

**STEM Action Center Board/Foundation Board Meeting Minutes**

August 26, 2020 • 2:00pm

Zoom Meeting

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**Members Present:** Vance Checketts, Jill Love, Jessica Gillmore, Jamie Morningstar, Mark Sunday, Scott Hansen, Scotty Nowlin, Syd Dickson, Tami Pyfer, Tim Miller, Sarah Lehman, Nate McDonald

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**Members Absent:** Mark Ripke

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**Staff:** Tami Goetz, Sue Redington, Melanie Shepherd, Becca Robison, Colleen Fisher, Julienne Bailey, Kellie Yates, Lynn Purdin, David Wicai, Allison Spencer, Clarence Ames, Jack Markman

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**Visitors:** Kat Potter, Scott Cheney, Kilo Zamora

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**I. Welcome and Related Business**

Vance Checketts called the meeting to order. Vance read the statement for electronic meetings, and then welcomed the new board members – Jamie Morningstar and Mark Ripke. Introduction of Jamie Morningstar. Tim Miller commented he would be retiring and moving to Henderson, Nevada. He will be leaving Mid-September and will be transitioning off the board. Approval of minutes from April and June – motion to approve by Tim Miller, second by Syd Dickson. Unanimous approval of minutes.

**II. Share Out:**

Mark Sunday gave his observation of what students gained prior to COVID, his observation was that width of curve spread out. Some thrived that were self-motivated. The difference between the ones who thrived and fell behind grew larger. Syd Dickson confirmed that the gap widened. Our state was lucky and most had access to computers. Syd Dickson also commented that broadband needs to be considered a utility and they are meeting with telecom providers to help with free or reduced cost. Jessica Gillmore commented that spring was hard on higher ed and that they responded very well. Learn & work program provided access to CARES dollars and awarded \$9 million to GOED's Talent Ready and higher institutions. Institutions did well. 188 applications were received for \$16 million and funded just under \$9 million and the rest for advertising. They are waiting for the governor to sign for another \$4.5 million to go through and fund more. Jessica Gillmore gave a link to the website in the chat and commented that there are tuition free programs for higher ed students.

**III. Board Discussion**

Sue Redington discussed the budget. In general, we underspent because of COVID – travel, personnel, etc. It appears that we are overspent on rent because the World Trade Center and the new space are absorbed into our 2020 budget, this will most likely have a carry forward. The moving costs were incurred to move into our new space. Math

Personalized Learning project had \$5,000,000. We only pay math providers for licenses used. Schools receive a portion of what they ask for and we spend every last penny we receive. Clarence Ames commented that this pays for a little over 1/3 of the state between 200,000 – 300,000 students. Over \$1,000,000 goes directly to LEA's for grants. Lynn Purdin has 27 grants for over 330 schools impacted by the computing grants. Sue Redington commented that the evaluation team will present at the next board meeting.

Scott Cheney presented a training on Utah Open & Public Meeting Act. He commented that amendment that passed this summer has electronic meeting requirements. Remember that your personal electronic devices with state information can be used against you, so please be careful with information and wording. Open meetings information is transparent. Do not text or email during meetings! This could have people influence other people's decisions.

STEM in Motion Team presentation. Julienne Bailey spoke about the Summer STEM Kits. She commented that we partnered with Comcast who donated \$5,000 to make these kits. There are Paint to Learn, Build to Learn and Move to Learn (focusing on early math skills) Kits. Also, Insect Hotel Kits were created with Clever Octopus. Julienne went over the distribution and evaluation of kits. The first 100 kits went to a Tooele school to all their kindergarten & first grade classes. There were comments made in the chat by Sarah Lehman, Vance Checketts and Jamie Morningstar of how great these hands-on activities are great and incorporating STEM into all areas of life. STEM is proactive, thoughtful and impactful. Vance Checketts asked to pause and introduce the STEM in Motion team and thanked them for all their hard work. Jamie Morningstar commented on how these kits being used helps these kids to learn independently. Tami Goetz commented that we are planning to incorporate these kits with Girl Scout Daisies. Colleen explained what the team would be doing now that school has started and not being able to go into the classrooms. The SIM team visited 60-70 schools each year and impacted about 10,000 students with 12 different curriculum. The plans for this school year are curriculum kits that schools can check out for a 2-week period. Becca Robison went over the PPD Projects Projects – connected and enabled over 100 makers, over 5,000 shields donated (LEA, library, industry & local makers), \$20,000 Micron donation. Partnership with American Indian Services (6 Ender 5 + printers and 120 rolls of filament donated). Supplying all of their six sites and STEM AC is providing training & technical support. If they use all of their filament without problems they could make 20,000 masks. STEM is partnering with Iron County & SUU STEM Center for kits to teach kids the importance of cleaning, mask wearing and washing hands. STEM is supplying a button maker to each Iron County school so kids can make a button of themselves smiling. Vance commented on his experience with a 3D printer.

Kilo Zamora went through the strategic planning process and the set of tools designed for in-person interviews and online interviews to get feedback. STEM AC staff is running focus group interviews. David Wicai talked about his focus group with Blair Carruth & Jessica Gillmore. Feedback that was given was based on our current pandemic situation. Jessica Gillmore commented that it was a lovely conversation, talked about challenges with pandemic, programming at USHE that may affect STEM. Jessica appreciated the time to talk in the focus group and sees benefits to these focus

groups. Kellie Yates has done focus group with iSSEE groups – she commented that the process was really great. Allison Spencer commented that Micron has been a great partner, assumed they would know everything about us, but during the focus meeting they did not know all we are doing. Micron suggested more of a precedence to have board member mention these things. David Wicai commented that we have developed a state-wide survey that we want feedback from everyone in the state. He encouraged board members to share this survey with everyone to get feedback from a wide variety of people. Vance Checketts commented that we need to make STEM noise, Sarah Lehman commented serving as a connector of people and opportunities. Kilo Zamora commented that we are hoping to wrap up focus groups by September.

Vance asked if anyone had any questions. Vance commented we would catch Jamie up. Thanked her for her comments. Vance commented that the topics we did not get to we could communicate via email.

**IV. Next meeting will be November 18, 2020. Meeting Adjourned at 4:00 pm.**