

FOR THE JOHN C. DUNHAM STEM PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL
Governing Board Minutes
Wednesday, June 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. Hichens called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm

2. Roll Call

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

3. Public Comments

None

4. Consent Agenda

4.1. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2018

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

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

Dr. Sullivan abstained

4.2. Approval of January, February, March, April & May Bill Listings

Dr. Sullivan motioned and Ms. Kincaid seconded to approve the consent agenda item 4.2

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

5. Action Items

5.1. Approval of new staff: Nicole Kitzmiller, Rich Vine

Dr. Sullivan motioned and Ms. Kincaid seconded to approve action item 5.1 as presented.

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

5.2. Approval of the Employment Contracts for 2018-2019 as follows:

- Art - 0.3 FTE: Linda Ball
- Music – 0.3 FTE: Meg Papadolias
- PE – 0.8 FTE: Jenna Parham

Dr. Craig motioned and Dr. Sullivan seconded to approve action item 5.2 as presented.

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

5.3. Governing Board Meeting dates for FY19: 08/14/18, 11/13/18, 2/12/19 & 05/14/19

Dr. Sullivan motioned and Ms. Kincaid seconded to approve action item 5.3 as presented.

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

5.4. Election of Officers: President, Vice President & Secretary.

- President: Dr. Sullivan
- Vice President: East Aurora Representative
- Secretary: Dr. Craig

Dr. Sullivan motioned and Ms. Kincaid seconded to approve action item 5.4 as stated.

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

5.5. Approval of the FY 2019 Budget for the John C Dunham STEM Partnership School

Dr. Sullivan motioned and Ms. Kincaid seconded to approve action item 5.5 as presented.

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

5.6. Destruction of closed session audio recordings.

With Board approval, closed Session audio recordings may be destroyed 18 months after the meeting has taken place. If approved, audio recordings from August 9, 2016 will be destroyed.

Dr. Craig motioned and Ms. Kincaid seconded to approve action item 5.6

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

5.7. Review of Executive Session Minutes

After a review of Executive Session meeting minutes, it is recommended that the minutes remain closed to the public.

Dr. Sullivan motioned and Ms. Kincaid seconded to approve action item 5.7

Ayes: (5)

Nays: (0)

6. Information/Presentations/Discussion

6.1. Report on School Improvement Plan

Goal 1: Students at the STEM school showed tremendous growth. The plan is to follow students as they grow.

Goal 2: Increase teachers PD. Mrs. Carter requested a reflection from each teacher to provide an opportunity to reflect on professional development at the school.

Mrs. Carter is planning to provide more opportunities for PD, she wants to increase awareness of careers, increase teachers' knowledge NGSS, provide more focus coding knowledge, and also more opportunities to shadow and present.

Goal 3: Mrs. Carter shared that the students maintained and increase their interest in math and science with the administration of pre and post-test.

She also indicated that field trips are directly related to a unit, and these are unique opportunities for the students to be more hands on, and for many a first time experiences. Mrs. Carter is continuously requesting teacher' feedback regarding this extended learning experiences. Goal 4: To this goal the teachers and students used virtual speakers, partner presentations and then developed a career plan. Mrs. Carter shared some of the most interesting comments and answers from these students' career plan responses. She also shared that most 8th graders are choosing careers in the STEM area. The Board asked how to involve the counselors in their high schools more, so they are aware of the incoming freshman choices before they start high school.

6.2. Staffing update

Mrs. Carter shared with the board the school is having trouble filling the FTE 0.5 Special Ed/ Interventionist position and what consequences this could have for the upcoming school year. If the position is not filled, districts will be responsible for providing the services directly. District 204 and 131 have no students with needed services from 504 plans or IEP as of the date of this meeting. District 129 and 101 spoke on the possibility of splitting the cost of the position depending on the number of students being served from each district.

The board spoke about logistics of the position, communications and minutes.

Dr. Sullivan question whether the person filling the position has to be an AU employee or could be a district employee. Dr. Craig stated there is no language in the agreement regarding this.

Ms. Kincaid recommended to advertised the position as: Special Education preferred but not required to open to more candidates.

Districts agree they will service their own special education, minutes and services.

6.3. Comfort dog

Mrs. Carter shared an article about comfort dogs at the school and proposed the implementation of one in the school. She shared that AU President Dr. Sherrick is supporting the idea. Mrs. Carter shared the value this will bring for middle school especially during the Spring semester.

Dr. Sullivan shared district 204 Board policy has a language that says that a comfort animal has to be specific to a student with a disability and not a just a school comfort animal.

Craig shared his opinion regarding liability to the school, phobias, allergies, regulation, animal immunizations and sanitation.

Dr. Sullivan shared that there has been a comfort animal at some of her district schools but has been in a very limited occasions.

Districts agree that they are not closing the door to the idea, but the implementation will have to satisfy and accommodate all district policies.

6.4. PAC Minutes

Mrs. Carter shared that PAC meeting continued to be very successful. The plan is to bring a diverse group of parents that included new third grade parents to increase involvement.

6.5. Replication/district outreach

Mrs. Carter shared that she has a professional development plan for the entire school year. She is looking forward to increase engagement in the classrooms and with partners. Mrs. Carter is looking to continue to involve all districts, and schedule site visits with partners to increase in house training for the teachers.

Mrs. Carter also shared with the Board that there is a Replication model for North Lawndale. She wanted to inform the board that Aurora University is collaborating in the replication.

6.6. Engagement letter from Crowe Horwath for 2018-19

There are no changes with the auditor. Matches with the agreed upon procedure.

6.7. Student Mobility

Mrs. Carter shared with the Board a chart showing the trend of students leaving (by district, year and grade). The findings are that many students are leaving during 5th and 6th grade.

Mrs. Carter also mentioned that she is offering weekly tours for interested parents and she has found that most parents attending the tours were parents that did not attend the informational meeting in April 2018.

Dr. Sullivan shared that her district is impressing upon to parents the type of commitment they are making by accepting a spot at the STEM School, with the understanding that this is a 3rd to 8th grade commitment.

Most districts shared the hardship in filling the middle school positions due to change in interest and other factors, and there was conversation about the challenge in filling these openings.

Districts will reevaluate if all parents in the waiting list are still interested in coming to the STEM school, and whether or not to add new names to the list. They also spoke about the possibility of selling unfilled spots among the four districts.

7. Adjourn

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

Ayes: (5) Kincaid, Patel, Hichens, Sullivan and Craig

Nays: (0)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21pm

Ana K Buenrostro

Administrative Assistant to the Director

John C Dunham STEM Partnership School