



## STEM School Highlands Ranch SAC Monthly Notes January 20, 2021

Meeting Date: January 20, 2021

Meeting Location: via ZOOM per Covid-19 Guidelines

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

### Present:

Erin Gomez , SAC Chair

David Emge, Vice-Chair

Amy Winans, SAC Recorder

David Emge, DAC Rep

Tamara Emge, PTS Adult

Angela Tolar, Parent Rep

Carla Gustafson, Parent Rep

Kelly Reyna, Parent Rep

Abbi Kaplan, Secondary Rep

Michelle Gasser, Elementary Rep

Dr. Karen Johnson, Dir of Curriculum and Accountability

### Community Rep:

Absent: Joe Calibeo

Guests: Kimberly Lander, Janet Arnold

Meeting was called to order at 6:03

Recite Mission and Vision Statements

### Introductions

Determine Quorum – Quorum determined

Discussion on a statement made in December meeting that was omitted from SAC meeting notes. Statement was not heard at the time. Discussion on whether it was officially said if it was not heard. Add statement to January meeting notes

Minutes from December 19, 2020 approved, seconded and motion carried

### Teacher Report:

ES report by Michelle Gasser : Not a whole lot to report. Elementary excited about being back in school with students. Working on PBL's how to continue with engagement. First grade is looking at piloting online only teacher, hasn't been approved. Teachers super excited

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and students as well. Feb and March focus is “love of reading”. Student council community outreach, focusing on giving back to community but not monetarily. Example is “cards for seniors”. Community night coming up, in lieu of movie night. Craft, cooking zoom class, teaching adults to play Among Us. All virtual

Secondary report by Abbi Kaplan. Staff survey results: priorities of staff survey, desire for improvement on culture, more clear attendance policies, more clear strict guidelines regarding zoom and behavior and etiquette. Safety procedures during covid. Most teachers are happy to be back in person. Still not many in-person students. Encourage more parents to send kids back to school.

MS activities. Recently, there was a spelling bee writing contest, essay contest all with great participation. This Friday night is game night via zoom.

Concerns about more kids in person. Maybe send out another survey, make sure parents are ok with protocols via covid

Question of how many students are NOT coming in that are signed up for hybrid. Why? Did a bunch switch from hybrid to e learning? Is it a weekly thing?

Dr. Johnson, asking parents for updated data. 25-30% stay full in person (hybrid). Look at data regularly. Discussion about kids not showing up on Zoom. What do the teachers/staff do.

### **Director Report:**

Reported on by Dr. Karen Johnson. General school updates. We are in hybrid for secondary and full person 4x a week for ES. 4X a week for secondary for those who have a need or accommodation. Elementary looking at options for possible one remote teacher. Lead is from 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

New quarantine guidance. 10 day quarantine if non symptomatic, 1 case last week, 1 case this week. Unrelated cases. Identifying students with direct contact. At elementary level it is a full class that would have to quarantine. Secondary we can ID by seating charts. If teachers are wearing a shield and a mask and are 6' from kids, they do not need to quarantine either.

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Some staff have received vaccines. Governor Polis announced teachers moved up to receive vaccines. Littleton Adventist (Centura Health) reached out for staff list. Happened very quickly. The Monday we returned from break they got vaccines. Facilities have been cleaning etc.

Town hall meeting. Strategic plan, Teacher Care model. Parent Trust Committee. Community alignment. No funds from STEM Highlands ranch will be used to work on STEM Denver expansion K-5

In Douglas County the renewal is in the next board meeting or mid February

Everything has been submitted, review and approved by DCSD

Hired Professional Development people, Maura Ridder and Michele Gasser, kind of sharing the role of Stephanie Mandrala for professional development.

Hired a Dean, started right before Thanksgiving, K-8 Dean, Amie McElroy.

Over break, new math teacher Pamela Martin hired

ELA Jalene Vander Hook hired

Yesterday new physics teacher started, Gavin Rubin

CHSSA in the process of having approval. Doing a site visit.

Nicole and Dr. Johnson, creating videos with Jeff Maher doing videos

There was a debate on what has happened since November going forward.

Motioned to remove current SAC Chair

Therefore Vice Chair would be new Chair

Motion voted 4 to remove, opposed 0, abstain 4

motion does not pass.

### **DAC Report:**

David Emge gave a report on DAC.

Zoom was acting up, so couldn't get into meeting. No update. Waiting for transcription

### **PTO Report:**

Given by Tamara Emge.

PTO has yet to meet this month.

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### **BOD Report:**

Given by Kelly Reyna: Anjalie Rao spoke.  
BOD voted on their newest Class B member

### **Community Report**

Given by Joe Calibeo -Not here

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

Joe Calibeo would like to step down for the time being

Committee for Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

Safety and Wellness Committee – no report

Financial – not a whole lot to report. Nicole Smith next week meeting. Get more context as a SAC to make it easier to make financial decisions.

Driveline – going really great. Maybe have the ES dean in elementary dismissal

UIP – UIP met last week, went through the draft. Now looking into some data for additional goals. DCSD looking for a draft maybe before Feb meeting

### **Ongoing Business:**

Tabled Discussion from last meeting re: Citation of Personal Names in Meeting Minutes.

Revised notes leaving all names out. Report from Tamara saying other Boards leave names in via Google Docs etc

Discussion of privacy and here forthwith

Move to accept minutes as written and seconded originally. Motion seconded and carried

In the future, public comment needs to be told that this will be published.

A written comment will be published even if author doesn't show up for meeting

Teacher Retention – Maura Ridder and Simi Basu on a strategic planning committee, if we have SAC suggestions. Discuss now. Can we invite one of them when there is a report.

70% of the teachers in Dec wanted to go in remote

SAC Email Access and Communication Pathways – Kelly gave past info about who gets to read the email.

Chair had first access, then Vice Chair

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Keep it to Chair and Vice Chair have access.. No more  
Sharing personal email...logistics ok to personal emails but not for meeting type emails.

Recommendations for STEM spending priorities (Article III Section A.2 SAC Bylaws)  
more to come.

### **New Business:**

SAC Areas of Focus for the Remainder of Year – What direction is SAC going forward. SAC try to hit on bylaws. Want to see counselors come in and talk. Will there be a new SAC from new school (STEM-Denver)  
SAC training is offered through DCSD

### **OPEN FORUM**

Need more representation from more areas...k-12 and teachers etc...at SAC meetings  
Subcommittee teams reports maybe an addendum to the minutes in the future but  
not all committees report ALL times of the year.. Some are more important at different times  
of the year.

Next SAC Meeting February 17, 2021 will be posted on the All School Calendar

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