

STEM Action Center

Board Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2016

I. Call to order

Vice Chair Mooney called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center on January 14, 2016 at WW17, Boise Capitol.

II. Roll call

Vice Chair Mooney conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Dave Hill (phone), Lorna Finman, Dee Mooney, Von Hansen, Chuck Zimmerly, Ken Edmunds, Angela Hemingway, and Erica Compton. (Megan Ronk, Director Dept of Commerce joined the meeting at 1:30 pm)

III. Past Board Notes Approved – December 16, 2015

IV. STEM Academy Presentation

- a) Non-profit – free licensing for middle grade curriculum
- b) Working with Utah STEM Action Center- consulted on STEM certification
- c) Can be implemented in Idaho and customized to work with our standards and our needs.
- d) “Corporate Connections” – Capstone project for high schoolers – and this continues with the kids after graduation.
- e) Opened for questions to Board.
 - a. Clarification – cost for the Corporate Connections – or high school opportunities. Free to students.
 - b. STEM AC could fund a set number of “projects” on the CC to get it started and demonstrate the effectiveness.
 - c. Hoping that the HS curriculum will also be offered for free – but not in 2016.
 - d. Lorna mentioned that the STEM Academaemy was integrated into the STEM Charter in N Idaho. Very pleased with the results and product.
 - e. Director Hemingway asked the Board whether we want to continue discussions with STEM Academy and what next steps. Vice Chair Mooney suggests we put additional time to discuss on the March

meeting. In the meantime if there are questions, please send them on to Angela and Erica and we can share them with STEM Academy to keep discussion moving forward. Lorna would like to move forward and not wait given their time constraints with launching this. STEM AC takes the lead on announcing the opportunity. It will still be left to individual schools/districts to decide whether they want to participate. Even if a school opts out, an individual student could still participate in the CC.

- f. Vice Chair Mooney called for a motion. Motion to move forward. Passed.

V. Website Walkthrough

- a. Erica provided a brief walkthrough of the new site and asked for feedback on the site – please share feedback with Erica directly.
- b. Erica provided update on the e-newsletter which was sent out on January 12th. High open rate and click rate. Will be sent out monthly.

VI. STEMFest, Intel, Grant Update

- a. Vice Chair Mooney will be attending the Utah STEM Fest on February 4th and report back to the Board in March.
- b. Director Hemingway reported that she has verbal commitments from higher education to support Intel if the appropriation is approved during this legislative session.
- c. PK12 grant update- \$250,000 in requests - \$45,000 to award.
- d. Tesoro funding came through and money is deposited. Grant application will go out January 19th. Posted internship to support this effort via BSU today.

VII. Communication Materials for JFAC

- a. Vision is that Board uses these materials to ensure consistent messaging by all.
- b. Discussion on media requests – direct requests back to Angela and Erica. Asked if there was a Board member that wants to be the board contact. All Board agrees that the STEM AC staff should be the primary contact for press/media. Megan Ronk has extensive experience with media and offers her assistance if needed.

VIII. Legislation and Governor's Recommendations

- a) Director Hemingway reviewed the two pieces of legislation introduced at the December Board meeting; tax credit and travel reimbursement.
- b) Director Hemingway introduced the Computer Science legislation put forth by the Governor.

IX. Governor's Recommendation

- a. Director Hemingway reviewed the Budget Highlights related to the STEM AC.
- b. Overview of the detailed budget as recommended by the Governor. Clarification of the \$10 million STEM Education Fund as recommended by Governor. One-time funding. Almost like an endowment fund that will support projects and initiatives to ensure future of the Center.
- c. Board discussion ensued. Clarification that it will be very important to continue to engage industry and make requests for funding to help extend the STEM Ed Fund.

Vice Chair Mooney called for a 15 minute break

X. JFAC Presentation Overview

- a) Director Hemingway introduced her DRAFT of the presentation and asked for feedback on content. Is this telling the story that we want to tell? Went through slide by slide. Board made suggestions on data that will make an impact as the presentation was reviewed.
- b) Discussion on tightening the focus to the key points of legislation on the table. Make sure it is explicitly outlined and focus on current accomplishments and how the additional funding will allow us to make a greater impact – specific to each budget item.

XI. Next Meeting date – March 7 1:00-4:00

XII. Public Comments - NONE

XIII. Future Topics

- a) Reviewed some of the ideas for external speakers. Erica will send out a SurveyMonkey to garner interest and focus the future presenters. Include a brief description of each in the email too.

- b) Todd Allen – asked that the Board circles back to the overall mission and vision and look at creating a strategic plan. All agree this is important and we will revisit.
- c) STEM Caucus – January 21st Angela was asked to come and present at this meeting.
- d) Board asked what the main barriers will be for the \$10 million transfer. Marilyn Whitney discussed some of the issues that will be raised. Legislators will be coming from a variety of viewpoints – some are disappointed that there were no tax reliefs in the budget this year. Some legislators will be just focused on “no increase in funding” mindset. Discussion on how to focus on the return on investment model for this funding. We are investing in the future of Idaho. If we do not do this then industry will not come, students will leave. Net result – decrease in revenue.

Chair Mooney adjourned the meeting at 3:55 pm