



## STEM School Highlands Ranch SAC Monthly Notes March 24, 2021

Meeting Date: March 24, 2021

Meeting Location: via ZOOM per Covid-19 Guidelines

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Present:

David Emge , SAC Chair

Kelly Reyna, Vice-Chair

Amy Winans, SAC Recorder

Tamara Emge, DAC Rep

Tamara Emge, PTS Adult

Angela Tolar, Parent Rep

Erin Gomez, Parent Rep

Suzanne Escobosa, Secondary Rep

Michelle Gasser, Elementary Rep

Dr. Karen Johnson, Dir of Curriculum and Accountability

Community Rep: Jason O'Rourke

Absent: Carla Gustafson

Guests: Abbi Kaplan, Elizabeth Brown, Karyn Weiffenbach, Kimberly Lander, Janet Lander  
Cassandra Martin

Meeting was called to order at 6:08

Recite Mission and Vision Statements

Introductions

Determine Quorum

Minutes from February 17, 2021 approved

Ongoing Business:

SAC Spending Priorities

- Findings and Recommendations based on CDE data from 2018-2019

- Need clarification from Starr on what goes in what categories. I.e. what is “other support” and what does Operations and Maintenance include?

- Teacher Salary data based on CDE and other districts compared to DCSD

- Presented Draft Recommendations

- Opened up for questions/debate

**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.**



## STEM School Highlands Ranch SAC Monthly Notes March 24, 2021

- Motion to submit current recommendations, amend it to where we have communications from the school in the beginning so we have current and relevant info at the start of the year.
  - A member of the finance committee correlates the data for us in the CDE format so we can continue to make valid recommendations. 1 abstain, motion carried with majority

### Creation of New Subcommittees

#### -Communications

Motion to have Michelle be the point person rather than a committee, motion seconded, 1 abstain, motion carries

-Community Engagement – Kelly started a practice of email list of everyone who wanted to be involved in SAC. David wants to resume that practice

#### -Community Feedback how do we get community feedback? (parents etc)

Angela had feedback from students in the LGBTQ , maybe a suggestion box or something so students can submit suggestions. The two committees can be one?

Motion to table until after DAC update.

Motion to create the community sub committee, motion seconded, majority agrees, motion carries. Tamara and Dr. Johnson on the committee

### Teacher Report:

ES report by Michelle Gasser :

Gearing up for CMAS. Student council came up with an idea that k-2 classes adopt a 3rd-5<sup>th</sup> grade class and send notes of encouragement etc to get them excited. Teachers are excited more students are coming back. Because secondary kids can come back, some more ES kids are coming back. Staff most worried about the increase in funding so the contracts can go out for the teachers

Secondary report by Suzanne Escobosa.

Thrilled to have students back in person. There are some concerns like they are now having to do school 3 ways instead of 2 (in person, hybrid and total remote). This is hard for the teachers. Topping the list of concerns is the change for next year, secondary will teach 7 classes a day and have 1 planning period every other day. Hearing other teachers are looking other places for new employment Each month the staff fills out the survey and the question came up, does SAC see the results or does the Board see the survey and the results

As far as mental health, there needs to be a decompression area for teachers and staff as well as the

### **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.**



## STEM School Highlands Ranch SAC Monthly Notes March 24, 2021

kids.

Amazing college acceptance and scholarship news coming soon.

### Director Report:

Reported on by Dr. Karen Johnson.

Last month she explained the process of creating the master schedule. Looking at it for feasibility.

Explained the history of the planning periods and the whys behind the change

They are to present to staff on Friday (March 26) but had wanted to be transparent to the teachers so they wouldn't be surprised.

Hope to clarify and get feedback later this week.

2 Elementary Staff not returning

5 Secondary Staff not returning

Happy to have more kids in school

Assessments coming up, waiting for news from FEDERAL gov't to give guidelines

CMAS starts Monday

Officially CHSSA approved, probation until August 2022. Next year part of Confluence league

Assistant Director interviews started today

### DAC Report:

Tamara Emge gave a report on DAC.

Hugely educational, 7000 people responded with questions which was interpreted as interest for the open superintendent position. Timeline is:

#### Projected Timeline Superintendent Survey:

DCSD Staff, Parents/Guardians, Students, Community Members, Community Business Owners, Elected Officials (Closed 2/23/2021)

Job Description Development and Public Posting: 3/1/2021

Resume acceptance close date: 3/18/2021

Candidate presentations to the Douglas County School District Board of Education: 3/20/2021

Douglas County School District Board of Education interviews with potential candidates: 3/22/2021 – 4/15/2021

Finalist candidates announced to the public for public forum interviews: 4/16/2021

Public forum interviews: 4/19/2021 – 4/23/2021

Douglas County School District's Board of Education will announce the new Douglas County School District Superintendent: 5/15/2021

Talked about vaccinations and teachers

**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.**



## STEM School Highlands Ranch SAC Monthly Notes March 24, 2021

### PTO Report:

Given by Tamara Emge.

Working on a virtual STEM FEST

### Community Report

Given by Jason O'Rourke – had to leave early – no report

### Subcommittee Reports:

Committee for Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

Taking a look at survey questions to give feedback to SAC

New equity policy in DCSD being reviewed right now

standards based learning AND PBL next year

### New Business

SAC Members for Next Year – survey of who might be coming back

need to backfill 3 parent positions

### OPEN FORUM

Karyn Weiffenbach – Wanted to touch further, Secondary being asked to lose a planning period which will put strain on the teachers. Ending the coaching program this year has hurt.

Hearing 70% turnover expected from the teachers.

After school clubs will suffer, as will teachers coming to SAC

Next SAC Meeting April 21, 2021 will be posted on the All School Calendar

**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.**