

STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2016 • 2:00pm

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

Members Present:	Jeffery Nelson, Norm LeClair, Reza Jalili, Bert VanderHeiden, Jared Haines, Blair Carruth, Syd Dickson, Stan Lockhart, Rich Nelson
Members Absent:	Gene Levinzon, Tami Pyfer, Val Hale, Jon Pierpont
Staff:	Tami Goetz, Sue Redington, Jenna Johnson, Kaitlin Felsted, Jackie Moynihan, Kellie Yates, Louis Nadelson, Lynn Purdin
Visitors:	Brent Peterson, Mike Snyder, Susan Eisenman

I. Welcome and Related Business

Jeff Nelson, STEM Action Center Board Chairman, called the meeting to order, and introduced and welcomed the group. Then Susan Eisenman from the Attorney General's Office briefed the Board on conflict disclosures as required by State law.

APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION: BLAIR CARRUTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY REZA JALILI. THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Chairman Jeff Nelson welcomes Sydnee Dickson and Jared Haines, and invites them to be sworn in as members of the STEM Action Center Board. Sydnee Dickson and Jared Haines take oath of office, and assumed roles as board members. Chairman Nelson then congratulated Jenna Lillywhite on her transition to part-time foundation work, and welcomes Jackie Moynihan as new Program Coordinator. Vatsala Kaul was introduced as new GOED STEM AC Liaison, and Dr. Louis Nadelson was introduced as the new Utah State University Research Evaluator.

II. Board Discussion

Dr. Tamara Goetz informed the board that progress was being made on the development of the STEM Foundation. She introduced Lee McCullough, pro bono attorney, who drafted the Foundation documents. Then the time was turned over to Susan Eisenman to explain the legalities of the process. Susan informed the board that after legal documents were signed a new foundation has five years to prove its worthiness. She also explained that donors should consider funding subdivisions of the foundation. She then thanked Dr. Goetz for her work and efforts to move the Foundation forward.

Dr. Goetz introduced Allison Spencer as the new Utah STEM Foundation Director. Allison expressed her excitement for the position and gratitude for both Dr. Goetz and Lee McCullough's hard work.

Dr. Goetz addressed the STEM Action Center's internal audit. She explained to the Board that the audit was taking place in an effort to find weaknesses in the STEM AC's programs and proactively mitigate concerns of the legislature.

Conversation then shifted to the future of the Student Fairs, Camps, and Competitions Grant. Dr. Goetz explained some of the issues that had occurred on the administrative side of the grant such as: student driven application process, survey done by student, but mentor (adult) receives the funding ,checks written to individuals, more liability for STEM AC, high volume of complaints/excuses from parents/mentors when applicant is not funded, despite a streamlined process, simple questions from applicants become time consuming, reimbursement process caters to those who can already front the funds. She emphasized this program was an extremely high audit risk.

Chairman Nelson opened conversation to the Board about the Student Grants. Rich Nelson entertained a motion to put a hold on the Student Grants and Sydnee Dickson seconded the motion. Chairman Nelson opened discussion on the motions. Rich Nelson asked for more evidence from previous years. The group unanimously approved the motion.

Dr. Goetz quickly updated the Board about the status of several other grants The STEM Action Center received. She discussed the Tesoro STEM Bus, Intermountain Healthcare grant, and highlighted the exciting new partnership with Hill Air Force Base.

Chairman Nelson thanked Dr. Goetz for her hard work and expressed his excitement for the multiple grants and then entertained a motion for adjournment, because of time restraints.

III. Adjournment

MOTION: JARED HAINES MOVED TO CLOSE THE MEETING, SECONDED BY NORM LECLAIR. THE MOTION WAS UNANAMOUSLY APPROVED.