

## STEM School Board of Directors Meeting

March 03, 2020  
5:30pm – 7:30pm  
High School Commons

8773 Ridgeline Blvd. | Highlands Ranch, CO | 80129

### MINUTES

- I. Call to Order** **5:30-5:45**
- i. Roll Call**
- Call to Order at 5:00PM.
  - Directors present: Roy Martinez, Rudy Lukez, Trevor Kilpatrick, Tom Wendling, Jeff Berg. Nicole Smith attended via teleconference.  
Directors absent: Tracy Scroggins, Ramesh Thatavarthi
  - Other attendees: Penny Eucker, Leanne Weyman, Karen Johnson, 3 other staff members, PTO representative Susan Montgomery, a SAC representative, approximately 10 parents and 12 students.
- ii. Pledge of Allegiance**
- Rudy Lukez initiated the pledge of allegiance.
- II. Reciting of the Mission Statement**
- Roy Martinez read the mission statement
- III. Review and approval of previous board meeting minutes**
- Roy Martinez motioned to approve the 1/7/2020 minutes.
  - Trevor Kilpatrick seconded.
  - All directors present approved.
- IV. Student government presentation** **5:45-5:55**
- ☐ No student presentation was given.
- V. Athletics presentation – CHSAA** **5:55-6:15**
- Anna Magle-Haberek, Assistant Director Middle School/High School Athletic Director and Dan Hoffman, Assistant Director of Student Experience 6-12 gave a presentation advocating STEM's application for CHSAA certification in January of 2021.
  - Currently a subset of students participates in women's and men's soccer and seven other high school sports.
  - Goals of the application are encouraging participation, teamwork and culture development.

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- Compliance to CHSAA requirements which must be demonstrated for a year prior to the application includes grade and eligibility checks and that STEM student athletes play for STEM if the sport is offered.
- The initial application fee is \$5000 plus an annual renewal fee.
- Approximate initial facility rental fees would be approximately \$60K to \$80K.
- DSCD sports fees are \$185 per sport per student.
- If approved, a two-year probationary period would begin in January of 2021 primarily to ensure the school joins a league and honors its commitments.
- The school would enter at the 3A level.

**VI. Public comment**

**7:00**

- Todd Trichler, the men's soccer coach, indicated all 25 players on the men's soccer team support the CHSSA application noting a benefit of the possibility of scrimmages with other CHSSA certified schools and using their fields.
- A parent felt that there was limited community involvement in the CHSSA application decision and suggested that the BOD consider priorities moving forward.
- Three parents offered support for the CHSSA application citing increased structure as a benefit.
- Cassie Bradford, Volleyball and Lacrosse Coach, and Noah Buschner, Assistant Varsity Lacrosse Coach, expressed support for the CHSSA application indicating increased competition opportunities at higher levels.
- Eight students primarily from the Lacrosse team spoke in support of the CHSSA application mentioning benefits of playing closer to STEM and teamwork. One student indicated friends who were students at STEM have transferred to other schools to play on CHSSA certified teams.
- Tom Wendling motioned to reaffirm a 2015 BOD decision to proceed with a CHSSA application.
- Trevor Kilpatrick seconded.
- All directors present approved.

**VII. Executive Directors Report**

**6:15-6:30**

**i. Business Office – Star Ake CPA**

- Star Ake, Kathy Falter, Tammy Tryon and Ashley Westfall comprise the business office.
- Star Ake, Nicole Smith and Roy Martinez comprise the Finance Committee.

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- The three STEM financial accountability entities are STEM School Highlands Ranch, the Building Corporation and 501(c)3 STEM Enrichment
- Two items of note from the financial statement summary are
  - enrollment is down about 100 students year over year. Donations resulting from the 5/7 incident have offset the deficit per pupil revenue income and,
  - expenses reflect a 3% pay increase and a 4% bonus.
- Bond covenant, CDE and DCSD requirements define reporting requirements.
- STEM is one of seven out of eighteen DCSD charter school with positive ratios for the three previous years, 2017-2019
- Salaries are 56% and rent/lease/building loan payments are 11% of expenses. Both are within bond requirements which stipulate salaries between 50% and 70% and rent/lease/building loan payments below 15%.
- The budget is reviewed in April, August, October, and December.
- Star Ake provided a recent written response to seventeen SAC questions.

**ii. Audit for 2019-2020**

- The 2019 independent audit report delivered an unqualified opinion with no recommendations.

**VIII. Polling Platform for Parent Survey and Board Class A Election**

**6:30-6:40**

- The election software used for the 2019 Class A Director election could be used for the SAC parent survey. Rudy Lukez and Thomas Wendling will work with SAC on setting up the parent survey on the election software.
- The election software annual fee of about \$2000 could come from the BOD budget line item of \$10,000 meant for training, convention attendance and incidental expenses.

**IX. PTO update**

**6:40-6:50**

- Susan Montgomery summarized recent PTO activities.
- STEM Gives raised \$23,429.
- New officer elections are on the March meeting agenda.
- Nicole Bostel, Communications Manager, gave a report at the February meeting.
- The Skate City event on 2/19/2020 had 70 paid skaters.
- The Flappers and Gents elementary dance on 2/29/2020 was a great success with 102 paid tickets.
- Upcoming events are

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- The STEM Gala on March 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00PM to 10:00PM at the Hilton Garden Inn,
- The next PTO meeting, a joint meeting with SAC, on 3/11/2020 features Gregg Cannady speaking on the Building Ships program,
- The current grant cycle will culminate with award decisions at the April meeting,
- Planning for After Prom on April 17, 2020 from 11:00PM to 2:00AM is ongoing,
- Teacher Appreciation Week for April 20<sup>th</sup> through April 24<sup>th</sup> will feature different food themes each day,
- An evening at Skate City on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and K-12 events at Boondocks on May 16<sup>th</sup> from 12:30PM to 4:30PM and Pirates Cove on July 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:00PM to 8:00PM are scheduled.

**X. SAC update**

**6:50-7:00**

- Robert Hoornstra gave an update at the last meeting.
- The fifth-grade field trip to Snow Mountain Ranch was a success.
- Discussion items at the last meeting included parent-teacher conferences, contract renewals, the process for nonrenewal, and use of technology at the secondary level.
- Although useful, The DAC forum on February 11<sup>th</sup> had less attendance than the most recent STEM town hall.

**XI. Adjourn public session**

- Rudy Lukez motioned to adjourn the public session and convene executive session.
- Roy Martinez seconded.
- All directors present approved.

*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): (f) (I) 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).

- Rudy Lukez motioned to reconvene the public session.
- Roy Martinez seconded.
- Rudy Lukez motioned to adjourn the public session.
- Roy Martinez seconded.
- All directors present approved.

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