

STEM PTSA General Membership Meeting

January 29th, 2014, LWSD Resource Center

In attendance

From the PTSA Board: Elizabeth Hansford, Jon Clark, Lisa Oratz, Christina Ferreira, Moin Moinuddin, Deb Benton, P.J. Drake, Sridhar Cidambi,

From General membership: There were many parents present in the meeting whose names and emails are listed at the end of the minutes.

1) Welcome / Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Jon Clark at 7:02 pm. Notice was given via the LWSD online calendar and the STEM PTSA e-newsletter. Moin Moinuddin sent a request to collect agenda items to board and also to remind everyone via email. A quorum was present.

2) Minutes

The minutes from the December General membership meeting were approved with no votes against them. The minutes were submitted into record as written. The minutes are attached.

3) Committee reports

Treasurer's report

Sridhar presented the treasurer's report. Current balance is \$23,871.18. Few grants we are still working on. We have been encouraging teachers to utilize the grants for any projects.

Membership report

We have 265 members and counting. Number of teachers have joined. Rest of the memberships are family or individuals.

Education Committee update

We are going to start our college panel. We'll repeat this again. No date yet. Sometime in Feb or March we'll announce. In spring there will be a SAT panel.

There is a joint project with community building committee called salon. More details in the community affairs section.

Community Building Committee update

Christina, we are going to start STEM salon series. It'll be an evening event with guest speakers. Themes are going to be art, sports, food, and current events. It'll be adult only venue, we'll have food drinks and the guest speaker. Keep an eye on the announcement. Once the guest speaker date is locked we'll announce.

STEM social evening is in works. The idea will be a social evening for STEM families. We'll have games where students and parents get to compete against one another

Nominating Committee elections

Nominating committee's is to select/elect an executive committee. It has to be selected by the PTSA members. We need at least a president, secretary and a treasurer to function as a registered PTSA. It'll be great experience running a non-profit organization. Nominating committee work takes about 2 to 4 hours in talking to people and finding right candidates.

Its not a huge commitment and will be done by April. We need 5 nominating committee members.

Nominating members so far are, Mizan Rashid, Mary Rumpf, Mary Elliott. Membership group approved the three members as the nominating committee. Motion has been put forward by Elizabeth, seconded by Christina and approved by PJ.

4) Guest speaker: Principal Cindy Duenas – Preview of class requests and forecasting process

Cindy kicked off by stating that most of the information will be in STEM blast on Jan 30th.

- Course selection period will start from Feb 10th and run till 24th, students should talk to student counselors and teachers.
- Don't recommend taking all 5 AP classes as this will be burden on them. Principal cannot tell students what to do and not to do. It is up to parents and students to decide
- It is your decision. School's role is to give information, meet and help in any way we can
- Feb 10, 11 and 12 - Cindy and others will spend time with students to share the information with students
 - Every student will get a course catalog
 - Every student will get a course request form
 - Every student will get grade by grade and year by year grid
 - If your son/daughter is absent these days then please email Cindy
 - STEM lab concentration will be shared with sophomores as they prepare for Junior and senior years
 - First semester grades are due in the system Friday. Transcripts are mailed home.
 - School will return on Feb 18th after mid-winter break
 - Wed Feb 19th – we have modified schedule
 - We want our students to stay healthy and not to take too many AP classes. If the student is extraordinarily brilliant then they can take all AP or more AP classes)
 - Internships are optional
 - Feb 24 - last day, students will turn in their course selection request form. Need both students and parents signatures
- All of STEM's AP instructors are fully trained by the College Board. They do the training on an ongoing basis so they keep it fresh
- All AP classes are approved by AP every year. Each school in the district does it on its own.
- AP exams are in May. These are optional but recommend students taking them
- AP exam proctors are trained by the district and not by school
- College board audits the AP curriculum and schools
- Non-AP: instructors still need to be highly qualified and meet state standards.
- LWSD approves all STEM text books
- Internships are the highlight of the school
 - Students love the internships they call it the best thing
 - Originally we thought we could do 2 per year but its more work than thought for the business partners to it'll be once a year from (Oct-Feb)
 - School appreciates all the business partners for their work and help. This is just incredible
- Students must pass Health and Fitness exam for graduation.
 - Study guide is online on district website.
 - There is no trick question so fairly easy to pass.
 - Junior year students who want to take it can do so online.
 - Study guide is very helpful and those who study the guide will almost guaranteed to pass.
 - Students cannot take at their own time. It is offered 3 times a year and students take it in the school
 - It can only be offered to juniors and seniors only
 - STEM offered the test to the juniors. District will share the results directly with the students
 - If you study the guide, you can pass easily
 - Test does not factor into GPA
 - Health and fitness exam is a brand new thing this year
 - Since it is offered 3 times a year, a student has 6 times to pass the exam (3 times in junior and 3 times in senior year)
- AP exam - there is a fee for the exam. If you go to College Board website all tests details are on there.

4. Question & Answer

Lots of questions for Cindy and very interactive session

Meeting adjourned by Jon Clark at 8:30PM.

Submitted by,

Moin Moinuddin
STEM PTSA Secretary

Attendees

	Name	Email
1	Julie & Jon Perrin	jperrin@ieee.org
2	Annette Denenberg	
3	Susan Wang	srwang@aol.com
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