



STEM School Highlands Ranch SAC Monthly Notes August 24, 2021

Meeting Date: August 24, 2021

Meeting Location: STEM School Highlands Ranch – High School Commons

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Present:

Kelly Reyna acting Chair

Amy Winans

DJ Steines, Parent Rep

Ronalea Alleman, Parent Rep

Carla Gustafson via Phone, Parent Rep

Dr. Karen Johnson, Dir of Curriculum and Accountability

Absent:

Benjamin Ryder, Jason O'Rourke

Community Rep:

Guests: Bernadette Amaya, Steven Dean, Kelly Moore, Liz Bertsch

Meeting was called to order at 6:08

Pledge

Recite Mission and Vision Statements

Introductions

Determine Quorum

Minutes from May 19, 2021 motion made to accept, motion seconded and passes

Minutes from July 26, 2021 motion madeto accept, motion seconded, motion passes with one abstention

Standing Reports:

Director Report:

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Reported by Dr. Karen Johnson

Enrollment currently 1795. Goal is 1850.

Running an ad in Highlands Ranch Herald letting people know we have room

Elementary School is full..4th and 5th added a class each (5 classes each)

Drop in enrollment is mainly in MS, that's why the increase 4th and 5th - hopeful they continue on HS is about 585 which is where we usually are.

Staffing..still have a few open positions...

Secondary math position open

Engineering very close to securing a FT position

EA and Instructional assistants..short 6 for ES

Last spring STEM was overstaffed by 5 positions..master schedule revealed this.

STEM added an online option this year. Having parents pick online or in person for the semester. Too hard for teachers to do in-person and online

25 online only at secondary (one teachers who oversees)

26 online only at elementary with a waitlist

Scheduling is completed. Tweaking with ACC

Were able to give back many teachers their planning periods

New MS Director - Maura Ridder

Dean – Parag Patel (6th-12)

High School Director – Ryan Alsup

Elementary Director – LynAnn Kovalesky

Last week was secondary back to school night

Student advisory council has been invited to SAC

Enrichment clubs up and running

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COVID updates:

speaking as of today (August 24, 2021). STEM is closely working with Tri County, 1st graders at home since Friday. They will return on Monday.

STEM is following mandate of masks 11 and under

Cleaning like STEM did in the spring

Question from Ronalea – has the ventilation system been tested. There was a delay over the summer because parts were unavailable. Units were originally replaced due to age vs Covid

it IS working as it was last year

Ronalea is elementary parent and disagrees with how the emails are going out. Rather than grade level, Covid emails could go by class? Answer: Last year STEM contact traced, but not anymore according to Tri County. Probably better to contact trace so we know which classes are truly impacted

Question: Is STEM utilizing the outdoor lunch tables...Answer: not enough staff to use the tables and watch the kiddos

SAT and PSAT scores received.

SAT are 135 pts higher than DCSD

CMAS scores received all contents that were tested grade levels scored between 5-20% higher than DCSD

Strategy team met throughout summer

Planning a Town Hall

Respect being one of the goals

Nicole Bostel spoke

Strategic plan team over the summer (part of the strategy team) met several teams, topic of how do we set right expectation for parents, teachers, staff and kids so we are all on the same page.

Possible initiative for SAC to get parents on board

for example:

It is the expectation for STEM to treat teachers with kindness

Understanding your role in driveline

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no timeline necessarily...initially wanted the beginning of the year.

Possible sub-committee

Going to talk to the students to see if they will join as well.

Discussion with ideas.

Is another school doing this? If so borrow it?

STEM character traits similar for parents...

Put it in front of BOD before pushing it out (per Dr. Johnson)

No teachers as of yet for the leadership role (Elementary and Secondary Reps)

Discussion on if SAT scores are generally higher than DCSD (yes)

Discussion on teacher turnover and what it is usually. The answer was hard to determine. Since STEM was staffed 5 over, and didn't fill those positions, that could skew numbers.

New Business

Vote on SAC Bylaws as amended by the 20-21 committee

Motion to adopt bylaws as amended 2nd and change the bottom. Just change the end for who is on SAC and leave out titles.

and then SAC submits to Board of Directors

Additional AT LARGE SAC members on an annual basis when applicable

Bernadette Amaya expressed interest in being on SAC

Jason is a parent can't be community member anymore

Motion to accept Bernadette and Jason as parent members. Motion seconded and passes

Need to backfill the community member

Committee alignment

Bylaws committee – Ben, Ronalea, Carla

Communications Committee – Kelly, Ben

UIP committee – Ronalea, Amy

Parent Survey committee/Parent Engagement – DJ, Bernadette, Amy

Liaison alignment

DEI - Jason

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DAC - Bernadette

PTO -

Vote on 21-22 SAC Meeting Dates

September 15

October 20 (or joint with PTO 10/13) possible no meeting

November 17

December 15

January 19

February 16

March 16 Spring Break possible no meeting

April 20

May 18

Motion to take March off and October off and carry forth with 3rd Wednesdays of the month, motion seconded and carried

Vote on SAC officer positions for the 21-22 year:

Chair : Kelly Reyna

Vice Chair : Jason nominated and motion carried

Recorder: Amy Winans

Motion for Kelly and Amy to be Chair and Recorder, seconded and motion carried

Open Forum

Motion to move time 5:30-7pm but remain 3rd Wednesday. Motion seconded and carried

Speakers selected in order of the sign in sheet

Steven Dean – introduced himself, asked questions about SAC in general

Amy Winans - SAC website needs updating .. names, times and no more Zoom

Every Friday STEM has an AllHealth Therapist in the building

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Next SAC Meeting September 15 , 2021 will be posted on the All School Calendar

Motion for adjournment at 7:39 motion seconded, motion carries

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