

# STEM Action Center Board | 2013

## STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2013 • 2:00 p.m.

Governor's Office of Economic Development  
60 E. South Temple, Third Floor

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<b>Members Present:</b>	Spencer P. Eccles, Robert Brems, Blair Carruth, Christine Kearn, Gene Levinzon, Stan Lockhart, Martel Menlove, Mark Openshaw, Jeff Nelson, Bert VanderHeiden
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Brad Rencher
<b>Staff:</b>	Sophia DiCaro, Vincent Mikolay, Carol Curchoe, Michael Sullivan, Sue Redington
<b>Visitors:</b>	Jeff Rogers, Richard Nelson, Tami Goetz, Collette Mercier, Norm LeClair, Diana Suddreth, Brian Farr, Sydney Dixon

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### Welcome & Introductions

Spencer Eccles welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a status update on the STEM Board and office formation. He stated that the overall goal of the STEM Board is collaboration, communication, building bridges and managing growth. He then introduced new GOED staff members Vincent Mikolay and Carol Curchoe then turned the time over to Vincent.

Vincent began by highlighting GOED's vision for the STEM Program and thanking the Board Members for their support. He next outlined the goals for the meeting then invited everyone to introduce themselves beginning with the Board Members who also summarized what STEM means to them.

### Board Member Oath

Following introductions, Dana Powers, GOED's Human Resource Representative, led the swearing-in of the Board Members collectively, after which each member signed the Oath of Office document.

### Stem Overview

Vincent then asked the Members to read the STEM overview materials that had been provided to them and invited their comments. Comments included the following:

- Supply does not meet current demands
- STEM education is critical to economic development
- State level solutions are needed
- Someone will fill void might as well be us
- 24 other states has STEM Centers

Vincent then gave a brief presentation on Tennessee's STEM initiative.

### STEM in Utah

Vincent asked the Members to review the information provided them on STEM in Utah. Member's comments on this included the following:

- Utah's adoption of the highly disputed Common Core standards
- Benchmark should not be based on the average but on the best
- Many students do not understand their career possibilities

### House Bill 139

Discussion on HB 139 ensued among the Board Members. Comments included the following:

- Close achievement gap and lower math remediation
- Engage and prepare students to enter the field
- Not just do better but engage more
- Focus on instructional technology and professional development
- STEM Board needs to work collaboratively, gather facts, agree on goals and always present a unified front

Spencer Eccles gave a brief overview on the background of HB 139, after which Vincent summarized the Bill as follows: i) Close the gap; ii) fill the pipeline; iii) align priorities across the State; and iv) prepare for the future. Vincent then drew Members attention to the Action Items that were drawn from the Bill and pointed out first steps and timelines. Lengthy discussion followed.

#### **Staffing & Operations Discussion**

**MOTION:** Martell Menlove moved to proceed with the timeline for staffing as presented and empower GOED staff to continue with the process of hiring a Program Manager and Executive Assistant and vet candidates for the Executive Director position then bring the narrowed down list of candidates to the Board for interview before June 19, 2013. The motion was unanimously approved.

**MOTION:** Stan Lockhart moved to empower the GOED team, working with partners at USOE as directed by legislation, to move forward as appropriate, with an RFI as it related to the two specific areas within the legislation which is college math readiness and also sixth to eighth grade math education before the next STEM meeting in June. Mark Openshaw seconded the motion. The Motion unanimously approved.

**MOTION:** Stan Lockhart moved to allow working groups to continue their efforts to support the directions of the Board until an Executive Director is hired. Mark Openshaw seconded the motion. The motion unanimously approved

#### **Next Meeting & Adjournment**

It was decided that future Board meetings will take place on the first Monday of every month. The meeting subsequently adjourned.