

STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2024 at 2pm

Hybrid Meeting at 6440 S. Millrock Dr., Suite 500, Salt Lake City and via Zoom

Members Present: Mark Sunday, Sarah Reale, Vance Checketts, Kennedy Mpungu, Donna Law, Rebecca Banner, Aniza Brown, Sydney Dickson, Jamie Morningstar, Kat Potter, Vic Hockett

Members Absent: Andrea Ibanez Kuntz and Chiao-ih Hui

Staff: Tami Goetz, Sue Redington, Becca Robison, Julienne Bailey, Allison Spencer, Kellie Yates, Clarence Ames, Gina Muhlestein, Emmett Speed, Jana Alexander, Shelby Averett, Viena Zeitler

Visitors: Mary Westover of West Desert Elementary; Charlotte Whiteside, Melody Paulk, Victoria Marsh, Anna Bessesen and Tommy Burnett from the SEI Cohort 1

I. Welcome and Related Business

Vance Checketts

The Board was welcomed by hosts Jeanette Bennet and Lew Cramer. Vance Checketts then called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

a. Approve April meeting minutes

Checketts requested approval of minutes from April 10, 2024 meeting. Donna Law motioned to approve the minutes and Sydney Dickson seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

b. Introductions – The Board introduced themselves as there are several new members.

c. Swear in (Rebecca Banner and Sarah Reale) – Zeitler issued the oath of office at the end of the meeting for both Reale and Banner.

d. Introduce Interns – Lynn Reichert introduced Sarah Alkhateeb

e. Budget review

Sue Redington

Redington reviewed the budget summary with the Board and gave an overview of expenses expected before the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Discussion ensued and Redington fielded questions and gave clarification.

II. Board Discussion

a. STEM Education Innovators (30 minutes)

Kellie Yates and guests

Yates gave a deep overview of the SEI 5-year program pilot's first year (Cohort 1), as well as showing where this program plans to accomplish with this cohort over the next 4 years. Yates then introduced Charlotte Whiteside, Victoria Marsh, Melody Paulk, Anna Bessesen, and Tommy Burnett to present on their challenges and achievements. Quite a bit of discussion with the Board ensued. The elementary cohort starts in 2026.

b. Green Our Planet Hydroponics (30 minutes)

Lynn Reichert and guest

Reichert gave an overview of the hydroponics program with Green our Planet. Upcoming for this program will be a pilot youth farmers market in April 2025 in partnership with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, 4-H, and Wasatch Community Gardens. Reichert then introduced Mary Westover to talk about how much the hydroponics program has positively impacted West Desert Elementary and its community.

c. STEM Foundation Updates (15 minutes) Allison Spencer
Spencer introduced the Board to the Foundation's Industry Coalition and what work they have been doing in support of the STEM Action Center, as well as upcoming changes to how the Foundation will be handling donations separate from State monies. Spencer then reported on the great partnership with US Synthetic, recounted the success of Volunteer Day on April 26 with Tinker Totes made and delivered to Utah Foster Care, as well as putting out an ask for prizes for the upcoming Best Practices conference. Spencer also reminded the Board that we start planning in June/July of 2024 for Week of STEM in November of 2024. Spencer will include the STEM Action Center Board in the invite for the next Industry Coalition meeting.

d. Intern program (10 minutes) Lynn Reichert
Reichert gave a brief recap of our interns this year.
Emma Casey – from AMES high school and has been with us for 1.5 years and plans to continue working with us while in college
Verene Huang and Isha Madey – also AMES high schoolers that we had in spring of this year
Sarah Alkhateeb – is an International Fellow from Jordan for 6 weeks in April 25-June 6
We expect another Fellow in September 2024 – more to come
Summer BoA interns – we will be hosting 3 interns (Jacklyn Wei, Anhkhhoa Le, and Valentina Rodriguez) from this competitive program this summer
AMES, UVU, and UofU all want to send us college interns
Goetz spoke to the Board about how the structure around the intern and volunteer programs were all developed by Reichert and Muhlestein. Both programs are scalable, provide value to the participants and our staff, and provide valuable end results to the development of programs. Discussion ensued with Lynn providing clarification or answering questions.

III. Meeting Adjourned at 3:56 pm.

Vance Checketts

As there was no further business, Checketts adjourned the meeting at 3:56 pm. The next meeting will be on October 2, 2024, at 2pm, location TBD.