

**STEM Action Center  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2019  
Pi Day!**

**Call to Order**

Vice Chair Dee Mooney called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center at 1:10 pm on March 14, 2019 in WW-17, State Capitol.

**Roll Call**

The following were present: Dee Mooney, Tim McMurtrey, Jennifer Jackson, Jeff Rosser, Janie Revier, Jake Reynolds (for Tom Kealey)

Call in: Von Hansen and Paul Casey

**STEM Action Center Staff:** Angela Hemingway, Erica Compton, Finia Dinh and Sondra Chadd.

**STEM Action Center Contractors:** Cory Compton, John McFarlane, Kaitlin Maguire, Joanna Madden and Crispin Gravatt

**Absent:** Dave Hill

**Past Board Minutes Approved:** Dee asked for comments on the minutes. No comments. Tim Moved to approve minutes; Jennifer seconded and were unanimously approved for January 15, 2019 meeting.

**Agenda Amended:** Dee asked that the agenda be amended to move up the agenda items scheduled for after the break to the beginning of the meeting to accommodate conflicts several board members had due to meeting they needed to attend. Jennifer moved to amend the agenda and Jani seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Board Meeting Format and Schedule:** Angela raised the question about changing the board meetings to be more strategic and allowing more time for board members to provide direction and insight. She suggested that the Updates provided at the meetings be emailed and not presented at the meeting. She also suggested that in addition to emailing Updates that board meetings be scheduled to be conducted 4 times a year. Further that the monthly one-on-one board calls are extremely helpful and asked board members to respond to the Doodle Polls sent out to schedule the calls. Several board members agreed that the calls are very helpful and that changing the meetings as suggested would allow the board to tap into the dynamic nature of the group. Further Board minutes would reflect more the action items that came up during the meetings.

**Budget Distribution and Service Provider Model Discussion:** Angela opened the discussion with the comments that the AC was receiving multiple requests across the state from school Districts to assist with professional developments districtwide. Dee asked that Tim provide context on PD at local level and how they work with the SDE. Tim explained that funding for PD was left over money after salaries etc were paid. They do receive Title money that flows through to the districts. The Districts then can decide on what to spend those funds, including possibly PD. SDE has been able to provide STEM AC some additional funding from the Title money which went to i-STEM PD. SDE has some PD funding available, but the majority goes directly to the districts for local decisions. Angela commented that the STEM AC legislation mandates that we provide high quality PD. However, now districts are directly requesting STEM AC services and STEM AC needs to figure out how to create a menu of options that a district can use to pick the training they want, when they want it. STEM AC is looking for a method to potentially

charge an actual cost fee for training that could come from the funds that districts receive from the SDE. We have great teacher/trainers across the state that have been trained who are willing to step up and lead. We need to identify how a district can leverage us to get the trainings they need. One piece we have not been able to address is how to provide support to informal educators - do we to encourage districts to invite outside people to participate? Angela asked for insight from the board. The Board thought it made sense to somehow incorporate informal educators into these trainings if possible. Briefly discussed the role of IDLA and how they might help with some online trainings. Angela commented they could do this to an extent but that the majority of our PDs are hands on trainings like Drones so we would still need some components of in-person. The Board discussed how higher Ed might be able to support these efforts since it seems like it could be a natural partnership and should be further explored. Angela also mentioned that we need to be sure that what we do is aligned with the 3 goals outlined in the legislation. Dee asked if Angela had a recommendation on how to address the growing need. Angela shared that there are several options: one is charging a per teacher fee like i-STEM; another is creating a menu from which a district can choose; or perhaps a membership model. None feel quite right yet. With the \$1M cash reduction next fiscal year we have to come up with a way to support the programs that districts are requesting. We feel we are the point that we can shift away from paying for every training as we did with pilot programs and begin to use a service provider model. The minimal fee we charge for i-STEM is a way to encourage teachers to show up but does not cover the actual cost which is \$500 for those four days of training plus materials. In trainings that are "free" to the recipient, we have had no-shows and then we are out the cost of food, kits that may be provided, etc. Questioned whether we have enough qualified trainers? Angela commented that this is district dependent because of the need for trainers to travel and have subs. Questioned whether the STEM AC has the bandwidth to run this? Angela responded that we have at least one VISTA coming on and 2 WorkU students that can help at low or no cost. Dee ask whether the discussion time today was enough to develop a recommendation or if a sub-committee needed to be formed to flesh something out. Angela concluded that we might need to come up with a menu concept with multiple fee levels. It was determined that the board supported Angela moving forward with developing a recommendation and following up with an email to the board outlining what it would look like.

**ACTION:** Angela will email the board with the recommendation for a fee model for district wide PDs.

**Strategic Plan:** Angela would like the board to focus on the big picture for the Strategic Plan at the May board meeting.

**ACTION:** Angela asked the board to please review the Strategic Plan (SP) legislation, objectives so we can develop a Strategic Plan (required by law) and big picture items as well. Review the goals as well is there something we are not doing. Break out of the confines of the SP and think bigger and broader and maybe develop a higher layer document. We have lots of data that can help direct the conversation. At some point in the future, we will be able to move on from the awareness goal. The Board agreed that we are not there yet. STEM AC wants to be able to provide the impact we are having that can be shared when having meetings with legislators and members of industries. The SP is due July 1.

### **STEM AC Updates Related to Goals and Outcomes:**

Angela advised that our budget passed. We did have a few new(er) legislators that did not vote for it so there is an opportunity to listen to their concerns and answer questions. Angela will update board members on that progress during the one on one calls.

**Legislative Goal:** Reminded board of the 3 goals and that everything needs to be tied to these goals.

**STEM AC UPDATES:** About to award our Camp Grants and Family STEM Night Grants. We have VR, Jr BotBall and BotBall grant currently open. May 3<sup>rd</sup> we are sponsoring with INL STEM Day on the Blue

with BSU led by BSU athletes. How do we move this event around the state? Boise Hawks also want us to do a night. I-STEM has close to 500 applicants. Every single strand that was supported by the department for the standard is full. In East Idaho visited the STEM Designated schools and got them on the news. Currently working on the new externship program. Still need applicants in North Idaho.

**FabSLAM Updates:** Erica shared the results of the ISU showcase and the winners who were refugees from the Newcomers Center. Second place went to a group in Salmon Idaho.

**ISEF Updates:** The growth of the Fairs as been dramatic in only the 3 years of running the statewide fairs. Jeff shared his experience of attending the NISEF and how impressed he was with the kids, the breadth of their projects and their mentors. We may be reaching capacity for these fairs with the numbers we had this year.

**Cyber Security Update:** Competition is a nationwide effort. It is called Girls Go Cyber Start. Initially girls can join and then boys. It consists of a series of challenges, puzzles and games. The competition begins March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**MakerMinded Update:** Angela provided an update for John who has created a manufacturer directory with ITC and Dept of Commerce. We have 60 plus Manufacturers in the directory and have received permission to push out to the schools. In addition, John is working with WFDC to provide industry with the tools to interact with educators.

**ACTION:** Angela will let the board know when the directory is live in the Resource Portal.

**Virtual Mentorship Platform:** Renewed at significantly lower cost.

**INDEEDS Update:** Will open soon.

**Foundation Update:** Joanna provide the update we are on target for the \$1M goal for the Center and the Foundation to date is at \$295k. Three new partners will be brining in checks in the next week. Angela also thanked Joanna for getting the new CRM up and running which will help manage and track our donors. Grant Projects: New grant project that Kaitlin will be working on over the next few weeks. Idaho Gives is May 2<sup>nd</sup> and asked board to support and push out to their contacts as well.

**Donation Updates:** We are very close to the \$1M goal due in large part to wonderful donors and the great grant writing that Kaitlin, Joanna and Angela are doing. Public/Private Partnerships have been very successful and our top donor program.

**ACTION:** Angela asked the board to let us know if they have donor possibilities that we are missing and to open doors to people in their sphere to introduce us to. In-Kind donations are very strong as well which includes judges, mentors, industry partnerships and media coverage.

**Public Comment:** None

Angela closed out the meeting with a call for support by introducing STEM AC staff to community and industry STEM supporters. She extended an invitation to attend WISEF at BSU on Friday March 15 the Student Union Building. Cory will provide a Doodle Poll for April one on one calls please respond.

The May meeting will be May 14<sup>th</sup> at which time we will discuss the Strategic Plan. Please review the documents you have received that is the 2 guiding legislations and the Strategic Plan.

Angela extended and invitation to STEM Day on the Blue on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Adjourned at 2:15 for a celebration of Pi Day with a piece of pie.

**Next Board Meeting is May 14, 2019 WW-17**