

# **STEM Proposal Discussion Notes 11-2011**

## **Elementary TLC Comments 11-3-2011**

Advantages/why our district would implement this option:

- proactive step for prepping students for the future (21st Century Skills)
- positive impact on our entire district - best practices
- inquiry method is a great instructional practice
- seems like the right time if it is going to be done (boundaries, etc)
- \$200,000 offered now - if not now, then when
- change is scary, but we have to change things that are new
- change can be good
- technology is the way kids are learning and doing

Disadvantages/why our district would not consider this option:

- beyond next year's funding, where would the budget come from?
- contingency plan needed to keep it going if the integration funding changes
- parents do not have the opt-out plan
- are there general funds used that then have implications for the other elementary schools in the district?
- boundary changes repercussions

## **District/Community TLC Comments 11-4-2011**

Advantages/why our district would implement the STEM option:

- Great opportunity for students before they reach the middle school and high school years
- Everyone in the district can benefit from the experiences of staff and students at Tatanka to meet the requirements of the engineering standards
- More attractive for incoming teachers and administrators coming into the district;
- Arts magnet at BHS is well-known already; hopefully the STEM elementary can become that as well
- Attracts new families to the community with an innovative program in place
- Potential of increase of student enrollment

Disadvantages/why our district would not consider the STEM option:

- Having families moving into the district may be seen as a disadvantage
- Parents may be afraid of leaving students behind if there is a strong focus on STEM
- Board will have some challenges with the boundary changes
- Facility upgrades or construction needs; retrofitting the building for safety equipment; lab needs
- Mandatory attendance within the neighborhood boundaries
- Need funding to be able to continue planning; goals are clear, but implementation is not entirely clear (catch 22)