

### STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes

August 30, 2017 • 2:00pm

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

<b>Members Present:</b>	Vance Checketts (by phone), Bert VanderHeiden, Tami Pyfer, Dave Woolstenhulme, Blair Carruth, Kathleen Riebe, Sydnee Dickson, Mark Sunday, Scott Nowlin, Mikal Ann Byrd
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Jon Pierpont, Rich Nelson, Val Hale
<b>Staff:</b>	Tami Goetz, Sue Redington, Kaitlin Felsted, Jackie Moynihan, Kellie Yates, Lynn Purdin, Clarence Ames, Abby Dowd, Lolly Bowler, Chuck Keeler, Brad Hunsaker
<b>Visitors:</b>	Brent Petersen, Melisa Stark, Allison Sturgeon, Shannon Ference

#### I. Welcome and Related Business

STEM Action Center Executive Director, Dr. Tamara Goetz, called the meeting to order. She asked that, since we have new board members, everyone introduce themselves. Once introductions were done, the new board members Mark Sunday, Scott Nowlin and Mikal Ann Byrd were officially sworn in. Tami asked if anyone would like to move to approve the June meeting minutes. Some errors were pointed out and edits suggested, which were noted. An edited version of the June minutes has now been posted to the website.

#### APPROVE JUNE MINUTES

**MOTION: DAVE WOOLSTENHULME MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY TAMI PYFER. THE MOTION WAS UNANAMOUSLY APPROVED.**

#### II. Board Discussion

Before the approval of the minutes, Tami turned a few minutes over to Vance Checketts for a brief discussion about the roles and responsibilities of board members. Tami first mentioned that she is appreciative of the contributions and direction that the board members offer to the STEM Action Center and that it is an important role. Vance touched on a few things, including some of the responsibilities listed. He pointed out responsibility 1B, strategically engaging industry and business entities, as a very important and ongoing role of the board members. He also mentioned responsibility 1E, giving direction to the STEM Action Center, as an important part of what the board does. He also spoke to some specific performance expectations in 1F and the financial role of the board. He asked that board note that when it talks about the STEM Foundation, it outlines specific things that cannot be done in regards to the foundation board which applies to the STEM board as well, including lobbying and legislative influence. Tami reiterated that the STEM Action Center asks for guidance when it comes to funding and various grant programs.

Tami Goetz then gave a presentation about the Computing Initiative. She talked about the various grants through Talent Ready Utah and UCAP that aren't necessarily specific to computing, but do include it. She passed out a document created by Lynn Purdin that maps out all of the computing grants that are available across the state, except for the STEM Action Center's Computing Partnership Grant because it is brand new. Tami asked that everyone take a

look at the map and see if there are any gaps in what funding programs are listed, if anything is missing or overlaps with other programs. Dr. Goetz presented some more information about the new Computing Partnership Grant. The main focus is for K-8 students, but other grade levels will be welcome as well. Sydnee Dickson, USBE, commended the document and the information it lists, and asked that there be some sort of indication on it that the computing programs listed are not inclusive of all of the efforts of USBE and technical colleges. It should be clear that the programs listed are supplemental to all of the initiatives and pathways that are already in place. Mark Sunday also chimed in to ask about providing information about private industry investments in schools that aren't specifically grants. There was discussion about how it would be beneficial to have an overall inventory of all of the programs and funding opportunities and how it can be helpful to look at programs that are already in place in order to identify gaps that need to be filled.

Discussion transitioned to preparation for the 2018 legislative session. Tami Goetz mentioned that the team is focusing on evaluation of outcomes with the projects that are already in place at the STEM AC and is not expecting any legislative requests this year. If there are any legislative asks in regards to Utah STEM Bus, it would be ideal to have industry take the lead. She opened it up to input from the board. Members of the board expressed that it would be helpful to have talking points in case they are asked what is going on with the STEM Action Center. Vance Checketts agreed that there needs to be some preparation and sharing of information. He suggested that in the next meeting, we review those talking points. It was suggested that a small print out of the STEM Action Center programs would be helpful. Kaitlin Felsted, Marketing Specialist, brought in a new program brochure to show to the board members.

Vance Checketts expressed that there should be discussion at some point about the STEM Action Center mission since there are so many new board members to see if there should be any changes made. For now, it is good and should be included in the talking points.

Tami Goetz turned the time over to Allison Spencer, STEM Foundation Director. Allison talked about the new STEM Foundation Board and emphasized that everything that the Foundation board decides on will be decided by the STEM AC board first. The Foundation board had an introductory meeting. There are 10 strong members, mostly representing industry. We have the official 501(c)(3) status, it took the IRS a year to get back with us on that. She showed a list of donations received up to this point. Allison also went over the in-kind donations that have been given. She discussed the foundation funding priorities: The Utah STEM Bus, Utah STEM Fest, STEM Scholarship Endowment, and Elementary STEM Show Assemblies. Kathleen Riebe gave feedback about STEM Fest as a teacher; and said that it is a fantastic event and the teachers and students love it.

Updates were then given on other STEM Action Center programs. Clarence Ames took a few minutes to speak to the K-12 Math Personalized Learning Pilot. He talked about how the point of the software is to cater lessons to the level of each student and improve learning and that there will be two new products being piloted in the 2017-2018 school year. Jackie Moynihan gave a brief overview of the STEM for Life/Super Tours program. The STEM for Life program was created with a grant received from IHC. The funding was used to host some teacher "Super Tours." They were free field trips to introduce teachers to STEM careers in Utah. There were 3 different tours, 14 industry sites visited and 75 teachers impacted. The sites were found mainly through cold calling and pitching to the companies the idea that these teachers are teaching

their future employees. Jackie also talked about the STEM Competition Grant. There used to be a grant opportunity called the Fairs, Camps and Competitions Grant, but there were some issues with how the funding was distributed. Tami Goetz explained that it's too risky to give money directly to students, since that creates an issue of accountability and tracking of funds. Jackie mentioned that the issue has been resolved by giving the Competition Grant to schools or districts and holding them accountable for tracking the use of the funds. The Competition Grant application is now open.

Kaitlin Felsted gave a quick update about the STEM Bus Ribbon Cutting event that was held on August 16, 2017. A Jordan High School robotics team brought their robot to cut the ribbon, which was a huge hit. There was great attendance and positive feedback about the event. Chuck Keeler spoke about the Utah STEM Bus and what events it has visited and the number of students that have been impacted by the program. Tami Goetz mentioned that Vance wanted an update on the SB-190/K-16 Computing Initiative. She talked about the funding background of that initiative and the 25K Jobs events that have been going on throughout the state.

Dr. Goetz wrapped up the meeting. Vance Checketts thanked everyone for attending; he looks forward to attending the next meeting in person. The meeting was unanimously adjourned.

### **III. Adjournment**