

Minutes of the STEM Committee Meeting

Ohio Department of Education
25 South Front Street,
Columbus, OH 43215
Conference Room B004
June 6, 2016

A meeting of the STEM Committee established in Ohio Revised Code 3326.02 was held on June 6, 2016, at 1 p.m. at the offices of the Ohio Department of Education.

Committee members in attendance:

- Dr. Lonny J. Rivera, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ohio Department of Education;
- Mr. Matt Peters, Assistant Director, Ohio Development Services Agency;
- Dr. Rebecca Watts, Associate Vice Chancellor of P-16 Initiatives, Ohio Department of Higher Education;
- Dr. Tom Schwieterman, VP, Clinical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, Midmark Corporation, Designee for the Ohio Senate.

Not present:

- Mr. Stephen Lyons, EVP, The Columbus Partnership, Designee for the Ohio House of Representatives.

Also present were:

- David Burns, Director, Battelle STEM Innovation Networks - Ohio STEM Learning Network;
- Buddy Harris, Director, Office of Innovation, Ohio Department of Education;
- Sheila Vitale, Assistant Legal Counsel, Ohio Department of Education;
- Holly Lavender, STEM Education Lead, Ohio Department of Education.

I. Call to order:

Dr. Lonny J. Rivera called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.
Minutes were recorded by Holly Lavender.

II. Welcome and introductions:

Committee members and others present introduced themselves.

III. Process overview for STEM designation:

Dr. Rivera provided a brief overview of the process, including:

- Establishment of the committee and criteria for proposals for STEM designation are outlined in ORC 3326:
 - The committee considers recommendations from the Ohio STEM Learning Network when approving proposals
 - Criteria include (not limited to):
 - Evidence of a rigorous, project-based curriculum that emphasizes science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
 - Includes the arts and humanities;
 - Incorporates scientific inquiry and technological design;
 - (David Burns from OSLN will provide more detail).
- There are 10 schools seeking approval for STEM designation today. The committee will discuss and make a determination for each application separately.

IV. Approval of minutes:

Minutes from the May 21, 2015, meeting were sent to committee prior to the meeting.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman moved to **Approve** the minutes from the May 21, 2015, meeting of the STEM Designation Committee, seconded by Mr. Matt Peters.

The **motion carried**.

V. Ratification of final approvals for 2015 proposals approved with conditions:

Buddy Harris and Sheila Vitale provided a brief explanation. Three schools were approved with conditions for STEM designation in May 2015: Collins Career Technical Center; Stebbins High School Career Tech Academy; and Tri-State STEM-M School Collaborative. The committee has since received responses to the conditions from each of these schools, and the schools have each been notified that they have been approved for STEM designation. Because the committee has not had an opportunity to reconvene since the May 2015 meeting, the committee will now ratify each approval made via remote voting, effective on the date of the approval letter previously sent to the school.

A. *STEM Academy of Lawrence County at Collins Career Technical Center*

Dr. Lonny Rivera moved and Dr. Tom Schwieterman seconded the motion to **ratify the approval** of STEM designation for the STEM Academy of Lawrence County at Collins Career Technical Center, effective July 8, 2015.

Roll Call: Dr. Rivera – Yes, Dr. Watts – *abstain*, Mr. Peters – *abstain*, Dr. Schwieterman – Yes
The **motion carried**.

B. *Stebbins High School Career Tech Academy*

Dr. Tom Schwieterman moved and Dr. Lonny Rivera seconded the motion to **ratify the approval** of STEM designation for the Stebbins High School Career Tech Academy, effective June 26, 2015.

Roll Call: Dr. Rivera – Yes, Dr. Watts – *abstain*, Mr. Peters – *abstain*, Dr. Schwieterman – Yes
The **motion carried**.

C. *Tri-State STEM-M School Collaborative*

Note: There is one change to the application and that is the opening date of the school – the school will now open in 2017.

Dr. Lonny Rivera moved and Dr. Tom Schwieterman seconded the motion to **ratify the approval** of STEM designation for the Tri-State STEM-M School Collaborative effective June 26, 2015, **and to approve the extension of the opening date to 2017**.

Roll Call: Dr. Rivera – Yes, Dr. Watts – *abstain*, Mr. Peters – *abstain*, Dr. Schwieterman – Yes
The **motion carried**.

VI. Updates from the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN)

David Burns from Battelle Education represented the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN). He gave a brief presentation to the committee and attendees, describing the process used by the OSLN team to evaluate proposals for STEM designation.

VII. Discussion and resolutions to approve, approve with conditions, or disapprove applications for STEM designation:

A. *St. Gabriel School*

Recommendation from OSLN (David Burns): The school appears to have the right people at the table to support good curriculum. Approval recommended.

Dr. Rebecca Watts moved and Mr. Matt Peters seconded the motion to **Approve** the application for STEM designation from St. Gabriel School.

Roll Call: Dr. Rivera – Yes, Dr. Watts – Yes, Mr. Peters – Yes, Dr. Schwieterman – Yes
The **motion carried**.

B. Valley STEM+ME² Academy

Note: This school was approved for STEM designation in 2014. The school submitted an amended proposal for approval by the committee.

Committee discussion: The amended proposal shows a change in location of the school to the Mahoning County Educational Service Center and an opening date of fall 2016.

Mr. Matt Peters moved and Dr. Tom Schwieterman seconded the motion to **Approve** the amended proposal for STEM designation from Valley STEM+ME² Academy.

Roll Call: Dr. Rivera – Yes, Dr. Watts – Yes, Mr. Peters – Yes, Dr. Schwieterman – Yes
The **motion carried**.

C. Linden McKinley STEM Academy

Recommendation from OSLN (David Burns): This is a reapplication for designation. The application shows that the partnerships are well-defined and broad-based. The curriculum shows evidence of planning, but it is not clear what the curriculum is going to be. Approval with Conditions recommended.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman also expressed concern regarding curriculum development and asked how the school would develop the curriculum around the STEM philosophy.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman moved and Dr. Rebecca Watts seconded the Motion to **Approve with Conditions** the application for STEM designation from Linden McKinley STEM Academy.

Conditions:

Need clarification on how the curriculum will be developed. OSLN will provide some oversight (site visits, assistance with curriculum development), with follow-up checks at three, six and nine months.

Roll Call: Dr. Rivera – Yes, Dr. Watts – Yes, Mr. Peters – Yes, Dr. Schwieterman – Yes
The **motion carried**.

D. Mad River Middle School

Recommendation from OSLN (David Burns): An interesting approach, in that local businesses are coming in to work with projects. The inclusion of Wright State and Teach for America suggests a creative approach to staffing to find what works. All of the pieces are there for curriculum. Approval recommended.

Dr. Rivera noted that he had visited the school at an open house and was very impressed.

Dr. Rebecca Watts moved and Mr. Matt Peters seconded the motion to **Approve** the application for STEM designation from Mad River Middle School.

Roll Call: Dr. Rivera – Yes, Dr. Watts – Yes, Mr. Peters – Yes, Dr. Schwieterman – Yes
The **motion carried**.

E. *Springfield High School*

Recommendation from OSLN (David Burns): Interesting partnerships that are well defined and broad-based. Staffing is a strong component of the application – staff are in place and experienced. The curriculum appears to already be in place rather than in the planning phase. Approval recommended.

Dr. Rebecca Watts moved and Mr. Matt Peters seconded the motion to **Approve** the application for STEM designation from Springfield High School.

Roll Call: Dr. Rivera – Yes, Dr. Watts – Yes, Mr. Peters – Yes, Dr. Schwieterman – Yes
The **motion carried**.

F. *St. Bernard School*

Recommendation from OSLN (David Burns): In regards to curriculum – note that it is a very small school. The application seems to be based more on projects than on a whole-school approach. Not sure if there is enough staffing to support an ambitious program. Partnerships are not strongly evident (other than NASA). Disapproval recommended.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman noted that he was impressed with the work the school had done with available resources. Dr. Rebecca Watts encouraged the school seek out possible post-secondary partnerships.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman moved and Dr. Lonny Rivera seconded the motion to **Disapprove** the application for STEM designation from St. Bernard School **but that OSLN would provide support to the school**.

Roll Call: Dr. Rivera – Yes, Dr. Watts – Yes, Mr. Peters – Yes, Dr. Schwieterman – Yes
The **motion carried**.

G. *St. Vincent DePaul Parish School*

Recommendation from OSLN (David Burns): The partnerships are well defined, and an advisory board already is in place. The curriculum is aspiring and shows evidence of strong planning. Staffing is a strong point. Approval recommended.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman noted that the school had submitted a very strong proposal.

Mr. Matt Peters moved and Dr. Tom Schwieterman seconded the motion to **Approve** the application for STEM designation from St. Vincent DePaul Parish School.

Roll Call: Dr. Rivera – Yes, Dr. Watts – Yes, Mr. Peters – Yes, Dr. Schwieterman – Yes
The **motion carried**.

H. *Dayton Early College Academy – DECA High School*

Recommendation from OSLN (David Burns): The partnerships are well defined and broad-based. The curriculum demonstrates multiple STEM pathways, with emphasis on the arts. The curriculum is well-thought out and well-defined. Staffing is a strong point. Approval recommended.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman noted that the curriculum document was well thought out.

Dr. Rebecca Watts moved and Dr. Matt Peters seconded the motion to **Approve** the application for STEM designation from Dayton Early College Academy – DECA High School.

Roll Call: Dr. Rivera – Yes, Dr. Watts – Yes, Mr. Peters – Yes, Dr. Schwieterman – Yes
The **motion carried**.

I. *Dayton Early College Academy – DECA Prep*

Recommendation from OSLN (David Burns): The partnerships are well defined and broad-based. The curriculum demonstrates multiple STEM pathways, with emphasis on the arts. The curriculum is well-thought out and well-defined. Staffing is a strong point. Approval recommended.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman moved and Dr. Lonny Rivera seconded the motion to **Approve** the application for STEM designation from Dayton Early College Academy – DECA Prep.

Roll Call: Dr. Rivera – Yes, Dr. Watts – Yes, Mr. Peters – Yes, Dr. Schwieterman – Yes
The **motion carried**.

J. *OAK Leadership STEM-M School*

Recommendation from OSLN (David Burns): The application indicates the designation is for Fiscal Year 2018. The governing board is not totally clear. The curriculum is not totally clear. There may not be enough students to support staffing. Partnerships are not totally clear. Operational costs are not clear. Disapproval recommended but suggesting assistance from OSLN in preparing a proposal for FY18 to re-present to the committee next year.

Representatives from the school noted that the school is very small but has a large impact due to the high-needs community that it serves. The school made a request to the committee that designation be granted for FY17.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman moved and Mr. Matt Peters seconded the motion to **Disapprove** the application for STEM designation from OAK Leadership STEM-M School **but to support working with OSLN to complete and re-present a new application next year for FY18**.

Roll Call: Dr. Rivera – Yes, Dr. Watts – Yes, Mr. Peters – Yes, Dr. Schwieterman – Yes
The **motion carried**.

VIII. **Final discussion and next meeting:**

Buddy Harris and Sheila Vitale provided an explanation of the protocol for final approval of amended applications and applications approved with conditions. Dr. Lonny Rivera provided a few closing remarks.

IX. **Adjournment:**

Dr. Lonny Rivera moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Matt Peters. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.