

Idaho STEM Action Center Board Meeting

October 16, 2015

State Capitol, Room WW17

Boise, Idaho

Acting Chairman Dee Mooney called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

Members present included Acting Chairman, Dee Mooney, Von Hansen, Lorna Finman, Chuck Zimmerly, and Todd Allen (via phone). Angela Hemingway and Erica Compton were also present.

We experienced some issues with the conference line and we were required to dial Todd in using a cell phone.

We began the meeting with introductions of all board members and staff
Minutes from July 22 and September 2 meetings were approved.

KBOI Presentation

Acting Chair Mooney introduced the presentation from KBOI and some background on the project.

Robert Truman –General Manager

Johnna Johnson – Project Specialist

Robert shares that KBOI is very interested in assisting with the PR campaign and in assisting with fund raising. Shares PPT and videos.

KBOI will forward the PPT and videos to share with Board.

Acting Chair Dee Mooney opened up the floor for questions.

Director Hemingway commented that the goal of this presentation is to determine whether this is a good partnership and whether we want to move forward. If so, then we can more fully develop the plan.

Discussion ensued on scope of involvement by KBOI and specific funding goals, strategies, and responsibilities of all parties. KBOI clarified that total fundraising goal is \$1,000,000. KBOI will match up to \$250,000 bringing the total to 1.25 million.

KBOI will use \$100,000 of its money as a starting point in order to get producing videos and PR materials.

The board will consider the presentation/proposal and will get back to KBOI through Director Hemingway.

Review Action Items Linked to Costs

Discussion of SY1516 spending

Director Hemingway introduced the STEM AC Draft of Annual Spending (SY1516) for Board approval of spending.

Director Hemingway reviewed specifics on the handout. Needs to increase spending authority next year at least to \$500,000 for next year – or more depending on what is decided on the KBOI

A discussion on whether there are restrictions on fundraising ensued. It was clarified that fundraising is allowed. A discussion on spending authority and what is covered was held. The Board voted on increasing the spending authority request to \$1,000,000 for the upcoming year and it was approved by all present.

Discussion on the value of First Robotics and its efficacy – to include as a model in Idaho. Proposed \$50,000 for the budget and opened to discussion. Board decided on \$65,000 total request with \$50,000 earmarked for a state event and \$15,000 to support travel. Discussion on utilizing KBOI and industry to support and augment funding.

Discussion on supporting iSTEM through sponsoring a strand and agreed to leave the \$30,000 line item for this. Discussed thinking more out of the box and not just doing more of the same thing. Find innovative ways to effect change. Led to the idea of STEM certification – there is a budget item associated with this as well.

Board agreed to support the following items: #4 – ELA; #5 – Digital Access. The Board moved on to a discussion on #6 – Classroom Grants. With current funding we can grant about 18 classes at \$2500 each. Director Hemingway hopes to increase this number to 36 classrooms next year. Discussion on rolling out student grants next year, but this may not be possible due to bandwidth issues at the Action Center. It was stressed that we need to work with industry what they think we need to fund based on their needs.

Jeff Sayer joined the meeting at 2:30 pm.

Acting Chair Mooney called for a break at 2:55

Dee Mooney called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm

Discussion of FY1617 Appropriation

A long discussion took place on the budget amount and if needs to be increased and if so, how much. Discussed ideas for spending the increase and the staffing issues required to spend additional funding. A request was made to increase the funding to 2 million. Jeff questioned David Hahn and Marilyn Whitney in the audience for recommendations on budget request given the newness of the Board. Marilyn stated that the Governor gave leeway to make changes to the budget submitted to Sept 1 and David Hahn stressed that it centers on whether it is a reasonable request, that it is reasonable to implement, and that it will give us results.

A discussion clarifying the existing \$250k ensued. The amount cannot be changed but we can move the money between areas as we see fit this year. Right now the Board needs to determine whether we are asking for enough funding in both ongoing and one-time monies. On the table is \$500k ongoing, \$500k one-time for programs and projects as requested in the draft budget submitted by Hemingway on Sept 1.

Discussion regarding the state-wide science fair/event ensued. This is high on the list of priorities from the legislature. Jeff moves to approve the budget as is – seconded and all in agreement. Motion passed.

Acting Chair Mooney asks us to move back to next year’s budget. A discussion on the amounts of \$500k and \$500k ensued. Board agreed to focus on total and not the breakout for now. Discussion ensued on amount to ask and how we will defend our request.

Marilyn Whitney brought to the attention of the Board that we have not discussed support of higher education and how they will be involved.

The idea of providing scholarships for youth wanting to pursue STEM in Higher Ed was discussed.

Jeff Sayer asks if monies received in the next fiscal year can be carried over to another year. David Hahn shares that this can be done but not necessarily easy.

Discussion on requesting an additional FTE in the budget given the increase in funding being requested ensued. There were concerns about waiting to request since this means 1.5 years before adding another staff member.

Marilyn Whitney feels strongly that we need to make sure to ask for enough ongoing funding to keep this all going.

Overview of the upcoming timeline outlined. January 11 the Governor will unveil his budget.

Chuck Zimmerly motions to approve \$1.5 million ongoing and \$500k one time. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Vote to cancel November Board meeting. All Board members in agreement.

Confirm next meeting on December 16 and extend to 4 hours from 12:00-4:00.

Lorna Finman leaves at 4:15

Public Comment

None

Future Meeting Schedule and Wrap Up

Next Steps

Have the “mastery-based” person come in and discuss what is going on. Kelly Brady is one that could come in – suggested by Chuck.

Invites will go out for the STEM Fest in April in Utah.

Acting Chair Mooney adjourns meeting at 4:22 pm