

**STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes**

May 5, 2021 • 2:00pm

Zoom Meeting

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<b>Members Present:</b>	Vance Checketts, Mark Ripke, Scott Hansen, Jessica Gillmore, Mark Sunday, Scotty Nowlin, Jill Love, Nate McDonald, Sarah Lehman
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Brittney Cummins, Syd Dickson
<b>Staff:</b>	Melanie Shepherd, Lynn Purdin, Tami Goetz, Sue Redington, Becca Robison, Julienne Bailey, Kellie Yates, Clarence Ames, Allison Spencer, Colleen Fisher, Kat Potter, David Wicai
<b>Visitors:</b>	Ashley Wendt, Scott Cheney

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**I. Welcome and Related Business**

Vance Checketts called the meeting to order. Vance requested approval of minutes. Mark Sunday motioned to approve the minutes, Jill Love seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**II. Share Out:**

Vance asked if there were any great STEM stories that anyone would like to share. Tami Goetz comments that Syd Dickson & Brittney Cummins are with the First Lady today doing school tours.

**III. Board Discussion**

Vance suggested we have a discussion to fill a vacancy on the board. Tami Goetz commented that it is to replace Tim Miller, who retired and moved. The open position is an industry position. Tami Goetz stated that we have had some suggestions – Syd Dickson had suggested to Tami someone in healthcare. Syd had recommended to Tami: Utah Hospital Association Greg Bell or Jill Victory. Tami suggested BioFire - Randy Rasmussen or Deepika Silva, Recursion - Tina Larsen, someone with ARUP, Purple and Founder of Code in Color - Karen Rodriguez La Paz. Vance Checketts asked if there were any other suggestions. Jessica Gillmore commented that she felt that was a good list of possible board members. Kat Potter commented that Edwards Manufacturing might have someone interested in serving on the board and she would reach out to them. Tami Goetz commented that we will narrow the list down to three and make suggestions to the governor. Tami will email these out to the board.

Sue Redington gave a budget review through the end of April. Sue commented that we have about \$518,000 to spend for this fiscal year in our operational budget. Sue went over each program and their budgets. Sue commented that our next meeting will be on June 24, close to the end of the fiscal year so you will be able to see our spend down then. Jill Love commented that we haven't had a board meeting since before the legislative session and that we were given back our 5% cut during the legislative session.

Nate McDonald shared the latest information from the DWS job report. The unemployment rate came in at 2.9%, just under 3%. Employers cannot find people for the jobs available. Utah is tied with a few other states for the top in unemployment rate. Utah & Idaho are the only states with job gains (more jobs in the state that need to be filled) – job growth. Ten private sector major industry groups (six of ten are positive net gain in jobs). Professional business services are the top growth, which would fall into the STEM jobs, are the second largest growing industry in jobs.

Julienne Bailey showed a video she created of our new space. Mark Sunday commented on what a great space. Tami Goetz talked about Waco Scroggins from Jacobsen Innovation who has been coming in one day a week and helping in our Innovation Hub.

Becca Robison shared a presentation about the maker space, projects, programs and supporting robotics teams' needs (home, pieces of equipment, etc.). Vance asked if we will have our own robots. Becca answered that we are currently working with FRC and FTC teams with their robots, but we do have the one bird animatronic robot. Vance commented about how phenomenal this space is where robotics can be done and that someone can drop off a load of wood to be used, etc. Tami commented that we will be able to support teams all over the state (virtually and in person) and fill in the gaps of lost coaches, etc.

Becca talked about the STEM Artist in Residence program – a pairing of STEM and art. The Nelson Family Foundation donation is supporting this program.

Becca talked about the STEM Spots. Stand-alone structures that are designed to distribute STEM books and other STEM resources (“To Learn” kits) and resources that our partners have. Tami commented that we had an idea to do STEM puzzles.

Becca talked about Makers for Equity – partnered with STEM Idaho for STEM learning opportunities for students with visual impairments. We are also partnering with the school for the Deaf and Blind. Vance commented that all Becca talked about was great. Mark Sunday commented that he can't wait to see it in person.

Kat Potter talked about the new department name – CCE, Cultural & Community Engagement. Vance commented to correct him if he uses DHA. Kat commented on the new logo and Vance shared a link to the CCE logo in the chat.

Tami Goetz shared the Strategic Planning Book. Vance commented that we have talked about for so long and that it is so nice to the Strategic Planning Book, even though there may still be some changes and that it has been a lot of work by a lot of people. Sarah Lehman asked what, through the process, surprised us and what recommendations would you have for someone and what has you most excited by this Strategic Plan? Tami answered that some of our stakeholder groups that we thought we were doing well with, thought we could and should be working with them more. Tami commented that they had try to let go of what we were doing and focus on what the suggestions were. It was exciting to hear that things such as early STEM learning was suggest, and that we were already working on this. Kellie Yates commented that the things we wanted to see happen were also the thing the community wanted to see happen (shift to early learning & community learning). Kellie also commented that the process was personally gratifying. Tami commented that we plan to revisit the goals

and objectives every 90 days to determine where we need to pull in resources. We are committed to using the strategic plan and program to the strategic plan.

Kellie Yates commented that she has been working on a STEM advocacy group that consists of team members from the STEM Action Center and USBE teaching & learning team (STEM & CTE), etc. Together they have developed a two-page document to define what STEM looks like for our shared agencies. Kellie will be sharing this with the group soon for feedback and comments. This will define which programs belong to which entities. Vance commented that USBE is an obvious entity that we work with and asked about other agencies we work with frequently? Kellie commented that she is hoping to bring in other agencies such as Latinos in Action, Asian Community Center, those who represent underserved populations where we want to understand their needs better.

Allison Spencer gave a Foundation update. Allison commented that MHTN Architects helped design our new space. Dominion, Northrop Grumman, Comcast and Larry H. Miller have generously given to the Foundation – almost everything in the Hub is from donations to the Foundation. She gave a shout-out to the team for building relationships and for writing proposals that were submitted in the last few months. We received \$10,000 from Northrop Grumman for Indigenous areas in Utah and the Jeff Nelson Family Foundation donated to help start the Artist in Residence program. Jill Love came to us to help with the Utah Raptor Megablock Project (this has been getting lots of press and donations) – to date we have helped with \$70,000 in donations. Allison commented that we have been building new relationships and started an industry coalition. Tami commented that she was impressed with the industry coalition group.

Colleen Fisher gave a “Green Our Planet” hydroponics presentation that is working with the Utah Bankers Association. Tami talked about how Columbus Serves is also working with the hydroponics program and cooking programs.

Vance commented that we got through all the agenda items. Mark Sunday commented that this has been his favorite meeting so far.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2021 in the new STEM Action Center space. We would like to meet in person at our next meeting.

#### **IV. Meeting Adjourned at 4:03 pm.**