

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING  
FOR THE JOHN C. DUNHAM STEM PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL  
Governing Board Minutes  
Tuesday, August 10, 2021 1:00 pm

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Roll Call**

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

Also present: Dr. Patel, Mrs. Carter, Ms. McAlpin, Mrs. Richards and Mrs. Buenrostro

**3. Public Comment**

Marea Clement

“It has been three months since the Board decided to close the school and dissolve the partnership, I am here to make sure you are bringing STEM back to the districts and keep your promise. I also wanted to inform the Board the STEM PTSA has dissolved as of this year and I am here to hear what you have planned for this school year.”

**4. Consent Agenda**

4.1 Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

4.2 Executive Minutes of June 21<sup>st</sup>.

4.3 Approval of May & June 2021 Bill Listings

4.4 Destruction of closed session audio recording from May 14, 2019

Dr. Hichens motioned and Dr. Sherrick seconded to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

**5. Information/Presentation/ Discussion**

**5.1 Preliminary IAR Data for 20-21**

Ms. McAlpin shared that students were tested in the Spring. Out of 47% of students tested 39% met or exceeded expectation in ELA and 55% met or exceeded in Math. The preliminary data provides a promising start for STEM.

Dr. Talley shared that the district received data but there was a reduction on the number of students tested. It will be helpful to review the data per student. He also shared that this may be the last year schools have to administer IAR.

**5.2 SIP Update for 20-21**

A copy of last year SIP goals was provided to the Board. The goals presented support instructional learning. The Co-Directors shared that engagement last year was phenomenal with the STEM Take Home Kits that students picked up. The feedback on kits was great, they had a huge impact on students and their entire families. The Co-Directors shared that students were also able to keep the supplies provided on those kits.

The Co-Directors are planning to continue to use innovative technology but acknowledge this year will be a transition back to the classroom for students and staff.

**5.3 Covid Protocols**

Mrs. Richards shared with the Board that an email was sent to all families about 100 percent in person instruction and the hours will be from 8 am to 3 pm. There will be a split lunch with two lunch periods in the dining hall of the university to allow for social distance while eating.

The districts will continue providing transportation services, and they are sanitizing buses as they did last year. The STEM school will also continue using the districts' nurses for contact tracing. The Board engaged in a conversation regarding utilizing the Kane County's for contract tracing and they also discussed the SHIELD testing. They shared that not all counties are following the state in terms of testing. Dr. Craig added that testing can help so siblings and family members do not have to quarantine.

#### **5.4 Enrollment Breakdown for 21-22**

Currently the STEM school has 54 middle school students and 75 elementary students. They still expecting a smaller number by the first day of school.

#### **5.5 Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA)**

Ms. McAlpin shared that this is a new law, but the STEM school is planning to utilize the current resources. STEM will ensure that all digital resources are included on at least one of the district's lists.

#### **5.6 Communication Plan/Evacuation Plan**

Mrs. Richards shared a communication plan for different scenarios that outlines how the districts will be contacted and who will be contacted depending on the scenario. The evacuation plan first contacts include Dr. Talley, Dr. Sherrick, and Chief? King.

The STEM school will also partner with West Aurora School District in case of an evacuation to go to Freeman since they are the closest or transportation to West Aurora High School. The Co-Directors will communicate with parents, and Dr. Talley will communicate with the Board.

Dr. Sherrick asked about e-learning needs for STEM in case AU has to close. The Co-Directors shared that moving to e-learning would not be a problem, each student has a Chromebook that they can take home. The students can access assignments on Google Classroom, and they have the ability to enter in Zooms with the teachers if needed.

#### **5.7 Senator Holmes Conversation**

Dr. Craig spoke about having a conversation with Senator Holmes about what is next in STEM opportunities for teachers and students. The Board engaged in a conversation about responding to Senator Holmes request. The Board agreed that Dr. Talley will reach out to Senator Holmes to schedule a meeting to have the conversation, possibly an open meeting. Dr. Sherrick shared that Senator Holmes made an inquiry about the future of STEM learning. Dr. Talley expressed that there should be a discussion with all parties at the table.

Dr. Sherrick shared that Aurora University feels an obligation- since AU received State money- to live up to the expectation. The STEM agenda at AU is inclusive to different subjects. Dr. Sherrick shared she plans to take the STEM Partnership School methodology and offer places to learn new things with the current staff and students, this may be a fee-based program. She also shared she is looking to engage others like district teachers. She is looking to disseminate the STEM experience and focus on how to continue this work. She closed expressing the Board owes a response to Senator Holmes.

Dr. Talley shared that he wants to implement more professional development with teachers, and he shared he is open to ideas. Dr. Sherrick said she is happy to have conversations with the districts if they want to do so.

#### **6. Action Items**

8.1 Approval of personnel: Approval of the Administrative Assistant 1.0 FTE

Dr. Hichens motioned and Dr. Norrell seconded the approval of action item 6.1.

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

#### **7. Adjourn**

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

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm.

Ana K. Buenrostro

Recording Secretary for the

John C. Dunham STEM Partnership School