

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
February 4, 2020

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Mordhorst and Commissioner Pope were present.
2. **MINUTES** : **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2020**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. **STEAM MACHINE GRANT APPLICATION** – Jamie Richardson, Principal of LaCreole Middle School, submitted an application for an Economic Development Grant for the Dallas School District for a project titled “Innovate Dallas STEAM Machine”. Mr. Richardson came to provide the Board an opportunity to ask any questions they might have. He explained that a few years back the school was lacking in electives and felt that the kids were not being engaged in a way they he felt was necessary. When looking at bringing back electives they wanted to consider the future and computer science. This is how the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) project was born. They designed the bus as a roaming billboard to show the community that this type of learning is important. The next goal is to get it into schools. Later this month they will be spending the morning at Whitworth Elementary in one teachers class who has agreed to let them come and show the students what they do. They also have a group of student ambassadors ranging from age 7th to 12th grade that have been with the program for the last few years who will lead activities with smaller kids and also allowing the teacher whose class they are visiting to watch and ask questions about how it is done because they were not trained to teach this way and it can be intimidating. They have recently partnered with OSU Extension on how to get this into their programs which will take it out to the central school district and beyond. He is seeing a lot more interest from parents and teachers and wanting to know how they can get more of this for their kids.

The goal with this project is to add some positive pressure to the school board to show that it is essential and there should be some funds dedicated to it. He feels fortunate he has been given the freedom to work on this but it is not the mindset of the school district and feels this can change if given the chance to see the difference it can make.

COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST SECONDED TO APPROVE THE STEAM MACHINE GRANT APPLICATION FOR \$30,000.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **NON-LISTED ITEMS** - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:21 am.