

**STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2024 8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Doug Park Conference Room at
Idaho Workforce Development Council Offices**

Members Present: Steven Christensen, Wendi Secrist, Ed Atienza, Dave Hill, Jake Reynolds, Jennifer Jackson, Dee Mooney

Absent: Allison Duman, Jad Mahnken

Staff Present: Caty Solace, Katie Bosch-Wilson, Crispin Gravatt, Nate Dean, Stephanie Lee, Morgan Howard, Sarah Howard

Call to Order

Jennifer Jackson called the meeting to order at 8:47 am. Thanks the board for attending. Turns over time to Caty Solace for passion activity.

Passion Activity

Each Board and staff member shares their connection to the work of STEM AC. Caty opens for Board to give input on time spent in the agenda. Jenn encourages board members to focus on creating consensus on goals of STEM AC. Caty invites Board members to share desired outcomes for the day. Board members share their goals for the meeting and for the future of STEM AC.

STEM Action Center in Summary

Caty gives overview of the past work of STEM AC. Touches on founding, original goals, first attempts at strategic planning, past executive directors. Gives summary of legislative obligations. Caty invites Katie Bosch-Wilson to join her for a summary of the past year at STEM AC.

- Alignment with legislation
- Focusing work on combined focused between goals
- Taking work of 18 contractors in-house/improving quality of programs
- Defining success – specific measures
- Successes of foundation manager: grants/donations awarded and awaiting notification
- Coordination of STEM activities
- Out of School ESSER funds
- Boots on the ground work – speaking and engaging from all of the staff
- Work of EcosySTEM
- STEM Professional Development
- Statewide Learning Platforms
- STEM School Designation

- Nate Dean requests feedback on Board's level of involvement with STEM School Designation review
- Computer Science legislation
- Board input for planning process

Board comments/questions:

- Jennifer emphasizes importance of building better partnerships with state agencies across the STEM sphere
- Steve Christiansen requests focus on process improvement and on discontinued projects

Legislative Alignment

After a break, Jennifer Jackson calls meeting back to order and gives context for alignment discussion. Invites Dave Hill and Dee Mooney to share thoughts. Dave and Dee share thoughts on goals of original STEM AC advisory board. Board discusses how STEM AC response to legislation has changed and best practices to meet changing needs and goals. Board discusses need and intent of STEM AC Foundation. Board discusses role of State Department of Education designee. Dave suggests CTE being more involved with STEM AC.

Jennifer asks what resources will be needed moving forward. Board discusses limits of government entity programs, and responsibilities of EcosySTEM and STEM AC. Caty contextualizes and praises relationship between Katie Bosch-Wilson and Erica Compton. Board discusses shared duties between EcosySTEM and STEM AC.

Strategic Plan and Goals

Caty explains how the STEM AC strategic plan and goals tie into legislative requirements. Steve Christiansen suggests reordering the goals to align STEM and CS education with workforce needs. Crispin gives context for current goals. Caty asks Board for feedback regarding goals. Dave and Jennifer suggest that the agency take the lead in creating goals. Caty invites the Board to brainstorm goals, including:

- To produce a STEM-literate citizenry to produce an Idaho STEM-competitive workforce

By:

- Develop, coordinate, facilitate implementation of STEM/CS programs
- To promote STEM
- Implement STEM best practices in public and higher education
- Strategically engage industry, business and public or government entities to cooperate with the STEM action center and focus outcomes and goals on workforce needs and opportunities

Board and staff discusses how goals and benchmarks are measured. Discusses stakeholders represented on STEM AC advisory board and unrepresented stakeholders. Discusses relationship between industry, education, and agencies.

Caty thanks the Board for their input. Asks them to have action items ready at April meeting. Jennifer asks staff to flesh out STEM AC goals for April meeting. Suggests holding Board meetings in different locations around the state. Board examines desired outcomes. Expresses satisfaction with meeting outcomes. Jennifer thanks the Board and staff for their work.

Dave Hill moves to adjourn. 2:30 pm.