

STEM School
Board of Directors Meeting
June 1, 2021
5:30pm – 7:00pm

MINUTES

I. Call to Order 5:37

i Roll Call: Nicole Bostel

BOD Members in attendance: Rudy Lukez, Nicole Smith, Roy Martinez, Ramesh Thatavarthi, Carla Gustafson, Kelly Reyna, Nate Angell and Michelle Horne
Additional Attendees: Penny Eucker, Robert Hoonstra, Nicole Bostel, Simi Basu, Mishika Bhatia, Kaley Kingman, Josette Wu

ii Pledge of Allegiance: Michelle Horne

II. Reciting of the Mission Statement: Carla Gustafson

III. Review and approval of previous board meeting minutes:

Motion to approve: Roy Martinez

Motion to approve seconded: Nicole Smith

Minutes approved unanimously

IV. Board Election Update: Rudy Lukez

Congratulations to Michelle Horne who won the election as the newest Class A Board Member.

- i. Michelle has prior teaching background, has lived in Colorado 7 years and has a 7th grader attending STEM.
- ii. Suggestions to improve the election process:
 - a. Complete a test of the email system the week before the election to make sure people are properly registered so we don't have any last minute problems.
 - b. Extend the election to end on Sunday night instead of Friday night.

V. Student Presentations: Mishika Bhatia, Kaley Kingman and Josette Wu

Simi Basu presents Mishika Bhatia and Kaley Kingman: Jacobs Innovation Challenge 3rd place winners.

- i. This is a worldwide competition to help students simplify the engineering and design processes by going through 3 Phases: understand, IDA and Prototype. It ended with us making a pitch for our solution.
- ii. The challenge was centered on 17 different global goals and had a total of 231 teams that were pitching their solutions to global challenges. We chose climate action.
- iii. See Slide Presentation: Solar powered device charger
 - a. 6.4 megatons of greenhouse gasses are emitted by charging your phone, equivalent to those generated by 1.1 million cars
 - b. We studied gender disparities, income inequalities and the psychological effects of climate change; specifically in India, one of the most climate impacted countries in the world
 - c. We discovered that marketing is the main factor limiting the potential of developing ideas to combat the climate issue.
 - d. Auraflair- is a solar charger that is cost efficient, effective, trendy and eco-friendly
 - e. We have to market it to be a fad, effectively tricking people into making an environmentally smart choice.
 - f. We donated our award money to All for Eco: an organization with the mission to inspire individuals and make it fun to live eco-friendly of eco-friendly lifestyle and to provide teachers with supplies to educate their students on how to be ecofriendly.

Simi presents Josette Wu: the architect and maker of the Starr Holocaust Museum- See slide

- i. My inspiration was the Starr family and the architect Frank Lloyd Wright
- ii. Design Process: I used Sketcher Pro 2020 to design my 3 level 3D model. For the virtual presentation I imported the building into Blender and FilmPlus and included all my group members' voiceovers. I then used a technological tool called Loop On that allowed me to partition the design into multiple pieces like a puzzle. Then I was able to put it through the 3D printer
- iii. Challenges: The floors were too thin, causing warping of the 3D print. The floor plug didn't run the entire length of the floor, and I had to print out the furniture separately, which was very difficult to glue. If I were doing this again, I would increase the floor thickness, reduce the temperature of the first layer from 70 degrees to 60 degrees to prevent warping and extend the floor plug the entire length of the 2nd floor.
- iv. The Future of 3D printing models is curvilinear or organic modeling due to the attractive durability of a Roman archway projected across a continuum. It is nature friendly and cost effective as it is made of organic structures that maximize a strong frame while using minimal materials. Additionally it can be printed in as little as 48 hours.

VI. Executive Director's Report: P.J. Eucker PhD

- i. **Diversity Equity and Inclusion: Dr. Johnson**
 - a. This committee was formed a year ago in response to data which indicated that we needed more of a focus on diversity and equity from the parent perspective.
 - b. Our team consists of administration, teachers, SAC members, parents and community members.
 - c. We meet the 3rd Monday of every month to analyze the school demographic data and to discuss and understand more about diversity, equity and inclusion at STEM
 - d. We identified the following goals:
 - i. Create a safe environment for students, staff and the community to understand values of diversity, inclusion and equity and how they could be embedded throughout our school and community.
 - ii. Examine STEM's curriculum to see if it reflects diversity as represented in our building.
 - iii. Engage parents in different ways that relate to equity, inclusion and diversity and focus on representation of diversity through mentorships, speakers, and other people that come in contact with students to represent diversity.
 - iv. Together with Sources of Strength, we're launching this upcoming school year with aspects of the DCSD initiative called "No Place for Hate".
 - v. Revamp the hiring practices to ensure that we have representation from diverse perspectives by utilizing the online job fairs.
 - e. Next steps: We propose a web page for information and updates regarding the progress of this team as well as a resource page for parents that want to learn more about some of the events in the PTO initiatives. We would like to create a specific survey regarding these issues for parents, staff and students that will help guide our work in the fall so that we're using data to determine what our community needs so that next year's goals and measures related to that feedback.
- ii. **Architectural Design for CHSAA Gym: Adele Wilson, Josh Francis & Joel Piercing-** see slide presentation
 - a. Company has been here for 40 years working on K-12 schools.

- b. We are adding a CHSAA gym with bleacher seating, changing rooms, weight room, a middle school cafeteria, four classrooms on the second floor and a connecting atrium between the schools.
- c. Schedule: preliminary schedule starts late this year through next summer.
 - i. Phase 1 is demolition phase. We'll be removing some of the existing sidewalks, parking spaces and trees in the area between the schools before we demo the second floor of the elementary school.
 - ii. The Shuffle phase involves relocating the existing MS kitchen and several classrooms to allow for Phase 2 demolition to make space for the gym. This phase is estimated to be June through August of 2022. We have about 12 relocations that we have to do before we can start demoing the gym. We're looking for the board to then go ahead and accept the project and we'll put together a bond for this particular project.
 - iii. Phase 2 involves demolishing the existing gym and some of the classrooms, removing the roof and rebuilding the new gym and additions mentioned above. This should be completed June 2022-January of 2023.
- d. Costs: \$400 per square foot, which comes out to \$9.8 M. Nicole Smith adds for the BOD and community awareness that we evaluate the need and feasibility for the financial investment to ensure that we can allocate the funds appropriately to facilities without withdrawing from other important ledger items. We can support this investment within the facility's budget. We are well within a safe threshold of some of the boundaries that we look at as upper limits for our debt.

iii. **Building Ships update: Dr. Cannady**

Building ships was developed June 1, 2019 to help students enjoy STEM subjects and prepare them to engage and thrive in the community and their future endeavors by building connections to leaders and community members.

- a. The current Building Ships advisory board has served 2 years, and the new advisory board will start this summer. We will also form a student advisory board to learn what ships they want to build and where they want to build connections.
- b. Some of the projects our students have been working on are: Martian greenhouse; working with GE Renewable energy, AIAA, and USGS; we're hosting a summer teacher professional learning event with 500 teachers from Belize and 20 teachers from Colorado including our STEM teachers; Stephanie Hart's MS students are working on a project called "Water Is For Everyone"; Dr. Campbell-Smith's environmental science class did a collaboration with GE renewable energy; the kindergarten Engineering projects; and all of Simi Basu's student activities, such as Pawesthetics. There are many more not listed here.
- c. Please check out the career Discovery page on the school website. 100% of students who wanted a mentor got one, including internships with Lockheed Martin and Littleton Adventist/Centura Health care internships.
- d. Dr. Cannady just applied for the Sync Up \$2 Million Grant

***Schedule change:** In the interest of time, Dr. Eucker skipped her slide show presentation on celebrations as well as the communications plan to the next board meeting. Rudy Lukez congratulates the students, staff and parents on the largest graduating class STEM has ever had.

VII. Public Comment

- a. Kalissa- would like to know why RISE was not adopted by STEM's mental health team.

- b. Nikki Baird: Expressed concern about where the funding earmarked for the Academy was spent.
- c. Jane Kim: Expressed disappointment that the BOD/Admin team neglected to mention that the trial is going on right now.
- d. Chad Weiffenbach: Expressed concern about the executive director.
- e. Heidi Elliott. Expressed concern about the executive director.
- f. Karyn Weiffenbach: Expressed concern about the executive director.
- g. Bernadette Amaya: Expressed concerns regarding employment from a former paraprofessional.

VIII. Approval to bid CECFA bond financing

Motion for the board to support the funding for Matt Omera from Choice Advisors to function as our agent to solicit the bond to support our facilities improvement as mentioned earlier in this meeting: Nicole Smith

Motion Seconded: Roy Martinez

Motion passed unanimously

Board Discussion: There has been some confusion from an organizational and legal perspective in terms of how we move forward with the strategic plan. Dr. Eucker will be working with the staff in order to help leadership make sure we meet our goals and deadlines for completing the various pieces of the strategic plan that are in place.

IX. Adjourn Public Session

Motion to Adjourn Public Session and Convene Executive Session: Roy Martinez

Motion Seconded: Kelly Reyna

Motion approved unanimously, public session ended 6:42 PM

X. Convene Executive Session