

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF E-STEM PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC AND E-STEM PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

July 18, 2019

The Boards of eStem Public Charter Schools, Inc and eStem Public Charter School met on July 18, 2019 at 5:30pm at eStem High School. Present were directors Melissa Walsh, Jess Askew, and Vernard Henley. John Bacon, Cindy Barton and Johnecia Howard were also in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

COO Report

Dr. Barton reviewed the changes to the student handbook. There are 3 different handbooks now, one for the elementary schools, one for the junior high schools and one for the high school. A legal disclaimer has been added that in the event of a change to the handbook, the changes will be communicated to parents. The student meal account information, medical information and computer use agreement were all updated. The handbook is digital and located on our website. The link to sign the handbook was sent electronically to all parents. Melissa Walsh made a motion to approve the changes to the 2019-2020 Handbook. Vernard Henley seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

CEO Report

Dr. Bacon reported on the monitoring visit from the ADE Special Education unit. We were found in compliance in all areas of Special Education.

The Statement of Assurances for Federal programs was reviewed. This document is used in requesting funds for the covered programs. Jess Askew made a motion to approve the statement. Melissa Walsh seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. Dr. Bacon signed and initialed each required section as needed.

Dr. Bacon reviewed the most recent testing data. This includes the ACT Aspire, NWEA, AP and ACT data. ACT Aspire results showed an implementation dip in scores. eStem's overall score in ELA was 45.01, Reading 39.29, Math 43.84 and Science 34.1. The ELA score was higher than the state scores but the others were a little below. Our student growth has gone from 1900 students in 2018 to 3000 students this year. The scores were broken down by grade level and compared to surrounding schools. The letter grade from 2017-18 and the percentage of free/reduced lunch were also shown on the comparison. The NWEA data was reviewed showing that we had projected growth in some areas/grades. East Village Jr. High had 69% who met growth projection in Math and the Downtown Jr. High had 60% in Reading. The AP exam pass rate has climbed significantly since 2010 in our high school.

Dr. Bacon went over the areas where we need to evaluate/review to help improve our scores. This includes teacher quality, instructional alignment and reading skills development. Due to our growth, we

have had to hire a large amount of teachers. Now that we are close to capacity, we won't have to hire such a large amount and will look at ways to retain the teachers we have. We will need to look at pay scale and performance awards as one of the ways to keep our teachers. The surrounding areas pay more and have a shorter school day and year than we do. There are multiple sets of standards for instructional alignment and these will need to be reviewed to prepare our students in the best way. Some of the standards are based on ACT College/Career Readiness, Arkansas State Standards, NWEA MAP learning continuum, Common Core Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. We are also implementing reading comprehension programs (Wilson phonics, Daily 5 and Café) to help our students.

Dr. Bacon reviewed our enrollment numbers. The East Village elementary is at 799, East Village Jr. High is at 395, Downtown elementary is at 1007, Downtown Jr. High is at 507 and the High School is at 579. That gives a total of 3,287 students district wide.

A five-year demographic report was also reviewed to show the numbers of students in each race over the years from 2015-2019.

The following reports were submitted:

Open Enrollment Charter Schools 4th Quarter Report
Open Enrollment Charter Schools Student Enrollment Count
Cycle 8 report

The Cycle 9 report will be submitted August 31st.

ACTION ITEMS

Old Business

New Business

There was discussion regarding potential new board members. At least one new person was mentioned and will be talked to, to see if interested.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm.