

STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2014 • 3:00pm

Goldman Sachs offices: 222 S. Main Street, 14th floor, SLC

Members Present:	Robert Brems, Blair Carruth, Spencer Eccles, Gene Levinzon, Stan Lockhart, Martell Menlove, Jeffery Nelson, Tami Pyfer, Bert VanderHeiden (by phone)
Members Absent:	Jefferson Moss, Brad Rencher
Staff:	Meredith Mannebach, Sue Redington, Mitchell Jorgensen, Tami Goetz
Visitors:	Darrel L. Hammon, Ashley Nicholes, Susan Thackeray, Jeff Rogers, Sarah Brasiel, Taylor Martin, Sarah Young, Mary Shumway, Xioaotian Dai, May Cefler, Brent Petersen, Rich Nelson

Welcome and Related Business

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

I. Approve Minutes

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

II. Board Discussion**i. HB 150 Project Plan Drafts**

Meredith Mannebach provides a timeline for the next wave of technology for grades K-6 and gives a status update on the release of the RFP. It will be ready to implement in the next school year. Dr. Tami Goetz extends her gratitude towards all of our partners that have contributed to working on the CTE and STEM endorsements.

Sarah Young, USOE Science Specialist, informs the board that it is important for there to be strong communication between the districts and USOE so they can specifically work to meet the needs of their communities. Jeff Nelson reiterates that the higher education institutions will be the best to provide guidance to manage the time issue. Jeff also suggests higher ed. institutions using student teachers in partnership with the districts to cover some of the teachers' contract time in order to give them more time. Sarah Young responds saying that Canyons School District is currently operating on a similar model to provide professional development to the teachers with assistance from student teachers, however, it will depend on the communication between the districts and higher education institutions. Gene Levinson asked if other states are using the Utah STEM Action Center as an example and if they are taking action. Sarah Young says that Utah has a great lead on a national level.

Meredith explains that the districts will show what they want their professional development to look like.

Dr. Tami Goetz shares her positive experiences and feedback from the Legislature and feels that professional development will do very well in the districts because of the support it is receiving. Spencer Eccles, vice-chairman of the board, asks what the intent language says in the bill regarding PD and asks if policies need to be set to ensure that everything remains on task. Dr. Goetz says it is open to k-12 and is not tied to an endorsement; it must remain on target and she is confident that they have a clear direction. Spencer requests that Dr. Goetz restate what the intent for the funds given to the STEM Action Center is for professional development. Jeff Nelson requests that the scope within it be limited and believes that we should understand district needs versus giving them everything that they request. By managing the requests and creating a more defined scope it will be an advantage and will still allow some latitude for the districts; it will make it easier to show outcomes effectively if there is more definition.

ii. DWS Grant Project

Dr. Goetz provides a brief update of the project and the funds available. Bert Vanderheiden asks if the DWS grant will be managed by the STEM Action Center. Dr. Goetz clarifies saying that it will be jointly conducted by Jeff Nelson, Martell Menlove, and John Pierpont (DWS); and the STEM Action Center will be working directly with districts and will communicate with USOE. This project has been modeled after a similar UCAP model which has been very successful.

iii. Foundation Update

Meredith Mannebach informs the board that she, as well as Susan Eisenman, visited Canyons, Jordan, and Granite School Foundations, and the University of Utah Hospital Foundation to help form the STEM Action Center Foundation. Of all of the models they are most impressed with the University of Utah Hospital Foundation and hope to create a similar model for the STEM Foundation.

iv. Center Updates

a) Report on National U.S. News STEM Conference

By meeting with different STEM Centers across the nation Dr. Goetz believes that we are on the right trajectory with respect to funding the center and setting a vision. A weakness that was found was how the centers communicate, and there were no long-term goals set with projects.

b) Highlights from the Teacher Roundtable

Sue Redington shares the results of the meeting that she had with Comcast and local teachers with the goal to bring social engagement into the classroom. The teachers want a TED-like STEM talk; they would like a content library to be created on the STEM website to bring applied learning into their classrooms

quickly and without much research. The goal is to make this content available by the Fall of 2014.

c) **Math Pilot Scale-Up**

Meredith Mannebach, STEM Action Center Program Manager, informs the board of the positive response received by middle and high school applicants for the math pilot. The allotted amount of funding could not cover the costs for all of the schools so different cost models were created to ensure that each school is adequately served. The models were presented to the board. Jeff Nelson asks what the demographic distribution is and states the importance, legislatively, of representing a wide range of represented schools. Meredith says that the information was collected during the application process and can be provided at a later time. She also shares feedback from the schools regarding expectations and constraints with the technology. Schools will have no problem supplying enough computers, but they found that their greatest challenge is lack of time for proper instruction.

Stan Lockhart asks what activates a license, if it is a student logging onto the software for the first time or the school being assigned to it. Meredith responds that the license will activate when the school receives its assignment for one. Stan voices his concern that there will be schools that are not using the product making it unavailable to those who would use it. Meredith explains that the STEM AC and schools will be communicating frequently to ensure that they are using the product that was given to them. Stan then asks if the products are available for use at home as well as in the classroom. Meredith says that they are available both at home and school.

III. STEM Equity Pipeline Update

Susan Thackeray reminds the board that Utah was selected to participate in a project hosted by the National Science Foundation because of its performance. The Foundation will allow for Utah to develop a similar model to the project that will also be funded by the Foundation. The primary goal is to aim to close the gap in STEM related fields in the workforce. Susan and her team at Utah Valley University will be leading the program in Utah and provided a timeline and plan of action to the board.

Stan Lockhart asks how Susan and her team will address the dropout rate of students who take STEM classes in school. Susan responds that one of the main focuses of the grant is representing underserved and underrepresented populations by applying strategies to promote confidence within the students by supporting them. Stan suggests tutoring become more of an option to help in this effort.

IV. Closed Session

MOTION: PURSUANT TO THE OPEN AND PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT, I HEREBY MOVE TO CLOSE THE MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE CHARACTER, PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OR PHSYICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF AN INDIVIDUAL. THIS VOTE REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE OF THE BOARD. THE CLOSED MEETING SHALL BE HELD IN THE GOLDMAN SACHS OFFICES LOCATED AT 222 SOUTH MAIN STREE, FOURTEENTH FLOOR, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

RECORD THE NAME AND VOTE OF EACH MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC BODY BELOW:

Name of Member of Public Body	VOTE TO CLOSE MEETING
Rob Brems	Yes
Blair Carruth	Yes
Spencer Eccles	Yes
Gene Levinzon	Yes
Stan Lockhart	Yes
Martell Menlove	Yes
Tami Pyfer	Yes
Bert Vanderheiden	Yes
Jeff Nelson	Yes

V. Adjournment

MOTION: JEFF NELSON MOVES TO APPROVE THE STAFF TO WORK WITH SALARY NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000 TO DEVELOP POSITIONS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE ADDITIONAL WORK REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW BILL AND TO WORK OUT THE STRUCTURAL AND SALARY DETAILS OUTSIDE OF THE MEETING WITH SPENCER ECCLES AND TAMI GOETZ. SECONDED BY TAMI PYFER AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.