

FRIENDS OF STEM
MINUTES
07.02.20

02 July 2020 / 5:00 PM / Virtual Zoom Meeting

BOARD

Board Members: President – **Nicole Ducar**; Vice President – **Rodell Knight**; Treasurer – **Amber Kujath**; Secretary–
Jennifer McQueen

Board Officers: **Patty Guzman**

School Representatives: two vacant positions

Student Representatives: vacant
position

*bold present at
meeting

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

5:15
pm

MINUTES

- Read, comment, approve from FOS general meeting 02.11.20

BOARD UPDATES

Treasurer Report- The checking, savings and the end of the fiscal year balance was provided on the meeting

agenda. **As of June 30, 2020**-Checking Account balance: \$17,463.74, Saving Account balance: \$ 8,271.61, total end of fiscal year balance: \$25,735.35. The past treasurer and current treasurer will arrange to switch access to accounts from old board to new board. Amber Kujath will be the new treasurer this year.

President Report- Pauline Williams graciously thanked the entire board for their help during her time as President. The new FOS board was introduced.

Homeroom Wars was discussed briefly. It was a great success! The Homeroom War events were not scheduled due to the CVOVID-19 pandemic, FOS will plan to schedule each event when possible.

Nicole introduced the idea of sending out a letter to introduce the new FOS board, and a survey for parents/families and to STEM staff. The parent/family, and staff surveys were discussed in detail, see below for further details.

We discussed having a plaque made for the STEM garden, to congratulate the first class of STEM graduates that began at STEM in kindergarten. We also discussed recognizing a student that has been battling cancer.

We discussed ideas to help activate middle schoolers at STEM including a "Pay It Forward" fundraiser to help support the 8th grade trip, or potentially a Dance Off, Relay, or free throw contest. Teachers present on the call expressed the idea of including middle schoolers in on conversations around this to help find ideas that will engage them.

Nicole asked if there are any parents interested in running for the LSC upcoming election in the fall? She asked all present at the meeting to reach out to anyone interested.

We brainstormed how FOS can partner with STEM this upcoming school year. The following ideas were discussed:

1. The friends/family survey, developed by Nicole Ducar to gauge STEM families needs, including the following:

- -preferred method of receiving communication. We discussed adding the Remind app to this question and to add a ranking list.
- -classroom directories made available for each class? Discuss with Dr. McManus, and make clear what it will be used for.
- -donating money for classroom supplies vs each family buying and bringing them in to school? We discussed the possibility of implementing a cabinet that would be managed by FOS for classroom supplies, by families providing \$ one time per year instead of bringing supplies at the beginning of the year in addition to personal supplies. Teachers present during the meeting expressed concerns about access to the cabinet. Another idea presented was to see if yearly student fees \$ could be used to help purchase classroom supplies. Further concerns expressed include logistics in obtaining supplies, and how to get items quickly. Teachers/staff expressed concern regarding issues of getting needed supplies during this upcoming school year due to COVID-19 and need for diligent cleaning. Giving teachers an allowance to buy classroom supplies was also discussed. We discussed the need for teachers to have access to what they need. Teachers expressed that they do not always get the supplies that they need, and sometimes order supplies on their own. We discussed buying extra colored folders for all classrooms due to lack of folders each year. We also discussed the idea of having an FOS space to

rent out flexible seating options, etc.

- -What type of FOS events would you like for us to do?
- -What type of event would you like FOS to focus on?
- -What can FOS do to help navigate remote learning if needed in the fall? Scavenger hunt, dance party.

The Teacher survey, developed by Nicole Ducar to gauge STEM teachers/staff needs for the upcoming school year. The teachers on the Zoom call mentioned the following ideas: FOS/parent support to help prepare classrooms before school starts, or designating certain days of the week that parent volunteers could be available and teachers could request classroom help. The need for help during the middle school lollipop fundraiser was mentioned. A talent show, spelling bee, student voice committee, student council, also a monthly teacher update via newsletter was requested as teachers are not always aware of what FOS is doing. Also teachers mentioned that they want to help but some are new moms and have new babies and can't help out. It was requested that FOS be more present for teachers. Sending out a monthly newsletter to teachers was recommended to keep teachers in the loop regarding what FOS is doing.

Adding a comment box to the parent/family and teacher questionnaire was recommended.

We discussed ideas how FOS may be helpful if school opens in September, including staggering drop off items, closing off Laflin, painting colorful dots on street, sidewalk to help maintain social distancing, ordering masks for students, teacher gift card to start out the year, community supply cabinet. We also discussed organizing a uniform swap, including having a table with uniforms on at the entrance of school at Lollipop In.

We discussed ideas how FOS can be helpful if school is remote in September, including ensuring technology is available for all students, posting on social media when there are chrome book deals, possibly posting an e-learning guide. We also discussed having time to discuss with parents what worked, what didn't work during e-learning. We began discussions about social activities that FOS can organize: scavenger hunt, charades, etc?

We discussed how to engage the Middle School Students, initiating a Pay It Forward Fundraiser was mentioned to help fund the 8th grade trip, and the idea of having a little and big mentor program.

-Monthly updates-**NOT ADDRESSED**

-End of 2019-2020 School year update, Pauline's report, Art Show

-Outstanding agenda items-**NOT ADDRESSED**

-Mascot - competition

-New Business-**NOT ADDRESSED**

- Impact Corner
 - Anti-racism at STEM
 - Is there a forum to offer for free exchange of thoughts?
 - What are other ways we can proffer for engaging students, teachers and parents in conversation about social justice, violence, equality, etc.?

Committee Reports - NOT ADDRESSED

Events

- Stories That Connect
 - Film festival (integrated with Writing + Technology classes)
 - Stock car races
 - Book Club
 - Math competitions

- STEM Improvements
 - STEM Flower Power (Gardens + Grounds)
 - Reinstall playground benches?
 - Install painted boards at the playground fence.
 - Install new planters at more trees.
 - Raise stepping stones with more gravel

 - STEMbellishment (Interior Improvements)
 - Organize school storage rooms
 - Clean Up Teacher's area
 - Moisture issues
 - School Supply Cabinet sponsored by FOS

Grants

- Marketing + Communications + Newsletter
 - Revamp website + social media
 - Revamp monthly newsletter
 - Post Agendas + Minutes

Teacher's Report- NOT ADDRESSED

Student's Report - NOT ADDRESSED

Announcements The next meeting was scheduled for July 16th at 5:00 via Zoom.

Adjournment The following items were identified as action items:

1-prepare for discussion with Dr. McManus on 7/14 (Nicole)

2-amend surveys for parents and teachers, and prepare them to be sent out (Nicole)

3-send ZOOM link for follow up FOS meeting on 7/16 at 5:00 pm (Nicole)

4-schedule follow up meeting with teachers/staff for social justice follow up-consider to open up to all parents on July 30th

5-send out surveys (?)

6-post Town Hall to social media, teachers to send out email to students if cleared by Dr. McManus

End of meeting 7:30pm