

STEM School Board of Directors Meeting

October 1, 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, Pam Watson Korbel, Stephanie Mendrala, Katie Hoffman, Nicole Bostel, six other staff members, two faculty member teaching coaches, a PTO representative, a SAC representative, three students, and approximately fourteen 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

- Roy Martinez motioned to approve the 7/24/2019 minutes.
- Thomas Wendling seconded.
- All directors approved except Trevor Kilpatrick and Ramesh B. Thatavarthi who abstained.
- Roy Martinez motioned to approve the 9/3/2019 minutes.
- Trevor Kilpatrick seconded.
- All directors approved.

IV. Student government presentation

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- A faculty member in the Computer Science Department, Paul Lein, introduced three students who worked with Erik Marshal, a software engineer with Zip Davis, and who gave a tour of a driveline app they developed on a Microsoft Technology Education and Literacy in Schools (TEALS) project.
- The app development was a Problem-Based Learning (PBL) learning activity that allowed the student experience with java script and teamwork.
- Erik Marshal lauded the student accomplishments as top notch and cutting edge.
- Leanne Weyman summarized a report from student government officers including information on
 - recent homecoming activities,
 - prom planning,
 - trunk-or-treat,
 - career discovery workshops,
 - fall sports – volleyball, cross country, soccer, golf, end of season banquets, and
 - business clubs – DECA and FBLA.

V. Executive Director Report

i Stephanie Mendrala, Director of Professional Development, will report on teacher development and teacher retention at STEM School Highlands Ranch

- Stephanie Mendrala gave an update on faculty retention and professional development efforts.
- Seven instructional coaches who are also teaching faculty, two of which answered questions at the BOD meeting, train faculty in implementation of the STEM PBL model with a goal of building collective efficacy.

ii Leanne Weyman, Director, staff survey results

- Leanne Weyman and a staff feedback team representative, Katie Hoffman, summarized results from the staff survey indicating a generally positive atmosphere with 80%-90% of respondents choosing either strongly agree or agree on questions pertaining to support, respect, and aptitude.
- With eight to ten members, the staff feedback team increases staff ownership of the feedback process. With approximately 90 respondents, the

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response rate on the most recent survey was dramatically improved from prior surveys.

- Mark Alpert indicated that the information presented in items i. and ii. Under the Executive Director's report are in response to questions posed during public comment at recent BOD meetings.

VI. PTO update

- Susan Montgomery indicated that Kelley Marie Paulson has stepped down from her role as Co-President and presented information on
 - the annual Blast-off event,
 - professional development breakfast,
 - staff appreciation activities,
 - middle and high school ice cream social,
 - a fun run, and
 - membership toolkit.
- PTO replaced three entry floor mats.
- The next PTO meeting is planned for 10/9/2019.

VII. SAC update

- Kelly Reyna expressed appreciation for Stephanie Mendrala's presentation and indicated that the presentation answered many parent questions.
- SAC is working with the Safety and Wellness Committee.
- Several SAC members attended the Alliance of Douglas County Charter Schools training.
- SAC is working on updating and improving their webpage.
- Several SAC members have been selected for the Douglas County Strategic Leadership program. STEM has a prominent presence in this program.
- Updated classroom door locks are on order.

VIII. Public comment

- Mark Alpert provided an update on the Safety and Wellness Committee. The committee includes PTO and SAC representatives. To date, the committee has primarily responded to the shooting on 5/7. Moving forward, the committee intends to leverage expert advice and assume a more proactive posture.

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- A parent asked if there are still seven instructional coaches. Stephanie Mendrala indicated that one coach has resigned from STEM and one coach has assumed a new assignment.
- A parent asked about the status of open faculty positions. As of the date of the meeting, all faculty positions except for an open high school social studies faculty position were filled.
- A parent asked if there is a job description for the Communications Director. The same parent also expressed accolades for the information presented in the school newsletter.
- A parent offered appreciation for the presentations at the meeting in response to public comment at recent BOD meetings.
- A parent asked about the process for tracking questions presented to the BOD.
- A parent suggested that best practices might be stifled at times and recommended consideration of a recognition program.

IX. Adjourn public session

- Rudy Lukez motioned to convene executive session.
- Trevor Kilpatrick seconded.
- All directors approved.

X. 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

- Rudy Lukez motioned to reconvene public session.
- Nicole Smith seconded.
- Rudy Lukez motioned to adjourn public session.
- Nicole Smith seconded.
- All directors approved.

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