

STEM Committee Meeting Minutes

Ohio Department of Education
 Microsoft Teams Live
 May 6th, 2021 3-4 pm

A meeting of the STEM Designation Committee established in Ohio Revised Code 3326.02 was held on May 6th, at 3:00 pm. via Microsoft Teams Live hosted by 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. Krista Maxson, Associate Vice Chancellor, P-16 Initiatives Ohio Department of Higher Education, Chancellor of the Department of Higher Education (Designee)
- Ellen Marrison, Content Strategist, SSTI, Appointed by the Governor of Ohio
- Jonathan Gormley Assistant Chief of Policy and Communication- Ohio Development Services Agency, Director of Development (Designee)
- Jeff Polesovsky, Vice President, Public Policy, Columbus Partnership

Not present:

- Steven White, Esq, VP External Affairs, Strategic Initiatives, and Business Development, COSI, Appointed by the Governor of Ohio

Also present were:

- Rob Evans, Ohio STEM Learning Network
- Heather Sherman, Ohio STEM Learning Network
- Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Director of the Office of Approaches to Teaching and Professional Learning, Ohio Department of Education
- Shaun Yoder, Chief Strategy Officer, Ohio Department of Education

I. Call to order

Dr. Tom Schwieterman called the meeting to order at 3:08 pm.
 Minutes were recorded by Leslie Yenkin.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Tom Schwieterman started committee-wide introductions.

III. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Tom Schwieterman discussed the agenda with the committee and guest attendees present. The STEM Committee requested there be a single collective recommendation for schools to be approved for STEM or STEAM, including schools recommended with conditions. Dr. Tom Schwieterman, STEM Committee Chair motioned to **Approve** the agenda, seconded by Superintendent DeMaria. Motion was **Approved Unanimously** by the committee.

IV. Approval of September 29, 2020 minutes

Minutes from the September 29, 2020, meeting were sent to the committee for review prior to the meeting. Dr. Tom Schwieterman moved to **Approve** the minutes from the September 29, 2020, meeting of the STEM Committee, seconded by Paolo DeMaria. The **motion carried**.

VII. Updates and Reflection on the 2021 STEM Designation Process

Updates and Reflection on the 2021 STEM Designation Process

- a. Design Challenge

Heather Sherman shared information about the Ohio Stem Learning Network (OSLN) Design and Entrepreneurship Challenge. Ohio students from across the state are invited to participate in this challenge. There were new participants this year. This past year, even in a virtual setting, students worked together on how they might reimagine energy production and consumption in their communities. Heather Sherman shared one example of students in a rural school that repurposed tractors to run on electricity.

On May 17, 2021, students from across Ohio will come together virtually to share their ideas and solutions for how they might reimagine energy production and consumption in their communities.

This year, they partnered with the Young Entrepreneur Institute and Ohio Afterschool Network to include an entrepreneurship lens in the challenge. Students had to develop a 30- to 60-second pitch that helped them to see how they could turn their ideas into a money-making business.

Heather Sherman stated that they have next year's topic. They will announce the topic after this year's design challenge.

b. STEM Designation Virtual Learning Series

Kimberly Bell provided information about the STEM Designation Virtual Learning Series. The Ohio Department of Education in collaboration with the Ohio Stem Learning Network (OSLN) decided to provide a series of webinars highlighting and bringing to life the STEM Quality Model in lieu of the Grand Tour of Ohio. The series included four sessions that built on each other. It began with a high-level view of the Quality Model and then took a deep dive into the three individual pillars.

Kimberly Bell shared that they selected STEM school leaders from across Ohio to share their stories involving creating and supporting the culture of innovation and design cycle thinking, highlighting teachers, highlighting free resources that support project/problem-based learning and involving schools that have formed strong partnerships. Kimberly Bell also stated that it was great to see the Quality Model come to life in a virtual way. The webinar series is available on the Department's website.

c. STEM Designation Law Changes

Heather Sherman explained that they have wanted to make changes to ORC 3326 to make it more modern and maintain a high level of integrity within the STEM designation process. She summarized the recommended changes to the law. One of the changes is that schools will have to reapply every five years. Heather Sherman stated that they will make sure the schools receive the support they need to maintain their designation and continue to move forward. Also, through a collaboration with the Department and Ohio Association of Career-Technical Superintendents, they have been able to develop a pathway for STEM designation for Career Technical Education (CTE). They will work closely with CTE to make sure that the process is aligned to what takes place in career technical schools and is reflective of CTE's needs.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman gave credit to "Team OSLN" and Kimberly Bell. He stated that much work was required to achieve a bill designation that solves problems they have been wrestling with for years.

d. STEM Application and Site Visits

Kimberly Bell shared statistics from this year. This was a very unique year in education. In the fall, over 300 people registered to participate in the virtual STEM Designation Information Sessions. 18 Letters of Intent were submitted to the Department. Nine schools applied for designation. With the small number of applications, they conducted virtual site visits at each school.

VIII. Discussion and Resolutions of Proposals for STEM or STEAM designation: Heather Sherman, OSLN

Heather Sherman stated that she believes the experiences of this year have set up schools to be more agile, adaptable and willing to embrace change. They have posted a report from schools about innovations “that will stick.” The Ohio Stem Learning Network and STEM designation process enables passing along the innovations that make school better and helping schools to do the same.

Heather Sherman reviewed the requirements for STEM designated schools. Out of the nine schools that applied, they recommended three for designation.

Recommended for Designation

- Horizon Science Academy, Ugur Zengince, Principal, Concept Schools
Heather Sherman stated that the school is a part of the Horizon Network and has been working towards designation for a long time.
- Marshall STEMM, Douglas Bell, Principal- Toledo Public Schools
Heather Sherman shared that they have been working with Marshall STEMM for a number of years. The school has made a significant investment in professional development. Marshall STEMM includes grades K-8.

Recommended with Conditions

- Community STEAM Academy- Jeremy Ervin, Chief Academic Officer, Independent STEM School
This a new independent STEM school serving grades 6-12. Heather Sherman explained that they have done much work and have strong plans in place, but they still have more work to do. They are recommended with the condition that they hold their opening until after August 1, 2022, and that they make adjustments and refine details involving school structures. Additional conditions include providing more feedback about arts integration and information about the pathways they will be implementing.

The following schools will not be recommended for designation.

- London City Schools Lou Kramer, Superintendent
 - o London High School- Michael Browning, Principal
 - o London Elementary School- John Riley, Principal
- Crestview Local Schools Crestview Elementary School- Tim Pancake, Principal
- Immaculate Conception School- Rick Logue
- East Canton Elementary School- Rebecca Carter, Osnaburg Local Schools
- Lewis Mayer Middle- Chris Vicha, Fairview Park City Schools

Heather Sherman explained that they see designation as an iterative process. A number of schools are solidly on the path towards designation. They want to make sure they are providing continued support for these schools including direct support from the Ohio Stem Learning Network (OSLN), invitations to participate in ongoing professional training offered by OSLN and the Department and elementary-specific supports to address persistent challenges.

Questions from the STEM Committee:

Dr. Tom Schwieterman asked what the timeframe would be for the Community STEAM Academy to address the conditions for designation. Heather Sherman responded that she would like to ask Dr. Ervin about the timeframe. Dr. Ervin wants to wait until he hires staff before finalizing decisions to give the staff agency. Heather Sherman will follow up with Community STEAM Academy and develop a plan. The STEM Committee was comfortable with this plan.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman asked for a motion to **Approve** the OSLN recommendations for STEAM or STEM for all three schools. Superintendent DeMaria motioned to **Approve**, seconded by Ellen Marrison. The motion was **Approved Unanimously**. The motion carried.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman congratulated Horizon Science Academy, Marshall STEMM and Community STEAM Academy. He also congratulated the five schools approaching STEM designation. These schools need to be recognized for completing an application process during a global pandemic.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman thanked Heather Sherman and Kimberly Bell for their work with the schools, providing each school a virtual visit and ensuring that each school received the support it needed.

Superintendent DeMaria congratulated the schools receiving designation and is looking forward to the great work they will accomplish. Superintendent DeMaria offered continuing words of encouragement to the schools approaching STEM designation. He also stated that the schools that have been designated are an inspiration and motivation to other schools. He encouraged schools and their communities to engage in this process as an opportunity to identify what a new take on learning could look like for their schools.

Superintendent DeMaria also thanked the staff for their great work, mentioning their diligence, scoring work, technical assistance and ongoing work in supporting STEM schools across Ohio.

X. Closing Remarks

Dr. Tom Schwieterman stated that it is remarkable how STEM itself was instrumental to the nation surviving the pandemic as well as it did. He also remarked on the innovation he is hearing from the Ohio STEM Learning Network, Kimberly Bell and the Department. He is looking forward to the bill passing to ensure that the designation process continues to be a premium status scenario for schools across the State because STEM has never been more important for Ohio's future and its students' future. Dr. Schwieterman closed with a final congratulation to the schools that had been designated and strong encouragement to the schools on the path towards designation.

Heather Sherman thanked the STEM Committee for their support and their participation in the process.

V. Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:39 pm.