

STEM School Board of Directors Meeting

September 3, 2019
5:30pm – 7:30pm
High School Commons

8773 Ridgeline Blvd. | Highlands Ranch, CO | 80129

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

i Roll Call

- Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM
- Directors present: Mark Alpert, Rudy Lukez, Jeff Berg, Roy Martinez, Nicole Smith, Thomas Wendling, Tracy Scroggins, Trevor Kilpatrick, and Ramesh B. Thatavarthi.
- Other attendees: Penny Eucker, Karen Johnson, Leanne Weyman, a PTO representative, one student, and approximately forty parents.

ii Pledge of Allegiance

- Mark Alpert initiated.

II. Reciting of the Mission Statement

- Tracy Scroggins recited the mission statement.

III. Review and approval of previous board meeting minutes

- Tabled until October BOD meeting.

IV. Welcome of our two newly-elected board members:

Trevor Kilpatrick and Ramesh B. Thatavarthi

- Roy Martinez moved to approve the election of Trevor Kilpatrick and Ramesh B. Thatavarthi as Class A members of the Board of Directors.
- Tracy Scroggins seconded.
- All directors approved.

V. Student presentations

i Student Interns

- A student who is a full-time off-campus concurrent enrollment student at the University of Colorado at Denver reported on an internship experience at Lockheed Martin over the summer. The student worked on the Mars 2020

project and systems engineering and has been invited back for another internship next summer working with cyber security.

ii Student government leadership

- Leanne Weyman summarized a handout from the student government leadership representatives who had a previous commitment. The summary included planned events for homecoming week September 16th-19th, an overview of club and sports activities, and student appreciation for the new advisement period in the daily schedule.

VI. Safety and Wellness Committee- Mark Alpert, board president

- Mark Alpert presented current status of the committee. Two experts one of whom is John Nicoletti will advise the committee. One director and one parent will Co-Chair the committee.

VII. CMAS, PSAT and SAT 2019 results- P.J. Eucker PhD, executive director

- In spring of 2019, 187 students took 332 AP tests. STEM student aggregate SAT composite score ranked 8th highest in the state. STEM student CMAS scores were generally well above 50 which represents one year of growth. All AP, CMAS, PSAT, and SAT aggregate data will be posted on the website.

VIII. PTO update

- Co-Presidents, Susan Montgomery and Kelley Marie Paulson, indicated PTO is reviewing their plans for the year and updating their bylaws.
- Kelley Marie Paulson read the PTO mission statement with favorable response from the audience.
- The PTO is updating the teacher lounge with Home Depot donating material and parents donating time and labor.
- PTO plans for meetings on the second Wednesday of each month.

IX. SAC update

- Incoming SAC Chair, Kelly Reyna, announced new SAC members.
- Four or five SAC members plan to participate in upcoming Alliance of Douglas County Charter School training.
- The 8/21 SAC meeting had 17 parents in attendance.
- SAC approved editions to their bylaws.
- SAC will post meeting minutes on the STEM website.
- SAC plans for meetings on the third Wednesday of each month with the exception that the meeting in October is the fourth Wednesday because of fall break.

X. Draft Whistleblower revision to staff and student/parent handbook-Tracy Scroggins

- Tracy Scroggins detailed the review process exercised to revise the draft of the Complaint and Whistleblower policy along with some of the revisions. The revision process allowed BOD members, parents and staff to offer feedback.

A spreadsheet recorded comments, subsequent actions, and document revisions.

- Rudy Lukez motioned to approve the Complaint and Whistleblower Policy with the deletion of the word “disciplinary” at the end of section 8.
- Nicole Smith seconded
- All directors approved.

XI. Class A Director elections- Rudy Lukez

- Rudy Lukez reported that the online Class A Director elections transpired smoothly with 35% of members participating and indicated that future elections could employ a similar process. He received some feedback indicating a desire for more nominees.

XII. Policy adoption for enrollment- revising for the new contract

- To align with the latest Charter Renewal Contract, Enrollment Policy revisions will give waitlist students residing in Douglas County enrollment priority over those who residing outside of Douglas County. This prioritization is now the requirement for all Douglas County charter schools.

XIII. Conflict of Interest policy- all board members to sign

- Directors signed the DCSD Charter Board Conflict of Interest form.

XIV. Public comment

- A parent noted that STEM needs to bring classroom door lockdown procedure hardware into compliance with the 2015 International Building Code.
- A parent suggested reduced student to councilor ratios and additional opportunities for students to reach out when needed. Mark Alpert stated that the recently formed Safety and Wellness committee is charged with understanding current practice and established guidelines and developing recommendations in these areas.
- The parent Co-Chair of the Safety and Wellness committee, Tamara Emge, introduced herself relating her considerable experience in safety and wellness and her motivation and desire to serve and contribute. Mark Alpert conveyed his and BOD appreciation for her willingness to step into this critical position.
- A parent expressed concern for the unfilled Chemistry and Mathematics faculty positions. Substitute teachers with departmental guidance have assumed the responsibilities of those positions since the beginning of the school year.
- A parent related that her child experienced stress from the first alarm drill of the school year and was disappointed to have not been able to spend time with the therapy dog that was scheduled in conjunction with the drill. Discussion of the possibility for future dates to make the therapy dog available to students ensued.

- A parent expressed accolades for the STEM model and teachers and suggested increased focus on an education model over a corporate bent, improvement of faculty onboarding and training, a continuous improvement plan, and an annual or biannual review of the STEM model at the elementary and secondary levels.
- A parent who administrates a STEM Facebook page indicated she started the page as an additional communication avenue for the parent community and that she would like to see expanded and improved communication from the BOD to the parent community.
- A parent expressed concern about faculty and staff retention, wondered about the role of the private security officer, and expressed a desire for additional information on problems and concerns that the BOD faces.
- A parent suggested the addition of friendly campaigning to the BOD election process.
- A parent supported other previous comments recommending improvements to communications.
- Mark Alpert made final comments on the SRO, private security officer, and the Safety and Wellness Committee improvement efforts.

XV. Adjourn public session

- Roy Martinez motioned to convene executive session.
- Tracy Scroggins seconded.
- All directors approved.

XVI. Convene executive session

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 reconvene public session.
- Rudy Lukez seconded.
- Rudy Lukez motioned to adjourn public session.
- Tracy Scroggins seconded.
- All directors approved.