SW STEM Region
Advisory Board Minutes

October 28, 2019 Noon – 2 pm

Board members

Heidi Lowthorp | Misty Grey | Dr. Jane Hall Chaillie | Renee Riedel | Dr. Alan Ladd | Tom Lesan | Lisa Hilder | Janell Leinen | Kathy Somers | Josh Shatava | Larry Johnson | Luann Langel | James Holwegner

10 minutes Welcome and acknowledge guests

- Stephanie Lane GHAEA
- Nadine Jessen DMACC
- Others Bedford HS Vocational Ag Students (via technology)

45 minutes STEM Engagement Reports from Board Members

5 minutes Report from Board Chair Meeting(s)

5 minutes Report from PI Meeting(s)

10 minutes Old Business

- Financial Report through September 30th

20 minutes New Business

- Re-appointment and Appointment information. Ethics Document requires Signature and filing with the Regional Manager
- Select a Board Chair
- Consideration and approval of recommendation from Math Reviewers for 2019-20 (Shatava, Lowthorp, Riedel)
- Current Scale-Up levels including Math funded in the SW STEM Region – see handout
- BEST Awardees for 2019 Class – St Albert (Council Bluffs); Griswold; Stanton; Clarinda
- Requests for STEM Festivals new FY already in process, both student and adults events
- Save the Dates – February 19th STEM at the Capitol and Mega-Board meeting; April 14th Spring Summit

10 minutes Manager Report – see Attachment
Calendar of Events

- October 29th Woodbine Elementary STEM Festival
- October 31st Math Awardees Announced
- November 8 Guthrie Center STEM Festival (school day)
- November 12th Future Fest – Union County Schools at SWCC (school day)

Adjournment

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Heidi Lowthorp and welcome extended. Those in attendance included:

**In person:** Lowthorp, Riedel, Ladd, Somers, and Holwegner.

**Those on-line technology:** Leinen, Lesan, Grey, Johnson,

**Guests in person:** Carrie Rankin and Tanya Hunt UNI STEM Operations Center

**Guests on line:** Nadine Jessen

Chair Lowthorp shared an email from Emma Sunderman the Vocational Ag Instructor at Bedford regretfully reporting that the students who were going to present on their CASE Connection Alaska experience from summer 2019 would not be able to attend. The Board will hope to hear from them at the January meeting.

**STEM Engagement report from Board Members:**

Chair Lowthorp reported that she was not able to participate in the Board Chair call this month.

PI Tom Lesan reported that the first-ever PI-Manager meeting was held on October 25th at Drake University. Also in attendance were Roger Hargens – Co Chair of the Governor’s STEM Council, Linda Fandel of the Governor’s Office and the STEM Operations Center Staff.

Dr Ladd reported a successful STEM PD day at the Hub for Extension staff on October 22nd. About 12 persons were in attendance and the event focused on Scale-Up programs, Future Ready Iowa connections, and an activity called “cut to the chase” which was intensive question and answer
session for both new and experienced staff. One follow-up appointment to the West Pottawattamie County Office has already been completed. A new staff person in Page County has been hired but not yet started, so follow-up appointment is anticipated.

Jim Holwegner reported that he is anticipating the Guthrie County Festival on November 8th. It is a school day event so will be a first time format for that school.

Kathy Somers reported that the Atlantic BEST program is doing well with the new instructors in place. They have not had a steering meeting in recent months but she is still engaged with that team.

Rene Riedel reported that there has been a great amount of activity in Clarinda starting with the Future Ready Summit on September 5th, the BEST application and Award by the Clarinda CSD, new programs at the Lied Library including a book club started by Director Andrew Hoppmann. The selected book is “The Innovator’s Mindset” by George Couros (great read if you haven’t yet—included in a Scale-Up program that STEM has offered).

Janell Leinen reported participation in the successful Shelby County Ag Festival on September 8th in Harlan. There was significant media coverage including an article in the “Iowa Farmer Today” which featured agriculture education in an entire issue (September 21, 2019). The Nishnabotna Valley REC also has recently awarded grant funds to the Exira - EHK and Griswold School Districts for curriculum purchases.

Larry Johnson reported that the Central Decatur CSD and Decatur County Economic Development are working to complete their STEM Innovator implementation and continue to grow “The Nest” program which is the HS classroom in the City Building in downtown Leon. Their student engagement is increasing in the new programs.

Misty Grey reported that the two Library STEM Fests which were held in eastern Iowa and Anita Iowa, in August, were very well received and the results of that exposure is already seen. The Iowa Library Association Conference was held in conjunction with the Nebraska Library Association conference in LaVista NE. Deb Frazee staffed the Governor’s STEM Council booth with assistance from Misty and there were over 800 attendees registered. Information has been shared with managers in other regions and Nebraska staff have made requests for information exchanges and/or visits to learn more about the program services and how to implement a system there.

Heidi Lowthorp reported involvement with the new Light & Shadow Scale-Up program and a good response by users.

Guest Nadine Jessen (community college partner) reported that she is very involved in teaching multiple high school science courses at the Carroll DMACC center so the STEM topic continues to engage her interest. High school student numbers have increased.

**Under old business** the financial report through September 30th was included per protocol in the packet. Manager Frazee reported that some Scale-Up invoices are coming in and that a larger amount will come early in November (after the first progress report due date on October 31).
**Under new business:**

Manager Frazee reminded appointees that if they have not returned their Conflict of interest document to please do so. New appointees did that in orientation. There are still 3 appointees in waiting and the program anticipates all seats will be filled.

Due to the delay in appointment process, a Board chair selection had postponed until the October meeting. After discussion a motion was made by Ladd, second by Holwegner to retain Heidi Lowthorp as Chairperson and add Misty Grey as co-Chair to assist as needed. Vote unanimous yes. Manager Frazee will report this action to the Central Operations staff so that names are listed for monthly meetings.

Math Scale-Up reviewers Shatava, Riedel and Lowthorp presented the summary of requests and commented that the applications were consistent this round. Manager Frazee had converted requests to awards and a cost summary including the F &A which was explained. Motion by Ladd, second by Holwegner to present the Math Scale-Up award proposal as shown. Vote unanimous.

Manager Frazee offered the 2019 BEST Awardees from the region. Four were funded and there were 13 total statewide. (St. Albert, Stanton, Griswold, and Clarinda CSDs)

A discussion of the STEM Festival requests was conducted. There are a variety of formats and a variety of topics that are being requested. Manager Frazee will push out dates and locations as soon as they are confirmed.

For Board information save the dates for 2020 have been established for two events – STEM at the Capitol partnered with a Mega Board meeting in February 19th and the Spring Summit from the Governor’s office on April 14th which will feature work-based learning, Future Ready Iowa and STEM.

Manager Frazee included her Quarterly report which captures social media and other activities. There have been increases in all the media programs and also noted changes in some of the user demographics.

Frazee also mentioned the $10,000 award in the AHSTW School District for construction of a greenhouse from the Farm Credit Services of America Working Here Fund Grant program. Vocational Ag Instruction Jennifer Sellner has been a CASE awardee and is involved in the Annual STEM Festival in that district.

Guests Carrie Rankin and Tanya Hunt of the STEM Operation Center offered information regarding the Kemin review process which has a November 7th deadline, and a pre-qualified Iowa Workforce List that may be used in Externship recruitment. Hunt reported on the goal of providing a welcome and information webinar to the new BEST awardees on November 11th.
Calendar of Events was included at the end of the agenda. Frazee proposed that the January 27th meeting be telephonic for ease in getting everyone connected and taking weather issues off the table. Agreed by all members.
Submitted by

Deb Frazee
Note Taker

ADDENDUM

After the meeting was completed, Deb Frazee received an email from the Treynor School District stating that they had submitted an incorrect number of sections for their Differentiated Math award. They needed to add 8 sections – 2 K, 2 l, 2 2, and 2 3. 4 and 5 are departmentalized.

The impact was increasing the budget by $1496 plus f & a. There is funding to do so and the timeline is this week for award so Manager Frazee notified the PI and Board Chair of her intent to make the correction. A summary sheet of the new totals has been attached to the minutes.

Also included was an updated data report adding the new totals into the STEM Data Base.