

STEM Action Center Board | 2013

STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2013 • 3:00pm to 5:00pm
Goldman Sachs: 222 S Main St. 14th Floor, Salt Lake City

Members Present:	Jeff Nelson (Chair), Spencer P. Eccles (Vice Chair), Blair Carruth, Christine Kearn, Martell Menlove, Mark Openshaw, Bert VanderHeiden, Gene Levinzon, , Robert Brems, Stan Lockhart
Members Absent:	Brad Rencher
Staff:	Brian Farr, Sophia DiCaro, Vincent Mikolay, Carol George, Meredith Mannebach, Sue Redington, Jerry Jenson
Visitors:	Sara Brasiel, Sarah Young, Diana Suddreth, Jerrold Jensen, Brent Peterson, Amy Young, Quin Kendell

Welcome and Related Business

I. Approve Minutes

Jeff Nelson, STEM Action Center Board Chairman, called the meeting to order, welcomed the group and asked board members to approve the minutes from the September meeting.

MOTION: MARK OPENSHAW MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY GENE LEVINSON. THE MOTION WAS UNANAMOUSLY APPROVED.

II. FY BUDGET

- a) USHE's FY15 budget was approved by the Board of Regents, the amount approved is \$127,000,000. An amount of \$30,000,000 will be set for compensation purposes, approximately \$80,000,000 is mission based funding, and a portion of this amount will be spent in support of STEM related programs.
- b) UCAT's budget was also approved through the Board of Trustees; the requested amount was \$19,000,000 and will be spent across UCAT campuses.
- c) USOE's budget request was made in the amount of \$258,000,000 and submitted to the Governor's office. Of that amount, \$70,000,000 is to fund the anticipated incoming students to the educational system for the next year. \$188,000,000 is requested to be ongoing funds and \$70,000,000 is a one-time fund. Martell Menlove discussed several areas where the funds will be allocated to.

Chairman, Jeff Nelson, discussed the budget collaboration plan among STEM AC, USHE, UCAT and USOE, and inquired about what the unified budget plan should look like. Board Member, Martell Menlove, reported that the State Board of Education felt they needed to ask for their own funding for 8th grade math but it is decided that this will not be a duplication of what the STEM AC is attempting to achieve.

Vice Chair, Spencer Eccles, inquired about what needs to be accomplished as to establishing a budget request for the STEM AC and that it should be complimentary to what USOE is requesting. Martell Menlove reassured the board that there is no immediate conflict but there may be an issue later depending on if the funds are disbursed from the education fund.

It was agreed that there should be more interaction between the STEM AC and USOE at the board level and possibly have a representative from the STEM AC attend the State Board of Education meeting in November to present on what the STEM AC has accomplished to this point. As to the STEM AC budget, it was suggested by Vice Chair, Spencer Eccles, that the line items be established through a collaboration of the STEM Action Center and USOE to avoid any overlap in budget requests. GOED Deputy Director, Sophia DiCaro, noted a sense of immediacy of establishing a collaborative budget.

III. Legislative Process

Sophia DiCaro, GOED Deputy Director, discussed the legislative process and confirmed that GOED's budget request has been submitted and is pending the Governor's review.

IV. Fundraising Committee

Vince Mikolay, GOED Managing Director, talked about a temporary fundraising platform, which will need Board Member approval. The private sector fundraising goal is \$500,000 for FY15; this goal is attainable since there was already a collection of approximately \$300,000 from very limited fundraising activities. Vince announced that donations to the STEM AC are tax deductible. Board Member, Stan Lockhart, stated that IM Flash has donated \$150,000; with \$50,000 of those funds to be allocated to the media and marketing campaign. The rest (\$100,000) will be distributed to areas of interest, such as competitions, professional development, etc.

MOTION: STAN LOCKHART MADE A MOTION TO FORM A FUNDRAISING SUB-COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY BERT VANDERHEIDEN. THE MOTION WAS UNANAMOUSLY APPROVED.

MOTION: SPENCER ECCLES MADE A MOTION TO APPOINT STAN LOCKHART AS THE CHAIR OF THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE WITH BERT VANDERHEIDEN AS HIS CO-CHAIR, SECONDED BY CHRISTINE KEARL. THE MOTION WAS UNANAMOUSLY APPROVED.

Progress Report

a) Pilot Update

Meredith Mannebach, STEM Action Center Program Manager, gave a brief progress update on the school pilot. There were 4 schools that have dropped out of the pilot because of internal issues, such as; teacher resignation, new administration, etc. The number of schools currently participating in the pilot is 68.

Meredith reported that IM Flash donated 74 computers to the schools that could not participate due to the lack of technology in their schools. They are now participating in the program. There were 2 more schools that also needed technology and IM Flash offered to donate desktop computers but the schools ultimately needed laptops or iPads and declined the donation of desktop computers.

b) RFP Update

After many discussions with the State Purchasing Office, the cost model was established and RFP's were officially released. There are 2 RFP'S, one for middle school math and another for college readiness. The RFP application process will be open for 14 days on a website called BidSync. Once the RFP closes an assessment is conducted to make sure that they are within the guidelines and then it is sent to USOE for a curriculum review. According to the timeline, providers will be chosen in November and the technology will be ready in December. Board Members had some clarifying questions regarding the vendor selection.

A Board Member requested an update on the assessments; Dr. Sarah Brasiel, USU researcher, gave a quick update on the process of assessing the pilot. The student math interest survey was sent out to schools/teachers 2 weeks ago and will be conducted again after the students are exposed to the program.

Professional Learning/Quality Instruction Discussion

I. Pilot

Meredith Mannebach, STEM AC Program Manager, spoke about the potential Professional Learning/Quality Instruction pilot project. Meredith said that the STEM AC is committed to promoting teacher development, knowing that it leads to enhanced learning for our students. A few professional development providers have offered (free of cost), a short term professional development plan for teachers. The providers were asked to collaborate and create a blended model for this pilot. A board member suggested that an incentive program, such as certification, needs to be created for teachers to participate in professional learning.

II. Committee

MOTION: JEFF NELSON MADE A MOTION TO FORM A PROFESSIONAL LEARNING/HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL SUB-COMMITTEE AND TO APPOINT MARTELL MENLOVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THIS COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY ROBERT BREMS. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Committee Reports

I. College and Career Readiness

The committee is starting to engage in more conversation. They are focusing on the preparation levels in high school, ACT scores and GPA. A discussion ensued about the ACT test and its effect on math preparedness in college.

II. Instructional Technology

No update was discussed.

III. Media and Marketing

Focus groups have been held with students and parents, the results will be ready to share in a matter of weeks.

a) Camps and Competitions

Meredith Mannebach, STEM Action Center Program Manager, proposed a state-wide grant that students and teachers can apply for. These grants could be used for science project materials or for travel to/from competitions.

Adjournment