

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
FOR THE JOHN C. DUNHAM STEM PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL
Governing Board Minutes
Wednesday, January 6th, 2021 at 1:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Dr. Craig call the meeting to order at 1:02 pm

2. Roll Call

Present: Dr. Craig, Dr. Hichens, Dr. Talley, Dr. Norrell and Dr. Sherrick

Also Present: Mrs. Carter and Ana Buenrostro

Dr. Patel joined the meeting at 2:03 pm

3. Public Comment

None

4. Adjourn to Executive Session

4.1 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – Personnel

The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

4.2 Adjourn executive session

Dr. Hichens motioned to adjourn to executive session and Dr. Talley seconded.

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

5. Adjourn to Open Session

5.1 Roll Call

Dr. Talley motioned to adjourn to open session and Dr. Hichens seconded.

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

6. Consent Agenda

6.1 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of October 14th, 2020

6.2 Approval of Special Meeting Minutes of October 30th, 2020

6.3 Approval of Executive Meeting Minutes of October 30th, 2020

6.4 Approval of September, October, and November 2020 Bill Listings

Dr. Hichens motioned to approved consent agenda items 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 as presented and Dr. Talley seconded.

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

7. Information/Presentation/Discussion

7.1 STEM Partnership Goals

Dr. Craig started the conversation asserting that The Board broke into subcommittees to discuss the goals of the STEM Partnership School. The subcommittees landed in the same spots. They questioned if the STEM school is meeting its goals. Collective, they discussed whether the STEM knowledge is being spilled into the districts.

Dr. Craig asked each subcommittee to share the outcomes of their conversations about the chosen goal.

Dr. Sherrick stated that she was part of the subcommittee for goal 1 with Dr. Hichens and Dr. Craig. They concluded that this is the perfect moment to do a comprehensive review of the STEM model, and that the board should be open to a review.

Dr. Talley and Dr. Patel were part of the subcommittee for goal 2 which is the disseminating of information from STEM into the districts. They identified three new areas that STEM should work on:

- Secure external support like funds or grants
- Provide more Professional Development to the partner districts.
- Develop a plan to provide a collaborative platform among the partner districts.

The third goal committee was comprised of Dr. Norrell and Mrs. Carter. They discussed ways to focus more on students, and they also discussed the incorporation of the United Nations goals into the school.

Dr. Craig concluded the conversation of the goals questioning whether the goals of the school are being met.

7.2 STEM Partnership Leadership

Dr. Craig thanked Mrs. Carter for her letter of resignation citing that this event prompted a pause to think about the STEM leadership and the model.

Dr. Hichens addressed Mrs. Carter expressing how the STEM Director position is a challenging position. She thanked Mrs. Carter for the opportunity to review the STEM model. The resignation will provide that opportunity.

Dr. Talley shared that he can only imagine the challenges of the position. He affirmed that the board is committed to the work of STEM, great things can come up.

Dr. Norrell addressed Mrs. Carter wishing her well. She expressed the desire of continuing the relationship with Mrs. Carter leadership and the university.

Dr. Sherrick mentioned that she is thankful for Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Buenrostro.

Dr. Patel expressed that she learned a lot from Mrs. Carter, and that she is looking forward to work together in the future.

Mrs. Carter thanked the board members and shared that she has learned and grow some much. She added that the students have been very successful at STEM.

Dr. Craig concluded based on feedback, the challenges of the school, and the pandemic, the Board decided to pause on bringing more students in the name of rethinking the STEM model. Dr. Talley and Dr. Norrell supported Dr. Craig's conclusion.

Mrs. Carter added that if there will be no new third graders, the school will still have a third grade teacher. Dr. Craig added that there are many pieces that the board will have to contemplate but for now the STEM school will not hold an open house for incoming third graders.

Dr. Talley asked for clarification about adding new students in any other grades. The Board agreed that there will not new students in any grade.

Dr. Sherrick shared that the Board should also acknowledge that the virus has play a big role in the decision, and that this information should be communicated to parents.

Dr. Craig offered to start a draft announcement on Google with an honest reflection. He also offered to have a conversation with the STEM teachers to inform them of the decision.

A discussion took place regarding the timeline of the announcements and the order in which the stakeholders will be informed. Mrs. Carter shared the typical timeline for the open house, a Q & A with parents, and the lottery. Dr. Sherrick added that part of the stakeholders to be informed should be legislators, corporate partners, and the Dunham Fund. The Board members also agreed that they will need to inform their Boards respectively.

Dr. Talley asked from which district is the 3rd grade teacher. Mrs. Carter inform him that it belongs to Indian Prairie, however, she added that there could be some movement within the school for next year.

Dr. Craig closed the conversation thanking everyone and shared that he appreciate the conversation on how to move STEM forward.

Future Meeting Date: February 9, 2021

8. Adjourn

Dr. Sherrick motioned to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Hichens seconded.

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 pm