



STEM School Highlands Ranch SAC Monthly Notes April 15, 2020

Meeting Date: April 15, 2020

Meeting Location: via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Present:

Kelly Reyna, SAC Chair

Amy Winans, SAC Recorder

Tom Wendling DAC Rep

Angela Tolar, Parent Rep

Abbi Kaplan, Secondary Rep

Erin Gomez, Parent Rep

Dr. Karen Johnson, Dir of Curriculum and Accountability

Ishmeet Kalra, Parent Rep

Absent: Anne Marie Blackburn, SAC Vice Chair, Tamara Emge, PTO Rep, Patrick Callahan, ES Teacher Rep, Community Rep: Liz Davis

Guests: Dr. Leanne Weyman, Jane Kim, Lauren Pickett, Janet Arnold

Meeting was called to order at 6:04 by Kelly Reyna

Introductions:

Determine Quorum

Approval of the minutes from SAC Meeting on:

1/15/20 – Ish moved to approve and Abbi 2nd. Majority agreed. One abstain (wasn't at Jan meeting)

2/19/20 – Delayed for a written vote from attendees per ByLaws since not enough were in attendance.

Director Report:

Reported on by Dr. Karen Johnson

Innovating with Remote Learning

Numerous Professional Development opportunities

Tech Tuesday Pro Development. Really trying to support teachers with all aspects of remote learning

Trying to reschedule events that have been cancelled.

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May 7 still a focus on giving back to community.

Light academic load that day optional assignments to keep a routine..no required activities from an academic standpoint.

All state assessments are cancelled except AP. Basically 45 min essay prompt

UIP will roll over since there is no testing

Talked about the survey and how the changes that were discussed in prior meetings were too taxing so the regular form will go out. IC needs to be updated so parents can get various communication via email Last week of April it will get sent out.

Per Leanne

Started recruitment for teachers for next year. Some retiring on, some moving on to different career fields.

STEM can assist with alternative licensure

If parents can help out with recruiting, that would be great.

BOD approved strategic plan. If you need to see it, links on BOD page.

Setting master schedule for next year

Teachers are working really hard with remote learning, please continue to support the teachers.

Teacher Report:

ES report by Patrick Callahan: no report, Callahan absent

Secondary report by Abbi Kaplan.

Working on support for teachers and how is virtual learning going for the teachers. Parents are mostly pleased with the amount of work (not too much or too little)

Coaches are meeting next week as well.

Dr. Klapp feels the kids need a little more socio-emotional help and wants to have more clubs the kids can join in (MS)

Grading policy – Virtual Learning doesn't really count towards grades however if the kid has done really well, it CAN count but only to improve the grade. On the professional Development Day they will discuss Finals or final projects etc.

The state is going to issue waivers for minutes of education. The reason for only having

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grades go up is to make learning fair (if a kid has to share a computer, take care of a family member etc). STEM is following DCSD guidelines

DAC Report:

Tom Wendling gave a report on DAC. DAC is having meetings remotely. They met on the 14th. Some takeaways:

Susan Meek

Christiana gave BOE update

Master capital plan is on hold because they can't get into the school

Budget being set for next year. 2/3 comes from the state, 1/3 from property taxes

Matt Reynolds gave staff update. Community Town Hall on the 16th. 5-6pm. Live streamed on YouTube

District under real financial stress. Anticipating a flat funding, don't expect PPR to go up.

Over extended their commitment on the Mill Levy Override and teacher salaries

35M in salary and benefits per month. They dip into reserves which currently are at 24M. (less than a month of reserves)

PTO Report:

Given by Tamara Emge. No report as Tamara was absent but no PTO meeting, either

BOD Report:

Given by : Ish gave report. Dan Hoffman and Ana co-directors make a case for CHSSA certification, 3A category. Should be initially by fall 2020. Got the go ahead by the board, they asked for more money for athletic budget; 60-80k for the year. Needed an athletic booster club and need an investment from the board. Facilities provided by local partnerships. 2 year probation for participation. Music program will also benefit. State music auditions have to be from CHSSA students/schools. If probation goes well through January 2021 then submit final CHSSA application

Star Ake did the finance budget. Gave a background on finance.

100k raised for STEM STRONG fund which goes to teachers who were there on that day, May 7, 2019 School is very strong financially. Met all DCSD benchmarks.

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Community Report

Given by Elizabeth Davis- no report. Elizabeth was absent

On-going Business:

SAC for next year:

Angela is coming back

AnneMarie is not

Tom is not coming back

Could potentially have 2 or more open positions.

Nicole can send a blast about the open positions. Will see what her recommendations are for how to move forward with info.

Hopefully letter of intent by May 1. Possible vote as of May 4

Copy all the ongoing from Agenda which we didn't talk about

New Business:

Open agenda items

Abbi asked if there could be a schedule of which classrooms are open at what times so the teachers could go there and work.

Dr. Johnson and Robert Hoornstra talked today about possible HS office area for work area.

Question on IEP distribution among classes. Is there a matrix on how many kids on IEP's are in a specific classroom? There is a push in model at STEM vs pull out. We shouldn't have a large number in any class.

No more than 5 SPED in a class in ES.

OPEN FORUM

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