

**STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2023 1:00 – 2:30 pm
Zoom Meeting/ In Person STEMAC Conference**

Listen here to IPTV Stream: <https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/archive/#stem>

Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Jackson called to order the regular meeting of the STEM Action Center at 1:00 pm on January 6, 2023.

Roll Call

The **STEM AC Board** meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting in person in the STEM AC conference room and via Zoom. Attendance: Jennifer Jackson, Dee Mooney, Jad Mahnken, Steven Christensen, Wendi Secrist, Ed Atienza, Dave Hill, Jake Reynolds,

Absent: None

STEM Action Center Staff: Caty Solace, Erica Compton, Katie Bosch-Wilson, Stephanie Lee, Crispin Gravatt, Sondra Chadd

STEM Action Center Contractors: Cory Compton, Joanna Madden

Opening remarks: Welcome by Jennifer. Provided a warm welcome to Caty. Asked all Board members to introduce themselves. Jennifer briefly reviewed the agenda.

Approval of Board Minutes: Motion to approve October minutes: Dave moved to approve
Seconded by: Jad Approved unanimously.

STEM School Designation: Caty Solace

- Ernest Hemingway STEAM Elementary School, Ketchum
- JR Simplot Elementary School, American Falls
- Columbia High School STEM Academy, Nampa
- Project Impact STEM Academy, Meridian
- Fernan STEM Academy, CDA

Caty gave a brief history of the STEM School Designation and the schools that have been approved to date. She explained the process to get them approved. She has been working to get these on the February agenda of the State Board's Consent Agenda. Caty further provided the process that the schools go thru with Cognia to be considered as a STEM Designated school. Designation process takes several months. John McFarlane is the manager of the STEM School Designation process and works closely with the schools. Caty shared several quotes from the narratives provided by the school.

Discussion: The STEMAC is the decision-making body for determining if the schools are eligible for Designation. STEM School graduates have a badge on their diploma.

It is harder to get secondary schools to go thru the process. It is a good strategy to work towards having a pathway of STEM Designated Schools from elementary through high school. The Board would like to strategize about this in a future meeting.

A Motion to approve moving these schools to the State board agenda was made by Wendi Secrist and seconded by Jad Mahnken. Motion carried unanimously.

Caty's Vision:

Caty shared how the process went to select her as the new ED. She credited the staff with how they handled the 73 days without a ED. Their dedication made the transition seamless. She added that she is very grateful to the staff. Caty then shared her story and why she decided to take this position. She believes that every job in Idaho is a STEM related job. Her experience has been in communication and development fundraising. She has been an active collaborator with the STEM AC over the years and believes in the mission of the STEMAC and our staff. Caty went on to address the Goals established last summer. Awareness: She shared that her vision for STEMAC fits in with these Goals. Students need increased awareness of the STEM careers. We should work closely with Next Steps Idaho. We should amplify tools that already exist. Access: need to bolster partnerships and increase collaboration with those partners. Learning Blade reported that we have over 230K lessons completed by more than 9K students. We need to make sure opportunities are accessible by students. Additionally, we need to address the access for rural communities. Alignment: this is our sweet spot. Focus on the connection between employer and education. Highlighted the success of CS week. We had over 80 employer engagements coding in the schools across the state. Need to also bolster our partnerships with government agencies and industry associations. Caty has put together a meeting with the Idaho Hospital Association. Caty shared the Idaho Leader Initiative for outlining work-based learning. To increase career education, we will work with Next Steps Idaho. Addressing employer engagement, we need to establish best practices. Highlighted our existing externships program. There is space for us to work on internships. There is no one entity making connections with students and work internships. We will start with a pilot program to figure out how we can fill the gap regarding internships in the state. Caty and Wendi shared how the Workforce Development Council and STEMAC have collaborated in the past and how we can increase that in the future. Several board members shared their approval of Caty's vision. Dee questioned if we have adequate staff to support the vision. Nepris and the benefits of their programs were discussed. Jad offered to help with metric measurement. Action: Caty will explore before next meeting how to move forward with her vision and various collaboration possibilities.

Workforce Development Council Presentation:

Wendi provided a Workforce Development Council updates and STEM related Investments. Wendi shared information about Micron's commitment to increase investment in STEM education in Idaho and the collaboration between WDC and Micron. Dee provided Micron's perspective. Manufacturing is coming back to Idaho. This will benefit not only Micron but

workforce across the state. She shared how Micron will work to enhance programs that already exist and improving access for students and increasing the workforce pipeline for employers. Micron will provide funding to every high school to have a license to Next Steps. Will also be funding the externships with the goal to have 100 externs. Dee encouraged all businesses to ensure they have videos on Next Steps Idaho for students to access.

Legislative Presentations:

Caty shared that our JFAC presentation is Jan 25th. It is a short presentation. Encouraged board to attend as a show of support. Outlined our request, as approved by the Governor's Office for 2 FTEs. Caty asked the board to be sure to review the Board Report and let her know if there is information that is not in the report that we should add.

Discussion: The increase to 100 externships is a huge lift and will require support from industry board members. The externship application is currently open.

The Ecosystem convening in March. We would love board participation and to share information about the convening with your networks.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:29