STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2015 • 9:30 am
STEM Action Center: 60 East South Temple, Ste 850 Salt Lake City

Members Present:	Jeffery Nelson, Gene Levinzon, Reza Jalili, Bert VanderHeiden, Rob Brems, Val Hale, Norm LeClair, Brad Smith, Rich Nelson, Jon Peirpont
Members Absent:	Blair Carruth, Tami Pyfer
Staff:	Tami Goetz, Sue Redington, Jenna Johnson, Kaitlin Felsted, Jackie Moynihan, Sarah Young, Kellie Yates, Lynn Purdin
Visitors:	Nicole Rettzlaisen, Joel Kongaika, Gretchen Brown, Jeff Downs, Connie Roubinet, Blair Carruth, Helen Hu, Raven Peterson, Greg Duce, Craig Pritchard, Angie Stallings, Sarah Brasiel, Brent Peterson

I.   Welcome and Related Business

Jeff Nelson, STEM Action Center Board Chairman, called the meeting to order, and introduced and welcomed the group. Chairman Nelson introduced the newest STEM Action Center Board Member, Jon Peirpont from the Department of Workforce Services. Mr. Peirpont was then sworn in.

APPROVE MINUTES
MOTION: BRAD SMITH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES, SECONDED BY GENE LEVINZON. THE MOTION WAS UNANAMOUSLY APPROVED.

II.   Presentation

Sarah Young presented to the board the new partnership between the State of Utah and Code.org. Computer science has become an important topic because of job growth and demand for a qualified computer science workforce. Code.org chose Utah to receive funding and access to their software for computer science curriculum. Sarah stressed the importance of access to computer science exposure and curriculum for students to pursue higher degrees and careers in the subjects.

A large part of the partnership is offering training and professional development in the subject of computer science, and can be broken down into three areas of opportunity for educators. For grades K-6, Code.org and the State of Utah are offering free one-day trainings. These trainings also include a stipend and a bag of activities teachers can use offline for computer science curriculum. For middle school teachers, an online week-long training and a stipend is offered upon completion of the course. This opportunity is limited, so the application process is competitive. For high school educators, there are two different training opportunities. Training existing teachers toward being able to offer "exploring computer science" and an AP course "Computer Science Principles." Completion of the training earns a stipend and this opportunity is also limited and competitive. Code.org, the Utah State Office of Education and the STEM Action Center are contributing to the teacher stipends. The common goal of these opportunities is to help build interest and competency in computer science in Utah schools. Future efforts include an educator endorsement in computer science.

Sarah concluded by talking about Hour of Code with the Utah Governor, and Code.org's generous donation to a local elementary to purchase technology. Goldman Sachs is also offering an Hour of Code at a local high school to promote these skills.

Rich Nelson, Board Member, stressed the importance of these skills for Utah jobs and the companies that already exist. Blair Carruth, Board Member, also stated that higher education is increasing their capacity to offer degrees in computer science and technology.

III.   **Presentation**

Rick Gaisford from the Utah State Office of Education presented on digital teaching and learning, a proposal to the legislature to assess technology use and availability in Utah schools. Rick presented this Master Plan to the Board. For those details, please see the attached plan. Superintendent Smith, Board Member, stated that this is a shift in the way initiatives are funded in Utah. Concerns include funding, application processes, and requirements for teachers/staff. Rick stated that this initiative is long term, and is meant to last many years until schools are able to supply their own technology. This funding, if approved, does not cover the entire cost of the program, and schools would need to supplement some funds in order to be successful.

IV.   **Board Discussion**

Dr. Tami Goetz began the discussion with a budget update for the STEM Action Center. The board discussed any extra/carry over funds and where the funding should be assigned, but no decision was made. Dr. Goetz then opened up the discussion of legislator involvement and the possibility of an audit in the near future. The Legislative Audit Office had questions about the budget of the STEM Action Center and felt the need for a limited-scope audit. This need must be approved through the Audit Subcommittee, which meets sometime this month. The STEM Action Center staff is preparing for this audit in positive ways and looking forward to improving any processes needed.

Dr. Goetz also gave an overview of past and present presentations to the Education Appropriations Subcommittee. The Board was updated on the STEM Action Center clean-up bill passing, which cleans up language and puts clarity on some requirements from previous bills.

Dr. Goetz then described the experience of the legislative site visit to Davis School District and what a success it was to involve the legislature in the Applied Science Grant and High School Certification Grant. Because this visit was so successful, it was also presented that another site visit would take place in Southern Utah (Washington and Iron County) in a week's time. This site visit will include southern Utah's senators and representatives as well as higher education partners and local superintendents.

Finally, Chairman Nelson encouraged the Board to think of a board member replacement for the currently empty seat.

V.   **Adjournment**
       MOTION: RICH NELSON MOVED TO CLOSE THE MEETING, SECONDED BY BRAD SMITH. THE MOTION WAS UNANAMOUSLY APPROVED.