

Ohio STEM Committee Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2022

9:40am – 12:20pm

Ohio Department of Education

25 S Front Street, Columbus, OH 43212

Committee Members Attending in-person:

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

Committee Members Absent:

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 (ODE) Attending:

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

Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) Attending:

Kelly Gaier Evans, OSLN Director

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

Others Attending:

Dr. Jeremy Ervin, Superintendent of Community STEAM Academy

Sheila Ross, SPP Group, representing Ohio Alliance for Independent STEM Schools (OAISS)

Jack Gilbert, Mech Net Employee

June Wedd, American Dairy Association Representative

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

Ohio Department of Education (ODE) Staff Recording Meeting Minutes:

Janna Mino, STEM Education Program Specialist

Kyaundra Ellis, Administrative Professional 2

Opening:

Dr. Tom Schwieterman called the committee meeting to order at **9:40am**.

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Tom Schwieterman invited everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made to approve this meeting's agenda made by Ellen Marrison, seconded by Andrew Aichele. No opposed. Motion approved.

Approval of October 29, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Motion made to approve the February 25, 2021, Meeting Minutes made by Andrew Aichele, seconded by Ellen Marrison. No opposed. Motion approved.

Discussion Items:

STEM Designation 2022 | 9:45am – 11:15am

Kelly Gaier Evans presented an overview of the current Designation process.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman commented that he appreciates the impact of expertise on innovating this process. He asked what the typical timeline would look like for a school interested in applying for Designation. Kelly Gaier Evans responded that this depends on the school, but that The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and The Ohio STEM Learning Network (OSLN) are working to collect information to provide guidance on the journey and timeline for schools.

Kelly Gaier Evans shared the ideas for improvement of the Designation process that ODE and OSLN plan to initiate this summer. Dr. Tom Schwieterman asked if Ohio is a leader in the country in STEM Schools. Kelly Gaier Evans responded that the Re-Designation process will help identify model schools that are potentially leading this educational practice nationally.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman noted that STEM Education is both the pedagogy and curricular approaches as well as a culture and identity that cannot be captured on a paper application. Kelly Gaier Evans responded that this aligns with trends the team observed on site visits. Mary Ellen Dobransky further confirmed this. Dr. Tom Schwieterman expressed that STE(A)M Designation is so paramount to the community that it is imperative that schools with this logo and honor is reflective of the integrity of the Designation.

Kelly Gaier Evans added that the long-term goal of the STEM Designation process when it began was feeding the career focused education through STEM practices to build the workforce in Ohio and this remains a primary focus of this process. She also commented that making connections to the local business and industry community is a trend in terms of an area of needed support for STEM Schools. Jeff Polesovsky asked how industries can be exposed to entry points of engaging with STEM Schools. Kelly Gaier Evans responded that the team has observed that schools can bring in industry partners to propose real problems for students to solve and be authentic audiences to presentations of solutions. Jeff Polesovsky recommended that this conversation continues before the next STEM Committee meeting and the team begins the work to support schools in these connections before the industries set up manufacturing and work in Ohio. Dr. Tom Schwieterman commented that summer interns from STEM Schools are a cost-effective solution to industries beginning recruitment and talent development. Jeff Polesovsky offered to represent a group to initiate these connections between schools and

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industry. Dr. Tom Schwieterman asked how often schools are providing authentic industry connections. Kelly Gaier Evans responded that a trend the team observed in this cycle was that schools had many partners interested in collaborating but that the partner and the school needed guidance on beginning their work together. Jeff Polesovsky suggested that schools need funding for this. Kelly Gaier Evans responded that Tennessee incentives schools to form these partnerships with funding.

Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer addressed other committee members' questions. She discussed how ODE is working with Chiefs for Change to identify national perspectives on Ohio's STEM programming. Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer shared that the data from Fall 2022 identified workforce development gaps and needs, and current work is to identify STEM School program gaps through site visits separate from Designation, network focal groups, and alumni focal groups. Dr. Tom Schwieterman confirmed that the committee would be eager to hear this presentation from our external partners. Dr. Tom Schwieterman, Kelly Gaier Evans, and Jeff Polesovsky confirmed that they approve of the idea of connecting to alumni.

Dr. Jeremy Ervin pointed out that his school is enabling ongoing access to school emails and files for students after graduating to stay connected to alumni.

The STEM Committee Voted on the 2022 STE(A)M Designation Applicants

Tree of Life Christian School – Polaris (K-5): OSLN recommends STEM School Equivalent Designation. Motion made to approve the school for STEM Equivalent Designation made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Andrew Aichele. No opposed. Motion approved.

ODE and OSLN further addressed common trends in gaps the team observed in this cycle.

Crestview Elementary: OSLN does not yet recommend Designation. Motion made to not approve the school for Designation made by Ellen Marrison, seconded by Andrew Aichele. No opposed. Motion approved.

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

Abstained Votes:

Hawkins STEMM Academy: OSLN does not yet recommend Designation. Motion made to not approve the school for Designation made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Jeff Polesovsky. No opposed. Motion approved.

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

Abstained Votes:

Incarnate Word Academy: OSLN does not yet recommend Designation. Motion made to not approve the school for Designation made by Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Jeff Polesovsky. No opposed. Motion approved.

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

Abstained Votes:

Indian Hill Primary School: OSLN does not yet recommend Designation. Motion made to not approve the school for Designation made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Andrew Aichele. No opposed. Motion approved.

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

Abstained Votes:

London High School: OSLN does not yet recommend Designation. Motion made to not approve the school for Designation made by Andrew Aichele, seconded by Dr. Tom Schwieterman. No opposed. Motion approved.

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

Abstained Votes:

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Valley View: OSLN does not yet recommend Designation. Motion made to not approve the school for Designation made by Ellen Morrison, seconded by Andrew Aichele. No opposed. Motion approved.

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

Abstained Votes:

Dr. Tom Schwieterman asked OSLN and ODE to thank each school for applying and encourage them to continue engaging in the work. He emphasized that not yet becoming Designated should not impede their journey and is grateful that it is the goal of the teams at OSLN and ODE to support these schools to reach Designation eventually.

ODE and OSLN addressed upcoming supports for schools regardless of Designation status. These will be elaborated on in the next meeting as the team continues to plan and implement supports for schools.

Community STEAM Academy (CSA) | 11:15am – 11:35am

Dr. Jeremy Ervin presented to the committee the STEAM Academy in Xenia, OH.

Dr. Tom commented that it is apparent that CSA clearly has a deeply embedded STEM identity and culture and impressive plans for the school.

Kelly Gaier Evans explained that CSA already received STEAM Designation approval, and the team will perform another site visit when the school opens and has students in the building in the fall to ensure all previous conditions are met.

Motion made to approve the school is recommended to open for the 2022-2023 school year made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Ellen Morrison. No opposed. Motion approved.

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

STE(A)M Re-Designation Process | 11:35am – 12:15pm

Kelly Gaier Evans provided a brief update on the Re-Designation pilot process that is currently underway.

Dr. Sandra Wilder provided an overview on the draft proposed schedule and timeline for Redesignation. The proposed cycle involves 12-15 schools undergoing STE(A)M Re-Designation each fall and 3-5 schools each spring. This will allow for the OSLN and ODE teams to catch up on the 45 schools that are at or beyond their 5-year Designation timeline and allows for any new schools that get Designated each year to be added into the cycle. The proposed timeline also provides each school a full year to prepare for the application process with OSLN's and ODE's technical support. All STE(A)M School banners will include the years of Designation moving forward.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman requested that the OSLN and ODE teams consider a "bronze, silver, and gold" levels to model schools as they continue re-vamping the processes and systems.

Dr. Melissa Weber-Mayrer requested that ODE confirms with legal counsel that the Re-Designation process can be spread over a time period that goes beyond those schools' 5-year Designation limit.

Holly Fischer, Assistant Legal Counsel for the Ohio Department of Education, addressed the committee on the law for the redesignation process. Per Holly, the law requires ALL the schools whose designation expired (5 years or older) to apply for redesignation. There is no authority for allowing the schools to take a longer time to apply. Holly recommends taking all schools that have expired under the law at the next meeting and approve all of them for designation.

Dr. Tom Schwieterman requested a virtual meeting in 2-4 weeks after a new plan is developed with ODE's Legal Counsel's recommendations. Re-Designation will be revisited at this time.

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Public comments:

No additional public comments were made.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Dr. Tom Schwieterman, seconded by Andrew Aichele. No opposed.

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

Dr. Tom Schwieterman adjourned the committee meeting at **12:20pm**.

The next STEM committee meeting is August 11, 2022.
