

07 23 2019 ROUNDTABLE MEETING 10 00 AM

DISCUSSION ITEMS

INFORMATION ITEMS

BOARD AGENDA REVIEW

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. [Student success in Bachelor's Degree Level STEM Majors](#)

Attachment: [Dr. Paul Cottle, FSU Physics.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Adam LaMee, UCF Physics.pdf](#)

Minutes:

Mr. Townsend presented Dr. Paul Cottle, Professor, Florida State College and Adam LaMee, Physics Teacher-in-Residence, University of Central Florida. He explained how they can help our students achieve and prepare for a Bachelor's degree level in STEM majors.

Dr. Cottle stated that there are obstacles for women in engineering, physics, computer science and quantitative fields. Only 20% of bachelors degrees are given to women. Minority women should not be ignored or discouraged from these programs and all women should be given the same opportunities as men.

A third of students never take a high school physics, precalculus, calculus or chemistry class therefore, the lack of this background ends their dreams of being engineers, chemists, etc... These courses are needed in high schools in order to succeed in college.

Mr. Adam LaMee, High School physics teacher, University of Central Florida stated that they don't receive high school graduates from Polk County. He explained the lack of physics teachers in high schools due to low demand as well as diversity factors. He stated that other counties have incentives and or bonuses to retain students that would like to become physics, chemistry and or engineering teachers. He feels that these classes should

be a default for students.

Mrs. Cunningham commented that science test scores have raised 20% in one year. Her husband is now teaching science lab to elementary students and he has also helped many girls in pursuing STEM field programs. We need to support these programs as a district to get all kids involved.

Ms. Fortney stated that the key to student success in college is early learning and creative planning of these courses.

Several speakers came up and spoke on the importance of STEM classes in early learning and the encouragement of students in these programs for success in the future

## 2. [The State of Girls in Florida and how Girl Scouts is working to improve it](#)

Minutes:

Jessica Muroff, Chief Executive Officer, Girl Scouts of West Central Florida spoke about STEM programs.

- Currently serving 5.1% of Polk County girls ages 5-18
- Polk County has Outreach and Volunteer programs
- Girls have improved their reading scores thru Girl Scout programs
- Improved their behavior in school by decreasing or not having suspensions
- Supporting STEM programs to help girls understand how this makes positive change in the communities

Girl Scout's are hosting in Polk County:

STEM A PALOOZA: 800 girls and their families get hands on in many STEM activities.

CAMP CEO STEM LEADERSHIP: A program for High Schools Girl Scouts who spend a weekend in camp are set up with a Female Executive mentors for a leadership development experience.

GIRL COLLABORTIVE : A program where we can reach and service girls thru mapping their journey from K-12 and making sure that our organization has more referral basis that can help and have an impact each girl.

Ms. Muroff stated that her current contacts are school principals and administration however, would like a district office point of reference.

Mr. Townsend stated that we have a great Public Relations and Partnership staff who can assist her.

Meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m. Minutes approved and attested this 20th day of August 2019.

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Lori Cunningham, Board Chair

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Jacqueline M. Byrd, Superintendent