



Ohio STEM Committee Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2022

1:02pm – 2:14pm

The Ohio Department of Education

25 South Front Street, Columbus, OH

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. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Ph.D., Director of the Office of Approaches to Teaching and Professional Learning at The Ohio Department of Education, Designee for the Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

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

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

Dr. Krista Maxson, Associate Vice Chancellor, P-16 Initiatives, Ohio Department of Higher Education, Designee for the Chancellor of the Department of Higher Education

Eric Linder, Executive Director of the Ohio Third Frontier, Ohio Development Services Agency, Designee for the Director of Development

Ohio Department of Education Present:

Dr. Teresa Dempsey, Ph.D., Assistant Director for Personalized Learning

Mary Ellen Dobransky, STEM Administrator

Janna Mino, STEM Education Program Specialist

Holly Fischer, Legal Counsel

Kyaundra Ellis, Administrative Professional 2

Kaylyn Flanigan, STEM Education Student Intern

Lisa Price, Grants Manager

Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) Present:

Kelly Gaier Evans, Ohio Stem Learning Network Director

Sandy Guinto, Ohio Stem Learning Network STEM Relationship Manager

Others Present:

Susan Kratzer, Hannah News

Christa Krohn, TIES

Abby Benjamin, OAISS

Erika Simmons, Academy for Urban Scholars

Angela McMurray, Ohio Academy of Science

June Wedd, American Dairy Association

Ohio Department of Education Staff Recording Meeting Minutes:

Kyaundra Ellis, Administrative Professional 2

Kaylyn Flanigan, STEM Education Student Intern

Opening:

Dr. Tom Schwieterman called the meeting to order at **1:02pm**.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Tom Schwieterman invited everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made to approve July 25th meeting agenda made by Andrew Aichele, seconded by Jeff Polesovsky. No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Dr. Krista Maxon, Ellen Morrison, Andrew Aichele, Jeff Polesovsky, Eric Linder

Approval of May 20, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve May 20th STEM Committee meeting minutes made by Andrew Aichele, seconded by Jeff Polesovsky. No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Dr. Krista Maxon, Ellen Morrison, Jeff Polesovsky, Andrew Aichele, Eric Linder

Approval of June 3, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Correction of minutes to be made to reflect appropriate changes of attending team members. Motion made to approve this meeting's agenda made by Krista Maxon, seconded by Dr. Tom. No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Jeff Polesovsky, Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Dr. Krista Maxon, Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Andrew Aichele, Eric Linder, Ellen Morrison

Discussion Items:

Reapplication for Schools Beyond Five Years of Designation | 1:04pm – 1:18pm

Mary Ellen Dobransky and Janna Mino provided an overview of the Ohio Laws requiring Reapplication for STEM/ STEAM Designation for Schools every five years. There are currently forty-three schools that are beyond five years of STEM or STEAM Designation that need to reapply for Designation through a Compliance Reapplication and a subsequent Quality Monitoring process.

Five of the forty-three schools beyond five years of STEM or STEAM Designation chose not to reapply for Designation. Mary Ellen Dobransky explained that the STEM teams at the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) will request to meet with each school to collect their feedback and determine the reasoning for their choice to not reapply. She cited the example that some schools that exist within the same district may wish to reapply as a new applicant for STEM or STEAM Designation under one IRN as the district undergoes reorganization of academy-model schools.

Thirty-five schools completed a Compliance Reapplication and agreed to a Quality Monitoring process during the first two years of their next five years of STEM or STEAM Designation. Mary Ellen Dobransky addressed to the committee that there are two schools that submitted reapplications but did not meet the requirements of a qualified school district of record. The recommendation from Legal Counsel is to place the two schools on a Corrective Action plan (also referred to as a "STEM Growth Plan") to obtain a letter of support from an Ohio school district. The vote regarding one of these schools will be held at today's meeting, and the vote for the other affected school will be postponed to the next STEM Committee meeting on August 11.

Questions and Comments

Jeff Polesovsky asked which location the schools that did not reapply were located due to concerns of minimal access to STEM education in rural areas of Ohio. The team confirmed that the five schools that chose not to reapply for STEM or STEAM Designation at this time are located in urban or suburban districts.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman commended the team for outreach efforts to successfully make contact with each of these forty-three schools.

Mike DeWine, Governor
Dr. Stephanie Siddens, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

Jeff Polesovsky asked if switching from STEM Designation to STEAM Designation or vice versa was offered to schools that chose not to reapply. Mary Ellen Dobransky confirmed, yes.

Regarding the school requiring a letter of support from a district, Dr. Tom Schwieterman asked how feasible these letters are to obtain. Mary Ellen Dobransky confirmed that the STEM teams at the Ohio Department of Education and OSLN will assist and provide support. Generally, there are no concerns about a school obtaining and submitting a letter of support. However, Kelly Gaier Evans pointed out that as the political landscape shifts, STEM and STEAM Schools may encounter issues garnering support from local school districts.

Dr. Krista Maxon asked if all other requirements for these schools requiring letters of support from a district were met. Mary Ellen Dobransky confirmed that all other Compliance Reapplication requirements were met.

The committee held a vote on the schools that are currently beyond five years of STEM and STEAM Designation with a Quality Monitoring process in place.

Motion made by Jeff P, to approve an additional five years of STEM or STEAM Designation of the thirty-three schools that reapplied for their declared form of Designation through the Compliance Reapplication with additional Quality Monitoring process implemented by the Ohio Department of Education and OSLN, seconded by Andrew A. No opposed.

These thirty-three schools are:

1. Metro Early College High School
2. Dayton Regional STEM School
3. Bio-Med Science Academy STEM School
4. Valley STEM+ME2 Academy
5. St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception
6. St. Sebastian Parish School
7. St. Mary School Chardon
8. St. Vincent - St. Mary High School
9. Mater Dei Academy
10. St. Gabriel School
11. National Inventors Hall of Fame School, Center for STEM
12. Baldwin Road Junior High School
13. Thurgood Marshall High School
14. MC2 STEM High School
15. Pickerington Ridgeview Junior High School
16. Linden McKinley High School
17. West High School
18. Marysville STEM Early College High School
19. Stebbins High School
20. Mad River Middle School
21. Springfield High School
22. Springmill STEM Elementary
23. Summit Road Elementary
24. Canal Winchester Middle School
25. Willoughby-Eastlake School of Innovation
26. Northwestern Elementary
27. Northwestern Middle School
28. Akron STEM High School
29. Northwestern High School
30. Hughes STEM High School
31. Dayton Early College Academy: DECA High School
32. Dayton Early College Academy: DECA Middle School
33. Dayton Early College Academy: DECA Prep (Elementary)

Affirmative Votes: Jeff Polesovsky, Dr. Tom, Andrew Aichele, Ellen Marrison, Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Eric Linder, Dr. Krista Maxon

Motion made by Jeff Polesovsky to revoke the STEM or STEAM Designation of the five schools that chose to not reapply, seconded by Ellen Marrison. No opposed. Motion approved.

These five schools are:

1. Reynoldsburg High School (HS)2 Academy

Mike DeWine, Governor
Dr. Stephanie Siddens, Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction

2. Reynoldsburg High School eSTEM
3. The STEM Academy of Lawrence County at Collins Career Center
4. St. Vincent de Paul Parish STEM School
5. New Hope Christian Academy

Affirmative Votes: Jeff Polesovsky, Dr. Tom, Andrew Aichele, Ellen Marrison, Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Eric Linder, Dr. Krista Maxon

Motion made to place Tri-State STEM-M Early College High School on a Corrective Action Plan to obtain a letter of support from a qualified school district within one year of the development of the Corrective Action Plan by Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, seconded by Andrew Aichele. No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Ellen Marrison, Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Jeff Polesovsky, Andrew Aichele, Ellen Marrison, Dr. Krista Maxon, Eric Linder, Jeff Polesovsky

Schools that Piloted Quality Monitoring Rubric and Process | 1:18pm – 1:36pm

Three of the forty-three schools beyond five years of STEM or STEAM Designation completed the Compliance Reapplication and piloted the Quality Monitoring process. The OSLN team provided high-level feedback on these three schools which OSLN recommends for five additional years of STEM or STEAM Designation.

These three schools are:

1. Global Impact STEM Academy
2. Hull Prairie Intermediate School
3. Ranger High Tech Academy

Kelly Gaier Evans summarized the review team's feedback and assessment of Global Impact STEM Academy (GISA). In all domains of the draft Quality Monitoring rubric, GISA received overall "executing" ratings. OSLN recommended Global Impact STEM Academy for five additional years of STEM School Designation.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman noted that it was an honor to visit GISA at the February 2022 STEM Committee Meeting and commends the school leadership. Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer agreed with Dr. Tom Schwieterman, noting that clear and detailed summary of feedback for this school presented by OSLN was appreciated.

Motion made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman to approve Global Impact STEM Academy for five additional years of STEM School Designation without further Quality Monitoring, seconded by Jeff Polesovsky. No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Ellen Marrison, Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Jeff Polesovsky, Andrew Aichele, Eric Linder, Dr. Krista Maxon

Sandy Guinto summarized the review team's feedback and assessment of Hull Prairie Intermediate School, noting the strengths of teaching teams within grades, shared leadership, and accessibility to STEAM education, as all students in the district attend this school. The district's school board attended the site visit and Sandy Guinto expressed the evidently strong support they provide the school in their work in STEM education. She also noted that Hull Prairie rated "executing" in all three domains of the Quality Monitoring Rubric overall. Hull Prairie Intermediate School utilizes professional development days for staff to train with university specialists. OSLN recommended Hull Prairie Intermediate School for five additional years of STEAM School Designation.

Motion made by Andrew Aichele to approve Hull Prairie Intermediate School for five additional years of STEAM School Designation without further Quality Monitoring, seconded by Ellen Marrison. No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Affirmative Votes: Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Ellen Marrison, Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Jeff Polesovsky, Andrew Aichele, Eric Linder, Dr. Krista Maxon

Kelly Gaier Evans summarized the review team's feedback and assessment of Ranger High Tech Academy. Students from the district's primary schools may attend this school through a lottery-driven application until seats are filled. The application includes a design task centered around introducing students to the collaboration that is practiced in the school. All domains of the Quality Model Rubric for Ranger High Tech Academy were rated "executing" overall. OSLN recommended Ranger High Tech Academy for five additional years of STEAM School Designation.

Motion made by Jeff Polesovsky to approve Ranger High Tech Academy for five additional years of STEM School Designation without further Quality Monitoring, seconded Andrew Aichele. No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Dr. Krista Maxon Ellen Marrison, Andrew Aichele, Jeff Polesovsky

Dr. Tom Schwieterman commended the work of the Ohio Department of Education and OSLN teams for the review of these three schools that piloted the Quality Monitoring process.

Quality Monitoring Rubric, Process, and Schedule | 1:35pm – 2:11pm

Kelly Gaier Evans began the overview of the STEM and STEAM Designation Reapplication Quality Monitoring Rubric Process and Schedule. She reviewed the requirements involved, including the submission of artifacts and accompanying written narratives that schools submit as part of the written application. Through this application process, schools should demonstrate how their practices align with STEM and STEAM pedagogy. Kelly Gaier Evans shared how the simplified process of online submission and site visit align with feedback provided through a taskforce of STEM and STEAM School leaders and the schools that piloted the Quality Monitoring process this spring.

Janna Mino presented to the committee how the Quality Monitoring process aligns with and supports the Quality Model for STEM and STEAM Schools, as well as Ohio Law. She explained that each attribute is evaluated by a three-point scale: “emerging”, “executing”, and “establishing”. Schools cannot receive an “emerging” rating on any attributes and still receive a recommendation for Designation. STEM Committee members were provided with the draft copy of the Quality Monitoring Rubric.

Kelly Gaier-Evans provided an overview of the Quality Monitoring “deep dive” session for schools. These sessions will include information and resources regarding the Quality Monitoring rubric and application process. School leaders will also identify a general time for a site visit with the Department and OSLN at the deep dive session. After the deep dive session, schools can begin the process of collecting artifacts and narratives for the written application. The written application will be submitted before the site visit. Site visits will include school tours, classroom visit, conversations with teachers, students, and potentially the school’s partners. The written application and site visit combined will be assessed with the Quality Monitoring rubric to determine OSLN’s recommendation to the STEM Committee. The STEM Committee may vote to approve five additional years of STEM or STEAM Designation to the school or place the school on a Corrective Action Plan (“STEM Growth Plan”) based on areas of the Quality Monitoring Rubric that do not meet required minimal ratings, which the school would have one year to implement from the STEM Growth Plan’s development in collaboration with OSLN and the Department.

Motion made by Jeff Polesovsky to adopt the Quality Monitoring Rubric, seconded by Ellen Marrison. No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Dr. Krista Maxon, Ellen Marrison, Jeff Polesovsky, Andrew Aichele

Questions and Comments

Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer asked how long this process would take. Kelly Gaier Evans answered that it took four hours per person to review the applications and explained that the other preparations for this process on behalf of OSLN, the Department, and other reviewers varies, but is significant. She also explained that feedback from the schools included requests for at least several months’ notice to begin preparation of their written application and voice and choice regarding the site visit timeline.

Jeff Polesovsky asked how meetings with business partners were deemed necessary on the site visits. Sandy Guinto explained that the review team determined from the written application if they needed to speak directly with the partners for clarifying questions or more details of their involvement with the school. Dr. Tom Schwieterman echoed that the default should be meetings with business and industry partners to reinforce the importance of these partnerships for STEM education. Sandy Guinto responded that letters from these partners are required in the applications, but the review team can also determine the partners’ level of involvement from conversations with students and classroom observations as well. Letters from partners that are vague would require a meeting. Kelly Gaier Evans noted that the team could make a note to prioritize partner meetings moving forward. Dr. Tom Schwieterman asked if reviewers knew every time that a meeting with partners was necessary. Kelly Gaier-Evans confirmed. Dr. Tom Schwieterman urged reviewers to be cautious and when there’s doubt, schedule a meeting with partners. Kelly Gaier Evans confirmed.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman asked how the committee will receive updates on schools that were placed on STEM Growth Plans, and mentioned that the committee will need to affirm, close, or monitor STEM Growth Plans periodically throughout the year. Mary Ellen Dobransky suggested that the teams could share supports provided by the Department and OSLN and updates on the school’s process at each STEM Committee Meeting, as applicable. Dr. Tom Schwieterman suggested a six-month update.

Dr. Krista Maxon asked if they meet the requirements of their STEM Growth Plan within less than a year from the plan's development, for example, within three months, would the committee be able to vote to close the school's plan and approve additional years of STEM or STEAM Designation. Mary Ellen Dobransky and Janna Mino confirmed.

Janna Mino reviewed the Department and OSLN's proposed timeline for Quality Monitoring moving forward, involving Compliance Reapplications, deep dive sessions, written applications, and site visits.

Questions and Comments

Dr. Tom Schwieterman asked if there were schools that would be a time when schools who reach five years of STEM or STEAM Designation could complete the Compliance Reapplication at the same time as their written application and site visit. Janna Mino confirmed that the team proposes this starting with the schools originally designated in 2020, but that the team is proposing that the schools designated in 2018 and 2019 follow a staggered approach with the Compliance Reapplication before the Quality Monitoring process, similar to the forty-five schools that were beyond five years of Designation this year, in order to provide them with equitable time to prepare for Quality Monitoring and receive adequate support from the Department and OSLN in this new process.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman noted that asking schools to pilot the Quality Monitoring process was incredibly beneficial to the STEM Committee's ability to make an informed decision. Dr. Tom requested the addresses of these three schools so that he could thank them for their participation.

Motion made by Dr. Krista Maxon to approve the first three years of the Quality Monitoring process and timeline and seconded by Ellen Marrison. No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Dr. Krista Maxon, Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Ellen Marrison, Eric L, Jeff Polesovsky, Andrew Aichele

Public comments:

The committee heard from Erika Simmons, a Biotech Engineer at the Academy for Urban Scholars. Erika applauded the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio STEM Learning Network for their dedication and hard work. Erika Simmons asked about the difference between "Early College" designation and STEM/STEAM practices. Dr. Krista Maxon answered that they are two separate designations which could be submitted by the school simultaneously or separately. Dr. Krista Maxon also noted that there were most likely more STEM and STEAM schools than Early College to her knowledge. She offered to connect Erika Simmons to contacts at the Ohio Department of Higher Education to get more information on the Early College model and designation process.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Dr. Krista Maxon to adjourn the STEM Committee Meeting, seconded by Jeff Polesovsky. No opposed. Motion approved.

Affirmative Votes: Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer, Dr. Krista Maxon, Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Ellen Marrison, Eric L, Jeff Polesovsky, Andrew Aichele

Dr. Tom Schwieterman adjourned the meeting at **2:14pm**.

The next STEM committee meeting will be on August 11, 2022 at the Ohio Department of Education at 9:00am.
