

**STEM Action Center Board Meeting Minutes**

October 15, 2025 · 2:00 PM

Hybrid Meeting

Utah STEM Action Center, 3848 S West Temple, Suite 105, South Salt Lake, UT 84115

<b>Members Present:</b>	Vance Checketts, Chiao-ih Hui, Mark Sunday, Kat Potter, Jamie Morningstar, Andrea Ibanez-, Kennedy Mpungu, Aniza Brown, and Sarah Reale
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Rich Nye, Donna Law, Rebecca Banner, Molly Hart, Vic Hockett
<b>Staff:</b>	Tami Goetz, Sue Redington, Becca Robison, Lynn Reichert, Julienne Bailey, Allison Spencer, Kellie Yates, Clarence Ames, Jana Alexander, Gina Powell, Viena Zeitler
<b>Visitors:</b>	Dr. Kathy Einhorn

**I. Welcome and Related Business**

- a. Approve meeting minutes Vance Checketts  
As there was no quorum for this meeting, minutes approval will happen over email.
- b. Board STEM share outs Vance Checketts  
Third best state for AI – Mark Sunday
- c. Budget review Sue Redington  
Redington gave a report of the budget for the second quarter and reminded members how we spend monies during the fiscal year, as well as rollover monies that have been added back to budgets moving into Q2.

**II. PRESENTATIONS & BOARD DISCUSSION**

- a. Strategic Plan update (20 minutes) Tami Goetz  
The strategic plan is on track, with focus groups for higher education nearing completion. The next phase will involve K-12 partners (Public schools, some charter schools, and even some of the larger home school groups). Mark Sunday introduced "Alpha School," an AI-based personalized learning model, which is gaining traction in Utah.
  - i. USBE connections  
Goetz reported a potential disconnect with the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) team was identified during the early focus groups. In response, a spreadsheet has been created to document collaborations with USBE across various departments, including early learning, childhood development, and STEM initiatives like the State STEM Collaborative (SSC) and the STEM Advocacy Group.  
Other state initiatives alignment  
Goetz also shared that we have started a spreadsheet to show how the STEM Action Center is already engaging with other government departments that align with state initiatives by leveraging resources with local and national organizations. Need to formalize where we already work with state initiatives.

- b. AmeriCorps grant update
  - i. Innovation Hub (10 minutes) Becca Robison/Gina Powell
    - o Robison gave an overview of the AmeriCorps national program and then gave an overview of how our program bounced back after the termination in April 2025 of the program. The new grant cycle, which was awarded in September, focuses on increasing STEM interest, identity, and skill for all participants, with a special focus on low-income students. Future plans include a program evaluation and the creation of an online maker hub through the UMAKE program.
  - ii. Math Mentors (10 minutes) Clarence Ames/Jana Alexander

Ames gave an overview of the Math Mentors program and explained some of the research they used to create the Math Mentor program. The program emphasizes the power of adult connections in math education, and a case study from Riverdale Elementary in Weber School District showed a school-wide positive shift in math attitudes and proficiency due to the presence of two Math Mentors.
- c. STEM Foundation update Allison Spencer

Spencer presented on the health of the Foundation to date, highlighting what projects are ear-marked for donations. Then Spencer gave an update to the Board regarding STEM Fest. Texas Instruments Foundation recently awarded the STEM Action Center with a 3-year grant for STEM School Designation with a "Train the Trainer" component to give professional development support. The Kahlert Foundation also funded this program. Intermountain Health has provided a donation to hydroponics to make a sustainable model to help the communities utilizing the "Training the Trainer" model. Spencer also let the Board know they are welcome to the Foundation Board and Coalition meetings to learn more about what the Foundation is doing.
- d. Board meeting structure (15 minutes) Vance Checketts

Goetz and Checketts opened a discussion about our Board and meeting structure, making sure we are utilizing the most efficient use of time and resources. Do we have a good balance between external and internal issues and programs? Limit the time and topics – shorter meetings more often, like twice a quarter, focusing on one or two topics only. In response to what the Board could do for the STEM Action Center, Goetz let the Board know that grant application reviewers are especially needed. Also, programmatic brainstorming, mySTEM help, STEM school site visits, and being a part of the program design/planning committee for the new Ebay/Canyons building are all things where the Board could be utilized.
- e. Miscellaneous (10 minutes) Tami Goetz

Goetz and Checketts will pull together a new range of dates for the calendar year. New vodcast in partnership with STEMConnector, by educators for educators – Goetz will send the link to the Board.

### III. **Meeting Adjourned at 3:48 pm.**

As there was no further business, Goetz adjourned the meeting at 3:48 pm