

**STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2019**

Call to Order

Chair Dave Hill called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center at 1:02 pm on August 8, 2019 in WW-17, State Capitol.

Roll Call

The following were present: Dave Hill, Jake Reynolds (for Tom Kealey), Wendi Secrist, Tim McMurtrey
Call in: Paul Casey, Jeff Rosser, Dee Mooney

STEM Action Center Staff: Angela Hemingway and Finia Dinh

STEM Action Center Contractors: Cory Compton and Joanna Madden

Absent: Jennifer Jackson

Past Board Minutes Approved: Dave asked for comments on the minutes. Approved by unanimous consent.

Idaho STEM AC Statues Review:

Angela provided a brief review of the various legislations that established and direct the duties of the STEM AC. Outlined in the founding legislation includes coordination of all state departments and divisions on STEM related activities; provide high quality Professional Development opportunities; partner with higher education; identify best practices; strategically engage industries; work cooperatively with SDE and OSBE; further STEM education; engage private entities; assessment and data collection; facilitate participation in interscholastic STEM-related competitions, fair, camps and student programs; collaborate with other States; develop high quality resources to support educators.

Computer Science: Angela explained the reasoning behind calling out Computer Science in separate legislation. The legislation defines what computer science education is and how it is to be implemented and supported by the STEM AC. STEM AC is to provide professional development; partner with IDLA, higher ed and industry to develop PD; provide grants to schools to help train educators; create opportunities for schools to partner with industry like this year's externship program; create equitable access to CS which is a high priority for the AC. Wendi asked how the coordination is going with CTE? Angela responded that it is a work in progress to develop a communication plan with CTE and others. Dave added that the State Board has created a working group internally to review CTE and answer the questions of whether there needs to be two distinct efforts in CS and how SDE and CTE can collaborate to perhaps have a single CS pathway. He acknowledged that this is not the work of STEM AC, but we should be part of the process. An extensive discussion developed around CS across the State and how to collaborate. In addition, discussed the issue of funding for the CS Statute. Past funding was \$2M cash and now has been reduced to \$1M cash which Angela believes will be inadequate to be able to fulfill the requirements of the Statute particularly in light of the CS Initiative.

STEM School Designation legislation: Briefly defined the meaning of STEM Designation and the path a school takes to earn it as outlined in legislation. We have 2 schools that are in the pipeline for designation

this year which will give us a total of 6. We have updated our website to include STEM Designation as an opportunity.

STEM Diploma Legislation: Students are to take 8 credits of both Math and Science and an additional 5 credits in STEM. There is no defined course work to guide the student working for the STEM Diploma. It is largely left up to the district. Some recognize the diploma with a stamp on their diploma others wear a different colored cord with the graduation gown. There is no lead entity for this statute.

Dave generally commented that the good thing about all these legislations is that they highlight how focused the legislators are on STEM and the need for it in the State.

Strategic Planning: Angela explained that the STEM AC Team met extensively to develop the Strategic Plan following directions received from the Board at the May meeting. As a result, we have recrafted the Mission and Vision. The mission now calls out CS. We completely rewrote the Vision to better reflect the core values of the STEM AC.

UPDATED GOALS:

GOAL #1: Advance equitable access to high quality STEM+CS opportunities for educators, students and communities. CS has been called out in this first Goal as recommended by the STEM AC Board.

Goal #2: Align STEM education and workforce needs throughout Idaho

This goal remained unchanged. Dave and Wendi attended a conference regarding the White House STEM Strategic Plan and also a Workforce conference and commented on how lucky we are to be in a smaller state where everyone knows all the players which makes it easier to communicate and get things done.

Goal # 3: Increase awareness of the *importance* of STEM throughout Idaho

Added the word importance to emphasize the critical reason for raising awareness. Angela went over our data collection methods and outcomes. We count the number of student engagements. We are always working to improve our data collection methods. Elimination of some programs will directly impact the numbers and our focus. We were able to raise \$1.3M but our goal will remain at \$1M. We have to be realistic in our capacity to fundraise given our staffing. The in-kind number is very high due to the national media attention we received around Code.org and CS. We do not expect to see that in FY20.

UPDATES:

Goal #1:

- i-STEM was very successful and received sponsor support from SDE, H&W and industry partners. I-STEM is the perfect PD model in that it is given by and for educators.
- First year of the externship program was highly successful in conjunction with WDC. We had 16 teachers participate across the state. Businesses who hosted the teachers were very surprised at the level of talent the teachers brought to their projects. Teacher reportedly loved their projects and were so pleased with the level of respect they received from their host companies. Idaho Power provided a cost share other participating companies were concerned about the ROI. Feel very confident that with the success of the pilot program will see more companies willing to share in the cost. WDC had agreed to \$50K to support year two and STEM AC will match at \$25K. The ultimate goal is to have all companies support 50% of the cost. Wendi commented that she hears from businesses that they are very interested in the externships and see the value of providing real world experience that teachers can bring back to the classroom. "We need to think big as we scale

this program". Angela commented that it will be interested to follow up with the teachers to see what the impact is for the kids in the classroom.

- Educurious leadership training in partnership with OSBE was discussed.
- VR4Ed: for Jr/HS educators. Coding in a 3D platform creating worlds and games that us VR to immerse in the world. They share through a showcase at the end.

Competitions:

- Jr Botball: Elementary and Middle school levels coding robots to compete. All student led.
- eCybermission PD now open. We received a \$50K grant to support bringing eCybermission to the state of Idaho. PD is online and will help educators learn more about the specifics of the competition and how to advise their teams.
- MakerMinded: The competition will open in mid-September. Schools have the opportunity to earn \$4K at the end of the year.
- ISEF: Training will take place for educators next week.

Goal # 2:

STEM AC Foundation Update:

- Army Education Outreach grant received \$50k to support eCybermission.
- US2020 coalition grant was \$25K
- Kaitlin working on multiple grants including one with Laura Moore Cunningham
- Cradle Point randomly reached out to make us the recipient of an employee driven fundraiser. Joanna will be participating by biking for dollars!
- The foundation will have two new board members. We need help identifying potential board members from North Idaho.
- Raised \$484K in FY19.

Top Donor FY19:

- FY19 donor totals: \$1,340,500 with top donors being Micron and INL.
- Approximately 95% of our donations are restricted funds.
- We have almost 100 different donors not including individual donors.
- The Public Private Partnerships are increasingly important in our fundraising efforts. Raised \$544K in FY19.

In-Kind Donations:

Total in-kind for FY19 was \$4,446,500. The bulk of this number is due to media coverage from Code.org that went nationwide. We do not expect to see this in FY20.

Donations FY20:

- Total to date is \$266K.
- Several new donors include Simplot Foundation, Power Foundation, Chobani, City of Boise and VYNYL.

Goal #3:

Awareness Events:

- Using various events like conferences to increase awareness of the importance of STEM in Idaho. Working to share our message and find ways to partner with industry not just ask for funding.

- Family STEM Awareness Events: We continue to look for the best ways to engage parents who are strong supporters of STEM education in and out of school. Need to continue to find ways to support parents for this reason we kept this grant.

STEM School Designation: Two schools up north are in the pipeline to STEM School Designation; Southside and N. Idaho Academy. Currently support for this designation is provided by STEM AC, OSBE and AdvancEd. We are actively looking for industry to provide financial support going forward.

Analysis by Projects: Angela provided an overview of FY19 vs FY20 reflecting the program cuts we have had to make due to the cuts in our budget. We have made deep cuts to our grants eliminating Device grant, Hour of Code, Summer of Making grants, Rural STEM and Career grant. Reductions were made to ISEF, Competition Travel funds and sponsorships by 50%. Camp Grants and PK12 award amount was reduced and will be highly competitive as a result. Dave inquired about the geographic impact. Angela confirmed that the rural communities will experience the greatest impact.

Angela shared the FY20 appropriation “beaker” graphic to explain our budget and spending authority. Wendi advised that we increase our spending authority by even more and budget out further. Angela acknowledged this idea but cautioned that we need to be realistic about our fundraising capacity. Discussed the need for developing the strong “elevator pitch” to explain the importance of supporting and partnering with us

FY21 Budget Request: Angela explained that our budget request is due September 1 and includes:

- General Fund: \$2.6M for STEM AC Team and Idaho Code 67-823 as ongoing funds
- \$1M *ongoing* for Computer Science. Angela recognizes that it takes \$2M in funding to adequately address the legislation regarding CS. Will propose \$1M ongoing in the General Fund and \$1M one-time CS funding.
- STEM Education Fund will include \$1M one time for CS; \$1M ongoing spending authority for a total of \$2M; and \$1M supplemental spending authority for FY20 which we have asked for the past 2 years because we have run out of spending authority.

Legislation for 2020 session: Currently there is no proposed legislation. At this time we do not see any need for additional legislation.

STEM Ecosystem and Statewide vision:

Angela reported that we are getting ready to apply as a statewide Ecosystem. We are determining what it will look like for Idaho and how it will be sustained. We are using the White House STEM Strategic Plan and the STEM Vision 2026 as guidelines for our application and vision. We are already doing much of what is contained in these two docs. Angela defined a STEM Ecosystem as a plan that looks 5-10 years down the road. It will not be perfect at the outset and will evolve over time. The STEM 2026 Vision highlights the need for an interdisciplinary approach, early STEM, diversity and computational literacy plan. Does the Ecosystem designation come with any money? No, but it does with significant access to resources and to travel twice a year to national conferences to share ideas and return to Idaho with additional resources. The Ecosystem application is due in 2 weeks.

Support from Board Needed:

- The P3 program is a very important in engaging industry support and we need help from the Board to cultivate additional Public-Private Partnerships. We need you to use your contacts to introduce us to individuals, businesses and companies that share our mission and vision for increased and improved STEM education in Idaho. The P3 application is now open!

- The Governor's office is asking for names potential Board Members. Potential Board members could come from Simplot, Idaho Power, St. Luke's and aerospace. Please email Angela with names for her to pass on to the Governor's office by the **END OF THE MONTH**.

Public Comment: None

Upcoming Events:

- Governor's Summit on the Age of Agility led by the WDC and IBE. It will be on Oct 8 at the Boise Centre from 8 am – 5 pm. Wendi provided a quick overview of what to expect from the Summit.
- Angela let the Board know that we have done a lot of changes to our website including the Opportunities page. People coming to our site can now see all of our opportunities for the entire year.
- STEM Day at the Fair: Our 4th annual event in partnership with CBS 2 will be Aug. 16th from Noon to 7pm. Free admission from 12-2pm so join us!
- Mark your calendars for STEM Matters at the Capitol: **January 15, 2020**

Board Catch-up Calls:

Cory will be sending out a Doodle poll to set up these calls in September/October. **ACTION:** Please respond to the Doodle Poll to get these calls on your calendars.

Angela closed out the meeting noting that the next meeting will be conducted in Twin Falls at the Chobani plant. We will meet over a working lunch and then have a tour of the plant. Details will follow shortly.

Jeff offered kudos to the STEM AC Team on an excellent Strategic Plan.

Meeting adjourned at 3:12 PM

Next Board Meeting is November 5 9:30 am – 3:30 pm at Chobani in Twin Falls.