

STEM Committee Meeting Minutes

Ohio Department of Education
 25 South Front Street
 Columbus, OH 43215
 Conference Room 102
 September 20th, 2019 1-3 pm

A meeting of the STEM Designation Committee established in Ohio Revised Code 3326.02 was held on September 20th, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. at the offices of the Ohio Department of Education.

Committee members in attendance (quorum):

- Mr. Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Ohio Department of Education
- Dr. Tom Schwieterman, VP, Clinical Affairs and Chief Medical Office, Midmark Corporation, Appointed by the Ohio Senate
- Dr. Jessica Mercerhill, Senior Director of Educator Preparation, Ohio Department of Higher Education (designee for Randy Gardner)
- Ellen Marrison, Content Strategist, SSTI, Appointed by the Governor of Ohio
- Mr. Stephen White, Esq, VP External Affairs, Strategic Initiatives, and Business Development, COSI, Appointed by the Governor of Ohio

Not present:

1. Mr. Stephen Lyons, EVP, The Columbus Partnerships, Appointed by the Ohio House of Representatives

Also present were:

- Mr. Jonathan Gormley, Senior Policy Advisor, Director's Office, Ohio Development Services Agency (designee for Matt Peters)
- Mary Grace Sanchez, OCHLA, Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
- Dustin Pyles, VAZA Consulting
- Gail Vawter, Robot Academy

I. Call to order

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

II. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Tom Schwieterman started committee wide introductions

III. Approval of Agenda

Tom Schwieterman discussed the agenda with the committee and guest attendees present. Dr. Tom Schwieterman, STEM Committee Chair motioned to **Approve** the agenda. Motion was **Approved Unanimously** by the committee.

IV. Approval of April 22, 2019 minutes

Minutes from the April 22, 2019, meeting were sent to the committee for review prior to the meeting. Dr. Tom Schwieterman moved to **Approve** the minutes from the April 22, 2019, meeting of the STEM Committee, seconded by Dr. Jessica Mercerhill
 The **motion carried**.

V. Updates on NEOIA**a. Opening Ceremony/Day****i. Northeast Ohio Impact Committee (NEOIA)**

Kimberly Bell discussed Northeast Ohio Impact Academy's September 9th opening ceremony. The school is currently serving 38 7th and 8th graders from Campbell City School district and surrounding school districts. They will have another ceremony in Winter of 2020 when their community center is opened.

VI. OSLN Update- Heather Sherman (Ohio STEM Learning Network)

Heather Sherman provided updates from the Ohio STEM Learning Network. Over summer, beginning June, CSU's regional conference expansion- 70 to 200+ teachers from previous to current year. At the Cleveland State University STEMM conference regional STEM leaders were recognized for their contributions to STEM education for all. The Ohio STEM Learning Network highlighted the July 2019 ACTE Conference. Heather Sherman presented on the updates to Ohio legislation regarding computer science education.

VII. Updates to the 2019-2020 STEM Designation Application and Process

Heather Sherman, Director of the Ohio STEM Learning Network and Kimberly Bell, STEM Education Program Specialist at the Ohio Department of Education presented a draft application for the 2019-2020 STE(A)M designation. The draft application is aligned to the Ohio Quality Model for STEM and STEAM schools and Ohio Revised Code 3326 (law for STEM schools). The application highlights the three main areas of focus for STE(A)M schools and will be in a portfolio format instead the prior narrative format. For the 2019/2020 year, there will also be a rubric to guide schools in self-reflection prior to application and to provide concrete guidelines for the application review committee. Kimberly Bell stated that the Ohio Department of Education will post the application and the rubric on October 1st. Heather Sherman shared that the application and rubric have been shared with the Ohio STEM Learning Network review team.

Kimberly Bell shared that with the changes in the application process, the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio STEM Learning Network will be providing regional technical assistance/guidance sessions. These sessions will help guide schools through the new application and rubric. Stephen White brought up the idea of hosting these meetings in a way where school leaders that are unable to attend can virtually attend. Heather Sherman and Kimberly Bell agreed that would be a great idea and would try to find a platform to host the meetings in such a manner. Kimberly Bell continued to discuss the changes to the timeline. The application due date will be moved up to the end of January to provide the Ohio STEM Learning Network review team a longer time to review and conduct site visits to schools. The decision will still be made in April with schools being notified prior to the meeting of the Ohio STEM Learning Network's recommendation. Dr. Tom also stated that the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio STEM Learning Network need to be actively seeking feedback in this year's application process for continue improvement.

Dr. Tom shared how impressed he was with the changes in the application to reflect the nature of STE(A)M and the new application helps to create a more meaningful picture of what is happening in an applying school. The STEM committed agreed with his statements

Dr. Tom Schwieterman stated he wants to add more to the meeting than just the approval of the proposals. Dr. Tom suggested perhaps have a few schools that are being awarded the designation to present on their achievements in providing STE(A)M education to their students. The committee stated that they would like to continue with the celebration in May for schools that have received the STE(A)M designation.

Dr. Jessica Mercerhill stated she liked having STEM Committee Meetings at the schools. Dr. Tom seconded that stating it should be done once a year. Paolo DeMaria brought up how the state board members need to be notified of either the designation celebration or be able to present banners to schools in their areas.

VIII. Closing Remarks

Dr. Tom Schwieterman brought up how in the application it stated that joint vocational school districts could apply for STEM designation. He was curious if this has been resolved since it had been an issue in the past with eligibility. Stephen White stated he thought it was due to a conflict with IRNs. Dr. Tom stated that he wanted to get the eligibility of the joint vocational school districts solved so this conversation does not have to be repeated the next year. Heather Sherman explained the difficulties in designating true career tech education centers with a STEM designation is that most career tech schools don't teach interdisciplinary but stay in their areas of expertise.

Heather Sherman stated an additional condition with the new application that may be wrapped up into the STEM assurances schools submit every year. With the new application process, schools would be required to reapply for STE(A)M designation every five years. Heather Sherman and Kimberly Bell have created a proposed outline of the when schools would be expected to resubmit with the new application. It is proposed that if a school does not meet approaching, then they would have to create a STE(A)M growth plan with the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio STEM Learning Network.

IX. Adjourn

Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Committee Chair, motioned to adjourn, seconded by Paolo DeMaria.

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.