



SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

October 13, 2023

Members Present: J. McIntosh, J. Garrison, L. Hicks, J. Saulinskas, G. Arronte, T. Bird

Not Present: A. Martin

1. **Call to Order: 8:33 a.m.** T. Bird made a motion to begin, and J. Garrison seconded the motion.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. Approval of Agenda
 - a. G. Arronte made a motion to approve the agenda, and J. Saulinskas seconded the motion.
4. Presentation to School Council
 - a. School Council Training Presentation-J. McIntosh
 - b. Election of Officers 2023-2024 – J. Garrison made a motion to approve the nominees, and G. Arronte seconded the motion.
 1. Chairperson- Julie Saulinskas
 2. Vice-Chairperson- Aletia Martin
 3. Secretary- Leslie Hicks
5. Review of School Mission and Vision:
 - a. J. McIntosh reviewed the history and creation of the Knox Mission and Vision, informing the members of the Knox STEM journey.
 - b. J. Saulinskas made the point that teachers are doing an excellent job of explaining a growth mindset and the Engineering Design Process to students and parents.
 - c. J. Garrison and L. Hicks shared with members their experiences, as teachers, with STEM and observations of students' inquiry, problem solving, collaboration, and reflection in the learning process.

Mission Statement Knox Elementary School STEM Academy stakeholders are dedicated to fostering the social, emotional, and academic growth of all students. We will cultivate curiosity, critical thinking and create real-world connections through effective teaching strategies and the integration of STEM education. We see challenges as opportunities and believe that a growth mindset will empower students to reach their full potential.

Vision Statement Knox Elementary STEM Academy empowers all students and staff to reach and expand their potential by fostering a growth mindset, preparing every learner to successfully navigate present and future opportunities as risk takers, collaborators, and critical thinkers.

6. Leadership Qualities of a Principal

- a. J. Saulinskas noted that it is important to add STEM focus under “Instructional Leadership” Section 1.
- b. J. Garrison noted to add “foster student-centered relationships” under “School Climate” Section 2.
- c. T. Bird discussed the importance of finding the balance between meeting academic goals while still meeting other needs of students. Mrs. McIntosh discussed that at Knox teachers hold daily Morning Meetings, where social and emotional topics are discussed through lessons. She also discussed the importance of relationship building in the classrooms and commended teachers at Knox for doing an excellent job of that. Administration and School Counselors have weekly meetings to discuss student issues or concerns along with support that can be provided to those individuals.
- d. The Council will discuss more about communication and community (Section 8) at the next meeting.
- e. G. Arronte made a motion to approve the qualities, and J. Saulinskas seconded the motion.

7. Cognia Update

- a. Mrs. McIntosh shared the Cognia certification process and rubric with members. She noted that Knox not only focuses on the four “Cs” of the STEM process, but also has added a fifth “C” for “Compassion” because of the school focus on student-centered relationships.

8. Attendance

- a. Tabled to the next meeting per Mrs. McIntosh.

9. New Business

10. **Adjournment – 9:42 a.m.** J. Saulinskas made a motion to adjourn, and T. Bird seconded the motion.