



APPROVED Minutes
Education Committee Meeting
Forum
2500 West Broad Street

January 19, 2023
1:30 p.m.

Present: Cristina Ramirez, Dr. Denise Walters, Elsa Falls, Glenn Davidson, Dr. Kathy Lu, Patricia Nicoson, Dr. Rodney Berry, Dr. Richard Groover, and Suri Ganeriwala.

Staff Present: Timshel Purdum, Rich Conti, Ada Sue Siler, and Ash Harris.

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

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 the October 20, 2022 Education Committee Meeting. Dr. Berry called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2022, Education Committee meeting. The motion was called by Dr. Goover and seconded by Dr. Walters. A vote was taken by verbal affirmation which passed unanimously without objection.

Education Team and Inspiration Index

Ms. Purdum shared the highlights and accomplishments of the Education Team.

- The Science Museum restructured the staff hierarchy.
- The new structure is based around three divisions: Operations, Education and Administration and Communications.
- Each division has a Deputy Director.
- The Education Division now encompasses the Experience Development team.
- Programming at the Museum continues to go well.
- The recent Science After Dark event had great attendance.
- Spooky Science in October had almost 1k guests.

- The Museum recently hosted the first Girls in Science overnight camp-in in over three years.
- Due to the success of the camp-in and continued interest, the first family overnight camp-in is scheduled for February.
- The Annual Model Railroad event in November had over 13k guests in three days.
- With almost all restrictions lifted, schools are scheduling field trips and group visits are at a steady pace with increasing numbers.
- December booking numbers were greater than the same period in 2019.
- Field trip attendance for the second quarter was up 500% over the same period last year, 11k in attendance.
- The Museum applied for and was awarded Master Equipment Leasing Program (MELP) funding to finance the planned upgrades to The Dome.
- Evans and Sutherland are on board to furnish the updates to the Digistar system, complete with lasers.
- Community partnerships continue to grow.
- Boys in Business, Metropolitan Business League, along with Famigos, are involved with Museum programming.
- The MiX, the teen only maker space, has reopened and teens are participating in steady numbers.
- Community science efforts and Science Within Reach programming continue to flourish.
- RVAir outreach has included the installation of eight additional purple air sensors and presentations at VAST, Sierra Club and Lunch Break Science.
- Dr. Hoffman presented research at a public community forum on climate change.
- Collaboration on the Virginia Fiesta event last fall was so successful that preparations are underway for the Museum hosting the event again in September 2023.
- New guest experiences are installed including: Us by the Numbers, Nervous, Eye Tracker and the Hyperwall.
- Audio tours are in development for The Green.
- The audio will offer interpretation of the space in english and spanish and will be accessible via qr codes and a smartphone.
- Upcoming programming includes: Teacher Open House, Summer Camp, Camp In, Science After Dark, and Minds of All Kinds.

Ms. Falls asked about the overnight camp ins. Do any of the attendees actually sleep at the camp? Ms. Purdum replied that the guests sleep but the staff do not.

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 newly installed guest experiences:Us by the Numbers, Nervous, Eye Tracker and the Hyperwall.

Adjournment

With no further business Dr. Berry asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Falls made the motion which was seconded by Dr. Walters. Dr. Berry called for a vote which passed unanimously without objection and the meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

The Education Committee will meet again on April 20, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.