

# STEM Action Center Board | 2014

## STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2014 • 3:00pm

GOED: 60 E. South Temple, Third Floor, Salt Lake City, Utah

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<b>Members Present:</b>	Robert Brems, Spencer Eccles, Gene Levinzon, Stan Lockhart, Martell Menlove, Jeffery Nelson, Bert VanderHeiden, Tami Pyfer
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Blair Carruth, Brad Rencher, Jefferson Moss
<b>Staff:</b>	Tami Goetz, Sophia DiCaro, Meredith Mannebach, Sue Redington, Mitchell Jorgensen, Carol George, Brian Farr, Susan Eisenman
<b>Visitors:</b>	Sarah Brasiel, Taylor Martin, Justin Park, Dan Donahou, Scott Tasker, Abe Denzer, Michael Cox, Reza Jalili, Diana Suddreth, Ashley Nicholes, Karre Navare

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### Welcome & Approval of Minutes

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

#### I. Approve Minutes

**MOTION: STAN LOCKHART MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BERT VANDERHIEDEN AND WAS APPROVED. TAMI PYFER ASKED TO ABSTAIN FROM THE VOTE BECAUSE SHE WAS JUST RECENTLY APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR TO BE ON THE STEM ACTION CENTER BOARD AND WAS NOT AT THE LAST MEETING.**

#### II. Math Digital Learning Pilot Summary

Dr. Sarah Brasiel from Utah State University Research Lab, shares the data gathered from the pilot with the board, including student performance, teacher feedback, and the amount of donations. Tami Pyfer, STEM Action Center Board Member, asked how the upcoming year-end results will be compared to data from the previous year. Dr. Brasiel responded saying that Utah State University will work with the Utah State Office of Education on guiding the comparison of the gathered data by using translation formulas from similar studies.

Stan Lockhart, Board Member, asked for clarification regarding the pilot and whether it will continue to remain at no cost for the schools until the end of the remaining school year. Meredith Mannebach answered saying that it was originally supposed to end in December 2013, however, the STEM Action Center worked with the vendors to extend the pilot at no cost until the end of the current school year.

Meredith Mannebach, STEM Action Center Program Manager, notifies the board about the upcoming vendor fair that will be held from March 17-21, 2014. All of the vendors

that were awarded contracts to participate in the RFP have been invited to travel to different regions in the state to inform teachers about the software. Webinars will also be available to better inform the schools that are unable to attend the event. A variety of schools in different demographics, both rural and urban, will be visited.

Gene Levinson and Martell Menlove, Board Members, addressed concern that the teachers who did not volunteer for the pilot will not be trained in the math content, which will affect the overall impact of test scores for students as a whole. Dr. Brasiel clarified by saying that the teachers did not volunteer, the schools decided on participation. It is anticipated that the school districts that decided not to volunteer will rethink adopting the content for their curriculum after seeing the results from the pilot.

### **III. Progress Report**

#### **i. Legislative Update**

##### **a) HB150 Discussion and Overview**

Tami Goetz, STEM Action Center Executive Director, provided a summary of the current activity regarding HB150. Martell Menlove requests that, in line 334-335 of the bill, the Utah State Board of Education be recognized as a collaborator with the STEM Action Center in regards to licensing and endorsing teachers in the State of Utah.

#### **ii. Budget Overview**

Meredith Mannebach, STEM Action Center Program Manager, gives a general outline of the operational budget and informs the board of a conference that the STEM Action Center will be attending in Washington D.C on April 23, 2014. She also extended an invitation to the board to attend the upcoming vendor fair March 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. Spencer Eccles, Board Vice-Chair, addressed the importance of having a liaison, Mitchell Jorgensen, between the STEM Action Center and USOE and suggested that formal action be taken to recruit additional sources including the STEM Action Center to assist in funding the position. He then addresses the significant responsibility that the board has over the budget.

Meredith briefly explained different points shown within the budget highlighting the possibility of a STEM conference in Utah, the STEM website, and joining a national STEM organization. Tami Goetz expands on the subject of joining a national organization explaining the benefits of investing in a membership that renders more services at a lower cost.

**MOTION: SPENCER ECCLES MOTIONS THAT ANY DECISIONS REGARDING A TRADE ASSOCIATION OR MEMBERSHIP BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL WHICH WILL ENTAIL A DOCUMENT THAT PROVIDES REASON FOR OR AGAINST THE CHOSEN ASSOCIATION. THE MEMBERSHIPS SHOULD BE REVIEWED ANNUALLY AS FORMAL POLICY.**

**MARTELL MENLOVE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION IS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Meredith then addressed the unassigned portion within the budget and requested that those funds be used for strategic initiatives to help round out requirements from HB139. The primary focus will be on supporting existing programs, higher education and, within that, math remediation. Jeff Nelson, Board Chairman, requested that Sue Redington, STEM Action Center Program Coordinator, follow up on and provide further information to help the board understand the request at the next board meeting.

It was asked what the mechanism would be for grant selection and if it would be similar to the process used for student applications. Sue Redington replied saying that a review committee would be formed and it will be similar to the student model. She then shares that there have been a number of requests for sponsorship and suggests that as a possibility as well as issuing grants. It was suggested to set up the program in a way that allows private donations to help support sponsorships. Jeff Nelson, Board Chairman, requested that proposals be prepared for the next board meeting to allow for more consideration.

**MOTION: SPENCER ECCLES MOTIONS THAT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES BE WRITTEN AND PRESENTED TO THE BOARD BY THE STAFF FOR RATIFICATION, SECONDED BY ROBERT BREMS. THE MOTION IS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Jeff Nelson, Board Chairman, asks the board if monthly meetings are working for everyone's schedule. The board responded with positive feedback and that we should continue to have monthly meetings. Jeff Nelson then requests that the staff create and maintain a follow-up task list (in addition to the monthly minutes) to keep track of progress towards set commitments.

**iii. STEM Competition Grants**

Sue Redington, STEM Action Center Program Coordinator, presents an update on the grants given to students participating in STEM related competitions. Overall 293 applications were received and \$220,000 was awarded to a total of approximately 14,000 students.

**iv. Website Preview**

Sue Redington, STEM Action Center Program Coordinator, gave a brief overview and presentation of the newly created STEM Action Center website. The site will be available to the public within two weeks.

**v. How to respond to "STEAM"; addressing the Arts**

Tami Goetz, STEM Action Center Executive Director, briefly addressed the concern that has been voiced by teachers and legislators regarding the idea that STEM does not promote art education. Jeff Nelson states that is not the case and hopes to show how art

and science converge. Stan Lockhart, Board Chairman, indicated we can incorporate the arts in many ways. This concern can be addressed in the funds we use for applied learning.

**IV. Adjournment**

**MOTION: JEFF NELSON MOTIONS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY STAN LOCKHART. THE MOTION IS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**