

STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2014 • 3:00pm

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

Members Present:	Blair Carruth, Val Hale, Brad Smith, Jeffery Nelson, Gene Levinzon, Robert Brems, Jefferson Moss, Bert VanderHeiden, Rich Nelson, Norm LeClair, Stan Lockhart, Tami Pyfer
Members Absent:	Reza Jalili
Staff:	Tami Goetz, Sue Redington, Gina Sanzenbacher, Sarah Young, Jenna Johnson, Kaitlin Felsted
Visitors:	Sarah Brasiel, Ashley Nicholes, Martha Castilla-Felton, Brent Peterson, Lynette Rasmussen, Craig Pritchard

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, Brad Smith. Brad took the oath of office and Chairman Nelson then introduced the new Deputy Director of the Governor’s Office of Economic Development, Kimberly Henrie. He also introduced a new STEM Action Center staff member, Sarah Young, the Liaison between the STEM Action Center and the Utah State Office of Education. Following these introductions, he asked the board members to approve the minutes from the October meeting.

i. Approve Minutes

MOTION: JEFF MOSS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY BERT VANDERHEIDEN. THE MOTION WAS UNANAMOUSLY APPROVED.

II. Summary of Recent Events

STEM Action Center Director, Dr. Tami Goetz, made a quick summary of the presentation given to the Executive Appropriations Committee in October. Dr. Goetz stated that while the presentation was short, it was effective in showing the gain and reach of the STEM Action Center. This committee requested that the STEM Action Center give an overview of each funded project from HB 139 and HB 150, to define what a “High Quality Implementation Plan” means to the STEM Action Center, and to provide information to the committee about budget needs and constraints.

Stan Lockhart then summarized his attendance at the Closelt Summit Conference in October. Stan was impressed with the amount of teamwork and community building that was apparent throughout STEM partners across the country. Other board members who attended discussed the award given to Dr. Tami Goetz and the attention given to the Utah STEM Action Center.

Brent Peterson from Comcast Spotlight gave a summary on the STEM Assembly in late October and discussed the importance of that assembly and the collaboration that it takes to make it successful. A state-wide assembly will be scheduled for next year in the Fall.

III. Board Discussion

i. Budget updates and discussion

Two documents were given to board members prior to the meeting. The first is the budget for FY14 and the second is the proposed budget for FY15. Due to the carryover funds from 2014, there is some flexibility as to when and how we spend the funds for 2015. The STEM Action Center proposed two options for the use of these funds and presented them to the board for discussion and consideration. The first proposal is to spend the carry-over funds over the course of three years since there is no need to spend the funds right away. It may be more advantageous to have a strategic plan over time. Some of the projects suggested to be in need of the funds are to expand existing projects such as the math software grant and the fairs, camps and competitions grant. Additional projects might include expanding evaluations of these grants through the partnership with Utah State University and Dr. Sarah Brasiel.

Much of the discussion from the board covered details of each proposal, and comments from staff members about capacity and diversity of projects. There were also comments from board members about relevance, momentum and sustainability over the long-term timeline.

Chairman Nelson summarized the thought of the board and staff in regards to budget in saying that in order to accomplish our goal of staying relevant, it would be wise to convert some of the 'one-time' funding towards ongoing funds in pursuit of potential expansion or into additional partnerships with existing board participants.

ii. Legislative Session Discussion

Chairman Nelson then asked Val Hale, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development to begin the discussion on "workforce development" and its significance in the legislative session. Val talked about STEM being a long-term solution to the shortage of workforce talent facing Utah currently, but workforce development is more focused on short-term solutions. Key leaders from government, education and industry have been brought together to discuss how to overcome the challenges in Utah. One of the possibilities is to have the STEM Action Center increase their capacity to support and execute an assignment in the name of workforce development.

iii. Office Space

Kimberly Henrie, Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development, lead the discussion of office space for the STEM Action Center. In previous board meetings, it has been discussed that the STEM Action Center staff

has outgrown their given office space, so a move is necessary in order to keep productivity up and prepare for future growth. Kimberly and Tami updated the board on possibilities near the downtown area, particularly in the same building they are housed in now, but nothing has been solidified.

IV. Presentation: Kaitlin Felsted, STEM AC, Website and Marketing Updates

Kaitlin presented the newest updates to the websites and the recent growth of social media where her focus has been in order to gain a presence on the web. She introduced the board to the monthly newsletter and the ideas behind a STEM blog. Kaitlin also gave a brief update on the contests and the need to promote those through all of these media avenues.

V. Adjournment

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