

**STEM Action Center
Board Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2024 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
STEM Action Center Conference Room**

Members Present: Ed Atienza, Allison Duman, Wendi Secrist, Jennifer Jackson, Dee Mooney, Steve Christiansen, Jake Reynolds

Staff Present: Katie Bösch-Wilson, Sarah Howard, Morgan Howard, Francine McGrew, Matthew Reiber, Nate Dean, Halle Holdaway

Call to order

Jennifer Jackson called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm. Tabled approval of April meeting minutes till next meeting.

Review of Board appointments and positions

Wendi nominated Jenn to continue as chair. Jenn accepted. Ed seconded the nomination. Nomination passed unanimously.

Dee nominated Ed to continue as vice chair, Ed seconded, Steve seconded the nomination. Nomination passed unanimously.

Jenn remarked on the importance of the advisory board of the STEM Action Center.

Board Updates

Matthew gave an update that Dave Hill had resigned from the Board of Education, and advised that the governor's office would be working to nominate another Board member. Jad's position would be refilled, and Dee's would be renewed.

Jenn shared with Matthew that Board members would be happy to be assigned to working groups as needed.

Workforce Development Council Presentation

Wendi gave a presentation titled "Idaho's Talent Pipeline Management Initiative." The initiative originated with US Chamber of Commerce, viewing workforce from the supply chain perspective. The initiative views the supply chain by groups of related industries, reviews occupation demand projections, and identifies competencies required for in-demand jobs. TPM started in Idaho in 2020 with a partnership Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry to train 30 TPM facilitators throughout Idaho. Due to COVID, this training had to be moved online and faced several roadblocks. In 2022, WDC funded 5 regional host organizations and 2 statewide host organizations to expand TPM training across the state. Today, 5 of the 7 hosts have fully bought into TPM and are continuing to receive partial funding from WDC. The remainder of the funding is provided by the hosts themselves.

Jenn praised WDC's work on TPM and highlighted the value of the program. Steve asked if WDC has had trouble with engagement from employers. Wendi confirmed that there are always

employers that struggle to find the bandwidth to engage in collaborative efforts, but that the workforce shortage was not projected to end anytime soon. Dee and Jenn each commented that the number of initiatives could contribute to lower employer buy-in. Dee also added that TPM seems to have had greater buy-in than other initiatives, which may encourage greater participation moving forward. Allison offered Idaho Department of Education's engagement on TPM as well. Jenn commented that trades didn't seem to be specifically called out by the TPM. Wendi agreed and said that since the TPM is employer-driven, it focuses on what the local employers need.

Agency Updates

Matthew shared that the new director should be shared within the next week or two. He asked that the next Board meeting take place Tuesday, September 10th and committed to gather feedback on that date in his follow-up email.

STEM School Designation Process

Nate shared the draft materials for the updated STEM School Designation Process and requested feedback, as well as feedback on the level of detail that should be brought forward to the State Board of Education. Jenn encouraged Nate to move forward with high-level information only and allow granularity to be addressed on the individual level. Nate outlined the proposed process and shared that all schools that have expressed interest in STEM designation have been brought into the loop about the expected process moving forward. Jenn praised the inclusion of stakeholders and encouraged that approach to continue. Ed asked if interested schools were required to undergo Educurious training to submit their intent notification. Nate assured him that Educurious project-based learning training would not be a requirement. Jenn asked if any schools had reached the point of renewing their STEM Designation. Nate shared that one had started the process of redesignation, and another had chosen not to redesignate. Jenn asked if there was a way to gather data from STEM designated schools to show how STEM designation affected student outcomes. Katie shared that STEMAC hasn't been able to safely hold that sort of data in the past, but that we should be able to do so moving forward. Nate outlined the remaining components of the proposed process. Jenn asked that the Board review the rubric and scoring structure independently and return feedback to Nate. Dee and Jenn asked for further details on the inclusion of an industry professional in the review process.

Adjournment

Jenn and Dee suggested an additional meeting in August. Katie summarized the updates from Sarah. Jenn opened the floor for public comment; none came forward. Jenn adjourned the meeting at 3:18 pm