



Mike DeWine, Governor
Dr. Christopher Woolard, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

Ohio STEM Committee Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2023

9:05am-11:01am

Ohio Department of Education

25 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43215

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Tom Schwieterman, VP of Clinical Affairs and Chief Medical Officer at Midmark Corporation, STEM Committee Chair appointed by the Ohio State Senate

Andrew L. Aichele, Senior Director of Engagement & Education at COSI

Dr. Julia Simmerer, Ed.D., Senior Executive Director of the Center for Teaching, Leading, and Learning at The Ohio Department of Education, Designee for the Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

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

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

Committee Members Absent:

Eric Leach, Executive Director of the Ohio Third Frontier, Ohio Development Services Agency, Designee for the Director of Development, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation

Ellen Marrison, Content Strategist, The State Science & Technology Institute, appointed by the Governor

Ohio Department of Education Present:

Dr. Chris Woolard, Ph.D., Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

Emily Haynes, Assistant Legal Counsel

Mary Ellen Dobransky, STEM Administrator

Janna Mino, STEM Education Program Specialist

Kyaundra Ellis, Administrative Professional 2

Maddie Williams, STEM Intern

Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) Present:

Kelly Gaier-Evans, Director

Dr. Sandra Wilder, Ph.D., Relationship Manager

Others Present:

David Barnes, Ohio Department of Higher Education

Sarah Redick, N/A

Whitney Buell, Indian Hill Elementary School

Dr. Erin Owens, Indian Hill Primary School

BJ Thaman, ESC of Central Ohio

Dr. Robin Fisher, Dayton Regional STEM School

June Wedd, American Dairy Association

Christa Krohn, Teaching Institute for Excellence in STEM (TIES)

Ohio Department of Education Staff Recording Meeting Minutes:

Janna Mino, STEM Education Program Specialist & Maddie Williams, STEM Intern

Opening:

Dr. Tom Schwieterman called the meeting to order at **9:05am**.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Tom Schwieterman asked Dr. Chris Woolard to introduce himself to the Committee as the new interim superintendent of public instruction at the Ohio Department of Education. Dr. Woolard shared that he is supportive of the STEM Committee's work and the importance of STEM education initiatives to accelerate learning and prepare students for Ohio's workforce.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made to approve May 10th meeting agenda made by Andrew Aichele, seconded by Dr. Krista Maxson.

No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Andrew L. Aichele, Dr. Julia Simmerer, Jeff Polesovsky, and Dr. Krista Maxson.

Approval of February 10 Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve October 19th STEM Committee meeting minutes made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Andrew Aichele.

No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Andrew L. Aichele, Dr. Julia Simmerer, Jeff Polesovsky, and Dr. Krista Maxson.

Discussion Items:

Policy Updates

Mary Ellen Dobransky shared a review of the Ethics Commission requirements with the STEM committee which requires the committee to submit financial disclosures electronically every year.

Progress Update on Schools with Compliance Concerns

Mary Ellen Dobransky provided an update for schools currently on Corrective Action Plans. Tri-State STEM+M High School has met all the requirements of their Corrective Action Plan. The first compliance issue required the school to obtain a letter from their supporting school district. The letter has now been approved by the legal team. The second and final compliance issue was that Tri-State STEM+M High School was not originally approved for an "Early College" Designation by the Ohio Department of Higher Education. The school's board voted to remove the language "Early College" from the name. School leadership has submitted a name change in the Ohio Education Directory and they are awaiting approval.

Motion to remove Tri-State STEM+M High School's Corrective Action Plan made by Jeff Polesovsky, seconded by Dr. Krista Maxson.

No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Andrew L. Aichele, Dr. Julia Simmerer, Jeff Polesovsky, and Dr. Krista Maxson.

Mary Ellen Dobransky shared an update on the status of the Corrective Action Plan placed on Marysville High School regarding the "Early College" naming convention and lack of Designation as such. The school is in discussions with The Ohio Department of Higher Education about pursuing the official Designation to continue using the name.

Schools Updates

STEM and STEAM Schools Designated in 2018

Janna Mino reviewed the STEM and STEAM Schools Designated in 2018 and that are therefore in their fifth year of STEM or STEAM Designation and must reapply to maintain Designation. The following 10 out of 12 total schools in this cohort completed their Compliance Reapplication:

1. Boulevard Elementary | STEM School | grades K-5
2. Lander Elementary | STEM School | grades K-5
3. Orchard Elementary | STEM School (next five years of designation to reflect STEAM instead of STEM) | grades K-8

4. GESU School | STEM School Equivalent (next five years of designation to reflect STEAM instead of STEM) | grades K-8
5. St. Joseph Parish | STEM School Equivalent | grades K-8
6. St. Ambrose | STEM School Equivalent | grades K-8
7. Hartford Middle School | STEAM School | grades 6-8 (next five years of designation to include grades 4-8)
8. Graham Elementary | STEM School | grades K-5
9. Graham Middle | STEM School | grades 6-8
10. Bishop Flaget School | STEM School Equivalent | grades K-8

Janna Mino informed the Committee that per the STEM Committee's adoption of the Compliance Reapplication Process in June 2022, these schools can be Designated for an additional five years pending Quality Monitoring in the form of an application of evidence and site visit assessed against the STEM and STEAM Designation Rubric by the OSLN reviewer teams.

Dr. Krista Maxson asked the Department to clarify that we are giving tentative approval to schools. Janna Mino answered that this would be a tentative approval plan. Dr. Tom Schwieterman noted that this interim process to apply a Compliance Reapplication with a blanket, complete five years of Designation pending Quality Monitoring allows the STEM Committee to intervene to place schools on Corrective Action Plans or revoke Designation if a school is out of compliance with statute.

Motion to Designate the ten schools listed above with their named STEM or STEAM Designation for five additional years pending Quality Monitoring to be implemented according to the previously adopted schedule made by Andrew Aichele, seconded by Jeff Polesovsky.

No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Andrew L. Aichele, Dr. Julia Simmerer, Jeff Polesovsky, and Dr. Krista Maxson.

Janna Mino shared with the Committee that two schools from the cohort of schools Designated in 2018 have chosen to not continue to pursue STEM/STEAM designation at this time, allowing their previous Designation to expire. These two schools are:

1. Southdale Elementary School | STEAM School | grades K-5
2. I Promise School | STEM School | grades 3-4

Janna Mino shared that according to district leadership, Southdale Elementary is working on spreading STEAM practices beyond the previously Designated building in their district and wants staff to feel that this is accessible and equitable. The Department staff as well as The Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) team will continue offering support in Southdale Elementary's efforts of STEAM implementation.

Mary Ellen Dobransky shared that I Promise School's and Akron Public Schools' leadership expressed that they are focused on post-pandemic initiatives that take precedence over STEM initiatives. They have shared with the Department team that they intend to revisit STEM Designation and STEM practices in the future and they are grateful for the supports provided.

Janna Mino concluded that both schools will be invited to exit interviews to share information about their experience with STEM/STEAM Designation and any insights that may be helpful for the Committee.

Jeff Polesovsky expressed that the word "revoke" implies a punitive measure that does not reflect the intention of the STEM Committee. Emily Haynes, Assistant Legal Counsel at the Ohio Department of Education responded that this reflects the language in statute and it is advised to maintain exact wording in matters of voting that are found in Ohio Revised Code. General consensus of the STEM Committee members present at the meeting was to communicate that they would prefer the language "allow previous STEM/STEAM Designation to expire," and to encourage schools to continue innovating their practices.

Motion to revoke Southdale Elementary School's STEAM School Designation and I Promise School's STEM School Designation made by Andy Aichele, seconded by Dr. Krista Maxson.

No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Andrew L. Aichele, Dr. Julia Simmerer, Jeff Polesovsky, and Dr. Krista Maxson.

Initial STEM and STEAM Designation Applicants

Kelly Gaier Evans explained how OSLN supports schools that apply for STEM or STEAM Designation after the Committee votes to approve or deny Designation. She states that the goal is to support each school on their journey to implement STEM education throughout their curriculum and in the educational philosophy of all adults within the school. Kelly Gaier Evans illustrated the process that the Department and OSLN team follows before, during, and after the school's full application process. Regardless of the OSLN recommendation for Designation to the Committee, the teams provide thorough feedback to the school in areas of strength and opportunities for growth, along with targeted supports to reach their goals. They collaborate

with schools to provide transparency. This process applies to schools that are applying for the first time or are reapplying every five years.

Warren High School STEAM Designation Application

Kelly Gaier Evans gave an overview of Warren High School's STEAM Designation application and shared the strengths and areas of improvement observed in this school. This is Warren High School's first submission for STEM or STEAM Designation. The school serves grades 9-12. Kelly Gaier Evans first noted the areas of growth which includes a need for further integration of the arts and design into STEM content areas. Warren High School does not yet have engagement with the arts and design into their current curriculum. Kelly Gaier Evans then explained that the rubric requirement (attribute 1.5) of an advisory board of experts in place will help with this area. She also shared that the review team reflected that the school's structures for teacher collaboration require some further thought to make the vision of STEAM designation possible. The school offers a personalized learning period for teachers to provide targeted supports for students. They also have strong local partners to support teachers and students that can lead to immersive authentic learning experiences. It is recommended that they join OSLN's Innovative Leaders Institute to successfully plan and implement these initiatives.

OSLN does not yet recommend the STEM Committee approve five years of STEAM Designation for Warren High School. However, the Department, OSLN, and STEM Committee hope Warren High School will pursue Designation again in the future.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman mentioned this school is similar to a brand-new factory with all the necessary machinery, but that proof of performance is necessary for Designation.

Jeff Polesovsky expressed support for the school continuing to pursue STEAM education practices, as the possible impact their school could have on this geographical region of the state is significant. He then asked when Warren High School could reapply for Designation. Kelly Gaier-Evans answered that they could reapply as soon as next year, but there is no requirement or limit to when they choose to reapply, and reiterated that there is nothing punitive about applying for but not yet receiving Designation.

Dr. Julia Simmerer asked that the mentoring component of the OSLN Innovative Leaders Institute (ILI) be explained in further detail for the Committee. Dr. Sandra Wilder started by describing the rural cohort of ILI that was designed in collaboration with the Ohio Appalachian STEM Collaborative Ecosystem led by Dan Leffingwell at the ESC of East Central Ohio. This cohort includes seventeen mostly rural schools that will start the program within the next month. These are all schools that are eager for support with implementing STEM/STEAM in their school, and this cohort that was designed specifically for this region will support the diverse needs of this region. The mentors involved in the rural cohort of ILI are all current or former administrators from a rural school. They begin the mentorship program by bringing everyone together to connect and build relationships. Then, they introduce the mentees to their mentors. This is followed by coaching, meetings, and site visits for both parties. The goal is to create long lasting relationships that continue after the program is finished.

Andrew L. Aichele asked for clarification on how Warren High School is implementing the arts and design into STEM courses, as is required by attribute 2.1 for STEAM Designation. Kelly Gaier-Evans answered that is one of their areas for growth. They need an expert in arts and design in their leadership in order to authentically embed arts and design into STEM content areas.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman attested that this is a very tough decision for the Committee due to their desire to support this region of the state, and the Committee would like to see Warren High School reapply in the future. Mary Ellen Dobransky added that The Department is currently in the process of connecting these schools in the region and engaging with the Ohio Appalachian STEM Collaborative Ecosystem, Coalition of Rural Appalachian Schools (CORAS), and other networks.

Motion to not designate Warren High School as a STEAM Designated School made by Jeff Polesovsky, seconded by Andrew L. Aichele.

No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Andrew L. Aichele, Dr. Julia Simmerer, Jeff Polesovsky, and Dr. Krista Maxson.

Hawkins STEMM Academy STEM Designation Application

Dr. Sandra Wilder provided an overview of Hawkins STEMM Academy's STEM Designation application and feedback. This is their second application for initial STEM designation. She explains that they were not recommended last year, and that the OSLN, Department, and review team provided specific feedback on the areas that required growth. Dr. Wilder shared an overview of the many strengths that Hawkins STEMM Academy has demonstrated. This school has implemented the feedback provided last cycle and deepened their partnerships with business, industry, higher education, and community partners. There is evidence of shared leadership in the building. Every adult involved has a similar vision of STEM for the students. It is evident that everyone in that schools knows the core values which provide a very powerful message. Dr. Sandra Wilder shared that even schools that OSLN recommends for STEM or STEAM Designation are provided with areas for growth in their feedback. For Hawkins STEMM Academy, the review team identified that they can improve their Mastery Learning policies. The school leadership is

also joining ILI. OSLN recommended the STEM Committee approve five years of STEM Designation for Hawkins STEMM Academy starting in the 2023-2024 school year.

Dr. Krista Maxson asked to confirm that Toledo Public Schools has a diverse population. Dr. Sandra Wilder confirmed that the population is racially diverse. Janna Mino added that their diversity extends to students with disabilities as well. The special education teacher has been working with the Department's Zero Barriers in STEM initiative with the Smithsonian Science Education Center to share their practices for supporting students with disabilities in STEM. =

Dr. Tom Schwieterman expressed a desire to create a special designation for schools that go beyond the required rubric attributes to encourage STEM education for all students in the future.

Motion to designate Hawkins STEMM Academy as a STEM Designated School made by Dr. Krista Maxson, seconded by Jeff Polesovsky.

No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Andrew L. Aichele, Dr. Julia Simmerer, Jeff Polesovsky, and Dr. Krista Maxson.

Indian Hill Elementary STEM Designation Application

Kelly Gaier Evans gave an overview of Indian Hill Elementary School. This was their first time applying for STEM or STEAM Designation. A notable strength is the school leadership evident throughout. One foundational structure put in place is the school's personalized learning practices. Kelly Gaier Evans explains a concept implemented by all teachers where students are given a short worksheet used to reflect what they learned and later document this through different stages for their family. They also use student data to drive their curriculum goals. Indian Hill Elementary School is participating in a pilot for personalized learning. Lab classroom cycle allows teachers to think through how to strengthen STEM learning practices. Teachers collaborate as a team to reflect on the lessons observe. Teachers then work together to apply these new ideas into their classrooms. There is a strong expectation that all teachers participate. The STEM advisory board they have in place does not meet frequently enough and needs a to establish a wealth of partners. It is recommended that the partnerships in place shift from people-based to organization-based, which in turn will lead into additional opportunities. Indian Hill Elementary has applied for ILI.

Dr. Krista Maxson asked how often teachers participate in the lab classroom cycle. Whitney Buell, principal of Indian Hill Elementary School, answered these are attended weekly.

OSLN recommended the STEM Committee approve five years of STEM Designation for Indian Hill Elementary School starting in the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion to designate Indian Hill Elementary School as a STEM Designated School made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Dr. Krista Maxson.

No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Andrew L. Aichele, Dr. Julia Simmerer, Jeff Polesovsky, and Dr. Krista Maxson.

Indian Hill Primary STEM Designation Application

Dr. Sandra Wilder introduced Indian Hill Primary School and shared the feedback on their application for STEM Designation. As a part of their peer mentoring practices, teachers are sent to various programs and assigned to other educators that did not attend to share their learning. Each visit is supported with pre- and post-discussions with staff and educators with included time for reflection. Teachers are also given autonomy to integrate students' curiosities, inquiries, community problems throughout their curriculum through a play-based learning model. Indian Hill Primary School has strong partners in their STEM advisory board. Dr. Sandra Wilder then reviewed areas of growth for the school to focus on in the future. Indian Hill Primary is encouraged to utilize their partnerships in the planning phase and not solely in the final phases of a lesson or experience. It is recommended that experts are engaged further in pre-learning process.

OSLN recommended the committee approve five years of STEM Designation for Indian Hill Primary School starting in the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion to designate Indian Hill Primary School as a STEM Designated School made by Dr. Krista Maxson, seconded by Dr. Julia Simmerer.

No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Andrew L. Aichele, Dr. Julia Simmerer, Jeff Polesovsky, and Dr. Krista Maxson.

The principal of Indian Hill Primary, Dr. Erin Owens, expressed her appreciation for the process of applying for STEM Designation, explaining how the rubric continuously offers growth opportunities for schools.

Reynoldsburg High School STEAM Designation Application

Dr. Sandra Wilder then shared an overview of the application for STEAM Designation by Reynoldsburg High School. A major strength of this school is their career pathways program. There are thirteen pathways, each lasting three years. Students can explore various pathways after their freshman year. Student can then apply these hours of applied learning to college credit and certifications. Reynoldsburg High School is currently reflecting on how to further improve these pathways ensure the program is accessible to all students. Dr. Sandra Wilder then discussed the areas of growth. This school has a policy and expectation for teachers to use the gradual release of responsibility model in classroom teaching (commonly known as “I do, we do, you do”). Unfortunately, this model is a direct contradiction to STEM practices that rely on inquiry and personalized learning because learners all receive the same tier one instruction. This model prohibits authentic learning and impedes progress on all attributes of the STEAM Designation rubric. Additionally, while there are pockets of interdisciplinary teaching occurring, cross-curricular lessons are not being taught school-wide. The school attempts to implement project-based learning as well. However, these projects are used as a culmination of learning after traditional instruction or only connect to content within a single discipline (more than one branch of science, for example). While the school has adopted a schoolwide design process, it is not yet being effectively implemented.

Andrew L. Aichele asked why the school pursued a STEAM designation if they are missing the arts and design portion in their application. Dr. Sandra Wilder, Ph.D. explained that the staff is determined to achieve this STEAM designation and believes in this way of teaching. She alluded to the timely manner it takes for a school to achieve a designation. She claims that if the school would let go of traditions, designation will happen next year.

Jeff Polesovsky asked for clarification between the members of and roles of a Business Advisory Council and a STEAM Advisory Board. Dr. Sandra Wilder explained that there are many organized leadership groups a school may have. A district's governing board typically consists of members of the community voted in by the public and may not include the required expertise necessary to reach STEM or STEAM Designation (rubric attribute 1.5). A school may form a STEAM Advisory Board to bring the required expertise into the leadership guidance of the school. Some schools use this group as their Business Advisory Council as well. STEM and STEAM Designation further requires specific individuals to participate in curriculum design, which may overlap with any of these groups, or a school may form a separate Curriculum Team to meet these requirements. The necessary expertise is not actively involved in STEAM education practices at Reynoldsburg High School and all groups are missing an expert in the implementation of embedding the arts and design into STEM courses, which is required by law. The principal's hope is that experts on the school's Business Advisory Council will join the STEAM Advisory Board as they increase their participation at Reynoldsburg High School.

OSLN does not recommend Reynoldsburg High School for STEAM Designation.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman asked if the Committee is revoking or denying Designation. Dr. Sandra Wilder answered that although there were previously Designated schools in this district that allowed their Designations to expire in the past, because the district underwent reorganization to combine the high schools under one IRN, this is technically their first application as one new school, and the Committee would be denying Designation rather than revoking. She added that the school's principal has a history of leading successful STEM Designated schools and intends to continue pursuing STEAM practices. OSLN hopes they will work through the systems that are blocking their approval for STEAM Designation.

Dr. Julia Simmerer, Ed.D. asked if the school is aware of this notion mentioned. Dr. Sandra Wilder answered that feedback is openly and honestly communicated with school leaders for all schools prior to STEM Committee voting meetings.

Motion to not designate Reynoldsburg High School as a STEAM Designated School made by Andrew L. Aichele, seconded by Dr. Julia Simmerer.

No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Andrew L. Aichele, Dr. Julia Simmerer, Jeff Polesovsky, and Dr. Krista Maxson.

Horizon Science Academy Columbus Middle School STEAM Designation Application

Kelly Gaier Evans introduced the strengths observed at Horizon Science Academy Columbus Middle School during their application process for STEAM School Equivalent Designation. This school has a clear vision for STEM education and the principal has expressed an understanding of the demand for STEM skills in the future workforce. The principal has a clear desire to ensure the school is preparing their students for these opportunities. Every student is also exposed to computer science coursework. The school is very intentional about the types of these experiences including robotics classes, participation in a concept network, engaging in the science of engineering, as well as attending math and robotic competitions. Kelly Gaier Evans then reviewed areas for improvement, including building and sustaining school partnerships that build authentic learning experiences for students all throughout the learning process. Another area of improvement includes the need for a strong STEAM Advisory Board. The school currently rotates members, resulting in infrequent engagement while the few consistent members only meet twice a year.

OSLN would like to see the school utilize their STEAM Advisory Board to drive the mission and vision of the school and engage in curriculum design. These participants need to play an active and consistent role throughout the school year. Finally, Horizon Science Academy Columbus Middle School needs to implement more arts and design into their curriculum framework. OSLN recommended that the school applies for the Fostering STEM Institute professional learning for lead teachers and instructional coaches. OSLN does not recommend Horizon Science Academy Columbus Middle School for STEAM School Equivalent Designation.

No additional questions or comments were made.

Motion to not designate Horizon Science Academy Columbus Middle School for STEAM School Equivalent Designation made by Jeff Polesovsky, seconded by Dr. Krista Maxson.

No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Andrew L. Aichele, Dr. Julia Simmerer, Jeff Polesovsky, and Dr. Krista Maxson.

STEM and STEAM Designation Five Year Reapplicants – Quality Monitoring

Dayton Regional STEM School STEM Designation Five Year Reapplication

Dr. Sandra Wilder shared an overview of the strengths observed at Dayton Regional STEM School, an independent STEM School in Kettering Ohio, and one of the first schools to receive Designation in the state in 2008. The school completed their Compliance Reapplication last spring and underwent Quality Monitoring during this school year.

“STEM” is the identity of this school and they embody STEM philosophy everywhere in their learning community. A student shared that “STEM prepares you to become the person you are meant to be,” which reflects how the school provides the opportunity for each learner to discover their own strengths. The staff has been able to maintain innovative practices over time by continuously reflecting and seeking improvement. They model real world problems and circumstances for their students. This school has successfully created authentic learning experiences by effectively leveraging their many partners.

Dr. Sandra Wilder shared an overview of opportunities for growth observed at Dayton Regional STEM School. This includes deeper implementation of mastery learning.

OSLN recommended the STEM Committee approve an additional five years of STEM Designation for Dayton Regional STEM School.

Motion to designate Dayton Regional STEM School made by Dr. Julia Simmerer, Ed.D, seconded by Jeff Polesovsky.

No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Andrew L. Aichele, Dr. Julia Simmerer, Jeff Polesovsky, and Dr. Krista Maxson.

Dr. Robin Fisher expressed the importance for the STEM Committee to know how much time is devoted to this process to apply or reapply for STEM or STEAM Designation. She explained that her school team tracked the time spent and logged over 500 hours throughout this process, and this shows that schools who apply are dedicated towards innovating their practices and applying is no small feat. She reiterates that while it does take significant time, it is worthwhile.

Partnership Updates

Department Updates

At the February STEM Committee Meeting, Committee members requested an overview of the Governor’s Budget for the following year. Mary Ellen Dobransky provided a high-level overview of the budget items that align to STEM education, but emphasized that this is all in draft until the final budget is implemented later this summer. The STEM Committee Meeting in July will allow for time to reflect on and review the finalized budget.

Janna Mino shared an update that the State of STEM Report is in the process of being published. The Department is hosting regional convenings to continue collecting data on STEM assets and needs around the state and connect cross-sector partners to advance STEM learning. She shared that one example of how this kind of collaboration is thriving is evident through the collaboration between OSLN and the Ohio Appalachian STEM Collaborative Ecosystem led by Dan Leffingwell out of the ESC of East Central Ohio that resulted in the Rural cohort of ILI. She further noted that each region is so unique and the Department is eager to appropriately supporting partners in each region. The Southeast Convening is currently to be announced due to the desire to be purposeful in their actions and give time for the Ecosystem to continue building their new network.

Janna Mino explained that the Department is working on an initiative in partnership with the Smithsonian Science Education Center to diversify the STEM teaching workforce. The team involved in this initiative currently represents Northeast and

Southwest Ohio and they are working to build a retention plan that schools can implement to create a culture of belonging among educators.

Ohio STEM Learning Network Updates

Kelly Gaier Evans shared details about The Ohio STEM Innovation Summit Awards Ceremony. This is an opportunity to recognize and thank educators that were nominated by their peers and selected by OSLN. Kelly Gaier Evans shared that the awards ceremony would be held Thursday, May 11th preceding the inaugural OSLN Innovation Summit on Friday, May 12th. Kelly Gaier Evans shared that OSLN is partnering with StarLab, a commercial space station program, and this partnership will inspire the annual OSLN Design Challenge for Ohio K-12 students for next school year.

Kelly Gaier Evans then shared updates for the Innovative Leaders Institute (ILI). OSLN has reimagined the content of this program to be better aligned with the rubric attributes that define STEM education for Ohio. The content will discuss how to lead this STEM integration and how to sustain practices in a school.

Dr. Krista Maxson shared that the teacher apprenticeship program is coming to Ohio. STEM and STEAM Designated Schools could support apprenticeships to spread STEM education practices.

Andrew L. Aichele offers thanks for support in the COSI Science Festival from partners such as the Department and Battelle. Next year's event will be held on May 4, 2024 at COSI's headquarters in Columbus.

Page Break

Public comments:

Christa Krohn mentions that all five STEM Learning Ecosystems in Ohio were represented at the STEM Learning Ecosystems Community of Practice Convening in Jacksonville, Florida in early May. These leaders were joined by the global Community of Practice. The five Ohio STEM Learning Ecosystems and their leaders include: Ebony Hood - NEOSTEM (Northeast Ohio), Dr. Meghan Federer - The Works (Central Ohio), Sean Kelley - The Cincinnati STEM Collaborative (Southwest Ohio), Jessica Short - DO STEM Ecosystem (Dayton Region), and Dan Leffingwell - Ohio Appalachian STEM Collaborative (Southeast Ohio).

No additional public comments were made at this time.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman to adjourn the STEM Committee Meeting, seconded by Krista. No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Andrew L. Aichele, Dr. Julia Simmerer, Jeff Polesovsky, and Dr. Krista Maxson.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman adjourned the meeting at **11:01am**.

The next STEM Committee Meeting will be on July 24, 2023 at the PAST Foundation in Columbus, Ohio starting at 9:00am.
