

STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2017

Call to Order

Chair Dave Hill called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center on August 15, 2017 at WW-55, Boise Capital.

Roll Call

Chair Hill conducted roll call. The following were present:
Dee Mooney, Lorna Finman, Tim McMurtrey, Megan Ronk.
Mark Peters, Von Hansen were on conference line.

STEM Center Staff: Angela Hemingway, Erica Compton, Finia Dinh, Crispin Gravatt, and Cory Compton. Stephanie Lee and Brooke Lacey were on the conference line.

Absent:
None.

Past Board Minutes Approved – No comments, minutes therefore approved for May 30, 2017 meeting.

STEM AC Updates:

1. Performance Report and Strategic Plan Update

- a. Angela provided the board with an update on the Center's Strategic Plan. She reported that it was complete.
- b. Performance Report: The report will be in draft form in a week. Angela reported that performance against set goals was excellent with very high numbers for students and teachers served by STEM AC. She will email it to the Board for comment.

2. FY18 STEM Schools Designation Legislation Update

- a. The STEM School Designation Committee (SSD) is moving forward. State is ready to move on the SSD Committee in the next couple of weeks. The State is taking the lead on the committee and will contact people about first meeting.
- b. The STEM AC is taking the lead on the application process.

3. FY19 Budget Request

- a. Angela asked for the Board's advice on the FY19 Budget request. Things to consider are:
 - i. \$2M ongoing funding. There is no need to request this again.
 - ii. Computer Science (CS) initiative: Ongoing funding is what would be best but previous STEM AC efforts to secure ongoing funding have not been successful. Will request one time funding of \$2M which will be in our best interest for now based on item iii below.
 - iii. The AC left \$750K on the table. Angela was able to justify the reasons for not spending the money sharing that several CS programs and Professional Developments (PD) failed to launch as planned and funds could not be reallocated given the timeframe (March – late May). In other instances STEM

AC realized cost savings by using tax payer dollars wisely. It was recommended that a single sheet paper be developed with straight forward facts outlining savings and details of what spending did not materialize and share with the Board.

- iv. There was a discussion on identifying funding budgets and that some programs are actually in multiple buckets.
- v. Angela said that in the future we will have back up projects in the event a project falls through there will be one in the wings execute.
- vi. Will ask to keep the \$2M in spending authority. Angela said this seems reasonable with the launch of the new STEM AC Foundation.
- vii. Request for new full time positions. Angela reported that the AC will be request 2 new FTE, a Financial Officer and a Data Outcomes and Research Analyst. This would increase the FTE from 4-6.

4. STEM AC Foundation Discussion

- a. Angela introduced Maureen O'Toole the new Foundation Founder hired on to set up the new STEM Foundation 501c3.
 - i. Maureen reported that she is tackling the first two docs needed to apply for 501c3 status.
 - ii. She has written in draft form all the documents need for the foundation and foundation board to function efficiently.
 - iii. She is working on the mission and vision statement for the Foundation. These will align with the mission and vision of the AC.
 - iv. Dave Hill asked how government entities needed to be involved in this process? What approvals were needed and from whom? Maureen will come up with a plan to address the political side of the process and push it forward. By-laws will be sent out to the Board for review.

5. Goal #1 Coordinate and facilitate implementation of STEM programs throughout Idaho

- a. PD's throughout the summer
 - i. Finia reported on several PD programs from the summer. Educurious: a project based learning held in 5 regions received good feedback from participants. Picademy was one of 4 national trainings held across the country. Two trainings were here in one week in Boise with 40 educators in each and a total of 36 from Idaho! At the end of the trainings the Raspberry Pi Foundation donated 50 Raspberry Pi's. 15 monitors, keyboards, lots of Maker space items which will all be used for extensions.
 - ii. Erica reported on several PD's. ASSET: held in 2 locations with mixed reviews because informal educators felt it was too school-based. Making Sense of Science (MSS) held in one location with 22-24 educators. The purpose of MSS is to form regional teams that will go out in the community to train other educators and build networks.
 - v. A discussion ensued regarding the impact of the PD's and how it will be measured. Data gathered from the 3 PD's will be analyzed to determine the relevancy and effectiveness.

6. I-STEM Discussion

a. By the end of June information was gathered by the team about the i-STEM program and conducted presentations that were very useful to network with teachers. The funding stream for i-STEM needs to shift as the NCLB/MSP grant was not renewed under ESSA. STEM AC is confident that the team (and a new contractor) can handle this. An in depth discussion continued on how and what the costs of doing so would be.

7. GOAL #2: Align education and workforce needs throughout Idaho

- a. INDEEDS: We have seven sponsors and soliciting more: INL, Micron, Discovery Center, Kount, Vinyl, Black Box and Trailhead. Lorna mentioned that winning teachers might want to attend our Board meetings. Angela indicated last year's teachers were invited, but the timing of the meetings was prohibitive to their attendance. STEM AC indicated they will broach this with this year's winners and figure out the best way to engage them.
- b. Business Ed Exchange: DOL overseas higher sector jobs. It is important to have educators co-mingle with industry to see what high paying jobs exist. With INL help teachers in Eastern Idaho teachers visited all kinds of businesses. It was a great opportunity for Ed and Industry to come together and share information. Need to move this to North Idaho.
- c. Trailhead update: Doing well. There is a cohort running from June to Sept. Very successful so far. They are in the process of vetting more projects. They had 51 applicants and took 4. They are now working to scale up to increase partners and apprentices.
- d. IDoCode Update: PD for Fall of 2017. Will receive 20 credits towards a master's program.
- e. Co-op Update: UI working on Co-Op proposal, might be asking for \$100K. Trying to partner with other location so that this program becomes statewide. UI has received overwhelmingly positive responses from industry.
- f. Leveraging our Tax Credit: Finia is working on corporate collateral to explain the benefits of donating to the AC. Once completed will work on the individual donor collateral for the same purpose. Dave Hill suggested to have it ready well before the end of the year because that is when donation decisions are made by individuals.
- g. Update on Project-Based Virtual Mentorship Platform: Cindy Thorngren reported on the status of the Mentorship Platform. She explained how the portal works. We had an extensive discussion around who this is aimed at, how to recruit mentors, how to publicize the platform, how mentors and students are matched, what projects are chosen, background checks on mentors, video conferencing available for mentor/student. The platform has been "soft launched" and should be ready to publically advertise in late August.

8. GOAL #3: Increase awareness of STEM throughout Idaho

- a. The AC has had significant press around the state. Idaho Ed News has been very helpful.
- b. The next big event is STEM Day at the Fair with KBOI TV as our partner. We have 5000 eclipse glasses to hand out along with 4000 backpacks with our logo on them and other giveaways. We will have a scavenger hunt with prizes of a DRONE, VR head set, Lego like set, and Makey Makey kit. We have 14 organizations participating including the Idaho Virtual Reality Council and the STEMBus.

- c. Crispin has been working on the Impact map for the website and it is updated and on the website.

9. Governor's Workforce Development Task Force Final Report

- a. Dave Hill reviewed the Governor's Workforce Report. Workforce development is a critical issue across the country. This report was intended to be short and pithy and to create an urgency regarding the workforce issue in the State. The report focused on WHAT needed to be done not how. Develop active engagement from industry in education. This is really about the health of our community.
- b. There is a place for Government to develop an Idaho Strategy with roles and responsibilities of workforce development committee.
- c. Budget for strategy that is sustainable
- d. Importance of public engagement using modern forms ie: cell phones
- e. Vocational Ed is important
- f. Career advising and need for improved and increased training of advisors.
- g. Workforce readiness like understanding the importance of showing up on time and everyday
- h. Apprenticeships have withered but they are an important means to prepare a workforce. Need to support employers to have apprenticeships.
- i. CTE- list of things they can do to have an impact develop career exploration down to the 7th grade. Extensive discussion around the role of CTE, teacher shortages and using recruiting educators from industry.
- j. Discussion concluded with Dave sharing that states around us are already heavily invested in workforce development and we need to catch up.

10. Statewide STEM Planning Meetings

- a. Prime directive is money out the door with good visible positive impact.
- b. Angela has had individual meetings to strategize about common objectives.
- c. Angela is working with Educate Idaho Network (EIN) to map out STEM in Idaho and a more systematic way to understand each region and who are the players in each.
- d. STEM Summit to move to Spring of '18 perhaps the fall. Coordination of the Summit will go forward. Dave commented that he could not support a Summit that did not have outcomes.

Public Comment: Dave opened up the meeting to public comment. There was none.

Upcoming Events:

- Opening Day of the Fair!! August 18, 2017
- One-On-One Calls: September
- Statewide STEM Education Planning Forums: Fall 2017, Dates and Locations TBD

Next STEM Board meeting will be December 5th from 1-4PM