



STEM School Highlands Ranch SAC Monthly Notes November 20, 2019

Meeting Date: November 20, 2019

Meeting Location: STEM School: HS Commons

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Present:

Kelly Reyna, SAC Chair

Anne Marie Blackburn, SAC Vice Chair

Amy Winans, SAC Recorder

Tom Wendling DAC Rep

Aleza Bautista, PTO Rep

Angela Tolar, Parent Rep

Abbi Kaplan, Secondary Rep

Ishmeet Kalra, Parent Rep

Dr. Karen Johnson, Dir of Curriculum and Accountability

Patrick Callahan, ES Teacher Rep

Community Rep: Liz Davis

Absent: Erin Gomez, Parent Rep

Guests: Lauren Pickett, Tracey Grove, Marna Kebel, Stephanie Hooley, Shelly Schell

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 by Kelly Reyna

Introductions

A quorum was achieved

Minutes from October 23, 2019 were approved. Kelly moved to accept minutes, AMB 2nd, 2 abstained

Teacher Report:

ES report by Patrick Callahan

5th grade going on school trip

Coordinating with Kindie and Kindie is doing a Mayflower project. 5th grade helped them with the boats. Kindie visited Jamestown via Virtual Reality

4th grade still doing Denver Zoo project. Dec 6 is eval

3rd doing a Mayflower unit.

2nd (and others) indicate stress in teachers is plummeting over the course of the month. Doing a PBL that ties Life Science, choose 1 of 4 problems (ie saving bees populations)

Gratitudes to LynAnn Kovalsky for helping out so much in ES

Copier is being replaced soon in ES. In the new year

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Eval for how much paper is used vs outsourcing (ie for Eureka math)

Possible four square lines, hop scotch, tag lines out on the parking lot by the play area. Is this possible?

Repurpose to play area instead of parking area that no one uses anyone. Maybe to Robert H?

Secondary report by Abbi Kaplan.

Most of the survey is regarding our current Human Resources procedures. There are several concerns that FMLA/Maternity leave is not standardized or that it is confusing. There are also concerns regarding the room new mothers are asked to pump in.

There is still a focus on parents using the lot by the high school for drop off in the morning and taking spaces from teachers.

There are still concerns regarding curriculum support, lack of work space for teachers/staff, and generally feeling like there are more tasks to complete that time and support to get them done. Still some concerns regarding new/current admin structure

Positives: People are really responding to Leanne's continued support and venerability, she is really trying to connect with and support staff. ES LOVES LynAnn. Most people are responding that they feel supported by their team and like the kids (although they would like more strict regulation of off task technology use).

Foreign Language dept thinks that maybe more on paper and off technology a bit more.

DAC Report:

Tom Wendling gave a report on DAC.

Nov 19 was last meeting. Feb 11 is the DAC winter forum at RCHS.

Board is most into right now Policy revision

BOE update, reinforced policy revision.

2ndary teacher to sit on DAC, there are 3 candidates, but none are teachers.

Presentation from CFO DCSD Scott Smith

Teacher eval rubric being looked at

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PTO Report:

Given by Aleza Bautista.

Last Wednesday. Fall grant cycle. Lots of teachers participated. 9 teachers total

Approved:

MS art: 3 art stations

4th grade Computer Science for Mr. Ryan: to be used as desired

Yearbook and video: Mr. Ryan for lighting and flash

Computer Science MS and digital arts Mr. Trichler: requested RAM cards, hard drives, USB flashes that MS has been borrowing from HS

Lauren Tracy: Vending machine with books in it, putting it on hold until spring.

PE Teacher: toochi ball from Switzerland benefit k-12 put on hold until spring

2nd grade Tami Brook: Wiggle chairs for her classroom put under review. Maybe other classrooms would benefit. More investigation into getting them all wiggle chairs.

Ceramics: Mr. Smith, wanted an air filter because of the dust from ceramics was approved

Mrs. Veal, world languages dept needed classroom chairs: Wasn't available to present so put on hold.

Might fall under furniture budget from the school.

Dan Hoffman about the playfield. Trying to put together a signout sheet for teachers who want to use the playfield. Some confusion on when and who can use it.

Volleyball team won the gold and silver

Soccer was runner up for gold

Basketball has an event at the Pepsi Center.

Went over proposed budget and was approved. Submitted last week, should be on website

Approved an extra 1500 for new teachers (3k total)

BOD Report:

Given by Aleza Bautista

Had a lot of technical issues they were discussing. They talked about the parent survey.

Curriculum committee met. Talked about new classes and offerings bringing CS, Engineering etc

STEM will own the ES bldg very soon. By buying it out we save 4 Mil a year.

DCSD Leadership Report:

Given by Ish Kalra

All about school safety.

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Learned about the chain of command when announcements are needed.

Learned about how snow days are called.

DCSD trying to be at the forefront of school safety

Tries to have parent info nights.

Rich is nationally recognized for school safety

Community Report:

Given by Elizabeth Davis

Visa Innovations team putting together something for the HS kids at STEM

How to use social media to make the world a better place.

Semester long program,

winning team gets internships with a startup company Visa works with

tours of the data center to those who participate in the competition

Director Report:

Reported on by Dr. Karen Johnson.

Resiliency Center will be a community based center to help students and staff through crisis. This is being launched by All Health. Getting a bond approved for the funding for the center. It will be nearby.

Launched course registration this week. New academic planning guide on website.

CE Marketing and CE Entrepreneurial

Restructured MS CS classes. Javascript vs design

Another redesign is Music. More traditional courses ie beginning band and music

Tomorrow meeting with HS students (November 21, 2019)

new PTECH courses

Dec 4th, 10th hour HS course lesson

Nov 21, announcing the grants we are getting.

Blue/gold schedule changing. Blue days MW, Gold T/R advisory and a different schedule on Friday.

Benefits off campus CE schedules.

There has been confusion with the district on snow days/ delayed start and early release

Question about virtual days . In the past it counts as a school day. Over the summer a question came up if they actually count. DCSD said we shouldn't count them. Will have a back up delayed start

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schedule in case STEM runs into a problem

Special Education Presentation:

Given by Tracy Grove

Has been here since 2011. We are 100% inclusive so SPED goes IN the class, rather than pull outs. 4-5 years ago went to co-teaching model

Noticed a decline on kids increasing reading scores. Applied and got a grant. Language arts enrichment class was approved.

Kids didn't buy in.

Now small groups with literacy: kind of a pilot this year

Literacy extension is the name for next year. Want it to be teacher referral.

Talked about the difference in PSAT vs CMAS in how literacy is determined. (short passages with multiple choice, vs 2 long passages with a need to synthesize etc).

SPED teachers feel understaffed, but then many schools are.

STEM is classified as a mild-moderate school which means STEM is not equipped to handle significant disabilities but the district can step in and help

Ideas were talked about to try and brainstorm

On-going Business:

Recycling Program – went to PTO and s/w Beth Church works in the district and might be able to help with resources.

Parent Survey Committee – need a committee. They want results by Feb 1st and current results are ok.

Introducing a new survey . The April one will be the same, but the new one is a satisfaction survey.

No stipulation for 2 surveys. Maybe middle of the year and end of the year.

AMB and Angela Tolar volunteered to start committee Amy, Aleza, Dr. Johnson to participate

Parent survey committee Proposed by Ish, 2nd by Aleza, majority agreed

Website – SAC Report for BOD

New Business:

Student involvement with the SAC

Ish brought up students need to be more involved in what goes on. Suggested student government

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person. SAC could be a first line for hearing what is going on with students.
Student forum in Dec to talk to kids

Budget

STAR is presenting in Feb to the board.

Possible SAC meeting interacting with BOD?

A request was made by AMB for a breakdown of salaries. Would like a breakdown by different sections (teachers, technology, business office, etc) and by MS and HS departments and would like to be informed of the findings of the Staff Salary Committee

Talk about how other districts put up their financial transparency on the web

Talked about wishes and desires and came up with questions for Star

OPEN FORUM

no public comment

Dr. J moved to have the vision and mission on the minutes and Angela 2nd

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