



February Board Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2026

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, Steve Christensen, Jani Revier, Allison Duman, Erin Simms, Jake Reynolds, Bryan Klein

Staff Present: Dee Mooney, Denise Hill, Sherawn Reberry, Halle Fultz, Meliah Anchustegui, Branzell Porchia, Wendi Secrist

Guests: Scott Thunstrom, SDE

**Action Required*

Welcome

Jenn Jackson

- Call to Order 1:30 PM
- Roll Call
- Agenda Review
- Introductions

Board Business

Jenn Jackson

- **Approve Meeting Minutes November 19, 2025*

Motion by Ms. Duman to approve the November 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes as presented. Second by Ms. Revier. Motion carried.

Fiscal Review

Dee Mooney

- Year to Date
- General Fund
 - Moved into WDC format
 - No major concerns
 - Most activities happen later in the year
- Dedicated Fund
 - Unobligated balance \$349,355
 - Obligations \$34,923

Introduction of new STEM AC staff

Sherawn Reberry

- Branzell Porchia, STEM Program Manager
- Amanda Paterson, Computer Science Program Manager



STEM AC Updates

- Progress to date regarding funding recommendations Dee Mooney
 - Program Updates
 - STEM Connect Grants
 - \$200K to 15 organizations
 - Committee reviewing applications
 - 46 total applications
 - Minimum award is \$10K, maximum is \$20K
 - Plan to notify recipients on the 20th of February
 - Externship Program
 - Applications opened on January 5th
 - 62 host site applications
 - 28% are first time host sites
 - 44% are for profit organizations
 - 120 extern applications, 40% first time participants
 - Eligibility is for K-12 educators
 - Applications close February 27th
 - 85 extern positions available
 - Request going to WDC Council for ongoing funding at March 11th meeting which would result in no co-funding from host sites with goal to eventually get to 100 externs.
 - Comments:
 - Co-funding would require signed agreements with participants and host sites
 - Host sites must be in the state financial system as a vendor
 - Could accept donations for the program overall and will go into Workforce Development Training Fund
 - Any public works signed up as hosts? No, great connection, will follow up
 - Suggest projects related to teaching if possible
 - i-STEM
 - Theme this year “Curiosity to Careers”
 - Mission: Empower educators to connect classroom learning with real-world careers through hands-on STEM
 - New for 2026
 - Classroom-to-Career Lesson Repository
 - Instructor Mentorship Model
 - Industry-connected strands
 - Career-aligned instruction
 - 54 workshops statewide
 - 2026, largest Day-1 enrollment
 - Strategic Outcomes 2026
 - 100% of strands include an industry connection
 - 100% of lessons align to Idaho in-demand careers
 - 75% classroom implementation by Dec. 1, 2026
 - 40,000+ students impacted statewide
 - Workshop Alignment:
 - Construction, Computer Science, AI Literacy, Manufacturing, Engineering, healthcare, Mining, Idaho In-demand Industries
 - Project WDC/ St. Lukes
 - Externship created Healthcare module
 - Transferable skills in the ecosystem
 - Creating classroom activities



- Questions/ Comments:
 - Repository materials are the instructor’s curriculums for teachers to present
 - Accessible to everyone
 - Great work
 - Current enrollment is at 200, anticipating between 500 – 600
 - How are sponsorships?
 - STEM AC budget is funding this year’s program
 - SDE is donating for some strands
 - St. Lukes is super excited, filming with IPTV for several jobs

- ***AI Education Funding Request** ***Katie Bosch-Wilson***
 - Request for \$250K
 - Project period April 15, 2026 – June 30, 2027
 - Scaling AI-Ready Teaching across Idaho
 - Regional coaching & Training initiative
 - SDE lead organization
 - Executive Summary:
 - Idaho’s educators need practical, ethical, and classroom-ready approaches to artificial intelligence (AI). This project will:
 - Deploy AI Innovators, teacher leaders who coach and support colleagues regionally.
 - Provide five in-person regional trainings (tentatively Boise, Twin Falls, Moscow, Pocatello, Idaho Falls); provide 40 additional educators access to *Spark the Future*, aiEDU’s Teach for Tomorrow AI literacy train the trainer model; and build out statewide asynchronous professional development resources that support K-12 teachers.
 - The initiative will leverage work that is already moving to deliver sustained professional learning, hands-on coaching, and training that accelerates classroom implementation. With a total budget of \$250,000, the project will reach educators across Idaho, build local capacity, and establish a durable model for AI-integrated teaching. This project will support educators in all regions across
 - Goals
 - Build regional coaching capacity through AI innovators
 - Deliver high-impact regional training
 - Statewide AI training resources
 - Spark the future train the trainer course
 - Evaluation plan
 - Metrics & Instruments
 - Data collection & reporting
 - Targets
 - Questions & Comments:
 - SDE has no current philosophy on AI
 - Legislation is coming
 - Initiating review of digital literacy and will return to legislature for approval with focus more heavily on AI
 - Senator Cook is aware of this level of collaboration
 - Suggest a show & tell, emphasizing that we are ahead of the game
 - Bill has been introduced, perhaps present at the hearing
 -



- SDE is currently surveying all educators across the state and has 90 individuals that would like to be part of an AI cohort
- Stipend provided to coaches, via independent contract, same as SDE is currently using in other situations
- Could the transfer of funds potentially affect future funding
- Does SDE have the spending authority for the transfer, yes
- Is there a possibility of being questioned on not having open bid for dollars
 - Believe these are the best providers
 - Funds come from the dedicated fund, secure in the ability to transfer
- WDC & STEM AC partnering with SDE is a good thing
- Sustainability plan?
 - Discussed, legislative intent on CS and associated funding, will need to discuss allocating funds possibly
 - SDE can accept donations through certain avenues
 - Need to be cognitive of spending authority
 - PlayLab
 - Approached by Google to receive \$210K
 - Completely internal play sandbox to build their own chatbot
 - Chatbot within it for multiple resources
 - Partnered in December and provided webinars, participants received 1 year's access
 - Working to get other items from PlayLab over the next year around AI literacy
- BSU will be providing some curriculum
- How are we connecting with post-secondary
 - Email to be sent out providing information

Motion by Ms. Revier to approve the AI Funding Request as presented. Second by Mr. Klein. Motion carried. Ms. Duman abstained.

- Legislative process and next steps Dee Mooney / Wendi Secrist
 - RS has been drafted, 6 pieces of legislation combined into 1 routing slip
 - Addresses STEM moving into WDC and WDC taking on STEM programs
 - New MOUs will be executed
 - Repealing STEM specific pieces
 - Adding ability for WDC to fund STEM activities
 - Closing STEM education fund October 1st
 - 10-year sunset on the addition of STEM duties into WDC
 - Representative Tanner is carrying in the House, Senator Lent in the Senate
 - Print hearing early next week in House Education Committee
 - Verbiage is broader, have the stamp of approval from the DOGE committee

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

Jenn Jackson

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

Adjourned 2:55 PM