

## STEM Committee Meeting Minutes

Ohio Department of Education  
25 South Front Street,  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Conference Room 102  
Sept 29, 2017

*A meeting of the STEM Designation Committee established in Ohio Revised Code 3326.02 was held on Sept 29, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. at the offices of the Ohio Department of Education.*

### **Committee members in attendance:**

- Dr. Tom Schwieterman (Chair), VP, Clinical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, Midmark Corporation, Appointed by the Ohio Senate.
- Mr. Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ohio Department of Education;
- Mr. Matt Peters, Assistant Director, Ohio Development Services Agency (designee for David Goodman);
- Ms. Jessica Mercerhill, Senior Director of Educator Preparation, Ohio Department of Higher Education (designee for John Carey).

### **Not present:**

- Mr. Stephen Lyons, EVP, The Columbus Partnership, Appointed by 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;
- Holly Lavender, STEM Education Lead, Ohio Department of Education;
- Annalies Corbin, PAST Foundation;
- Ryan Burgess, Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation;
- Kirk Koennecke, Graham Local Schools;
- Brian Coffey, Reynoldsburg City Schools;
- Dustin Pyles, Vaza Consulting;
- Tricia Moore, EnvisionEdPlus;
- John Burkhart, IST/RAMTEC;
- Gabe McCready, IST/RAMTEC;
- Lauren Monowar-Jones, Joint Education Oversight Committee;
- Andrea Zaph, Collins Career-Technical Center;
- Jim Howard, Collins Career-Technical Center;
- Susan Zelman, Ohio Department of Education;
- Sheli Smith, PAST Foundation;
- Dana Letts, Chillicothe City Schools

**I. Call to order:**

Dr. Tom Schwieterman called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.  
Minutes were recorded by Holly Lavender.

**II. Approval of the Agenda:**

A tentative agenda was sent to the committee prior to the meeting.  
Ms. Jessica Mercerhill moved to **Approve** the agenda as written, seconded by Mr. Matt Peters.  
The **motion carried**.

**III. Welcome and introductions:**

Mr. Paolo DeMaria and Dr. Tom Schwieterman welcomed all attendees, and the committee members introduced themselves. Dr. Schwieterman provided a brief introduction describing the importance of the committee and its role in STEM education. Buddy Harris provided a brief overview of the meeting.

**IV. Approval of minutes:**

Minutes from the May 31, 2017, meeting were sent to committee for review prior to the meeting.  
Mr. Matt Peters moved to **Approve** the minutes from the May 31, 2017, meeting of the STEM Committee, seconded by Ms. Jessica Mercerhill.  
The **motion carried**.

**V. Review of Linden McKinley progress toward meeting conditions for approval:**

David Burns from the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) provided an update on the progress of Linden McKinley in meeting conditions for full approval of designation. The school had been working with Marcy Raymond to fully develop their STEM curriculum, and now has a full time STEM director.

Mr. Burns noted that OSLN site visits for all the schools approved with conditions at the March meeting have also been completed. (These schools were approved for designation, conditional upon a satisfactory site visit from OSLN to confirm implementation.)

**VI. Late assurances for a STEM School**

Holly Lavender explained that by law, the Department is required to inform the committee if a designated STEM school does not meet a requirement of ORC Chapter 3326. One STEM School, MC<sup>2</sup> STEM High School, did not submit the required annual assurances in ORC 3326.23 by the deadline of 10 days prior to the opening of the school. Ms. Lavender explained that in her communication with the school, there was a miscommunication at the local level and the assurances form was delayed in the school's district central office. An email submitted by the school indicated that the school had initiated submission of the assurances at the local level prior to the deadline. The assurances form has now been received.

Mr. Matt Peters moved to **Accept** the late assurances with no further action taken, seconded by Ms. Jessica Mercerhill.  
The **motion carried**.

**VII. STEAM School designation and updates to STEM School application**

Holly Lavender provided a brief overview of the recent changes to Chapter 3326 of the Ohio Revised Code, regarding expansion of designation to include STEAM schools. Schools applying for STEAM designation must specifically demonstrate how the school's curriculum integrates the arts and design into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. STEAM schools must also ensure that the school's curriculum team includes experts in arts integration, and that the school's partnerships include arts organizations. The Department recommends that a single process and application be used for both STEM and STEAM, as the requirements are nearly identical and it

would be a matter of addressing the required evidence for arts integration and partnerships in a STEAM School proposal. The Department suggests that the timeline for the 2017-2018 application process mirror the timeline used for 2016-2017, but perhaps adjusting the date for the spring STEM Committee meeting if needed, depending on the number of proposals received.

David Burns stated that it would be very helpful if the process included a letter of intent, so the OSLN team would know in advance how many proposals to prepare for in their own reviews. Mr. Burns also suggested that OSLN make a presentation to the committee at a future meeting, regarding some recent research about inclusive STEM schools.

#### **VIII. Update on the work of the STEM Innovation Working Group - OSRC**

Mr. Kirk Koennecke, superintendent of Graham Local Schools, was invited to speak about the formation of the Ohio Small and Rural Collaborative (OSRC), of which he is the executive director. He explained that the OSRC formed from small districts all over Ohio (currently about 50 paid member districts and growing), who wanted to convene informally to talk about how they do innovation, especially professional development for a future ready mindset and design thinking – blended, progressive delivery of professional development for teaching adults problem-solving skills and design thinking to change culture over time. They are looking for and sharing professional learning that small and rural districts can afford (preferably at little or no cost). Dr. Schwieterman asked how the committee could help. Mr. Koennecke stated that in-kind donations of time matter. Small rurals often find it difficult to network because of their distance. The OSRC provides an opportunity for schools to mesh and share stories with other schools. They can also help in messaging about resources and opportunities that schools might not otherwise hear about.

#### **IX. Update on the Quality Metric for STEM Schools**

Holly Lavender provided an overview of the Quality Metric – now called the Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools. The STEM Innovation Working Group recently completed the final revisions to the text of the criteria descriptors, and the document now just needs final polishing and formatting for publication on the Department’s web site. Dr. Schwieterman stated that the Quality Model helps to define what the STEM concept is about, and is a solid “playbook,” but to be sure that in the presentation and formatting, schools see it as approachable and can see a path for getting to the level of quality described. Mr. DeMaria suggested populating a resource base to coincide with the document. Ms. Lavender stated that the Quality Model would likely be first posted on the website as a single document, but would eventually also be posted as a separate, searchable and nested webpage. Updates will be made periodically, based on feedback from users.

#### **X. Closing Remarks**

Mr. DeMaria stated that the meeting discussion reflects the continuing momentum and excitement that’s building around STEM, and that his recent visit to a STEM School (Hull Prairie Intermediate) was very affirming of the impact this work can have. Dr. Schwieterman made a few closing remarks.

#### **XI. Adjournment**

Ms. Jessica Mercerhill moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Matt Peters.

**The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.**