

STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2017

Call to order

Chair Dave Hill called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center on March 21, 2017 at WW-17, Boise Capitol.

Roll call

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

Dee Mooney, Lorna Finman, Ken Edmunds, Amy Lientz (sat in for Mark Peters), and Von Hansen

STEM Center Staff: Angela Hemingway, Erica Compton, Finia Dinh, Crispin Gravatt, and Stephanie Lee

Absent:

Tim McMurtrey, Mark Peters, and Megan Ronk

Past Board Minutes Approved – No comments, minutes therefore approved for January 10, 2017 meeting.

STEM AC Updates

1. STEM Budget

- a) JFAC approved budget, moving onto House and Senate.
 - i. Center did get 2 million for CS; however, it is not ongoing (Funding is the same as last year)
 - i. To receive ongoing funding was it was the impression of some legislators that the Center would raise matching funding through donations, industry, etc. which did not occur.
 - ii. Task for the upcoming year is to keep track of all including cash equivalents and in-kind contributions.
 - iii. The Center has already brought in \$750,000 since July 1, 2017. However, we need to ensure the legislature understands that not all funding received is “cash” donations.
 - iv. Dave Hill reiterated that the direction from the Board to STEM AC staff was not to focus on fund-raising, but rather to focus on spending the money that we did receive well.
 - ii. We will need to continue to get funding through industry, donors, grants, etc.
 - iii. We also got funding for an additional staff – Grants and Contracts Analyst

- i. Hire by July 3, 2017
- ii. This will not be a grant writing position
- iii. Ken offered to provide the center templates for the new staff to use
- iv. Lorna – how many staff do you currently have? Angela – 3 full time and 2 full/part time contractors. Lorna – how many more staff do you think you'll need? Angela – 2 more (Grants and Professional Development Coordinator and Fundraising/Grant writer/Foundation Director) for a total of 6 full time people

2. **Strategic Planning**

- a) Ken – we need to be certain of the overall direction of STEM in general. His focus is on a statewide STEM plan of which the Center is a small piece.
 - i. The board could be responsible for this big picture plan
 - i. Dave, Ken, Lorna, and Dee will create a group to work on the plan
- b) This is a different plan than the Operational Strategic plan – 1 year, long term goals
 - i. Stephanie will send out a doodle poll to set up 2 hour meetings to work on the plan
 - ii. Plan is due July 1, 2017 under state requirements

3. **STEM School Designation**

- a) Bill did pass and will be effective July 1, 2017
- b) STEM AC will partner with the State Board
 - i. STEM AC and Board will create a sub-committee/working group
 - i. INL expressed interest in sitting on the committee
 - ii. Lorna is also very interested in being on the committee
 - iii. Angela wants to ensure that we have representation from STEM superintendents, administrators and educators.

4. **Goal #1 Coordinate and facilitate implementation of STEM programs throughout Idaho**

- a) ISEF (Idaho Science and Engineering Fair) we had 235 registered and due to weather there were 128 that were able to make state wide.
 - i. It is important for us to promote this a little more especially in the North.
- b) FIRST Robotics is March 30th – April 1st at the Taco Bell Arena
- c) The CS and Science standards passed.
 - i. Guidelines for K-12 will be posted as soon as the Governor signs the bills.
 - ii. Finia will send out the CS standards to the board
- d) PD Initiative

- i. 10 are currently open
- ii. We have 1600 accounts within our Community Grants Portal; however a few of these accounts were created by STEM AC as testing sites
- iii. We will work getting data analysis to see who actually uses the platform – the data is used currently for our Impact Map.

5. Goal #2 Align education and workforce needs throughout Idaho

- a) STEM Portal and Mentorship platform is open; waiting on our tile graphics before we post is to our website. Mentorship platform has a test site that our contractor Cindy Thorngren is using to become familiar with the platform. We will have the ability to have 10 active projects open at one time.
 - i. Next meeting we can show the portal and a demo of the mentorship platform site.
- b) Finia spoke briefly about the following:
 - i. Expansion of CS Endorsement
 - ii. Code.org (ITC/IDLA/STEM AC)
 - iii. Business Educator Training
 - iv. VR Expansion throughout Idaho

6. Goal #3 Increase awareness of STEM throughout Idaho

- a) Angela mentioned a number of activities that STEM AC has done and described the public private partnerships that the Center is forming.
- b) Trailhead gave a presentation
 - i. Request to fund an Apprenticeship Pilot Program
 - ii. Finia and the STEM AC team will work with Trailhead to get a full budget and grant proposal ready and then email the Board the plan details as they become available.

7. STEM Foundation and Director

- a) In order for the center to be able to receive donations from certain companies, etc. we need to establish a 501c3/Foundation
 - i. Cost to the state to establish a 501c3 will be \$30.00 and \$85.00 to file with the IRS
 - ii. Neal Koskella is an attorney that is willing to assist with setting up our 501c3
 - iii. We need to determine to answer the following questions:
 - a. What are our goals?
 - b. What is legal in setting up a 501c3?
 - c. How do we want to set up the 501c3?

- iv. Purpose
 - a. The ability to accept money from those only allowed to donate to a 501c3
- v. Board members will need to get clarification from the legislature on how they want the funds shown on the “books”
- vi. Angela, Ken, and Neal will work on getting legal advice on the foundation as a separate entity

8. STEM Diploma – Lorna Finman

- a) Lorna would like to suggest adding the option for schools to provide a STEM Diploma Endorsement – no cost impact or structural change to the schools and again this would be optional for them
- b) Michigan just passed this requirement and Senator Nonini has a draft bill that could be presented next session if there is agreement between all groups.
- c) The State Board office and State Department will need to discuss this with the State Board with STEM AC taking a supporting role

Public Comment: None

Future Meeting Schedule, Topics and Wrap Up

- a) Stephanie will send out a Doodle poll for two dates to discuss feedback on our original strategic plan
- b) Board members please review the job description for the Foundation Director so we can get someone hired
- c) Next meeting May 30, 2017 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Adjourn