



APPROVED Minutes  
Education Committee Meeting  
Forum  
2500 West Broad Street

October 20, 2022  
1:30 p.m.

**Present:** Dr. Rodney Berry, Patricia Nicoson, Lauren Mathena, Cristina Ramirez, Gina Burgin, and Dr. Denise Walters.

**Staff Present:** Timshel Purdum, Rich Conti, Elizabeth Iglehart, Ada Sue Siler, and Drew Hodge.

**Other Attendees:** Cynthia Norwood Marquez, Office of the Attorney General, and Dr. John O'Bannon, MD.

Dr. Berry called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Berry welcomed everyone and asked for everyone present to review the meeting minutes from June 16, 2022. Dr. Berry called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 16, 2022, Education Committee meeting. The motion was called by Ms. Ramirez and seconded by Dr. Walters. A vote was taken by verbal affirmation which passed unanimously without objection.

**Education Team and Inspiration Index**

Ms. Purdum discussed the following:

- The Science Museum restructured the staff hierarchy.
- Education is now part of the Core division.
- New assistant director positions were created to better support education efforts.
- Education is bringing back more and more programming.
- Minds of All Kinds is back for the first time since the pandemic.
- The MiX, the teen only makespace, is reopening.
- *Planet Shark: Predator or Prey* was successful.
- *Skin: Living Armor, Evolving Identity* is still open in the Garner Gallery.
- Fabulous summer interns and volunteers made all programming possible.

- Currently have over 120 active volunteers.
- The Science Museum hosted eight paid interns, Cristo Rey High School students, and VCU work study students.
- Haleon recently hosted an onsite guest experience.
- The Education team still has a way to go to get back to pre-pandemic participation numbers.
- Schools are facing many barriers to returning to field trips.
- Recently received grant funding from LEGO to help aid schools with bussing students to and from field trips.
- Education is continuing to focus on cultivating community partnerships.
- Upcoming programming includes:
  - National Chemistry Week;
  - Spooky Science, a spooky themed Science After Dark the week before Halloween;
  - Girls in Science Camp In, an overnight camp for 120 middle school aged girls;
  - Model Railroad Show, the annual tradition taking place November 25-27 where 10,000-12,000 guests are expected in three days;
  - Sizzling Science, hot science programming for the week between Christmas and New Years; and
  - Science After Dark on January 6, 2023

Mr. Hodge recapped the successful summer camps this past summer.

- All weeks were sold out and had wait lists.
- Twenty-two of the 24 available scholarships were utilized.
- The Science Museum netted a profit of \$35,000, well above industry standard.
- The Science Museum is looking to grow the camp next year, increasing from 40 to 60 campers per week.

### **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 MiX, the teen only makerspace, after the formal adjournment of the meeting.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business Dr. Berry asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Walters made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Nicoson. Dr. Berry called for a vote which passed unanimously without objection and the meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m.

The Education Committee will meet again on January 19, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.