferences with an attorney for the local public body for the purposes of receiving legal advice

- Roy Martinez motioned to adjourn public session and convene executive session.
- Tom Wendling seconded.
- All Directors in attendance approved.
- The communications at the 6/4/19 executive session of the STEM Board were privileged attorney-client communications.



1



2

A little help from our friends....

- Colorado Succeeds crowd funded almost \$48,000 to be used where most needed. Our faculty will decide what is most needed for their mental health next school year.
- MindSpark sent breakfast for our entire staff of almost 200.
- PRA, another DCSD charter school sent this:

3

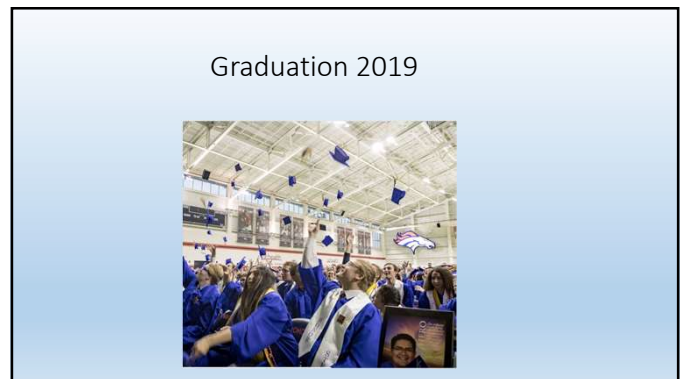
Why we are #STEMStrong

- STEM School Highlands Ranch provides a very special place to learn at an individual pace.
- Students work in teams solving the great problems of our time.
- Prepared for life with apprenticeships, industry certificates and classroom instruction aligned to the changing workplace.
- Highest SAT scores in DCSD and in the top ten of 345 Colorado public high schools.
- A place for our 1850 K-12 students to maximize their potential while enjoying their friends.

4



5



6

Where our students are going.....

- 19 Accepted to Mines 13 Committed
- 1 Accepted to Univ. of CA-Berkeley
- 1 accepted to Princeton
- 41 accepted to CU Boulder
- 30 accepted to CSU
- 6 accepted to DU 3 committed
- 1 accepted to Drake
- 1 accepted to Drexel 1 committed
- 1 accepted to Pepperdine 1 committed
- 2 accepted to Baylor 1 committed
- 1 accepted to Georgia Tech 1 committed
- 5 accepted to Cal Poly San Louis Obispo 2 committed
- 1 Air Force Academy 1 committed
- 1 US Coast Guard Academy 1 committed
- 1 accepted to Boston University 1 committed
- 2 accepted to Purdue 2 committed

7

Celebrations

STEM School Highlands Ranch getting grass field, playground

Students have used parking lot in years since school opened



Elementary and middle school students at STEM School Highlands Ranch kick off the groundbreaking of the campus' first grass field and playground.

8

eCyberMission State Award and National Finalists

- Team will compete at Nationals
- Virginia on June 16-21
- Congratulations to the team and to their coach, Mrs. Simi Basu.



9

Welcome to High School Event in the park



10

Elementary Field Day



11

U.S. News and World Report STEM Data



12

May 11 Car Show- Best Hot Rod, Classic, etc.

To be rescheduled



13

Enrollment

- Fully enrolled for 2019-2020
- Adding one kindergarten for a total of four
- Approved free kindergarten for Colorado which enhances our financials. We had received .43 funding and the parent contribution of \$4,000 did not cover the costs. Now we will receive full PPR.
- Our waitlist continues to grow- 65 families added since May 7

14

Colorado Legislative Session Closed

- A 4.3% increase in per-pupil revenue heading into next school year, or approximately \$44 million in new funding for charter school students across the state.
- Full state funding for full-day kindergarten (FDK) starting next fall along with \$25 million to assist schools with the purchase of furniture, fixtures and equipment necessary to support their FDK programs next school year.
- Recovery of \$4.25 million in current-year Charter School Capital Construction Funding that was nearly lost.
- An increase in the percentage of marijuana excise tax revenue going to charter school facilities, helping to stabilize Charter School Capital Construction amounts going forward.

15

Board Applications

Class A applicants

Heidi Elliott
Tom Feldkamp
Christopher Frame
Trevor Kilpatrick
Brian Sapp
Ramesh B Thatavarthi

16

STEM Parent Academic Survey and School Operations Survey

- Survey was live in May- sent by our PTO.
- Parents are to fill out one academic survey per child and one school operations per family.
- Embedded questions from year to year to track trends.
- Dr. Johnson assists with compiling the data into charts for a fall board meeting.

17

Enrichment Summer Camps

Camp Invention- K-6, June 3-7
multiple sections with sixty signed up but expecting 80 by the start.
Elementary Theater Camp- June 10-14
Elementary Dance Camp- July 1-12
MS/HS Theater Camp- July 22-26
HS FRC is hosting two weeks of Lego Robotics
Annual ULA Payload will launch in July

18



19