



May Board Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2025

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Workforce Development Council
Conference Room
514 W. Jefferson St., Room 136
Boise, Idaho 83702**

Board Members Present: Jenn Jackson, Ed Atienza, Linda Clark, ~~Steve Christensen~~, Jani Revier, ~~Allison Duman~~, Erin Simms, Jake Reynolds

Staff Present: Dee Mooney, Wendi Secrist, Denise Hill, Sherawn Reberry, Francine McGrew, Katie Bosch-Wilson

Guests:

Welcome

Call to Order and Introductions

Jenn Jackson, Chair

Call to order 1:31 PM

Welcome

Jenn Jackson

****Review of Board Meeting Minutes April 11, 2025***

Motion by Ms. Clark to approve the April 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes with proposed corrections; scholarship amount \$3K from \$10K and correct spelling of Ms. Revier's name. Second by Ms. Revier. Motion carried.

STEM Action Center 3rd Quarter Financial Update

Dee Mooney / Francine McGrew

- January 2025 – March 2025
- Numbers are running close to appropriations
- Operations/TB expenditures include
 - Administrative costs 8.7%
 - Educational Resources 7.4%
 - Professional Development 31.8%
 - STEM Coordination 32.1%
 - Total expenditure is \$1,990,699.00
- 24% of the year is left, numbers are healthy
- No personnel costs are included in Administrative
- TB defined, Trust & Benefits
- Year end surplus, not anticipating much, movement is dependent on how the dollars were allocated

For members of the public:

The Idaho STEM Action Center Board Meeting may be heard
via livestream at <http://idahoptv.org/insession/>

Public comments may be sent to: admin@stem.idaho.gov



- Multi-year awards, if reduction in allocation
 - All agreements read “per funding appropriation”
- Not anticipating any negativities around federal grants, only one at present – no, one only

STEM Designated Schools Deep Dive

Dee Mooney / Katie Bosch-Wilson

- Established to serve as an indicator for parents and students looking for STEM school experiences
- Section 33-4701, Idaho Code
- Currently 12 Participating Schools
- Award \$10K first 5 years, \$5K second 5 years
- Approved application process
- Transition of STEM AC to WDC is an opportunity to review all current programs
- Are current programs making the impact intended
- Decision to keep and grow the program or go in an alternate direction
- Possibly shift to the State Board of Education
- Discussion:
 - Transformative for small or rural areas
 - Significant work to gain designation
 - High energy at designation with continued level of support unsustainable
 - STEM school Designation cost \$288,885.00
 - Resources: 1 FTE, contracted support through Educurious PD (main source to provide education)
 - No leadership cohort last year
 - Educurious recently changed hands
 - Perhaps focus comes away from STEM and shifts to “project-based learning”
- \$300K to go through the process for 2-3 schools, leadership cohort is most expensive
- There is nothing stopping schools from pursuing STEM based education on their own without the designation
- Comparisons <https://www.idahoreportcard.org/>
- Some schools have “stem” in their name, the state board opened the boundaries allowing this
- Different educational landscape outside of Idaho
- Designation is appealing but hard work and expensive
- Can this program continue with WDC, or should it go to the state board where funding is not available
- State board has the only authority to make designations
- Designation may not be the correct end goal, rather take funding to assist school growth in this area
- ROI not being realized, focus is within the Treasure Valley
- True intent is to raise the overall proficiency of the school
- Project based learning is very different and is something WDC can do
- Put together the data, present to the state board, joint presentation to legislature with a recommendation of who and how
- WDC can access a broader audience, state department is limited to K-12
- If we lose the STEM Designation program, what happens to those currently in the program? Funding would continue and be built into budgets for 3-4 years; approximate cost \$100K
- Research needed to verify if project-based learning is indeed the best practice
- Local school boards set their budget priorities, state board can make recommendations only
- Consensus of the board
 - Discuss this with the state board
 - Look at a go-forward plan, budget implications, and approach with the legislature
 - PPGA committee meeting to start discussion

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- Concept in June, Submit in August, details in September, ready for legislature in October
- Phased communication will be needed when appropriate

STEM AC / WDC Integration Update

Dee Mooney / Wendi Secrist

- 12 STEM ID Scholarships awarded, thank you Mr. Atienza & Ms. Clark for your
- Ms. Bosch-Wilson recently attended the ISEF
- New Digital Literacy Graduation Requirement
 - Computer Science
 - Working with the Department of Education to design how this happens
 - Trainings for educators, continued professional development in the fall
 - It is a specific course that is required
 - Incoming freshman will be the first class
- The EcosySTEM contract is ending in June; new legislation allows state agencies to work with universities which is currently being done; a decision on which of the 4 will take this program is expected next week
- STEM AC/ WDC Transition
 - May
 - Complete job descriptions/reclassifications
 - Share job descriptions with identified people
 - Post Grants/Contracts Analyst – Workforce Training
 - June
 - Meetings with new bureau structure
 - Goals established/updated in LUMA
 - Office Move
 - DHR “re-orientation”
 - July
 - New reporting structure operational

Public Comments – None

Final Notes

- Ms. Clark is retiring in June, recently received a Legacy Award from the Children’s Museum

Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Revier to adjourn. Second by Mr. Atienza. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:13 PM

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