

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
FOR THE JOHN C. DUNHAM STEM PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL
Governing Board Minutes

Thursday, August 6th, 2020
12:00 pm

Virtual Board Meeting at Zoom by computer or smart phone:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://sd129.zoom.us/j/94365204725>

Meeting ID: 943 6520 4725

Passcode: 802571

1. Call to Order

Dr. Craig called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm

2. Roll Call

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

Also present: Arin Carter and Ana Buenrostro

3. Public Comment

None

4. Information/Presentation/ Discussion

4.1 Planning for 2020-2021 School Year

Dr. Hichens shared that Batavia school district 101 is starting school on August 19th and that she will have a half the students every day. The middle school and high school will be fully remote but with plans to start bringing students to the buildings.

Dr. Talley shared that Indian Prairie school district 204 will start fully remote on September 3rd with plans to start bringing students by the end of October in a hybrid model.

Dr. Norrell shared that East Aurora School District 131 will have an online orientation on August 24th and 25th. They will be fully remote for everyone until November 4th and after investigate a hybrid model. The district will provide special services on site and staff will work on site.

Dr. Craig shared that West Aurora school district 129 will start on August 24th fully remote until October 30th. The district's Board will make a decision for the remainder of the 1st semester on October 13th.

Mrs. Carter shared with the Board the options that were offered to STEM students and that 30 percent chose the online option back at their districts. She shared that parents wanted a STEM online option and they did not want to go back to their districts for online instruction.

Dr. Craig shared that they are making decisions on a quarter basis. But based on feedback from STEM families, school should be fully remote.

Dr. Talley supported the fully remote option as this will please the majority of parents since most of them are expecting fully remote teaching.

Dr. Sherrick expressed confidence that the STEM staff can deliver the curriculum in a meaningful way.

Dr. Norrell shared that within the boundaries of her district there is a high positivity rate of cases of Covid-19.

Dr. Hichens suggested that 129 should take the lead for STEM, and Dr. Talley questioned which metrics should be used to assess the situation. Dr. Sherrick shared that faculty at the university has concerns if STEM does not do remote. Dr. Craig expressed that he will continue having conversations with Mrs. Carter, and that STEM students will remain at STEM.

Mrs. Carter shared that the school is pausing in hiring a social worker, but that every district will continue to offer support to their students.

Dr. Hichens also asked for clarification on the role of the Teacher Leader if the STEM school goes fully remote. Mrs. Carter explained that the Teacher Leader is assisting the four new teachers at STEM get acclimated to the new school. The Teacher Leader also supports teachers by helping them prepare take home kits for students and is the connection between partners of the school and teachers. She also is continuously working with AU faculty to arrange support for teachers. Her role is still valuable at the school even if classes are fully remote.

Dr. Sherrick spoke about the metrics and data that was collected to make the decision on district's learning models. Dr. Hichens took into consideration teachers, transportation, supply chain, and public opinion was a small piece in her decision.

Norrell shared that there is no contact tracing capacity in the county, and the school is unable to do it; hence the decision was made to start remotely. Dr. Hichens has staff doing contact tracing for her district.

A motion was made for the STEM school to start remotely by Dr. Talley and seconded by Dr. Norrell

Ayes (5)

Nays (0)

A clarification was made that the STEM school will continue to follow West Aurora calendar and classes will start on August 24th, 2020

4.2 Future Meeting Date: TBD

7. Adjourn

Dr. Hichens motioned and Dr. Sherrick seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:42.

Ayes (3)

Nays (0)

Dr. Hichens left the meeting at 12:32 and Dr. Sherrick at 12:39

Ana K. Buenrostro

Administrative Assistant to the Director

John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School