



STEM School Highlands Ranch SAC Monthly Notes October 21, 2020

Meeting Date: October 21, 2020

Meeting Location: via ZOOM per Covid-19 Guidelines

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Present:

Ishmeet Kalra , SAC Chair

Erin Gomez, Vice-Chair

Amy Winans, SAC Recorder

David Emge, DAC Rep

Tamara Emge, PTS Adult

Carla Gustafson, Parent Rep

Kelly Reyna, Parent Rep

Abbi Kaplan, Secondary Rep

Dr. Karen Johnson, Dir of Curriculum and Accountability

Community Rep: TBD – possibly Joseph Calibeo

Absent: Angela Tolar, Parent Rep

Guests: Michael Green, Dr. Eucker, Nicole Bostel, Aleza Bautista, Alona Comerford, Carolyn Lawrence, Jane (last name unknown), Karyn Weiffenbach, Kimberly Lander, Liz Bertsch, LynAnn Kovalesky, Roy Martinez, Zelma Roubi, Janet Arnold

Meeting was called to order at 6:02 by Ishmeet Kalra

Recite Mission and Vision Statements

Introductions

Quorum determined

Minutes from September 16, 2020 approved. Motion to approve by Kelly and seconded by Erin, minutes approved unanimously

Teacher Report:

ES report by : No ES teacher yet

Secondary report by Abbi Kaplan. Dr. Euckers email to staff shared. Mike Shallenberger was one of two teachers who received a \$100,000 grant from Harbor Tools.

The teachers are concerned about how can teachers be supported more and many teachers expressing difficulty engaging kids online. Feedback committee actively talking with admin

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about the issues.

DAC Report:

David Emge gave a report on DAC.

Theme was budget. Kate Kotaska went over budget priorities

Enrollment is down to 65,000 students therefore funding is down.

They are looking at ways to keep funding like furloughs etc.

PTO Report:

Given by Tamara Emge.

PTO budget was discussed. PTO looking for ways to support teachers

PTO donating monies to teachers especially during teacher appreciation.

PTO wants to give gifts to ALL teachers, not just new ones, then maybe to a department.

BOD Report:

Given by Ish and Erin

Student leadership talked about focusing on online events. Drive in movie on homecoming?

Increase in workload for school felt.

Students asked for more asynchronous Fridays

Abbi said she feels the teachers would be on board for that. Managing 5 classes would be easier than managing 6 classes. Elementary already does asynchronous on Friday

Dr. Johnson discussed parent survey data (which had increased participation) 27% vs 18%

Student survey was 9.1% the goal is for fair rules, safety and conflict resolution

Ms. Mendrala talked about teacher care model. Talked about collected efficacy and teacher retention. Increased number of coaches for mentors.

Teacher feedback team with a survey every month, with high participation. Increased work/life balance talked about.

Cameron Ryan talked about advisory council at STEM. Goal is increase trust w/in teacher community.

Shallenberger talked about PTECH

Nicole Bostel STEMs replication update, to have 3 potential sites

Aleza Batista did PTO update and Covid adjustments

Parent donations are still coming in for PTO

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SAC update

Teacher retention was discussed.

Community Report

Given by – no report as we are waiting on a representative

Director Report:

Reported on by Dr. Karen Johnson.

UIP – tabled until next time.

Reiterated Shallenbergers award.

SAT scores much higher than district (by 100 points)

We are hiring a dean for K-8, have a few new candidates. Interviews ongoing.

Parent conferences went well

Right before break, a rep contacted STEM from MIT and IBM for a course for quantum computing. Twenty eight students expressed interest. They meet Sunday for 2 hours and independent study. Mr. Lien and Dr. Johnson working to see if they can get interest in quantum computing. If they kids continue in this through May, they get Independent Study credit.

Mr. Lien is overseeing the students

Dr. Johnson met with Curriculum Committee last night. There are 2 students on the committee

Thinking about next fall...now is the time when course proposals have to be submitted. Went through the process.

Dr. Eucker – Talked about 1750 students give or take 8 students who are iffy. All students audited to see if they are actually students.

How are we organizing to be responsive to student needs. Enduser is student and families. Front line are the teachers.

Most of the admin is licensed which is unique, especially to charters. Went through the process of being licensed.

We focus on creating an environment where students can be the best that they can be.

Dan Hoffman, Anna Magle-Haberek and Lynann Kovalsky as “interim” directors. Functioning as principals.but way too much work so they now have support from the Dean (finalizing), and a testing coordinator, Nancy Szczekocki.

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Looking for another communications person to work with Nicole.
Our instructional model is unique because it is PBL (problem based learning) not project based learning.

Subcommittee Reports:

Category	STEM	K-12 Avg	District	State	
Overview	76	79	83	77	
New Teachers	68	71	82	73	New teachers (e.g., years 1-3) re supports, mentoring.
School Leadership	76	81	84	79	School leadership's role, the vision provided and the culture.
Teacher Leadership	83	80	83	79	Role of teachers as leaders & level of influence that teachers hold.
Managing Student Conduct	79	81	84	78	School safety and expectations for student behavior.
Instructional Practices & Support	87	84	90	84	Instructional approach & the supports for various student groups.
Professional Development	65	70	78	68	Includes alignment w/ other work, adequacy & types of opportunities.
Time	56	65	68	58	Availability of and use of time.
Facilities and Resources	67	83	85	81	Class size, instructional resources, and safety.
Community Support	86	83	93	82	School's approach to family and community support and engagement.
Overall Reflection	81	85	89	83	Staff's overall impressions of the school, as well as future employment.

Teacher Retention from Erin: Posted the overview (below). STEM is below the district and state average for retention. Data that was collected outside STEM. CDE data. Availability and use of time is failing.

Abbi feels workload of STEM teachers is higher than other schools because of the innovative curriculum. Sharp learning curve.

Brainstormed ideas

Dr. J said they do look at the data over the summer and work with teacher feedback team for areas of improvement.

LynAnn spoke. Give an update at the Elementary level. They do look at data and how they can make changes. Sometimes there is a very fine line. They did build in time to work with Stephanie Mendrala once a week. More time for the grade levels to work collaboratively and talk to each other.

Ish went over what the SAC responsibilities are...we can ONLY advise. But to advise, we have to be informed. The board has committees and SAC makes recommendations.

Referred to DCSD SAC web page.

(<https://www.dcsdk12.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=220484&pageId=5755271>) Discussion on

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how to interpret.

Committee for Diversity, Inclusion and Equity - no report

Safety and Wellness Committee – Michael Green is on the Board Safety and Wellness Committee. Re-established but hasn't had a meeting since April. Is restarting it. Went over the topics that they are going to discuss. SAC wants a general overview and specific questions should be directed to Michael Green

Survey Committee Angela absent. They would like to do two surveys this year. Maybe a survey before winter break.

Financial – CARE funds from David. Starr provided a report through August. Air purifiers, masks etc. \$580,000 left over from \$700,000 allocated. David asked what the remaining amount was earmarked for. Digging into PPP (paycheck protection).

Driveline – Kelly. Driveline needs volunteers. Since the app is in use, do the teachers feel any relief so that don't have to stand out there with the kids? LynAnn feedback is no negative feedback. Seems to go really well. Five additional EA's to support teachers and driveline. Kids are now in the class a bit longer (secondary gets out 10 minutes later).

New Business:

OPEN FORUM

Aleza Bautista (10th and 2nd grader) – Complemented how far PTO and SAC has come over the years. Thanks to everyone tonight. Teacher retention is on the forefront for PTO.

Make sure teachers feel appreciated from parents and admin. Safety and wellness comment, in regards to PTO appreciates Tamara is the liaison but feels it would be beneficial if they had a board member parent on that committee. Continue communication. PTO is a separate entity from the school. We focus that we are accountable to the parents. They donate to PTO, we are a bridge to the school and SAC.

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Next SAC Meeting November 18, 2020 will be posted on the All School Calendar

Motion for adjournment at by 8:31 by Erin 2nd Kelly

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