

# **STEM Action Center**

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

December 16, 2015

### **I. Call to order**

Dave Hill called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center on December 16, 2015 at WW17, Boise Capitol.

### **II. Roll call**

Dave Hill conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Jeff Williams, Dave Hill, Lorna Finman, Dee Mooney, Carmen Achabal/Megan Ronk for Commerce sitting in for Jeff Sayer, Angela Hemingway, and Erica Compton. By phone: Von Hansen & Chuck Zimmerly.

### **III. Past Board Notes Approved – September 2 and 24, 2015**

### **IV. KBOI Sponsorship Presentation, Johnna Johnson, Robert Truman**

- a) Walked through the levels of sponsorships available.
- b) Discussed the STEM DAY at the Western Idaho Fair. Strong support for this idea on all fronts.
- c) Robert clarified that KBOI is now reaching the entire state through partner stations.
- d) Dee, Lorna and Dave all thanked KBOI and Angela and Erica on this sponsorship package. Dave asked about a timeline. Hit this hard in January approaching sponsors and could have first items airing in March 2016.

### **V. Website – Access Idaho to start and will reevaluate if we need a full RFP.**

- a) Call to all Board Members to provide to us a headshot and a short paragraph biography. Erica will check with Marilyn to see if she has the biographies that were submitted earlier. Follow up with individuals that we do not have photos or bios on.

### **VI. Facebook – In place and waiting for logo finalization.**

### **VII. E-Newsletter – in process and will likely to go out early January 2016.**

### **VIII. Logo Discussion**

- a. Main concern is the blue and purple too similar. Voted on yellow vs. blue. Board tends to like the yellow better – but they are fine with us making the final decision.

Board tends to like the logo with the man incorporated into it – STEMentor.  
Perhaps find a way to utilize this.

### **IX. Angela's Research Paper**

- a) Angela highlighted certain sections of the paper. Pointed out staffing challenges in Idaho vs. Utah. 2 staff here and 11 FT in Utah.
- b) Discussion on Results and Findings – heavy focus on grants, both classroom and student. Also talked a lot on Professional Development and how this was a “lynch pin” for the program. We will revisit this as we move forward to implementing PD.
- c) Discussion on the outreach needed by the STEM AC and how the board can assist. Dave offered to attend some of the presentations with KBOI to solicit sponsorships. All Board members shared that they would be willing to assist in this way as well. Chuck offered to include our updates in his monthly meetings with his staff. Jeff W asked for us to send them all a list of contacts that we want to meet with so they can provide input or links. Angela asked for Board members to also send in companies or contacts that we should have on the list.
- d) Discussion on the Family STEM Nights and funding from Tesoro coming in at the beginning of the year. Dee mentioned the kits in each district. And also mentioned that there are Engineering night support. Discussed moving the kits to public libraries so they can manage them and check them out. Might help them keep track of them more easily. Also – resupply them.
- e) Workforce development – need more feedback and input from Board and industry overall. For the future have more discussions on this area and potential partnerships.
- f) Angela wants to take a look at other models/states and do a similar analysis as this one with others. Board was very supportive of her doing this. Dave suggested that Angela keep INL in the loop.

### **X. Potential Legislation**

- a. Reviewed tax credit legislation
- b. Clarifying financial support to Board members to attend meetings. Will be able to compensate travel.
- c. Overview of the adoption of new Idaho science standards, future development of CS, and other relevant legislation coming this session. Board members encouraged to attend if possible to support these issues. Discussion on CS

standards and Lorna asked whether industry/workforce will be asked about the specifics to ensure that they meet their needs. Angela will bring a draft of the CS standards to the Board in order to share and get feedback. Will ensure that industry has a voice in the creation.

(Ken Edmunds joined the meeting at 1:20 pm)

Dave Hill called for a 15 minute break

Megan Ronk for Commerce joined the meeting. Carmen left the meeting.

## **XI. Future of PK12 Grants using a Choice Model**

- a) Iowa model in response to the idea of innovative grant ideas vs a “menu” of approved programs we fund.
- b) Change the Equation – they have created a platform where Iowans can vet innovative programs and products and the top ones are listed on the site as vetted and supported. Angela opened to discussion – Lorna likes the idea of having a menu with a smaller amount available for ‘out of the box’ grant ideas. CTE provides the platform to do this here for only around \$5,000. Dave suggests that we move forward with this – with the caveat that we always keep some funding for innovation grants. Angela will bring back some additional information to the next Board meeting on CTE and what it looks like.

## **XII. Summary and Discussion of STEM Center Focus**

- a) Review of Center spending to date. Possible adjustments.
  - a. Discussion on statewide science/STEM fair. Angela would like to focus on Intel model for a variety of reasons. Asks Board for approval to move forward on research. Dee has a contact with Intel Fair she will provide to Angela. Todd Allen also has direct knowledge of the model. Action Item - Angela will bring information on statewide competitions and Intel to the next Board meeting.
- b) PK12 Grants – at 66 grants requesting over \$150,000 as of this morning. Expect many more by the deadline this Friday.
- c) Utah statewide STEM fair – now in February not April as we initially thought. Will be sending out a doodle poll to see who would like to attend- all drive down together if possible.
- d) Invent Idaho – will send out invites to Board for opportunities to see what happens during these events.

- e) LearnStorm reviewed – Dee concerned about the funding – given the amount that they are giving what will our funding do? Perhaps focus it more on an area that has some visibility.
- f) FabSlam opportunity discussed. Lorna had the idea of inviting other educators who have their own printer who just need training on what to do with them. Angela asked for approval to move forward with FabSlam – all of the Board approves and just reminds us to keep the statewide perspective in mind. Erica states that the first order of business will be to approach ITC and industry for additional support in order to open this up fully to educators all over the state.
- g) Budget Request reviewed – Angela took the Board through the operating expenditures and narrative section. Discussed ongoing vs one-time expenses. (Megan shared that the Department of Commerce has a robust grant management platform that we might be able to use. We will follow up with them and look at this opportunity.) Angela continues with overview of the spending authority section. Last section is to provide an increase in salary for Program Manager. Angela pointed out that the STEM AC could be fully funded by increases in Idaho revenue - we are not pulling from other budgets. Dave also suggested that we make sure to keep focus on outcomes not just outputs. All agreed to keep the focus there.

### **Public Comments**

Melinda Hamilton – U of I – Director of STEM Education – comment – i-STEM will proceed this summer. They have enough carryover funds from last year to run.

Purple and blue look the same on the logo from the audience.

Had we considered that we might get more bang for the buck if we don't fund things that are already being funded through another project we are funding. Like FIRST Robotics or 3D Printers? Angela mentioned that we will consider this.

Cindy Thorngren – self-funded STEM Idaho – STEMazing Students – what about recognizing the teacher as well or have a separate one for them. Question on FabSlam – what happens in year two. Also involved in National Girls Collaborative and Million Women Mentors and will be meeting with the Action Center in two weeks.

Donna Llewellyn – BSU - Will be hosting the Conference on Undergraduate Research. Expanding it and would love to have support from industry and the Action Center. STEM is a large component of the event. July 28-29, 2016 in SUB.

### **XIII. Future Meetings**

- a) Angela proposes that we meet the following times during the year. January, March, May, August, October, and December. Dave Hill recommends every two months

but they do need to have a purpose. As we progress we can always add in a meeting via conference call or even in person if needed. Lorna asks if we could have an informal update on progress made, areas of focus, successes, future plans. Dave agrees that we have these updates.

- b) Review action items for Board: bios and photos; contacts for reviewers, FabSlam support, KBOI media campaign.

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

Dave Hill adjourned the meeting.