

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

Tuesday, November 14, 2017  
1:00 pm

John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School, Easley Education Center  
405 S. Gladstone Ave.  
Aurora, Illinois 60506-4892

**1. Call to Order**

Dr. Hichens called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Dr. Sherrick, Dr. Hichens, Dr. Sullivan, Dr. Craig, Ms. Kincaid

Also Present: Arin Carter, Chetna Patel, Ana Buenrostro

Absent: None

**3. Public Comment**

Priscilla Park addressed the board regarding busing for 204

Matt Root addressed the board regarding extracurricular activities, the time board meetings are scheduled, and district 129 communications.

**4. Consent Agenda**

**4.1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2017**

**4.2. Approval of June, July, August and September 2017 Bill Listings**

Dr. Craig motioned and Dr. Sherrick seconded to approve the consent agenda items 4.1 and 4.2

Ayes: (4) Sherrick, Hichens, Sullivan, Craig, Kincaid

Nays: (0)

**5. Closed Agenda**

5.1 Adjourn to closed session to discuss 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. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is

subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.

#### 5.2 Return to open session

Motion: Dr. Sullivan motioned and Ms. Kincaid seconded to return to open session

Time: 1:41 pm.

Ayes: (5) Sullivan, Kincaid, Sherrick Hichens, Kincaid

Nays: (0)

### 6. Action Items

6.1. Increase in FTE for Special Education teacher, from 0.5 FTE 1.0 FTE. The total staffing for the 2017-18 is currently at 10.9 FTE. Administration is requesting an increase from 0.5 to 1.0 FTE for the current special education instructor to support additional caseload and provide interventions for other students through a multi-tiered system of support.

Information/Presentations/Discussion

Dr. Sullivan motioned and Ms. Kincaid seconded to table the action item.

Ayes: (5) Sullivan, Kincaid, Sherrick, Craig, Hichens

Nays: (0)

6.2 Chromebook Management - Currently, Chromebooks are filtered for the STEM school students while they are at school, but the devices are not filtered offsite. It is recommended that the Board authorize administration to develop a Chromebook management plan so that student devices can be filtered at all times. The cost for such services will not exceed \$10 per device.

Dr. Sullivan motioned and Ms. Kincaid seconded to approve the item

Ayes: (5) Sullivan, Kincaid, Craig, Hichens, Sherrick

Nays: (0)

6.3 Approval of auditor to monitor STEM Partnership School transactions and monitor controls. The STEM school will use the new auditor that the University has chosen, Crowe.

Dr. Sullivan motioned and Dr. Craig seconded to approve the item.

Ayes: (5) Sullivan, Craig, Hichens, Sherrick, Kincaid

Nays: (0)

## **7. Information/Presentations/Discussion**

### **7.1. John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School Report**

#### **7.1.1. School Improvement Plan**

Goals number 1 and 2 changed, these goals increase since students previously exceeded the expectations.

Arin Carter also mentioned reaching out to other schools implementing a STEM program and investigating how they measure student success.

#### **7.1.2. School Evaluation**

The feedback that was asked to students and teachers was comprised of 3 questions:

What are the benefits of STEM?

How do we measure the benefits of STEM?

What are the next steps?

Arin Carter reported that the benefits were the collaboration among students, the voices, and the real world connections, among others. The way this was measured was by surveys and focus groups with parents, students, teachers, faculty and partners.

Arin Carter shared a few student comments from the surveys. She will share all the result of this evaluation with the districts.

Dr. Sherrick also highlighted the positive results from the Innovation Engineering program from last summer, STEM students showed growth specifically when working in teams.

#### **7.1.3. Professional Development**

The Board discuss the goal of reaching to the districts with professional development from STEM, how to bring teachers from STEM to the districts and what the impact of such action will be.

They also discussed the possibility of bringing the concept of STEM partners back to the districts, how to do this efficiently and leverage the added value of partners to make partnerships more doable in large scale.

#### **7.1.4. Parent Advisory Council**

Arin shared that she held the first PAC meeting, and it was very productive. The next meeting is on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Arin agreed to share the minutes from the meetings with the Governing Board members.

#### **7.1.5. Extracurricular Activities**

The STEM School had an enrollment 188 students total in extracurricular activities, impacting 109 students total.

The board suggested to increase the offerings to allow for more diversity, with the goal to increase the amount of students participating in extracurricular activities.

Arin Carter mentioned the challenge with transportation after school for students enrolled in clubs, and Dr. Sullivan suggested doing such clubs during lunch time.

#### **7.1.6. Upcoming Teacher Vacancies for 2018-19**

There was significant discussion regarding the upcoming vacancies and the process in which teachers are chosen to come to teach at STEM. Suggesting candidates to shadow some of the teachers at STEM. Dr. Sullivan would like to revisit the agreement for the selection process. The Board also agree to revisit the language since the needs of the school and the districts have changed.

They highlighted that there is not section in the agreement that prevents a teacher from reapplying for a position at STEM, but it is important to take in consideration union agreements.

The board also discussed how to rethink the integration back to the districts and the needs of both, once a teacher finishes a tenure at STEM.

#### **8. Adjourn**

Dr. Sullivan motioned and Ms. Kincaid seconded to adjourn.

Ayes: (5) Sullivan, Sherrick, Craig, Kincaid, Hichens

Nays: (0)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Ana K Buenrostro

Administrative Assistant to the Director

John C Dunham STEM Partnership School