

STEM School Board of Directors Meeting

January 7, 2020
5:30pm – 7:30pm
High School Commons

8773 Ridgeline Blvd. | Highlands Ranch, CO | 80129

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

- **Roll Call**

- Call to Order at 5:39PM.
- Directors present: Roy Martinez Rudy Lukez, Mark Alpert, Ramesh Thatavarthi, Trevor Kilpatrick, Tom Wendling. Jeff Berg, Tracy Scroggins, and Nicole Smith attended via teleconference.
- Other attendees: Penny Eucker, Leanne Weyman, Karen Johnson, LynAnn Kovalesky, Mike Shallenberger.

- **Pledge of Allegiance**

- Mark Alpert initiated the pledge of allegiance.

II. Reciting of the Mission Statement

- Thomas Wendling read the mission statement

III. Review and approval of previous board meeting minutes

- Roy Martinez motioned to approve the 11/5/2019 minutes.
- Ramesh Thatavarthi seconded.
- All directors approved.
- Roy Martinez motioned to approve the 11/19/2019 minutes.
- Ramesh Thatavarthi seconded.
- All directors approved.
- Roy Martinez motioned to approve the 12/17/2019 minutes.
- Ramesh Thatavarthi seconded.
- All directors approved.

IV. Student presentation- BEST Robotics

- Mike Shallenberger and four students did presentations on BEST Robotics, FIRST Robotics, and TSA. The themes of all 5 presentations were that these clubs are the heart and soul of our school providing opportunities to get hands-on experience with 21st

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.

century technology, the opportunity to practice soft skills such as public speaking, and that if a student or community member has any interest, these clubs will find a place for that individual to participate. Sophia Watts also mentioned that TSA is involved in up to 80 events each year, and that one of the big benefits of TSA is learning to have fun while at work.

- Mr. Shallenberger invited the board of directors to participate in the upcoming competition as judges. He also pointed out that it was BEST Robotics parents that provided the original impetus to found the school.

V. Student government presentation

- Prepared by STEM Student Government officers and read by Leanne Weyman in their absence.
- Student government has a lot of events being planned to include the Winter Dance, Job Shadow Day, and the prom.
- The winter dance will be held in the high school commons on February 1st.
- Job Shadow Day is tentatively set for Friday April 17th. We are hoping to offer shadow days at Raytheon, RK Mechanical, Littleton Adventist Hospital, VISA, and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.
- The venue for this year's prom is the Highlands Ranch mansion.

VI. Executive Director Report

- **Communications Plan- Nicole Bostel**

- Nicole Bostel, STEM Communications Director, summarized her education and career background before providing an overview of the communications activities that she oversees for the school.
- The target audiences of our communications activities are students, parents and guardians, staff and teachers, STEM board of directors, leadership and administration.
- Nicole works with STEM's leadership team to assist in messaging, forecasting, adherence to policy, engagement, creating new avenues, and listening for potential risks and issues.
- The roles and responsibilities of the Communications Director are to craft desired messaging, provide direction and strategy, serve as a spokesperson, and to disseminate information through our newsletter, website, Infinite Campus, social media, news outlets, and signage.

- **Competition season update- Mike Shallenberger**

- See student presentation minutes above.

VII. PTO update

- Aleza Bautista gave a short PTO update to let us know that the Fall grant cycle had ended.
- The next PTO meeting would be on January 8th, from 6:30 to 8:00 with Stephanie Fox, a psychologist, as a guest speaker.

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.

- At the last PTO meeting on December 11th, 2019, a partnership with Littleton Adventist Hospital was discussed.
- STEM Gives, PTO's annual fund-raising event, will last until February 29th, 2020.

VIII. SAC update

- Erin Gomez gave the SAC report.
- The DAC Forum will be at Rock Canyon High School on February 11th.
- Through our SAC community representative, Elizabeth Davis, STEM is exploring a pilot program to set up an internship with VISA.
- Dr. Johnson gave an update on the Resiliency Center.
- SAC would like to be able to engage in the Q&A with Star Ake when she does her financial briefing during a future board meeting. This would prevent having Star present separately to the SAC, something the SAC would otherwise request.
- The report included mention of an elementary school cafeteria noise issue. A family joined the meeting to express their concerns that their elementary school children find lunchtime unbearable. Noise and discipline seem to go together. There is a proposal to put sound-absorbing panels in the cafeteria and consideration of using more parent volunteers.

IX. STEM Board Elections

- Mark Alpert announced this was his final month as President of the STEM Board of Directors. He had served as President for 4 ½ years and said that this would be his last month as a director. He said he was ready to spend more time with his wife, since they were recently married. Mark will continue to serve as co-chair of STEM's Safety and Wellness Committee and intends to stay active in the school.
- Rudy Lukez spoke on behalf of the Board to express our gratitude for the years of volunteer service that Mark has given to the school. Everyone in the room gave Mark a standing ovation to show their gratitude.
- Rudy Lukez began discussion of an interim succession plan. Several possible candidates for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary were discussed, and a slate of interim officers was agreed on comprising Nicole Smith, President; Rudy Lukez, Vice-President; Roy Martinez, Treasurer; Jeff Berg, Secretary.
- Trevor Kilpatrick moved to approve the board positions with these names effective immediately with terms through May 31st, 2020.
- Tracy Scroggins seconded the motion.
- All directors approved.
- Rudy reminded everyone that one Class A directorship was up for election in May 2020.

X. Public comment

- Elementary school cafeteria acoustics – one STEM parent noted that we seem to have a large amount of funds held in reserve, and why it might be a good idea to spend some of that money on the cafeteria acoustics problem. Dr. Eucker explained that although we do have a large reserve on our balance sheet, some of that reserve is statutory or related

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.

to our bond covenants, and some of it is already earmarked for major remodeling enhancements and salaries.

- A person representing Viper Rugby, a local sports club for K-12 boys and girls, described the club and pointed out that it is available for all kids interested in rugby.
- A STEM parent who has had 18 years of experiences in IEP meetings, but is new to STEM wanted to make a statement that, in general and elsewhere, IEP parents sometimes have to hire advocates to get more hours of school resources, but at STEM, in her experience, the administration easily adds more hours to the IEP without being pushed to do so.

XI. STEM Board elections

- See STEM Board elections minutes above.

XII. Adjourn public session

- At 7:35PM Rudy Lukez moved to adjourn the public session and convene executive session.
- Trevor Kilpatrick seconded.
- All directors approved.

XIII. 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

- Executive session began at 7:41PM and ended at 8:24PM.