

*STEM Action Center*  
*Board Meeting Minutes*  
March 21, 2017

**Call to order**

Chair Dave Hill called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center on March 21, 2017 at WW-17, Boise Capitol.

**Roll call**

Chair Hill conducted roll call. The following persons were present:

Dee Mooney, Lorna Finman, Ken Edmunds, Amy Lientz (sat in for Mark Peters), and Von Hansen

**STEM Center Staff:** Angela Hemingway, Erica Compton, Finia Dinh, Crispin Gravatt, and Stephanie Lee

**Absent:**

Tim McMurtrey, Mark Peters, and Megan Ronk

**Past Board Minutes Approved** – No comments, minutes therefore approved for January 10, 2017 meeting.

**STEM AC Updates**

**1. STEM Budget**

- a) JFAC approved budget, moving onto House and Senate.
  - i. Center did get 2 million for CS; however, it is not ongoing (Funding is the same as last year)
    - i. To receive ongoing funding was it was the impression of some legislators that the Center would raise matching funding through donations, industry, etc. which did not occur.
    - ii. Task for the upcoming year is to keep track of all including cash equivalents and in-kind contributions.
    - iii. The Center has already brought in \$750,000 since July 1, 2017. However, we need to ensure the legislature understands that not all funding received is “cash” donations.
    - iv. Dave Hill reiterated that the direction from the Board to STEM AC staff was not to focus on fund-raising, but rather to focus on spending the money that we did receive well.
  - ii. We will need to continue to get funding through industry, donors, grants, etc.
  - iii. We also got funding for an additional staff – Grants and Contracts Analyst

- i. Hire by July 3, 2017
- ii. This will not be a grant writing position
- iii. Ken offered to provide the center templates for the new staff to use
- iv. Lorna – how many staff do you currently have? Angela – 3 full time and 2 full/part time contractors. Lorna – how many more staff do you think you'll need? Angela – 2 more (Grants and Professional Development Coordinator and Fundraising/Grant writer/Foundation Director) for a total of 6 full time people

## 2. **Strategic Planning**

- a) Ken – we need to be certain of the overall direction of STEM in general. His focus is on a statewide STEM plan of which the Center is a small piece.
  - i. The board could be responsible for this big picture plan
    - i. Dave, Ken, Lorna, and Dee will create a group to work on the plan
- b) This is a different plan than the Operational Strategic plan – 1 year, long term goals
  - i. Stephanie will send out a doodle poll to set up 2 hour meetings to work on the plan
  - ii. Plan is due July 1, 2017 under state requirements

## 3. **STEM School Designation**

- a) Bill did pass and will be effective July 1, 2017
- b) STEM AC will partner with the State Board
  - i. STEM AC and Board will create a sub-committee/working group
    - i. INL expressed interest in sitting on the committee
    - ii. Lorna is also very interested in being on the committee
    - iii. Angela wants to ensure that we have representation from STEM superintendents, administrators and educators.

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

- a) ISEF (Idaho Science and Engineering Fair) we had 235 registered and due to weather there were 128 that were able to make state wide.
  - i. It is important for us to promote this a little more especially in the North.
- b) FIRST Robotics is March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup> at the Taco Bell Arena
- c) The CS and Science standards passed.
  - i. Guidelines for K-12 will be posted as soon as the Governor signs the bills.
  - ii. Finia will send out the CS standards to the board
- d) PD Initiative

- i. 10 are currently open
- ii. We have 1600 accounts within our Community Grants Portal; however a few of these accounts were created by STEM AC as testing sites
- iii. We will work getting data analysis to see who actually uses the platform – the data is used currently for our Impact Map.

**5. Goal #2 Align education and workforce needs throughout Idaho**

- a) STEM Portal and Mentorship platform is open; waiting on our tile graphics before we post is to our website. Mentorship platform has a test site that our contractor Cindy Thorngren is using to become familiar with the platform. We will have the ability to have 10 active projects open at one time.
  - i. Next meeting we can show the portal and a demo of the mentorship platform site.
- b) Finia spoke briefly about the following:
  - i. Expansion of CS Endorsement
  - ii. Code.org (ITC/IDLA/STEM AC)
  - iii. Business Educator Training
  - iv. VR Expansion throughout Idaho

**6. Goal #3 Increase awareness of STEM throughout Idaho**

- a) Angela mentioned a number of activities that STEM AC has done and described the public private partnerships that the Center is forming.
- b) Trailhead gave a presentation
  - i. Request to fund an Apprenticeship Pilot Program
  - ii. Finia and the STEM AC team will work with Trailhead to get a full budget and grant proposal ready and then email the Board the plan details as they become available.

**7. STEM Foundation and Director**

- a) In order for the center to be able to receive donations from certain companies, etc. we need to establish a 501c3/Foundation
  - i. Cost to the state to establish a 501c3 will be \$30.00 and \$85.00 to file with the IRS
  - ii. Neal Koskella is an attorney that is willing to assist with setting up our 501c3
  - iii. We need to determine to answer the following questions:
    - a. What are our goals?
    - b. What is legal in setting up a 501c3?
    - c. How do we want to set up the 501c3?

- iv. Purpose
  - a. The ability to accept money from those only allowed to donate to a 501c3
- v. Board members will need to get clarification from the legislature on how they want the funds shown on the “books”
- vi. Angela, Ken, and Neal will work on getting legal advice on the foundation as a separate entity

**8. STEM Diploma – Lorna Finman**

- a) Lorna would like to suggest adding the option for schools to provide a STEM Diploma Endorsement – no cost impact or structural change to the schools and again this would be optional for them
- b) Michigan just passed this requirement and Senator Nonini has a draft bill that could be presented next session if there is agreement between all groups.
- c) The State Board office and State Department will need to discuss this with the State Board with STEM AC taking a supporting role

**Public Comment: None**

**Future Meeting Schedule, Topics and Wrap Up**

- a) Stephanie will send out a Doodle poll for two dates to discuss feedback on our original strategic plan
- b) Board members please review the job description for the Foundation Director so we can get someone hired
- c) Next meeting May 30, 2017 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

**Adjourn**