



APPROVED Minutes  
Education Committee Meeting  
RF&P Railroad Company Forum  
2500 West Broad Street

June 16th, 2022  
1:00 p.m.

**Present:** Dr. Rodney Berry, John Benton, Patricia Nicoson, Elsa Falls, Lauren Mathena, Dr. Groover, Ukay Jackson, David Mills, Cristina Ramirez,

**Staff Present:** Timshel Purdum, Rich Conti, Elizabeth Iglehart, Jim Blow, Ada Sue Siler, JiHo Sung, Catherine Franssen

**Other Attendees:** Cynthia Norwood Marquez, Office of the Attorney General

Dr. Berry called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Berry welcomed everyone and asked for everyone present to review the meeting minutes from April 21, 2022.

Dr. Berry called for a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was called by Ms. Falls and seconded by Mr. Mills. A vote was taken by verbal affirmation which passed unanimously without objection.

**Education Team and Inspiration Index**

Ms. Purdum discussed the following:

- The Museum is committed to providing opportunities for interns, work study students and volunteers.
- Particular emphasis is being placed on developing and maintaining paid internships.
- During the summer the Museum is hosting two students from Partnerships for the Future, two ambassadors from Girls for Change and four summer employment academy students from the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Richmond.

- Cristo Rey High School interns recently delivered presentations on their time with the Museum and the professional learning experience they gained.
- Overall Museum education programming continues to excel.
- 918 live demos were hosted in April and May.
- The *Planet Shark: Predator or Prey* exhibition is now open to the public.
- Field trips are slowly and steadily returning.
- Science After Dark events are being held monthly and have seen strong attendance.
- STEM at Home content is currently being translated into Spanish.
- The community partnership with Groundwork RVA is ongoing.
- Virginia Institute of Marine Science will host a shark Discovery lab on June 25th.
- Summer Camp starts July 11th.
- Lunch Break Science is presented every Wednesday during the summer.

Ms. Mathena asked if materials for the Danville Science Center will be translated into Spanish. Ms. Purdum said that the process is ongoing, and all the translated materials will be available at the Danville Science Center at the same time they are available at the Science Museum.

Ms. Falls asked if the summer interns are high school students or college students. Ms. Purdum said that the interns are a mix of both high school and college students, and added that college credit varies by the institution the intern is attending.

Dr. Berry asked about how programming and its outcomes are evaluated. Ms. Purdum shared that review data is collected from feedback gathered at the front desk as well as online review forums. She added that implementation of teacher surveys is being considered, and that if a particular program needs review an outside evaluator or consultant may be brought in to collect information.

Mr. Mills inquired about expanding the summer camp capacity or adding additional options for older kids. Ms. Purdum said the current capacity stands at 40 campers per week for six weeks, but adding an additional 20 students for a total of 60 per week is being considered. However, 60 would be the maximum given the constraints of available space and staff.

Dr. Groover asked about opportunities for working with the Boy Scouts of America. Ms. Purdum affirmed that potential partnerships are being explored.

Ms. Falls asked about summer programming this year compared to last summer. Ms. Purdum said Science After Dark returned in January 2022 for the first time in two years, and added that each event is being used to inform how future events are scheduled and conducted.

### **New Business**

Dr. Berry asked for any new business with nothing heard.

Dr. Berry invited all committee members to join Ms. Purdum on a tour of the *Planet Shark: Predator or Prey* exhibition in the Dewey Gottwald Center after the formal adjournment of the meeting.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business Dr. Berry asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Mills made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Ramirez. Dr. Berry called for a vote which passed unanimously without objection and the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

The Education Committee will meet again on October 20, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.