

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

Wednesday, October 14th 2020

1:00 pm

Virtual Board Meeting at Zoom by computer or smart phone:

<https://sd129.zoom.us/j/89812768358>

Meeting ID: 898 1276 8358

Passcode: 372128

1. Call to Order

Dr. Craig called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm

2. Roll Call

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

Absent: Dr. Norrell – she arrived at 1:09 pm

Also present: Mrs. Carter, Dr. Patel and Mrs. Buenrostro

3. Public Comment

None

4. Consent Agenda

Dr. Sherrick motioned and Dr. Talley seconded to approve the consent agenda items 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 as presented.

Ayes: (4)

Nays: (0)

5. Action Items

5.1 Approval of Employment contract for 2020-2021 for Art – 0.3 FTE: Louise Grissinger

Dr. Hichens motioned and Dr. Talley seconded to approve action item 5.1

Ayes: (4)

Nays: (0)

6. Information/Presentation/ Discussion

6.1 John C Dunham STEM Partnership School Report

6.1.1 SIP plan 2019 report

Mrs. Carter shared the goals for the 2019-20 year. There were 3 goals: Implementation of PLCs. These were implemented in the morning while the students received lessons on digital citizenship, be internet awesome and mindfulness. The second goal was 100 percent of students to experience technology, teachers provided their progress through March of 2020. The third goal was to plan to investigate alternative grading reporting. Mrs. Carter reported she had conference sessions with partner and non-partner districts.

6.1.2 SIP plan 2020

The SIP goals for the 2020-21 school year are: support structural technology with professional learning sessions and with concurrent teaching. To support classroom and build culture. The goal is being achieved by monitoring student engagement. There is a weekly communication with parents and students that are missing Zooms and/or have missing assignments. The school is sending home kits with activities to support classroom learning. The STEM school was able to get the Caterpillar grant of 30K and the first grant kit will go home next week to students. Teachers are also creating videos and labs, they are bringing partner connections via Zoom meetings, the partner connections have increased during this school year due to the accessibility to meet students via Zoom.

Dr. Talley asked for clarification on the goals of the school and asked if the goals were SMART goals. He asked where is the data piece of the goals and if there is evidence this are the right goals for the school. Mrs. Carter shared that the goals were formed based from conversations with the district representatives. For this year the goals have been refined with what the school is already doing without adding more goals. Dr. Talley spoke of SMART goals and how you measure and whether there should be specific information in the goals.

Dr. Craig shared that measurement of the STEM Model has been a long term discussion among the Board and the districts. Dr. Sherrick shared how the model was developed. Dr. Patel shared that the goals of the school are measured with the external evaluations that have been conducted in past years, but that the success of the school depends on the districts and their contributions. Dr. Craig spoke of about the difficulty of making comparisons about the increase in the interest in the STEM disciplines. Dr. Talley expressed that STEM does not need to be compared to other schools, but needs to measure: what is happening to students within STEM, and how are students' achievements at the beginning and at the end of the program: is the STEM program making an impact with the students?

Dr. Craig encourages future conversations about the goals. Dr. Hichens mentioned that the school goals are in the joint agreement for the school.

6.1.3 Remote learning update

Mrs. Carter shared that the school has received a positive response from parents and students. She also shared that attendance has been phenomenal. The Board members spoke about whether the districts are requiring the students to have their cameras on during Zoom instruction. Mrs. Carter shared that the STEM school is requiring students to have their cameras on, but there are some exceptions. She also shared that parent teacher conferences had a 97 percent attendance, in part, because virtual conferences were easier to schedule and attend. Parents that missed the conferences have been contacted to reschedule the conference.

6.1.4 Learning model for 2nd quarter

Mrs. Carter started the conversation by sharing that a survey was sent to the parents to get a sense of the number of families that would like to attend STEM in person if the opportunity arises. She shared that 48 percent are willing to possibly attend in person while 39 percent will like to continue remotely. 13 percent of the respondents are unsure. Some parents seem nervous about coming back listing some of the concerns are quarantine, wearing masks for long

periods of time and the need for consistency. 64 percent of the respondents will use the districts' provided transportation and 34 percent will use their own.

Mrs. Carter proposed a learning model where students will be online on Monday and for the rest of the week each district will attend one day at the time due to different Covid-19 positivity rates within each district. Batavia will attend on Tuesdays, East Aurora on Wednesdays, West Aurora on Thursdays and Indian Prairie on Fridays. The school day will be from 8 am to 11 am with an hour for lunch and transportation. Then at 12 pm, students will connect for synchronous instruction until 2:30 pm with an optional open Zoom from 2:30 to 3 pm. With this model, only about 25 percent of students will be in the building at any given time. Teachers will be concurrently teaching in class and remote students.

Dr. Norrell asked for clarification on the reasoning behind separating students by district. Mrs. Carter clarified that her model's intention is to bring back students slowly.

Mrs. Carter also shared with the Board the cleaning protocol that will be in place when students come back into the building. She also spoke of some of the challenges specific to the school like contact tracing, substitutes, busing, food services and the time on any decision making process for the school.

Dr. Hichens shared with the board that the county is the entity making decisions regarding school closures and/or classroom quarantines. Dr. Sherrick questioned what will happen if there is an outbreak within the university. Dr. Hichens reiterate that the Kane County is making decisions classroom by classroom, however the County's role is more advisory than a mandate and that the definition of an outbreak is two or more cases. Because STEM students will be confined to the school, in case of an AU outbreak, STEM students will not need to be quarantined.

6.1.5 Agreed upon procedures report

Mrs. Carter presented the report to the Board. Dr. Talley asked of clarification on the audit. Dr. Sherrick clarified that the agreed upon procedures report is an audit report that explains that we have all the appropriate internal controls in place in regards to the school budget.

6.1.6 Evaluation

An evaluation was completed last year for the STEM school. Mrs. Carter asked whether the Board wanted to request another evaluation this year. Dr. Talley asked for clarification about the elements that are evaluated. Mrs. Carter clarified that some of the elements are: student growth, interactions between partners and teachers and students, and that the elements still align with the foundation of the school.

Dr. Sherrick asked Dr. Patel if any of the information of last year's evaluation was used to secure the Caterpillar grant. Dr. Patel answered no.

Dr. Sherrick suggested to do an evaluation this year, because the evaluations for the school have value for grants.

Dr. Talley shared that he does not think an evaluation is necessary every year, and he suggested doing an evaluation every two years to provide enough time to implement the suggestions of the previous evaluation.

The Board members discussed further the evaluation objectives, targets, and goals of evaluation and whether an evaluation is necessary every year.

Dr. Sherrick expressed the desire to continue with yearly evaluations since the results allows the university to seek grants.

Mrs. Carter asked for clarification on the evaluation decision. Dr. Talley asked if the same person that did the evaluation last year can conduct this year's evaluation.

6.2 Future Meeting Date:

The Board decided not to meet in November 10th, the next meeting will be on February 9, 2021

7. Adjourn

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

Ayes: (4)

Nays: (0)

Adjourn time: 2:07

Dr. Norrell left the meeting at 1:48 pm