

APPROVED



## STEM School Highlands Ranch

### Minutes

#### Board of Directors Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Tuesday January 10, 2023 at 5:30 PM

**Location**

Middle School Commons  
8878 Barrons Blvd.  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

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**Directors Present**

C. Gustafson, I. Kalra, K. Reyna, L. Davison, M. Horne, R. Lukez

**Directors Absent**

N. Smith

**Directors who arrived after the meeting opened**

R. Lukez

**Ex Officio Members Present**

K. Johnson

**Non Voting Members Present**

K. Johnson

**Guests Present**

A. Westfall

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**I. Opening Items****A. Record Attendance****B. Call the Meeting to Order**

K. Reyna called a meeting of the board of directors of STEM School Highlands Ranch to order on Tuesday Jan 10, 2023 at 5:39 PM.

**C. Pledge of Allegiance**

**D. Reciting of the Mission Statement**

**E. Approve Minutes**

I. Kalra made a motion to approve as amended the minutes from Board of Directors Meeting on 12-06-22.

C. Gustafson seconded the motion.

Amendment: The item that mentions that the minute approval for December 5th was tabled needs to be removed. M. Horne will adjust the 12/6/2022 minutes.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

R. Lukez arrived at 5:42 PM.

**II. Academic Excellence**

**A. Student Government - updates**

Student presentation of past and future events- Prom, Winter Formal, Nerds Night Out, and the talent show.

**B. STEM School Executive Director update**

Presenter: LynAnn Kovalesky

We have hired 8 new employees and are nearly fully staffed. There are also new students joining at mid-year.

We are all excited for the new gym ribbon cutting and following varsity Basketball game.

**III. Community Updates**

**A. Center of Strength 2023**

Presenter: Jess Monda

The Center for Strength has been renamed Your Resiliency Center. This is a State and Federal grant supported community center for those impacted by the shooting on May 7th. The goal of the center is to provide trauma-informed behavioral health support, social connection, educational opportunities, and wellness programming in a warm inviting space dedicated to recovery and resilience. The initial grant ended last quarter but was extended to December 2023. The goal is to stay funded at least through the next commemoration, May 7, 2024, which would be the 5th anniversary.

Board Question/Answer:

-Thank you for being available for not just our K-12 community, but also our larger community. Are you working with DCSD at all to find some grants to extend the center? All Health is getting in front of the commissioner, have you started a conversation with Douglas County Board of Health? You should also consider reaching out to legislators about "I Matter" bill that has been a boon across Colorado.

A-I haven't explored those options, but we recently hired 2 new employees. Having more staff allows me the time to have these conversations so thank you so much for sharing.

K. Reyna will send out an email to connect everyone, and I. Kalra can work on connecting other parents that have some connections to the center and potential sources for grants.

- Can we make a request for one-on-one counselors, or have a center inside a school once the grant runs out?

A-We need a working meeting with the advisement committee to find how we can continue the work. If we can attain a new grant, we need someone on their advisory board to make that connection and keep it alive.

#### **IV. KOSON Schools update**

##### **A. CEO Updates**

Presenter: Dr. Johnson

Enrollment projection for 2023-24 was 1650. We are still contacting prospective families and so far, we already have 54 more enrollments for next year than we currently have in SY 2022-23.

Our yearly DCSD Renewal is scheduled for a site visit on 1/20/23, 11:00 AM. This visit is expected to last 1 hour. They will be evaluating safety, educational programming, observing culture, Board Governance, etc. They will share the areas for growth and existing strengths. If we are out of compliance with anything, they will let us know around May with a scorecard/rubric.

Next year we are going to have our 5-year renewal which will include having an external team coming out starting in August 2023. This is a much more extensive review that takes more time to complete.

##### **B. Evolv System**

Presenter: Dr. Johnson

On December 20, 2022, Karen Johnson, Robert Hoornstra and Kelly Reyna presented our proposal to the Douglas County Commissioners. We requested to install three Evolv Systems, and cover operational, logistical and staff needs. We were approved for \$961,000!

We will start with a Pilot program at the new gym entrance to develop systems and processes essential to a successful implementation. We are expecting the system to arrive in late January. In February we will want to create procedures, hire and train staff/additional personnel and install the system at the gym entrance. The two additional systems will be arriving in the spring with the goal of full implementation before August 2023.

The most important thing to do now is to communicate with our community. We will develop an Evolv Implementation Committee comprised of board member(s), students, teachers, staff, and parents with the purpose of determining goals, expectations and logistics of implementation. This should be set up by the end of January.

Board Question/Answer:

- Would we have a partnership with DCSD safety? What kind of communication are we talking about? Will we be highlighting this as our renewal to show our

innovation? What kind of communication will we provide to the larger community?  
Will there be press releases?

A-That will be determined by the executive team. As far as media, that group would be working with the Communications Team. The Commissioner will be releasing their minutes next week, so we will be sending our first communication after to that through email and newsletters.

-Did we order 1 system and we'll get the other 2 afterward?

A- We actually ordered all 3 because of approvals, ordering and delivery, but we are just testing the pilot with one system to troubleshoot.

Rudy Lukez and Kelly Reyna would like to be on the Evolv Implementation Committee as board members. We need student, staff and parent input as well.

## V. KOSON Leadership Search Committee

### A. Committee Updates and Next Steps

Presenter: Nicole Bostel, Carla Gustafson and Ish Kalra

We have updated the interview questions and there is a meeting tomorrow to discuss this further. The requisition was posted prior to break. There is one site posting that we are bringing back to the board to determine if the cost should be approved because it is a more expensive posting. Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) will cost \$279. If it's allowed, we can post there tomorrow.

Board Question/Answer:

-Are you screening the applications before they move forward?

A-It's best to have our HR specialist vet the applicants to remove the ones that don't meet requirements, then we should blind-screen the candidates that we have approved.

-Where have you currently posted?

A-Indeed, Job List, CO League of Charter Schools, CO Non-profit and CASE, if approved.

-Without going into details, how many candidates do we have right now?

A-16 candidates in Indeed that have met specific requirements.

-Can we strategically postpone CASE?

A-It makes the most sense to post it now if we are going to post it. It is a well-known reputable job posting site that has the caliber of applicants that we are looking for.

It is Ish Kalra's recommendation to approve the \$279 posting on Colorado Association of School Executives. The BOD doesn't need to take a vote as this is just an advisement as to whether this posting is reasonable. All BOD members agree that the KOSON Leadership Search Committee should post on CASE.

### B. Approve Minutes

C. Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes from KOSON Leadership Search Committee on 12-05-22.

I. Kalra seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

### C.

### **Approve Minutes**

C. Gustafson made a motion to approve the minutes from KOSON Leadership Search Committee on 12-14-22.

L. Davison seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

## **VI. Ongoing Business - Updates**

### **A. Policy Committee update**

Please see the policies in the board book.

These were originally sent in October and November, and we got some policies approved. We are doing the digital form with electronic signatures for the website. Opt In/Opt Out, Conflict of Interest, Complaint and Whistle Blower, Board Training and Enrollment are very straightforward, and we didn't have major changes.

### **B. Approve Proposed Policies**

R. Lukez made a motion to approve the policy updates as presented.

I. Kalra seconded the motion.

Opt In/ Opt Out

Conflict of Interest

Complaint and Whistleblower

Board Training

Enrollment

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

## **VII. General Board Updates**

### **A. General Updates**

BOD Elections: The bylaws indicated a Nominating Committee. If we found someone that we would like to vet for a BOD Position, do we need to have it go through a nominating committee?

Rudy Lukez has volunteered to head up the Nominating Committee. We need to post in the newsletter that the election is the 2nd week of May, and to contact Rudy Lukez for parent elections.

BOT: Carla Gustafson and Kelly Reyna worked in the past with Gina, our Board On Track consultant. They will be working with her again to integrate the strategic plan. Did everyone complete their assessment in BOT? They will do a breakout which will alleviate Nicole Bostel from having to post our minutes and agendas on the website.

Is the assessment yearly, or is it once per term? Kelly Reyna will check with Gina and respond to the board.

## **VIII. Closing Items**

### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

R. Lukez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM.

M. Horne seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

M. Horne

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Never Stop Innovating! We envision a world of exponential possibilities where every child develops the innate knowledge, skills, creativity and character to thrive, lead and succeed in an ever-changing future.