

FOR THE JOHN C. DUNHAM STEM PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL  
Governing Board Minutes  
Tuesday, November 13, 2018  
1:00 p.m.

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

**1. Call to Order**

Dr. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Dr. Hichens, Dr. Sherrick, Dr. Norrell, Dr. Craig & Dr. Sullivan  
Also Present: Arin Carter, Chetna Patel and Ana Buenrostro

**3. Public Comments**

Maria Ramos, a middle school parent, asked the board at the end of the meeting to be allowed to make a public comment, the Board agreed.

Mrs. Ramos shared her experience as a parent mentioning she has a current middle school student as well as two former STEM student. She shared that the benefits she has seen in her former STEM students as well as former STEM peers are skills that they have developed and how this are difficult to quantify. She also mentioned that the school has had an impact on selecting the path in their future careers. She believes that bringing back former students to speak to the current middle school students about their experiences will have a positive impact and it will help to promote the benefits of the STEM middle school

**4. Consent Agenda**

4.1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2018

Dr. Hichens motioned and Dr. Craig seconded to approve the consent agenda item 4.1

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

4.2. Approval of July, August and September Bill Listings

Dr. Hichens motioned and Dr. Craig seconded to approve the consent agenda item 4.2

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

**5. Action Items**

5.1 Destruction of closed session audio recordings may be destroyed 18 months after the meeting has taken place. If approved, audio recordings from February 24, 2017 and May 9, 2017 will be destroyed.

Dr. Hichens motioned and Dr. Sherrick seconded to approve action item 5.1 as presented.

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

**6. Information/Presentations/Discussion**

## **6.1 John C Dunham STEM Partnership School Report**

### **6.1.1 Agree Upon Procedures**

Mrs. Carter shared the report from the auditors where everything was found without exception. The members of the Board reviewed and accepted the report as presented.

### **6.1.2 PTSA School of Excellence**

Mrs. Carter shared that the PTSA received the School of Excellence award for a second year on a row. She also mentioned that there are only 3 schools in Illinois that were given this award.

### **6.1.3 Teacher Shadowing**

Mrs. Carter shared that the school offered opportunities to partner districts and area districts through the Regional Office of Education to shadow teachers. Several days were selected and Morris school district has taken the opportunity and they have visited two times. Mrs. Carter also shared that Batavia School District will come to visit soon. Dr. Sullivan shared that there is a group from San Diego California that may be interested in coming to visit STEM.

### **6.1.4 School Improvement Plan**

Mrs. Carter had three goals: student growth, increase cutting edge tech, and district outreach. For her first goal she was able to increase it by 1% from last year. For her second goal she mentioned the desire to bring in experiences in coding and cutting edge technology. She approached the goal by supporting the teachers first in learning new technology to bring to the classrooms to students.

For the third goal as she mentioned before, there has been teacher shadowing and also different professional development opportunities for the staff. There will be professional development for Batavia science teachers.

### **6.1.5 Upcoming Teacher Vacancies 2019-2020**

There will be three openings at the end of the 2018-19. The goal of Mrs. Carter is to be ahead of the game and prepared for the teacher cycling. The major challenge is to bring the new teachers up to speed. For the upcoming vacancies, significant coordination among the districts' HR will be necessary. The Board asked Mrs. Carter to start working with districts to post the positions after winter break to allow sufficient time to meet districts' deadlines.

### **6.1.6 Enrollment**

Mrs. Carter gave the Board an update on enrollment numbers by district. They all agree that enrollment for middle school continues to be a challenge. Dr. Sherrick took the opportunity to share her view about the challenge and encouraged the districts to get proactive and to promote the school in different ways. She wants to tackle the issue and make it about what you get by coming to STEM. She mentioned the opportunity to develop material that will attract middle school students to stay or to come to STEM. She also wants the districts to highlight the positives of coming here and the opportunities that students get from AU and the potential of the sustainable goals. Dr. Hichens also suggested finding new opportunities to make it more attractive to students at the middle school level.

### **6.1.7 STEM Partnership School Evaluation**

During the meeting with district representatives, it was difficult to get a consensus, district representatives did not have goals to share with Mrs. Carter.

She also presented a dashboard with school information about the scores, numbers and demographics of the school. She shared that the numbers look really good compared to the

state, however there is still the challenge of how to measure data and how and what to compare it with. Dr. Craig asked what metrics are being used to measure the data since there is not common measure. Mrs. Carter said that the school is now using AimsWebPLUS testing and that could help with the measuring. After this discussion the Board members engaged in a discussion about the 5 Essentials Survey.

Dr. Sherrick asked for data sharing and ways to find mutual beneficial way to share this data with the University. She shared that is important to use it with caution as to not affect partner district, but she would like to be able to show the gain of the STEM school for fundraising and grant purpose.

Dr. Sullivan shared that maybe AU could use the data by omitting the names of the districts. She also shared that her assessment coordinator is willing to gather data and put it all together as long as the other districts are willing to provide that data.

Mrs. Carter engaged in a discussion about the district benefits of the STEM school, collaboration being the main benefit to the model.

Mrs. Carter spoke about the integration of augmented reality into the classroom with the use of the Merge Cube and the Curiscope shirt. Mrs. Carter did a hands on demonstration of the Merge Cube with tablets. She is also looking at more options to bring technology to the classrooms.

Mrs. Carter shared the sustainable goals that have been adopted by the school and that she is working in integrating them during instruction in the classrooms.

Dr. Sherrick shared the story about how the school came to be and how the concept started as an ecosystem.

Mrs. Carter end her presentation speaking about eSports, she shared that she is working with AU ITS department to see the possibility to incorporate eSports into the school. There are some significant challenges, but she is working on moving forward with this initiative. She is hopeful she will have this opportunity up and running for the next school year. She also believes this will be good for middle school.

## **7. Adjourn**

Dr. Craig motioned and Dr. Hichens seconded to adjourn.

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 pm

Ana K Buenrostro

Administrative Assistant to the Director

John C Dunham STEM Partnership School