APPROVED

STEM School Highlands Ranch

Minutes

Board of Director's Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday December 3, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Location
8920 Barrons Blvd
P-TECH Mechatronics Room
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:
Please click this URL to join. https://zoom.us/j/96916599576?pwd=3FbC4D1oROtEaq1eZXVvPxwWnRc2lY.1
Passcode: 631204

Directors Present
C. Gustafson, E. Quigley, G. Shick, G. Wing, I. Kalra (remote), K. Reyna, L. Davison (remote), R. Lukez

Directors Absent
D. Lomelino

Ex Officio Members Present
M. Cartier

Guests Present
A. Westfall, L. Kovalesky

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

C. Gustafson called a meeting of the board of directors of STEM School Highlands Ranch to order on Tuesday Dec 3, 2024 at 5:33 PM.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Reciting of the Mission Statement

II. Approve Meeting Minutes

A. Approve Minutes 10/8

E. Quigley made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting - Special Session on 10-08-24.
G. Wing seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Approve Minutes 10/16

K. Reyna made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting - Special Meeting on 10-16-24.
G. Wing seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
G. Wing made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Director's Meeting on 11-12-24.
I. Kalra seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

G. Shick	Abstain
R. Lukez	Aye
L. Davison	Aye
I. Kalra	Aye
D. Lomelino	Absent
K. Reyna	Abstain
C. Gustafson	Aye
E. Quigley	Aye
G. Wing	Abstain

C. Approve Minutes 10/22

K. Reyna made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting - Special Session on 10-22-24.
G. Shick seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Approve Minutes 11/12

G. Wing made a motion to approve the minutes from.
E. Quigley seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
K. Reyna	Abstain
L. Davison	Aye
G. Wing	Abstain
I. Kalra	Aye
R. Lukez	Aye
E. Quigley	Aye
G. Shick	Abstain
D. Lomelino	Aye
C. Gustafson	Aye

E. Approve Meeting Minutes 11/19

K. Reyna made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting - Special Meeting on 11-19-24.
G. Wing seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
D. Lomelino	Absent
K. Reyna	Absent

III. STEM School Highlands Ranch Updates

A. Fall Survey Results Presentation

Enrollment:
Enrollment is up from last year and we have been experiencing better word of mouth which is helping with enrollment.
Internal personal experience and student engagement have been really impactful along with our messaging and branding.
Prospective spartan night was better than ever.
we've been very intentional about student shadowing as well, making sure to match prospective students with the student and classes that will be the best fit for each shadowing student.
We should ask what is bringing returning students back to STEM.

Fall Staff Pulse Survey:
Full survey results are available in Board Book.
53.7% would recommend STEM as a place to work,
47.2% were excited and inspired by STEM's program model

Fall SAC Survey Data:
They felt that their PLC time was a little too intensive and time consuming- we are reevaluating our model for PLCs. We want our staff to have personalized pathways just like our students.
Have you had any push back from teachers? Yes- they feel that they have already done this work in Canvas. Once we talk then through the reasons for doing it, the Replication aspect but also how much better it will be for them, and the fact that we are providing extra time and coaching, the majority feel better about it.
Does it require a lot of work? Yes, up front it is a lot of work especially the first time. However, our teachers who are on their 2nd year have far less work and they have seen the final outcome is positive.
If we are getting good content out there from our teachers- It's good for STEM. We do celebrations of learning for our students, can we do that for our teachers?

B. AP Diploma Program Presentation

AP Diploma is an advanced diploma offered by the College Board designed to Promote College readiness and Critical thinking through 2 courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. Students will earn the diploma by completing these courses and earning scores of 3 or higher on them along with scores of 3 or higher on four additional AP exams of their choice.

It is a 2 year program. The kids can pick whatever area they want to research and they are taught the skills that will make them more effective at a college level. We will star this next year if we have 20+ kids enroll in AP Research. The grade level is normally 11th and 12th grade, but in STEM they may allow 9th and 10th grade.
Is AP Starting to bring anything up about open AI? I have been hearing more about how we are going to get our kids ahead of it.- We have not heard anything out of CollegeBoard, but the teachers are definitely aware of it.
Students are worried that their grades will not translate to colleges, so they are taking AP and CE courses because it will translate so well for any college they want
We have 400 kids and so many pathways for them to chose. this will teach them how to research then apply that research to their chosen pathway.
This will probably take away some of the numbers from the other courses, but it should help our students hone in on their passions.
What are the staffing needs around this?- Yes, we will have to hire more teachers if we have another 100 students joining next year.
This can help us retain some students.

There will be more examination to see if the BOD has to vote on this in January and if they need to vote on it, that will be done during the January 7th BOD Meeting.
We may need to streamline the policy. What is our role today according to the policy? We need to vote on this in January

IV. KOSON Schools

A. CIO Update - Potential Charter School Replication in DCSD

Letter of Intent is due before January 15, 2025. The Application will be due between February 1 and April 1, 2025. The district will decide May 27,2025.

The fact that we have turned around enrollment is a very good sign. It's hard to get letters of intent if you haven't been authorized to move somewhere. We're open to the location and will discuss with the district, we don't want to send multiple letters of intent for different locations.

We are targeting 2027 and 2028 as a start date, and with Lehman Academy's new campus still not open, having a targeted start date should be advantageous for building that replication.

The LOI is more than just a procedural step—it lays the groundwork for a successful application process by fostering transparency, collaboration, and alignment with district goals.

Matt will write a letter of intent with Bullet Points, and we will approve the bullet points- DCSD makes it very hard to submit on LOI without specific detail.
Comment - I would suggest you ask the district to give you an outline of what is needed.

The board could approve the key points that we want the board to approve. We could add it to the special meeting on Monday- If it is going to have each of our names on it, I want to make sure that we are completely comfortable approving. How do you feel that we have a special meeting to go through it all and decide what to approve?

It was determined that the board would vote to approve the request to draft a letter.

B. Board vote regarding DCSD replication Letter of Intent

L. Davison made a motion to Approve Matt's requests to draft a letter of intent to DSCD for application for a new school.
G. Shick seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Board Committee Updates

A.

Finance Committee Update

Matt Cartier went through the percentages that were high so far for our budget and provided explanations. All in all, for all expenses we are at 36% for the year which is where we want to be.
- How were the overages balanced? We were lower in Benefits than we expected.

VI. Consent Agenda

A. Vote for Consent Agenda Items

R. Lukez made a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda.
E. Quigley seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VII. Public Comment

A. Public Comment Sign up link

There were no public comments.

VIII. Board of Director's Updates

A. Preview of Next Meeting

Next meeting- Board vote on updated 24/25 Budget
AP Program Approval
Present Student/Parent Handbook Updates and Draft Staff Handbook
CIO Support and Evaluation - Approve Mid-Year Evaluation
STEM Enrollment Strategy and Facilities Updates
We also clarified the policy for course selection and board approval- last revision 2023- we should discuss it in the governance committee.
K. Reyna made a motion to recess into executive session for the CIO Mid Year Board Evaluation pursuant to: Personnel matters except if the employee who is the subject of the session has requested an open meeting, or if the personnel matter involves more than one employee, all of the employees have requested an open meeting. With respect to hearings held pursuant to the “Teacher Employment, Compensation, and Dismissal Act of 1990”, article 63 of title 22, C.R.S., the provisions of section 22-63-302 (7)(a), C.R.S., shall govern in lieu of the provisions of this subsection (4).
R. Lukez seconded the motion.
Ended public session at 7:15 pm
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IX. Executive Session - CIO Mid_year Check-In BOD Evaluation

A. Convene Executive Session

Started 7:24pm; all directors present except Darrell Lomelino.
Ended 8:43pm

X. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

K. Reyna made a motion to Adjourn.
R. Lukez 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 8:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
I. Kalra

Documents used during the meeting

- December Board Presentation 24_25.pdf
- 2024 Fall SAC Survey Overall.pdf
- September 2024 Student Advisory Survey Data Report.pdf
- 24-25 Fall Staff Survey for Agenda.pdf
- Board Presentation 20241203 Letter of Intent.pdf
- Finance Committee One Pager 2024-25.pdf

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.