



Ohio STEM Committee Meeting Minutes July 10, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Department of Education & Workforce

25 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Tom Schwieterman, M.D., Vice President of Clinical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer, Midmark Corporation, STEM Committee Chair, appointed by the Ohio State Senate
Andrew L. Aichele, Vice President of Education, COSI, appointed by the Governor
William Ashburn, Workforce Project Manager, Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, Designee for the Director of Development
Dr. Krista Maxson, Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor, P-16 Initiatives, Ohio Department of Higher Education, Designee for the Chancellor of the Department of Higher Education
Jeremy Varner, Deputy Director, Division of Career-Technical Education and Workforce, Ohio Department of Education & Workforce, Designee for Director of the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

Committee Members Absent:

Jeff Polesovsky, Vice President of Public Policy, Columbus Partnership, appointed by the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives

Ohio Department of Education & Workforce Present:

Mary Ellen Dobransky, Associate Administrator of Innovative Approaches to Teaching and Learning
Dr. Sarah Redick, Ph.D., STEM Education Program Specialist
Jenny Russell, STEM Program Administrator 1
Ethan Walk, STEM Intern

Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) Present:

Kelly Gaier Evans, Director
Dr. Sandra Wilder, Ph.D., STEM Relationship Manager

Others Present:

Michele Ritchlin, Ohio After-School Network
Mindy Maxey, Tri-State STEM+ M School
Dusti West, Tri-State STEM+ M School

Ohio Department of Education & Workforce Staff Recording Meeting Minutes:

Jenny Russell, STEM Program Administrator 1

Opening:

- Dr. Tom Schwieterman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- Mary Ellen Dobransky introduced Jeremy Varner, the Deputy Director of the Division of Career-Technical Education and Workforce at DEW. She said that he is going to have a pivotal role in advancing workforce readiness in Ohio. He has 19 years in state education in Iowa, most recently overseeing Iowa's community colleges and secondary/postsecondary CTE.
 - Jeremy Varner said that he is happy to be here and excited to be working on STEM; after spending 19 years at the Iowa Department of Education, he knows how state agencies work. He

came to DEW because we have the opportunity to really do something significant in Ohio in the preparation of students for the world of work. He was attracted by DEW's commitment as reflected in their recent name change. He said that there are way too many students who are not on a robust pathway to career success.

- He believes STEM education has a big return on investment and said that we need more students in STEM.
- He concluded by telling the Committee that he has an open door, so don't be afraid to reach out. He is excited to be a member of this Committee.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Tom Schwieterman welcomed Committee members, DEW/OSLN staff, and guests to the meeting.

Partnership Spotlight

Ohio Afterschool Network

- Mary Ellen Dobransky introduced Michele Ritchlin, the executive director of the Ohio Afterschool Network (OAN).
- Michele Ritchlin started out by sharing that Mary Ellen traveled with OAN to Youngstown a couple of weeks ago to visit Northeast Ohio Impact Academy (Campbell City Schools) – they are community-centric in their approach as shown by the wraparound services available in their building. The school has grown into a true community center, and they had a great visit.
- Michele said she runs the Ohio Afterschool Network, which was established in 2003. OAN is a member of the 50-state network and has access to supports from national partner organizations dedicated to increasing the quality of afterschool programs for children, youth, and families.
- OAN's three pillars are Quality, Partnerships, and Advocacy.
- The network supports out-of-school-time (OST programs); they don't actually run any program, but they provide quality standards and other supports to providers such as the YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs, etc.
- Ohio doesn't have any dedicated state funding for OST programs, so OAN advocates for this in the state legislature.
- Michele shared that high-quality OST helps close the gap for students.
- A current project OAN is working on is the Moonshot Ohio initiative (funded by Intel). Its goal is increasing access to quality OST STEAM learning for Ohio youth; for instance, they offered a number of summer camps last summer.
- OAN is also trying to break barriers down in professional development for OST staff around the state, who are not necessarily teachers and don't have the training teachers receive.
- Michele said that STEAM is a mindset, not just an acronym for science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. Part of STEAM is teaching kids how to fail and be resilient in those failures.
- OAN was able to give mini-grants last year to libraries for STEM camps, Business Advisory Councils, etc.
- OAN also develops Teen Science Cafes that are led by teens themselves. They have five so far and are hoping to expand.
- Michele shared OAN's impact numbers – in the past four years, they've reached over 1,200 programs, 3,000 educators, and over 35,000 youth.
- Michele concluded by sharing a QR code and inviting Committee members to look at OAN's social media accounts. She said that currently everything OAN does is free, and there are lots of free resources on their website. She added that unfortunately, things will change next year when their grant money is gone and they have to figure out a way to self-sustain.
- Dr. Tom Schwieterman had a question about the Intel investment. He asked if it is philanthropic or specifically to prepare kids for jobs with Intel.

- Michele Ritchlin responded that it's both. The funds came from the Intel Foundation, so it was philanthropic, but they also are going to need to hire a lot of people in the next 5-10 years and we need a pipeline.
- Dr. Tom Schwieterman asked, "Besides Intel, where does your funding come from?"
- Michele Ritchlin replied that some comes from the STEM Next Opportunity Fund (a national fund in all states) and smaller grants (such as from Battelle Education), but the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation provides most of their funding.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made to approve the July 10, 2024 meeting agenda made by Will Ashburn, seconded by Dr. Krista Maxson.

All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Approval of May 6 Meeting Minutes

There were some minor changes made to the minutes and approval was tabled to the next meeting by Dr. Tom Schwieterman.

Discussion Items:

Policy & Compliance Updates

Status of Schools Currently on Growth Plans

17 schools on growth plans (corrective action plans)

- 8 growth plans developed and approved
- 5 growth plans in development
- 4 schools opting out of growth plan process

Dr. Sarah Redick said that four schools in the 2017-or-earlier cohort declined to continue with their corrective action plans. Mary Ellen Dobransky added that the reasoning was more of a "not now" than "never again" for these schools.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman said that the overall intent of the Committee is positive – to help schools grow and advance to meet high standards. We are trying to reach out to them and say this could be a temporary lapse in designation. We need to maintain the veracity of designation. If these schools aren't committed to their growth plans, this does save us some resources.

Mary Ellen Dobransky added that a lot of schools decided to take advantage of our supports. It feels like a heavy load [of revoking schools] in the summer because we wanted to wait until the end of the year to revoke – not revoke in the middle of the school year.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman agreed that we want to do this in the most easy way for school systems to adjust to the change.

Schools Declining to Continue Growth Plans

Northwestern Elementary School

Motion to revoke Northwestern Elementary School's STEM school designation because they are not continuing with their corrective action plan made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Will Ashburn.

All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Northwestern Middle School

Motion to revoke Northwestern Middle School's STEM school designation because they are not continuing with their corrective action plan made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Andy Aichele. All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Northwestern High School

Motion to revoke Northwestern High School's STEM school designation because they are not continuing with their corrective action plan made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Will Ashburn. All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Canal Winchester Middle School

Motion to revoke Canal Winchester Middle School's STEM school designation because they are not continuing with their corrective action plan made by Will Ashburn, seconded by Dr. Krista Maxson. All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

St. Sebastian Parish School

Motion to revoke St. Sebastian Parish School's STEM school equivalent designation because they are not continuing with their corrective action plan made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Dr. Krista Maxson.

All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Schools 2024-2025 STEM/STEAM Designation Rubric Update

- Mary Ellen Dobransky shared that there is new legal counsel for our DEW team and they found some things in our designation rubric that were not in statute, so we had to update the rubric. We went back to all the schools that were designated and no one got caught up in any of the changes.
- Dr. Tom Schwieterman said that we constantly run into this over the years with statute and support of schools. We have to go back to the legislature and redefine; this is an opportunity for us to still make language more amenable to the intent of the STEM program.
- Dr. Sarah Redick said that there is a one-pager in Committee members' folders with some of the more significant changes to the rubric. We moved the Personalized Learning attribute to the Learning and Teaching domain and rolled it into the Dynamic Assessment attribute, so attribute 1.3 has been combined with 2.4 into an attribute named Personalized Learning.
- The Computational Thinking and Technology attribute is no longer required by statute but we left it in the rubric because it's important.

Motion to approve revised STEM and STEAM Designation Rubric made by Andy Aichele, seconded by Dr. Tom Schwieterman.

All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman told the Committee that although Jeff Polesovsky couldn't be at today's meeting, he sent him his proxy for approval of the rubric.

Amended Process for Redesignation Evaluation and Site Visit

- Mary Ellen Dobransky told that Committee that school site visits take a lot of time; we have found that if we don't see key attributes in the written application, 99% of the time they're not going to be in practice at schools. It takes a lot of resources (from both DEW and OSLN) to do a site visit, and in those cases we want to put those resources to better use.
- Dr. Sandra Wilder talked about the evaluation process. Now, the school submits an application for redesignation and a review team goes over it and there's a site visit. In the future, we want the review team to look at benchmark attributes, and if a school hasn't met them, we will meet with the school to talk to them and share our concerns. If the reason for missing evidence is a poor application missing some artifacts, the school can submit the artifacts within 1-3 days and the process continues as usual. If there are a lot of gaps, we will do a growth plan without a visit.
- Dr. Tom Schwieterman said that he's been part of the Committee for 10 to 11 years; Ohio went from 12 designated schools to 80 or so and the dedication of staff and resources to the program has not grown nearly to the amount needed for all these additional schools.

- Dr. Schwieterman said that there is A LOT of exemplary hard work by the DEW/OSLN team, and a lot of “windshield time” driving to schools, and after-hours work. “I am as Committee chair worried about the ability of the team to maintain this effort for increasingly more complex and important parts of STEM designation. This new process is a great decision to spare some precious and talented resources.” This is a step we’re taking to deal with what we have.
- Dr. Schwieterman said he thinks Ohio is in the top 2-3 states for public support of STEM and we should strongly consider, as a state, how many resources we’re putting into STEM – and start scaling the process instead of just making do with what we have.
- Dr. Sandra Wilder said that our capacity is a big part of it, but it’s also hard for teachers to go through a site visit (not everyone in a school is involved in the application process, but everyone participates in a site visit). We’re worried that they may hear “you’re not good enough” (instead of what we’re really saying – “you’re not there yet”). We hope that the conversation will help that.
- Mary Ellen Dobransky added that as a former STEM school administrator, she knows it’s hard for a STEM school when someone comes in and says “you’re not there;” it’s hard for leaders and teachers.
- Dr. Krista Maxson asked to clarify if we will still do site visits for those who are meeting benchmarks.
- Dr. Sandra Wilder and Mary Ellen Dobransky replied yes.
- Dr. Tom Schwieterman said this sounds like a half-step; the Committee wants to try to avoid a “no” vote if we can – this way we can tell schools to come back when they’re a little more prepared.
- Kelly Gaier Evans pointed out that we’ve made this change in site visits for initial designation, and this is just moving to do this for redesignation.
- Dr. Schwieterman compared it to an employer getting a resume – if the applicant is not qualified, why would they get an interview?
- Andy Aichele said that the rubric is more transparent to schools. We don’t have the capacity and we don’t want to waste time, so let the schools know that.
- Dr. Sandra Wilder went over the proposed new redesignation/quality monitoring site visit benchmark.
 - The school’s habits of mind align with STEM cultural strategies (attribute 1.1, Cultural Strategies).
 - The school structures promote and/or sustain interdisciplinary teacher collaboration (attribute 1.3, School Leadership).
 - The school’s governing body/STEM or STEAM advisory group consists of members selected for their expertise in STEM/STEAM pedagogy. The school’s curriculum team includes all the required members (attribute 1.4, Governing Body, STEM/STEAM Advisory Group, and Curriculum Team).
 - The school earns an “Establishing” rating on attribute 2.1, Integrity of Academic Disciplines.
 - The school earns an “Establishing” rating on attribute 2.2, Teaching and Learning Approaches.
 - The school submits (dated, current) letters from its established Higher Education and Business and Industry Partners.
- These benchmark attributes for schools focus on “What do we teach?” (inter-disciplinary teaching) and “How do we teach?” (project-based learning, design thinking).
- Dr. Tom Schwieterman said that we have found over the years that the site visit is probably the most critical component of STEM designation. Preserving the sanctity of that visit is really important; we don’t want a site visit to be a presumptuous approval. We can’t ever get rid of the site visit, but we need to preserve resources.
- Mary Dobransky agreed that getting rid of site visits is never going to happen.
- Kelly Gaier Evans said that this is just the next step beyond adding site visits after the pandemic.

Motion to approve amended process for quality monitoring/redesignation evaluation and site visit made by Andy Aichele, seconded by Dr. Krista Maxson.
All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

STEM Advocacy

Dr. Tom Schwieterman told the Committee that he asked for this time in the meeting's agenda to talk about the STEM work the Committee and the team is doing. He said that first off, we want to advocate for the DEW/OSLN team – we absolutely need to invest in the team, with schools accumulating, redesignation and CTE and everything that's new. He wants to be very open about that. Battelle's investment of seven figures, people, and OSLN are much appreciated.

Dr. Schwieterman would like to move away from an authoritative/designation Committee to form an advocacy committee where we are finding a pathway to promote the next phase of STEM education. We are currently focused on rural communities (we call them "STEM deserts") where schools don't have what's required to become a fully designated STEM school (the rubric is a pretty big hurdle). But we want to bring those schools up to the level where they're contributing to the STEM education process.

Dr. Schwieterman said that the Committee needs to meet with prominent lawmakers, whether we do a legislative lobbying day at the Statehouse or something else.

Will Ashburn pointed out that as an employee of a state agency [designee for the Director of Development], he could not participate in that.

Dr. Schwieterman said that industry partners can directly contribute to this effort; although it's led by education, maybe we can "flip the script" and find a way for those partners (and their resources) to be far more active in STEM education.

Dr. Schwieterman said that the Committee needs to cross into the advocacy lane a little more deeply than we have in the past.

Dr. Krista Maxson said that she wouldn't be able to participate in lobbying [because as the designee for the Chancellor of Higher Education, she is also employed by a state agency].

Dr. Schwieterman responded that that's true. I've been one of the independent members of the Committee for a long time. Can we bring more independent members onto the Committee? That may be one avenue to step forward.

Dr. Krista Maxson said that STEM schools have industry partners who might be able to recommend folks to serve on the STEM Committee.

Jeremy Varner said that he doesn't want to go too deep, but business and industry connections make a lot of sense. We might change how we think about where this work is going. Maybe Dr. Tom Schwieterman and I and Mary Ellen Dobransky can meet and take a step back and ask if this is the right work and discuss how to maximize STEM opportunities.

Andy Aichele said it comes back to capacity again. Yes, numbers have grown – how do we target and make sure there's a sense of equity across the state? How do we get unrepresented voices at this table?

Dr. Tom Schwieterman suggested that Committee members reflect among ourselves on who the Committee is and what we're made of. Those industry partners have a lot of power when they speak to legislators about STEM education.

Mary Ellen Dobransky told the Committee that statute dictates who is part of the Committee.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman asked if there was anything in statute about Committee chair rotation. He said he's done this for a while and he's getting self-conscious.

Jenny Russell told the Committee that the components of the STEM Committee are outlined in statute. Members are the Director of the Department of Education and Workforce (or designee), the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education (or designee), the Director of Development (or designee), and four members of the public who are appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Senate. There is currently a vacancy on the Committee that needs to be filled by the Governor.

Jeremy Varner asked if schools pay application fees. Dr. Tom Schwieterman answered that there is no financial component to STEM designation. Kelly Gaier Evans clarified that is with the exception of independent STEM schools, and Mary Ellen Dobransky added that that funding stream is new.

Andy Aichele asked if there is a procedure for recommending someone to the Governor to be appointed to the STEM Committee. Mary Ellen Dobransky replied that that hasn't happened since the STEM office has been around, so we're not sure.

Kelly Gaier Evans said that in 2019, OSLN pulled organizations and schools from across the state together to ask them about various topics. Maybe there is something around the Choose Ohio First Scholar Showcase at the Statehouse? Legislators often drop in on that event, and maybe we could have discussions with that.

Schools Updates

Dr. Sandra Wilder spoke about the Dayton Regional STEM School (DRSS). OSLN's recommendation regarding their addendum is in Committee members' folders.

- DRSS was officially designated in 2008; they earned their five additional years of designation last year.
- They currently serve grades 6-12 and want to include K-5.
- DRSS has worked on their strategic plan for a few years now. They are very intentional; they have exemplary practices and a solid plan on how they are going to take practices and instruction down to grades K-5.
- They plan to do a staggered expansion starting next year, bringing the same high-quality STEM education to grades K-5.
- Dr. Tom Schwieterman mentioned that he went on a visit to the school; they are the "top of the top" and have a very strong reputation, so he wasn't surprised to see great stuff on the visit.
- Dr. Schwieterman said that they get no funding from the state. Mary Ellen Dobransky said that now they are eligible for state money [starting in this biennium's budget]. They are eligible for independent STEM Schools of quality funds. Dr. Schwieterman asked how material that funding is, and Mary Ellen answered that it is significant.
- Mary Ellen Dobransky let the Committee know that there was a lot of back and forth and feedback on the addendum before it was finalized.

Motion to approve the addendum for Dayton Regional STEM School to include grades K-5 made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Andy Aichele.
All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Dr. Sarah Redick gave a quick update on the upcoming redesignation cycle (for schools initially designated in 2018 and later) and shared the approved quality monitoring schedule for the 2024-2025 school year. Ten schools submitted compliance reapplications, and two schools have opted out of quality monitoring after submitting their compliance reapplications.

2018 Schools Declining Quality Monitoring for 2024-2025 School Year

- Mary Ellen Dobransky – two schools have opted out of quality monitoring after submitting their compliance reapplications.

- Dr. Tom Schwieterman moves that the Committee conduct individual votes on each school having their designation voluntarily revoked (due to not completing quality monitoring or submitting reapplication), seconded by Dr. Krista Maxson.

Motion to revoke Graham Elementary School's STEM school designation due to not completing quality monitoring made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Andy Aichele.
All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Motion to revoke Graham Middle School's STEM school designation due to not completing quality monitoring made by Dr. Krista Maxson, seconded by Dr. Tom Schwieterman.
All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Quality Monitoring for 2024-2025 School Year

- Mary Ellen Dobransky – we need to vote on individual schools to receive five additional years of designation *pending quality monitoring*.

Motion to approve Gearity Professional Development School for five additional years of STEM school designation pending quality monitoring during the 2024-2025 school year made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Will Ashburn.
All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Motion to approve Chase STEMM Academy for five additional years of STEM school designation pending quality monitoring during the 2024-2025 school year made by Andy Aichele, seconded by Dr. Tom Schwieterman.
All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Motion to approve Waterville Primary School for five additional years of STEAM school designation pending quality monitoring during the 2024-2025 school year made by Andy Aichele, seconded by Dr. Tom Schwieterman.
All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Motion to approve East Canton High School for five additional years of STEM school designation pending quality monitoring during the 2024-2025 school year made by Will Ashburn, seconded by Dr. Tom Schwieterman.
All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Motion to approve Franklin Elementary School for five additional years of STEM school designation pending quality monitoring during the 2024-2025 school year made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Will Ashburn.
All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Motion to approve Northeast Ohio Impact Academy for five additional years of STEM school designation pending quality monitoring during the 2024-2025 school year made by Dr. Krista Maxson, seconded by Andy Aichele.
All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Motion to approve Herbert Mills Elementary School for five additional years of STEAM school designation pending quality monitoring during the 2024-2025 school year made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Andy Aichele.
All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Motion to approve Chillicothe Primary School for five additional years of STEM school designation pending quality monitoring during the 2024-2025 school year made by Dr. Krista Maxson, seconded by Dr. Tom Schwieterman.
All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

2019 Schools That Did Not Submit Compliance Reapplications

- Mary Ellen Dobransky let the Committee know that five schools did not complete their compliance reapplication for designation. They are no longer in compliance and their designation needs to be revoked per statute. We saved all these schools for the end of the year and that's why we're getting hit hard now. We will be having exit interviews for these schools.
- Kelly Gaier Evans said that this last set of schools were approved on condition of quality monitoring.

Motion to revoke John Marshall Information Technology School's STEM school designation due to declining to submit application for redesignation made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Dr. Krista Maxson.

All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Motion to revoke St. Angela Merici School's STEM school equivalent designation due to declining to submit application for redesignation made by Andy Aichele, seconded by Will Ashburn.

All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Motion to revoke Bigelow Hill Intermediate School's STEM school designation due to declining to submit application for redesignation made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Will Ashburn.

All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Motion to revoke St. Paul School's STEAM school equivalent designation due to declining to submit application for redesignation made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Will Ashburn.

All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Motion to revoke Winchester Trail Elementary School's STEAM school designation due to declining to submit application for redesignation made by Will Ashburn, seconded by Dr. Tom Schwieterman.

All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

School Spotlight

Tri-State STEM+M School

- Tri-State STEM is an independent STEM school located in southern Ohio.
- Mary Ellen Dobransky introduced Mindy Maxey, Director and Dusti West, Principal.
- Mindy Maxey thanked the STEM Committee for asking them to present and shared that this past school year was the first year at Tri-State STEM for both her and Dusti. She said that OSLN & DEW "really took us under their wing."
- Dusti West informed the Committee that Tri-State STEM opened in 2017 in the most southern county in Ohio. They're a public high school but take tuition students from Kentucky and West Virginia. They had roughly 85 students this past year (their highest enrollment thus far); Mindy Maxey added that about 20 students are out working with internships and other learning opportunities and 65 students are "in house."
- Dusti West said that they have a very small staff and all teachers teach two subjects. In particular, the computer science teacher (Mr. Smith) wears many hats. He spent 17 years teaching in Singapore and is currently doing a master fellowship with the National Science Foundation.
- Mindy Maxey shared that most of what Tri-State STEM does is student-led; they have a rigorous learning curriculum, hands-on learning, college credit, a mastery system of assessment, and personalized learning.
- Dr. Tom Schwieterman asked who their higher education partner is, and Mindy Maxey answered that they have several, including Ohio University and Marshall University (10-15 minutes away across the bridge into West Virginia).
- The school has two Project Lead-the-Way pathways – Engineering & BioMed.
- The students have an authentic audience for their work (people from outside come in and look at projects and grade them).

- Last year, Tri-State received an OSLN grant for bee boxes for their bees & pollinators project.
- They have a CAO Workforce partnership where students can engage with virtual reality and engineering projects.
- They have a robust internship program and don't randomly assign internships; they speak with students (students have had internships with such organizations as the Proctorville Animal Clinic, Ashland Fire Department, Ashland Police Department, Lasso Games, and St. Mary's Hospital).
- Tri-State is a STEAM school. They were redesignated and added the "A" this year. They offer Theater as a class (costumes, props, everything for productions done by students).
- Dusti West added that none of this would be possible without our family involvement.
- Mindy Maxey added that we want to make that more intentional next year and launch an official PTO organization.

Partnership Updates

Department of Education & Workforce STEM Initiatives

- Dr. Sarah Redick spoke about the CTE STEM/STEAM Programs of Excellence distinction. We have started working on this from the statute from 2021. The distinction can be awarded to CTE programs/pathways operated by joint vocational school districts, comprehensive career-technical education providers, and educational service centers.
- CTE partners at DEW and other stakeholders put together a task force that has a cross-section of representatives from CTE providers throughout the state.
- We have a very ambitious timeline. DEW and OSLN have convened the task force and begun drafting the rubric. We'll be taking the draft rubric back to the task force in the fall for feedback and revisions and we'll look over the current application process for CTE context. We are hoping that at our winter meeting we can bring the rubric to the Committee for a vote and hopefully pilot the program in spring 2025.
- This program will expand our STEM reach in Ohio.
- Dr. Tom Schwieterman said that "we had a bumpy road with CTE/STEM for a while." The legislature considered a separate program and passed the statute – this is a massive step forward. He asked if the distinction applies to parochial schools. Mary Ellen Dobransky told the Committee that she believes it's for any comprehensive high school that has registered STEM pathways.
- Dr. Sarah Redick said that based on our conversation with the task force, we think we're going to have a lot of interest in this program.

Ohio STEM Learning Network Updates

- Kelly Gaier Evans spoke about the OSLN vision and mission. OSLN Vision: Every Ohio community has access to a quality STEM education. OSLN Mission: Championing STEM education by establishing a network of professional learning programs and enduring partnerships between schools, communities, and industry.
- Kelly said that often in this [STEM] Committee we talk about the end of the pipeline, with STEM school designation the highest rung on the ladder (schools incorporating STEM practices schoolwide, across every grade level).
- But what is that pipeline to designation? OSLN has been working with school leaders and teachers in a "Community for STEM" (to share best practices, sparking interest in this work). This does not happen overnight; it takes several years for interested schools to get to a schoolwide model. The pipeline is continuing to grow (OSLN had double the school leaders from last year participate in programs this year, for example).
- Kelly talked to the Committee about reaching rural schools. Over the past four years, with additional funding from Battelle and the state, OSLN has been working on programs to reach schools that are classified as rural by DEW. Participation in these programs doubled in two years. Leaders and teachers

are part of year-long cohorts. The Innovative Leaders' Institute is a direct part of the pipeline to designation. One in six educators reached by OSLN represent rural schools.

- Dr. Tom Schwieterman said that this is fabulous.
- Kelly Gaier Evans shared that it takes time; it doesn't happen overnight – rural schools have to be a part of a community of practice to share and learn from each other and from folks that have gone through this before. OSLN's mission is not how many STEM Schools we can create, but how we can bring high-quality STEM education to every community in Ohio.
- Dr. Tom Schwieterman said that he's sorry to keep beating a drum, but the CTE distinction is going to add a lot to your plates.
- Kelly Gaier Evans spoke about the Ohio STEM Innovation Summit, held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center on June 4. This summer, in addition to the summit, OSLN kicked off four cohorts. The summit was sold out – registration increased this year to over 400 educators. Over one-third of the attendees were folks who had not initially engaged with OSLN. Kelly wants to thank DEW, who have been incredible thought partners as we've been refining and improving over the year. She added that OSLN was so glad that DEW Director Dackin was at the summit – thank you DEW for all the work you've put into it. The theme was “Building Tomorrow Together,” and it was a great opportunity for teachers to share and network with each other.
- Kelly Gaier Evans spoke about the Teacher Academy with Submarine Industry Base, which provides a workforce scholarship. Submarine Industry Base came to OSLN about increasing production and needing more skilled workers to help fulfill the Navy's submarine production mission.
- Kelly Gaier Evans spoke about the Ohio Teacher Academy, where she let teachers know about needs in the submarine industry; manufacturing is important here in the Great Lakes region.
- D. Tom Schwieterman answered that is impressive.
- Kelly Gaier Evans said that Sandy Guinto is not able to be here today, but she is in charge of Teacher Academy. Kelly added that she would be remiss not to say that Sarah Redick has been a part of Ohio Teacher Academy; with her work that she did on partnerships in her Ph.D. program, she's been really helpful.

STEM Committee Meeting Schedule

Mary Ellen Dobransky spoke about the upcoming STEM Committee meeting schedule.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman offered to host the meeting in Darke County in October (Versailles High School will be opening a new technology center).

Public comments:

None

Closing:

Dr. Tom Schwieterman closed with “I've said enough today; I have no closing remarks.”

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn the STEM Committee meeting made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Andy Aichele.

All votes aye; none opposed. Motion approved.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

The next STEM Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, October 21, 2024, at a location yet to be determined.