



## **Governing Board**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, February 3, 2020**

**6:00 – 7:00 pm <sup>1</sup>**

Oakwood Homes  
4908 Tower Rd.

**Board members in attendance:** Tim Gallagher, Kelly Leid

**Board members in attendance (via phone):** Amy Schwartz, Jason McEldowney, Maura O'Neal, Noel Harryman

**Absent board members:** Chris Wildhagen, Mizraim Cordero

**Staff members in attendance:** Jamie Prijatel (by phone) and Candace Cheung (in person)

### **Opening Items**

- Kelly called the meeting to order and declared a quorum at 6:06pm.
- Due to weather, the board agreed to conduct a modified meeting and refocused the agenda on critical items; non-critical items will be added back to the March 2, 2020 board agenda. The critical items of focus were: 1. principal hiring; 2. conduct two board resolutions; and 3. approve board minutes.
- Kelly motioned to approve 1/5/20 board meeting; Tim motioned to correct a few items in the board minutes; Noel second to approve the changes to the minutes.

### **Committee Updates**

- Principal Hiring – Amy followed up from the board retreat discussion on the principal hiring process and provided again an overview of the steps of the principal hiring process. This included the parent, student and community member interviews. The community presentation; the collection of results from the presentations; a compilation of all of the evidence and steps of the process; the public post of the name of the finalist

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the snow storm on 2/3/20 the board meeting was shortened from two to one hour; the agenda was modified based on immediate board priorities; and the majority of board members joined by phone - all but two.

(website and outside of the Oakwood Homes office to meet the 14 day posting requirement per STEAD's attorney Carleen Clark). The next step would be, with a board vote, to give Kevin Denton a written offer on 2/13/20. Amy feels confident he will accept the offer.

Candace shared results of the community presentation: about 75 (could be a double count) views on Facebook; 25-30 people attended the community presentation in person. All feedback from the community presentation was collected both in person and online. All feedback form questions related to Kevin all received scores of five; five being the highest score to receive; lowest scores received were related to peoples' understanding of the model. This was not a surprise and the board knows this is an area we need to work on in terms of marketing and communication with the public about the STEAD model. This is not a reflection on Kevin's presentation. Some of the feedback about Kevin shared from the forms is: "he'd be a great fit for the school;" "he's amazing, you should hire him;" "will attend STEAD or go out of the district;" overall all feedback was extremely positive.

Next Amy shared that the decision to hire the principal is the most important decisions a board can make and she is glad we spent time during the retreat to dig into a discussion about this critical decision which makes her very comfortable. Pat Hamil approved to bring Kevin on board as a FTE associate for Y0 and access benefits and a 5% discount on an Oakwood Home. If we do not receive any private grant funding, the worst case scenario would be to cut back on consultant funding. BuildStrong Education currently has \$200,000 budgeted for STEAD for Y0. We are currently waiting to hear back from NewSchools Venture Fund to see if we will receive a \$200,000 start-up grant. STEAD will also apply in August 2020 for state charter school start-up grant. Amy recommends as Chair of the Hiring committee to bring Kevin Denton on as STEAD's founding principal.

Question from Maura: What is the process like if Kevin doesn't accept our offer to become principal.

Response from Amy: We will meet as a board, investigate our process, then call another round of interviews.

Amy made the motion to make an offer to Kevin Denton to be the founding principal of The STEAD School. Tim moved the motion forward and second the motion. There was a unanimous vote of approval on the motion.

The next step if Kevin accepts the offer is to create and publish a press release the week of 2/17/20. Amy will send the press release in advance to Dr. Fiedler prior to the public announcement. This will be an embargo version of the press release for Dr. Fiedler so that he can send the press release to his board. The press release will be shared with the mayors and city managers of Commerce City, Thornton, Brighton, and all other cities within 27J School District, Adam and Wells County, and Aurora.

The ideal principal start date is August 1, 2020.

- Partnership Development – Kelly presented a resolution entitled Resolution 2020-001 Reunion Community Foundation Serving as Fiscal Agent for the STEAD School. The purpose of this resolution is for the Reunion Community Foundation (RCF) to act as STEAD’s fiscal agent until the school receives its 501.c3 status. It will take up to six months to receive this status once the 1023 application is completed. RCF is an approved 501.c3. The deeded property (land donation), tax donations, gifts and grants will be donated through RCF on behalf of the school. There were no questions from the board. Kelly looked for a motion to approve this resolution; Amy moved the motion forward and Jason second the motion. Amy will officially sign the motion and the board secretary will sign next.

Kelly presented a second resolution to the board, Resolution 2020-002 – Approval of Design/Build Team – Phase I. Noel and Kelly will require Saunders to competitively bid for the projects as the project advances. They will ask DLR to submit 3 bids on every aspect of the process. In all contracts Kelly will let providers know they are working at risk as no financing is secured yet. Oakwood is advancing some contracts through existing work orders. Kelly asked for a motion to approve the resolution, the motion was advanced by Tim, and second by Jason. Tim added that other contractors have contacted him and there are people out there who are interested in doing the work. As interest comes in the board, we will add these individuals to STEAD’s communication list serve and keep them informed. The board approved this resolution unanimously. Kelly and Noel will share more details about the building at the next board meeting.

The land donation of 3M (from estimated 1.5M to 3M) is a game changer for the school in terms of decreasing the cost of the project and attracting facility financing. Kelly is coordinating a one day charrete with Victoria Bergsagel before they go any further along the development track.

- Charter Contract – Kelly gave an update on the status of the charter contract. The design team is working with Carleen Clark to edit the contract for submission to Dr Fiedler. The team is close to combining feedback and sending it to Dr. Fielder. The school has an approved extension to March 2020 to sign the contract. The team’s goal is to submit the contract for board approval by the 27J February 25, 2020 board meeting.

The biggest, controversial item we ask for is changing the term of our charter from four years to seven year. The district’s charter terms are for four year. Under a four year timeline, STEAD would not data on the first graduating class of seniors to inform its charter renewal process. If the district does not give STEAD a seven year charter term, the team will be happy with a five year term.

### **Closing Items**

- Anyone planning to attend the Colorado League of Charter Schools conference please register on March 12 and / or 13. Amy will register you if you can commit to a 1/2, full-day, or 2 full-days. BuildStrong will cover the board’s registration expense. It would be

great to have as many board members attend as possible. Amy will try to be there; Tim will go representing Landmark.

- Tim handed out the 1/30/20 Denver Post article regarding the land donation event. The land donation story ran on Channel 4 a few times. This was great coverage for a school that does not exist yet. There was a big turnout; all of the 20 chairs were filled; and about a 100 people attended. The event was recorded by a videographer. Once the principal is hired, the videographer will use footage from the event and interview the principal to create a video about STEAD's story to share with a broader audience through various social media outlets.
- Colorado has had the best charter school laws for the past few years per National Charter School Association; Colorado is second and Indiana is first. However, both Colorado and Indiana both have the same rank score.
- Motion to adjourn the meeting by Kelly at 6:40pm, Jason agreed, and Noel second. The board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.