



STEM School Highlands Ranch SAC Monthly Notes November 17, 2021

Meeting Date: November 17, 2021

Meeting Location: STEM School Highlands Ranch – High School Commons

Listen only mode for Zoom was available

Time: 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Present:

Kelly Reyna, SAC Chair

Jason O'Rourke, Vice-Chair

Amy Winans, SAC Recorder

Bernadette Amaya, DAC Rep

Carla Gustafson, Parent Rep

D.J. Steines, Parent Rep

Ben Ryder, Parent Rep

Ronalea Alleman, Parent Rep

Secondary Rep - TBD

Samantha Liebenow, Elementary Rep

Dr. Karen Johnson, Dir of Curriculum and Accountability

Community Rep: TBD

Guests: Student advisory Paige McEnery, Kyler Johnson,
online guests

Karyn Weiffenbach, Terri Irish, Maria Campens

Meeting was called to order at 5: 37

Pledge

Recite Mission and Vision Statements

Introductions

Determine Quorum

Minutes from September 15, 2021 motion made to accept, seconded and approved by all.

Guest Speakers

Professional Development Report by Michelle Gasser:

This was the same presentation as at the BOD meeting

At the beginning of the school year, all got together, “STEM stronger together” was the motto

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The saying was “when we have rocks along the way, who is in the raft together to help us row and stay on course”

Teacher retention and attrition info presented at BOD

STEM to compare ourselves to Charter School Institute because in a district you can move from school to school to school and data doesn't count because it's reported at the district level

Spoke in depth about how retention is calculated, attrition, reduction in force, some positions were purposely not filled, some received promotions

Added this year for teacher support a teacher support team full time people (1 PT)

Teacher Care Plan and discussed how that works

Induction program

Question from SAC

****How many teachers are working on the induction program****

24 teachers need induction, 6 are support staff; 18 are teachers. There are 16 mentors

****How many total FT teachers do we have**** – 90; of those, 24 are not fully licensed. It now takes 2 years to induct a teacher who is new to teaching, one year for a teacher from out of state.

Professional Development

Focus is SBL (standards based learning)

Currently working through pieces of SBL, begin implementation 2022

Ongoing focus is still PBL, data driven instruction (currently doing 2 weeks of each in rotation)

2 weeks SBL, 2 weeks PBL and 2 weeks data driven instruction

Professional Development (PD) plan for the year discussed

supports put in place this year include: PD newsletter weekly, reminders to submit small tasks (ie reflections etc), PD announcement, culture in the building

every other Monday is PLC (Professional Learning Community) time

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They give feedback on what is working and what they need help with.
There is a monthly PD survey and a quarterly staff satisfaction survey

Building Parent Trust – Strategic Plan Goal with Nicole Bostel:
LynAnn Kovalesky and Nicole Bostel

wants to engage SAC to help with this initiative

SAC subcommittee, wants to collaborate

defining how are we going to measure parent trust

ie what are the key elements as to establish a trust with STEM, (ie attending more events, communicate more, more communication with teachers?)

then can identify some focus areas

recently a parent survey went out.

Looking at do we have a parent partnership?

Next steps to see how we can get together and make this work

Ronalea and Bernadette and Carla started a small committee, then have LynAnn and Nicole join
in

Carla will set up a meeting and if you want to join, let Carla know

Standing Reports:

Director Report by Dr. Karen Johnson:

Parent and Student Survey Information

each year at the end of the year a parent survey goes out

last year 83 elementary responses and 196 secondary responses

goal is 25% response rate, last year around 13%

compared to the previous year, went over the results

Next meeting will have the feedback from the survey to discuss

Ground Breaking for the gym last Friday.

January construction will start

Sound mitigation in ES lunch room will be included in the construction

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Looking for girls to play basketball
Admin coffee was this morning

New Computer Science teacher starting in January
Middle School Spanish teacher opening
Security Officer is new – Brandon
PBL specialist opening

Teacher Report:

ES: by Samantha Liebenow
Pretty great recently
PBL is all over the school,
virtual field trips going on
1st grade made solar oven
5th grade oil spills
Teacher support team has been a great help
Rolling out Second Step which is a socio-emotional program
Book fair going on

Secondary: no report

DAC Report: By Bernadette Amaya
Winter forum coming up in February 17, 2022
went over the subjects which will be discussed at the forum
looking at doing a hybrid where you can be in person and zoom

PTO Report: Dr. Johnson
Just finished a funding cycle, some info has been released
Have contributed to Prom
Contributed to the academic and enrichment letters so they all look the same
Science Olympiad club is getting financial help from PTO

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BOD Report by Carla Gustafson:

Last BOD meeting, Evolv (who is associated with Johnson Controls) gave a presentation and gave info. They have metal detector type machine. Currently have one in SC and a facility in Denver. School would need 3 people who are monitoring each station (ie each entrance). Can detect weapons, but not knives, does have some faults where it detects a weapon but it isn't really.

As a SAC we can make a formal recommendation to the BOD to form a committee. Parents need to be involved in the decision.

Student Government talked about Prom

Student Advisory attending various meetings BOD, Curriculum Committee, SAC, PTO

Winter Formal February 2

Covid update:

As of SAC meeting, 59 individual covid cases

STEN still classified as low risk

Elementary started quarantined starting Thursday

So far there have been 2 cases where Tuesday they got tested and were asymptomatic but the test came back positive

Community Report: none

New Business:

SAC Liaison for STEM Center of Strength: Bernadette

Parents sharing how their kids go and do homework there, are involved in activities, study areas, relaxing areas

Tues of Thanksgiving is a Smash Bros tournament 11-2

Parent email request for budgetary suggestions from Karyn Weiffenbach.

STEM should think about student experience outside of the classroom. After-prom gets 0 from STEM. No volleyball banquet at end of year. None for soccer last year, either. No spirit signs allowed because of a re-paint issue.

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Fire Dept code says no more than 20% of the wall can be covered. Possible tack strips on walls to attach stuff?

Discussion about STEM HS vs a traditional type HS experience.

Dr. Johnson oversees budgets and has never seen some of the requests people are talking about.

Maybe a line item that says every year XYZ money goes to student experience?

Should the school look at this as a cultural shift within the school?

Open Forum:

Public comment in order of sign-up sheet for in person attendees. Everyone was reminded that their name and comments would be public record.

Karyn W – Thanked SAC for allowing a zoom link

Confirmed that districts don't count intra-district shifts (see above)

Stated that some accountability for the BOD (Board of Directors) and parent trust needs to happen

There was discussion of what parent trust looks like.

Discussion of opening PBL specialist and how that breaks trust at secondary

Next SAC is December 15, 2021 at 5:30

8:17 pm Adjournment motion 2nd and motion carried.

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