

STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2014 • 3:00pm

GOED: 60 East South Temple, 3rd Floor, Salt Lake City, UT

Members Present:	Blair Carruth, Val Hale, Joel Coleman, Jeffery Nelson, Gene Levinzon, Robert Brems, Jefferson Moss, Reza Jalili, Bert VanderHeiden, Rich Nelson
Members Absent:	Stan Lockhart, Brad Rencher, Tami Pyfer, Norm LeClair
Staff:	Tami Goetz, Sue Redington, Gina Sanzenbacher, Mitchell Jorgensen, Jenna Johnson, Kaitlin Felsted
Visitors:	Sarah Brasiel, Ashley Nicholes, Angelica Bosanos, Brent Peterson, Lynette Rasmussen

I. Welcome and Related Business

Jeff Nelson, STEM Action Center Board Chairman, called the meeting to order, introduced and welcomed the group. Chairman Nelson then introduced the newest board member, Reza Jalili. Reza took the oath of office and Chairman Nelson then introduced the newest STEM AC staff member, Kaitlin Felsted, Communicants and Media Specialist. Following these introductions, he asked the board members to approve the minutes from the September meeting.

i. Approve Minutes

MOTION: JOEL COLEMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY ROBERT BREMS. THE MOTION WAS UNANAMOUSLY APPROVED.

- ii. Dr. Sarah Brasiel, USU, then announced that her colleague, Dr. Taylor Martin, was asked to join the National Science Foundation (NSF) as a rotating program officer for one year (2015).
- iii. Chairman Nelson and Dr. Tami Goetz reported on the presentation the Education Interim Committee. Chairman Nelson reported that the presentation went well, and Dr. Goetz announced that another presentation will take place later in October 2014 to the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC).

II. Board Discussion

i. STEM Action Center Updates

Tami Goetz, STEM AC Executive Director

Budget: Two documents have been provided, FY 2014 & FY 2015. Dr. Goetz stated that the STEM AC is underspent in each category and there is more than \$723,000 in carryover. One reason for this may be the newness of the Center and spending less than anticipated to ensure proper spending. A question was asked about carryover and if there are restrictions on spending those funds. Dr. Goetz answered that there are no restrictions, but to carefully choose how to spend the carryover in a way that would not risk funding being retracted or restricted. Funding carryover may be looked at positively in the first year, but perhaps not as positively in the future years of operation.

The budget for 2015, questions were asked about how to spend the carryover funds, and if it should be saved in an emergency fund or if it should be used for community purposes or

put towards current STEM AC initiatives, but no conclusion was made other than to ask the EAC prior to the presentation. Another question was asked about the details of expenditures on these initiatives to date. Sue Redington answered that invoicing processes are currently underway, but no total sum has been calculated.

Chairman Nelson then turned to the Board for a discussion about how to spend the carryover funds and if it should be spent on current initiatives outlined in HB 139, 150 or if it can/should be spent in another way related to the initiatives. One comment was made about using it for something could be considered in the future as ongoing, or something to increase an initiative on a one-time basis, or an extraordinary expense. Another suggestion was made about using the funds towards “startup” costs or administrative space. Another suggestion of helping community partners or using the funds for a “seed amount” to jumpstart the communications and media process was raised, even though there are already funds appropriated for that, in the first year it could be wise to double that amount to get a good start to let the community know about our initiatives. Another pilot project was brought up for technology, and dedicating more funding for fairs, camps and competitions participation. Incentive funding for high school internships and scholarships (transitions into college) was also suggested, as well as increasing the Comcast media campaign and focusing on student achievement spotlights.

Chairman Nelson then pooled all of the suggestions and asked for an informal vote from the Board on each idea. The two ideas with the highest number of votes were funding for camps and competitions and incentives for high school internships and achievement for easier college transitions. The Board began discussing camps and competitions funding and the previous involvement and funding that was dedicated to it. Sue Redington, STEM AC Program Manager, reported that \$130,000 of operational funds went towards the support of student programs like MESA and FIRST Lego League, and another \$180,000 went towards student grants. In Fiscal year 2015, \$300,000 is allocated since the STEM AC is anticipating a higher demand of student requests. Chairman Nelson asked what the objective is for increasing funding for student camps and competitions and what the outcomes might be. Dr. Goetz replied that student engagement is the optimal objective and something that the competition organizations work towards also.

The other option for increased funding from carryover is the student internships and scholarships. The objective of this project would be to give students an incentive to choose a STEM major and create career pathways for students that want to pursue STEM education/careers. One possibility related to this project would be to give school counselors incentives or more training to encourage students to pursue STEM.

A third option was discussed about grants with matching focused on achievement and success recognition. Students can nominate teachers or mentors and counselors for recognition in STEM related fields, etc. This highlights teachers who are trying innovative things.

Dr. Goetz emphasized the importance of aligning with legislative intent and making sure the use of these carryover funds are approved and aligned by legislation.

III. Presentation: Lynette Rasmussen, Utah Afterschool Network (UAN)

Lynette began by introducing the purpose behind UAN- a statewide organization to provide information about best practices for after school programs that are public, private for profit and nonprofit and to inform them of funding opportunities and collaboration. UAN works closely with the Utah State Office of Education and Department of Workforce Services to

look for and advocate ways to increase public will and investment in early childhood and youth. The UAN receives the majority of funding from the Mott Foundation. Lynette also announced that UAN has one deliverable that happens from their office called the after school quality assessment tool that is a self-assessment taken multiple times a year to evaluate interests and progress when it comes to skills and relationship development. On average, youth spend about 1,000 hours a month in school and about 6,000 hours a month outside of school, which gives opportunity for youth to explore and be free to pursue interests. Currently, UAN has over fifty contracts supporting technical education in Utah's afterschool entities, which promotes STEM education.

Lynette then presented two different grants that have come to UAN very recently. The JP Morgan grant is primarily for evaluation of STEM programs in afterschool settings. The Department of Workforce Services and the University of Utah to develop a tool to evaluate the STEMLink grant programs funded Summer 2014. The second grant awarded to UAN was from the Noyce Foundation for a STEM learning ecosystem that involves the home, the classroom, afterschool programs, and other STEM institutions like museums that provide meaningful opportunities and experiences outside of regular school hours.

One of the problems that has come into focus is, while there are many STEM programs, they are not coordinated and the quality of these programs is not being monitored. The goal of this Noyce grant is to prepare a plan of how to do to bring everyone together and move forward in UAN's coordination strategy.

Lynette gave four key elements that UAN is interested in: 1) Shared professional learning-working together with partners to coordinate best practices and training for teachers. 2) Public awareness- joining in the STEM Media Campaign. 3) Funding opportunities for summer STEM programs- UAN has more than 300 afterschool programs, but very few are summer-based. 4) More volunteers are need for the UAN Advisory Committee where big-level thinking takes place, also co-funding positions such as a STEM specialist liaison or data analyst.

One board member asked Lynette about how summer programs are funded, and Lynette replied that UAN does not fund any programs but does offer support and data analysis.

IV. HB 150 Project Updates

Sarah Young from the Utah State Office of Education gave an update on the Elementary STEM Endorsement process and the progress that has been made. Sarah discussed the framework workshop that was held at the end of September and one of the key elements from that was the definition of what STEM actually means inside the classroom. Educators helped put the course together and a survey was sent out to gather feedback on October 4th. October 6th is the final workshop where the RFP will be solidified and details will be set. This particular project has 1.5 million allocated towards teacher incentives, which will pay for the tuition required for the endorsement training.

Jenna Johnson, STEM AC, gave an update on the Camps and Competitions grant and the changes this year with three application solicitations and an increase in funding for students attending or participating in a STEM camp or competition. October, January and April will be the months for the solicitations including one for teachers to be awarded for their ideas and projects.

Dr. Tami Geotz, STEM AC, gave an update on the STEM Soccer Tournament along with Gene Levinzon, and their desire to have this tournament on a yearly basis. Dr. Geotz then updated the Board on the Professional Development grant, the two vendors (Scholastic and School

Improvement Network) and the total applications and awards. Overall, the process was democratic and providers are currently working with schools on their implementation plan. Brent Petersen, Comcast Spotlight, presented about the state-wide assembly taking place on October 21st at Olympus High School. Speakers and presenters have been finalized, the website launch will also be that day. Students will attend from along the Wasatch Front, and there will be an announcement about the STEMies awards and other contests found on the STEM website.

Two other updates will be moved to the next meeting due to lack of time, the foundations discussion and the DWS grants.

V. Adjournment

MOTION: JEFFERSON MOSS MOTIONS TO CLOSE THE MEETING. SECONDED BY GENE LEVINZON AND WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.