

### STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes

November 30, 2016 • 2:00pm

STEM Action Center: 60 East South Temple, Suite 850, Salt Lake City

<b>Members Present:</b>	Bert VanderHeiden, Gene Levinzon, Tami Pyfer, Val Hale, Stan Lockhart, Rich Nelson, Dave Woolstenhulme, Reza Jalili, Jon Pierpont
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Jeffrey Nelson, Blair Carruth, Sydnee Dickson, Norm LeClair,
<b>Staff:</b>	Tami Goetz, Sue Redington, Kaitlin Felsted, Jackie Moynihan, Kellie Yates, Lynn Purdin, Clarence Ames, Lola Beatlebrox, Brad Hunsaker, Vatsala Kaul, Abby Dowd, Lolly Bowler, Jenna Lillywhite
<b>Visitors:</b>	Connie Roubinet, Mike Snyder & his team, Gretchen Brown, Dan Tracy, Shae Rohrer, Joel Kongaika, Zachary Barnes, Joleigh Honey, Mike Waldron, Reed Chase, Dror Yaron

#### I. Welcome and Related Business

Val Hale, STEM Action Center Board Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order, and welcomed the group. He turned the time over to STEM Action Center Executive Director, Dr. Tamara Goetz, to introduce new staff members. She introduced Abby Dowd, the new Bus Team member, and Lolly Bowler, the new Administrative Support Specialist. Val Hale then entertained a motion to approve the August minutes.

#### APPROVE AUGUST MINUTES

**MOTION: GENE LEVINZON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY JON PIERPONT. THE MOTION WAS UNANAMOUSLY APPROVED.**

#### II. Board Discussion

Tami introduced the first presenter of the meeting, Dror Yaron from the Carnegie Mellon University CREATE Lab, and turned the time over to him to present. Dror gave a brief report about Carnegie Mellon's satellite project and partnerships with Utah Valley University, Southern Utah University and the STEM Action Center. The discussion included other projects involving robots that teach coding in the classroom, and "Arts and Bots."

Tami Goetz commented on how important it is that we utilize these resources and perhaps use classroom grants as a way to fund the implementation of these technologies. Gene Levinzon mentioned how the Carnegie Mellon Computer Science program is working to increase the number of women who graduate with Computer Science related degrees.

Dr. Goetz then turned the time over to Mike Snyder to present the USU Annual Evaluation Report. Mike reported on the evaluation that he and his team conducted on areas including Math Instructional Software, Online Professional Development, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Applied Science Curriculum, etc. The bulk of the conversation focused on the first topic of discussion: Math Instructional Software. Dr. Goetz thanked the software producers and STEM team for the math software results, and how they have shown an increase in proficiency. Tami Pyfer posed the question of at what effect level do we break even when it comes to cost, and which

software is the most efficient compared to cost. It was discussed that there is not enough information to answer these questions just yet. It was discussed that there are many factors in play, including how well the teachers are implementing the software into their classes. It was put forward that how to increase effective use of the software should be discussed in the future. Mike Snyder gave advice as to how we can expand the reach of the evaluation and increase validity and reliability. But so far, the data is statistically significant.

The other topics evaluated were presented and discussed briefly. Again, it was discussed how the tools that the STEM Action Center is promoting and aiding are producing good data and receiving positive feedback. Tami Goetz suggested that in the next board meeting, time should be devoted to talking about PD (Professional Development) and input should be gathered on how it can be promoted more and how improvements can be made.

The time was then turned over to Mike Waldron and Reed Chase from Tanner Business Advisors to discuss the internal audit. Reed expressed that they didn't find any significant issues and found Tami and the team open and easy to work with. Some observances for improvement included having more in depth data to see that the tools being used are providing improvement, checking on the usage of funds from grants, more structure in managing outside funds and getting dual signatures on important documents. He also encouraged the team to continue making sure the budgets are complete and accurate. Overall, they were impressed with operations and Reed shared that, as a parent, he appreciates what the Action Center is doing and how it effects the students in Utah. The board discussed the positive feedback.

Val Hale wrapped up the meeting, saying that it is hard to quantify what we are working for, but that it is an important goal of the board and the Action Center to make STEM cool and exciting and to increase Utah's educated workforce. Tami Goetz gave thanks to everyone on the board for all of the support and contributions that have been made this year.

### **III. Adjournment**

**MOTION: VAL HALE MOVED TO CLOSE THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS UNANAMOUSLY APPROVED.**