

STEM Action Center

Board Meeting Minutes

December 2, 2016

Call to order

Chair Hill called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center on December 2, 2016 at WW-17, Boise Capitol.

Roll call

Chair Hill conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Dave Hill, Tim McMurtrey, Dee Mooney, Megan Ronk, Von Hansen, and Lorna Finman

Absent:

Mark Peters (who was listening live via Idaho Public Television) and Ken Edmonds

Past Board Notes Approved – No comments, minutes therefore approved for October 11, 2016 meeting.

STEM AC Updates

- a) Angela welcomed back Finia and introduced Stephanie Lee, new contractor.
- b) Angela went over a presentation on the STEM Center's 3 goals, FY 18 budget, JFAC Update, and STEM School Designation legislation.
 1. **Goal #1** Coordinate and Facilitate implementation of STEM programs throughout Idaho
 - i. The Center had a goal of 90 student projects for ISEF - currently there are 116
 - ii. There is a large turnout so far for ISEF
 - iii. Educators can receive stipends to help with student projects and travel
 - iv. Regional Fair Dates:
 1. Boise State University - February 18, 2017
 2. University of Idaho – March 4, 2017
 3. Idaho State University – March 11, 2017
 - v. 1st Robotics Grants – recruiting at least 1 per county
 1. There is one more round of travel applications
 - vi. A number of grants have closed; there are many more requests for grants than there is funding
 1. PK12 Innovative STEM Projects

- vii. CS Device
 - 1. We have 50 requests – can only fund 21
 - viii. Wonder Media
 - 1. 9 requests – funded 6
 - ix. Angela will have an interactive map before the legislation session that shows the geographic statistics on grants the Center has given
 - x. Both the STEM and CS grants are out for review
 - xi. Community Maker Kits Pilot program – STEM and the Commission for Libraries have partnered to get these kits out the community
 - xii. Especially targeting rural areas
 - xiii. Botball PD was a huge success and may be an alternative to 1st Robotics program
2. **Goal #2** Align education and workforce needs throughout Idaho
- i. Cindy Thorngren and Stephanie Lee are working on a mentorship platform with IDLA.
 - 1. Platform will bring teachers and mentors together to support students throughout the State of Idaho
 - 2. Platform will also provide the Center an opportunity for more availability in a virtual format and could be used for more grants: 1st Robotics, ISEF, Botball, etc.
 - 3. Platform will also ensure background checks
 - 4. IDLA will also build a portal for the Center very similar to the SDE's ERL portal
 - 5. Angela – would like to build tutorials and have tools available for all schools to reach out to industry and individuals; Lorna likes this idea and would like to see how this could help teachers the ability to visit companies or have companies visit the teacher/class/school; Finia had a similar idea and is working to provide grants to schools in order to visit companies or bring the company to the school – Finia did something similar to that at the Idaho Dept. of Labor
 - a. Von - the ITC is conducting a survey with HP to understand the trends and needs in the state for technology which can help with curriculum
 - i. Next Friday, Dec. 9th the ITC is meeting and will discuss this and suggests one of us from the Center go to the meeting.
 - ii. Alice (Oracle) training was very successful.
 - 1. 20 teachers
 - 2. Will host again this spring
 - 3. Greenfoot in Pocatello

- 4. Java Fundamental will be online
- iii. Hour of Code is next week
 - 1. Reach out to Steph if you are interested in assisting a school while they host
- iv. CS Co-Op program is getting students (Higher Ed students) out of class and providing them a job full-time as part of their credit course
 - a. U of I has a huge buy-in and going phenomenally; continuing to work with the other colleges/universities to provide their students this same opportunity.
 - b. Dave – is our roll with this to oversee it or be more of an instigator? Angela – I thought we would play a bigger role, but we are happy to let it go and allow the colleges and universities move forward
- 3. **Goal #3** Increase awareness of STEM throughout Idaho
 - i. In two weeks, Dec. 12 -14, we will be presenting at the STEMx conference in Dallas
 - ii. We presented at the ISBA where we provided the group hands on experiences with Code.org, 3D printer, Makey Makey, and Ozobots, etc.
 - iii. Continuing to work with Fahlgren Mortine and will send the board members the templates when they are ready
 - iv. Please join us for STEM Matters at the Capitol – January 24th
 - 1. We are working on getting a flyer out to industry next week
 - 2. Erica will contact Micron for the STEM Bus

STEM Awareness Sub-Committee Discussion

- a) Continuing to work on the templates and will send out to board members as soon as possible.
 - a. Dave – where are we on subcommittees? Do we need to discuss forming them? Lorna – are only creating a STEM awareness committee or others as well? Angela – currently, only the STEM awareness committee is our focus, but we could continue this discussion at future meetings. Dave – the committees will be to support not create.

Upcoming Legislative Sessions

- a) Overview of presentation changes
 - a. Dave – presentation day at JFAC will be January 27th

- b. FY 18 Budget request does not have anything new and has been submitted to the legislative budget staff
- c. There is a new format to present at JFAC. No one will be able to present power point presentations will only have Q & A and 5 minutes to present a summary
 - i. Dave – it was mentioned that we may be able to provide an issue statement. Angela will check with Janet Jessup to confirm
 - ii. Dave also suggested Angela be prepared to answer how much in-kind or monetary support the center brought in
 - iii. Dave will be at the presentation – for the rest of you that are interested in attending, please let Stephanie know

b) Questions –

- Dave – what is the progress we've made?
- Dee – last year we had 2 million for STEM and 2 million for CS. Be prepared for JFAC to ask what you've spent. Angela – we will present both budgets, but they will only see what we've spent to date; not all the money will be indicated since some will not be spent until closer to the end of the fiscal year. Dee – need to show when and how it will be spent.
- Dave – Tim Mc. do you get feedback from your connections about STEM? Tim – no, it is too early to determine
- Dave – is the coordination between the Board, Dept., and Center more cohesive? Tim – yes
- Dave commented on how received Angela's presentation was at the last State Board meeting. The State Board felt the Center no longer needs forward guidance and will leave us to continue what we're doing

Potential Legislation: STEM School Designation

- a) The Board, Department, and STEM Center will submit new legislation to define what it means to be a STEM School and assign designation based on meeting the criteria established in proposed legislation.
 - a. Senator Noni will be sponsoring this bill
 - b. State Board Office will overseeing party
 - c. We have a list of states that have initiated a similar model – Stephanie emailed the list of states to the Board members for review
 - d. There is no new funding allocated for this bill. We will use the Center's existing funds

- e. Timeline? Law will go into effect July 1 and we will have to determine timeline once legislation is passed
- f. Schools will not need to write a plan. The goal is for those schools that are meeting the criteria will provide other schools best practices, allow those schools to visit, or present at conferences
- g. Angela has asked that each board member review the legislation and provide feedback on Section 3, especially 3b i-viii (ACTION ITEM)

Public Comment: None

Future Meeting Schedule, Topics and Wrap Up

- a) Stephanie sent out invites for one-on-one calls
- b) Next meeting is January 10, 2017 1:00 to 4:00 in room WW17 State Capitol
- c) Lorna commented on teacher STEM accreditation vs. certification – teaching STEM is a very different way of teaching. Is it possible for the state to move in this direction? Christina Linder, State Board of Education, said BSU has been working on a STEM Master’s degree, they also have been working on STEM Consulting, but was put on hold for a while and are working to bring this back. They do currently have ELA and Math Consultants. Dave – who would oversee/own this program? Christina – the State Dept. would. Dave – who would initiate this program? Christina – State Dept. or Board would need to work to reignite this program.
- d) Lorna gave an update on her trip to Dubai. Ministry of Education and US Embassy invited her and her team to discuss what we are doing with STEM and how to help their teachers implement STEM.

Adjourn

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