



STEM School Highlands Ranch SAC Monthly Notes January 19, 2022

Meeting Date: January 19, 2022

Meeting Location: Via Zoom (no in person due to Covid spikes)

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 - absent

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:

Guests: Jeanie Brevort, Kimberly Lander, Friend family, Paige McEnery (Student) Tawnya Houghton (q), LynAnne Kovalsky, Janet Arnold (q)

Meeting was called to order at 5:38

Pledge

Recite Mission and Vision Statements

Determine Quorum

Motion made to approve minutes from December 15, 2021 Motion seconded and majority approved.

One abstained due to not being present in December

Standing Reports:

Director Report by Dr. Karen Johnson:

Everyone is back to school. Expected rocky start due to Covid.

New Spanish teacher this term

Computer Science teacher started in January

Have field trips coming up, Snow Mountain Ranch, several out of state trips (Sea Camp), Keystone

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Science Group, Boston and have to follow that states Covid protocols

Winter sports are up and running

Enrichment is running

Groundbreaking equipment at school.

Quarantine protocols..any changes...talked about daily with Mallory the nurse. Looking at various models Douglas County is using. Primary goal to keep all the kids in school. Students who are unvaccinated and in outbreak have to stay home. If vaccinated, can attend. Assignments on canvas and available via email etc.

Teacher Report:

Elementary: by Samantha Liebenow

Snow Mountain Ranch for 5th grade next week. Three days up there...snowshoeing, skiing, rock climbing, archery etc.

Remote option with some kids at home, teachers are doing their best to support the kids. It's challenging for both sides. Teachers are trying to support as much as possible.

Lots of PBL going on, kids seem engaged.

Question from Kimberly Lander about the DCSD stay and test option. Answer: Looking into it
Why are days longer than 5 for quarantine? Answer: Day 0 (or the first day of exposure) doesn't count. Day 1 is the next day.

Tawnya Houghton asks about accessibility to water during the day? How is filtration monitored?
Water filling stations are open, Filters are cleaned regularly and the station is cleaned daily.

Secondary: Maura Ridder gave an update to Kelly to read.

Middle School currently on outbreak status

Wellness challenge for all staff. If completed, raffle for prizes

Talent show from staff

Sixth grade is going to Keystone Science School Feb 9-11

Seacamp for 7th and 8th coming up

Boston for 8th and 9th coming up

Spelling Bee Thursday of this week

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DAC Report: By Bernadette Amaya

The 16th of December was the last meeting.

Winter Forum on the 17th of February at Rock Canyon High School Mental Health
Scott Cypers is the keynote for the forum

STEM Center for Strength

With the new year they are adding new activities for students and parents

March is having a mental health fair,

Different types of therapy to be explored.

Booth style presentation to educate people for mental wellness

Recovery over time panel time TBD (April??)

Different speakers - one from Columbine, other individuals who were part of a gun violence event.

Want to help people understand and hear success and challenges of recovery over time.

The center is doing great, thanks to all who donated snacks, they were out at the end of the semester.

PTO Report: Jeanne Brevoort

Ended STEM gives, goal was 75k, this year collected 30k,

There has been a bit of feedback moving forward on letting community know where the funds go.

Trying to cautiously solidify spring events. Feb will have sweetheart dance...renamed from father daughter dance.

STEM Fest, want to include a piece of diversity

Fun Run in April focused on elementary

PTO working closely HS student government in planning prom and after prom. Kids have had several rough years and government planning a big WOW. Put the word out PTO needs help...

BOD Report by Carla Gustafson:

January 4 was the last meeting

Student leadership reported winter formal in Feb, Hot Cocoa in spring, Nerds night out, Prom April 23

Mr. Alsup working on a finals schedule for next year

Carla and Michelle, trying to have board policies in template format so they can be consistent. Board

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approved the template

Executive Director report

Personnel Committee came up with a recommendation for a new role. CEO of KOSON and a new ED for STEM HR

The Board offered CEO to Dr. Eucker

There was a presentation of review of Dr. Eucker. She will stay on through July 30 as ED (executive director)

Ishmeet voted in as a new class B member

Community asking for zoom for BOD meetings.

DEI Report by Jason O'Rourke

Trying to wait and see what the district is going to do with the equity policy

Then go forward from there.

Community Report: none

Committee Updates:

Parent Engagement

parent survey results – presentation

Discussion about presentation.

Parent Trust Strategic Plan Committee Carla, Nicole, LynAnn

Kickoff 1pm on Friday the 21st

Defining Parent Trust – hard to quantify and means different things to different people

Build partnerships which you can quantify

New Business:

February SAC meeting focus on Mental Health

Meeting at STEM Center for Strength

Student participation in SAC

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Replication Meeting info meeting was held last night
less than 20 people attended in-person and virtually
Sterling Ranch, gathering interest, 46 families that are at least talking
Went through the process – Late May could be approved
Goal is to open Fall 2023

Denver Public - STEM
Similar process to get and assess interest
K-5 goal. There are multiple MS/HS including DSST,
Goal is to retrofit a bldg
2nd option co-locate with another school
last option build another school.
Goal is to open Fall 2023

DPS could deny, then STEM can go to state level and file an appeal

Grant writer is working on getting a grant for replication
Discussion

Kelly brought up having the student representation. Dr. Johnson defers to bylaw subcommittee to see how that could work.

Open Forum:

Public Comment

Staff did a quarterly survey, results were just shared with admin, will be shared with SAC as well.

Motion for Dr. Johnson to recruit one student rep for SAC as a non voting member to finish out the year.

Seconded and motion passes.

LynAnn wants the elementary student government to have say and wants them to have the opportunity

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to speak even if it is once a quarter

Next SAC is February 16, 2022 at 5:30 with a mental health focus at the Center for Strength

March 23rd meeting for bylaws only.

Motion to adjourn at 7:38 pm. Motion seconded and passed

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