

Virginia STEM Education Advisory Board Meeting Minutes



December 12, 2022
STEM HUBS

10:00 am – 1:30 pm

In Attendance:

Board Members Present in Person: Chris Dovi, Amy Sabarre (Chair), Dr. Padmanabhan Seshaiyer, Zaina Tarafdar, Gary Artybridge, Dr. Susheela Shanta, Amy White

Board Members Present via Teleconference: Edward Monroe, Casey Roberts

Ex-officios and Staff: Rich Conti (Science Museum of Virginia Director), Emily Salmon (Senior Associate for Strategic Planning and Policy), McKenzie Snow (Secretary of Education Representative), Elizabeth Shultz, and Ada Sue Siler (Science Museum of Virginia Staff)

Guests: Al Byers, Jim Egenrieder, Lisa Wornom-Zahralddin

Topics:

- Approval of minutes from November 4, 2022
- Review STEM Metric
- STEM regional Hubs working group update
- Updates from other working groups
- Legislative Update document
- Next Steps and 2023 Meeting Dates

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Ms. Sabarre called the meeting to order at 10:15am. She welcomed everyone and noted a quorum was not yet present. When members present reach a quorum, voting will occur.

Approval of Minutes (November 4, 2022)

Ms. Sabarre asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2022 virtual board meeting. No corrections noted. Dr. Shanta made the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Tarafdar. Ms. Sabarre called for a vote, which passed with no objections.

STEM Advisory Board Mission and Goals

Ms. Sabarre reviewed the mission statement for the Board.

“The Virginia STEM Education Advisory Board provides continuous recommendations, establishes and aligns integrative STEM education efforts, and expands resources for all Virginians”

The Board has achieved a tremendous amount in one year. Conducted over 25 working group meetings virtually with committee members. The year one goals of creating a 3 year plan, defining VA STEM education, categorizing STEM careers, creating a STEM rubric and engaging stakeholders, have been achieved.

The Board is on track and in a great position to commence year two of the “3 Year Transformation Map,” including reflecting on scope of work, developing infrastructure to support STEM Hubs, formalizing data collection, leveled rubrics, higher education conversations and STEM website.

STEM Metric Review

Ms. Sabarre shared that the STEM Metric working group has met multiple times to review and edit the draft metric tool. Feedback from the Board has been integrated as much as possible. The document is still a work in progress. After the document is finalized, the tool will be shared with active STEM educators to pilot and provide feedback through a Google Form.

Ms. Sabarre welcomed those in attendance to open the STEM Metric working document via Google Docs and provide edits, feedback and comments.

Mr. Egenrieder commented on the collaborative strategy. Mr. Byers recommended some word usage changes. Mr. Roberts stressed that defining our terms will ensure readers and users of the document will better understand the intent.

Mr. Dovi and Mr. Byers presented the idea of including models or stories that illustrate the core themes.

Ms. White stated that a standard set of questions will be asked of all users of the metric, and will assist in developing common themes of responses.

STEM Hubs

Ms. Sabarre read through Legislation HB2058 which outlines the duties and powers of the STEM Advisory Board. Specifically, the legislation empowers the Board to develop the infrastructure for regional STEM Hubs. At this point in the process, there is a need to differentiate between STEM Hubs and organically developed STEM ecosystems.

Ms. Sabarre shared a venn diagram to help aid the discussion with identifying the differences and similarities between the hubs and ecosystems.

Dr. Shanta mentioned that ecosystems have a more regional focus whereas hubs are more resource focused.

Dr. Seshaiyer commented that jobs will drive the context and then the context will drive the pathways.

STEM Hubs Working Group Update

Ms. Sabarre reminded the group that the process is still in an early stage. Need to maximize leverage with the hubs to achieve long term STEM goals. Another goal of eventually securing funding to keep the mission flourishing.

Some short term goals are to continue to listen and collaborate with stakeholders. May need to continually update and revise definitions as more information is gathered. Mr. Conti stressed the importance of effective communication.

Some ideas that emerged from the last Hubs work group session were: badging for partners, establishing key partnerships, and application process.

Ms. Salmon reminded the group of the importance of identifying areas of economic development and creating connections. We need to identify work based learning opportunities and experiential learning channels. Ms. Salmon also mentioned that VTOP (Virginia Talent and Opportunity Partnership) and GOVA (Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board) are key entities to learn from and collaborate with.

Ms. White also discussed the networking and partnership potential with VCCS (Virginia Community College System)

VCU STEM, NOVA, and COVA Ecosystems Presentations

Mr. Byers shared about the Center for STEM Education at Virginia Commonwealth University. The program has tripled in size. A main goal is to help provide high impact STEM experiences for the highest need students through high quality experiences. Good Programming has a cost, even though the goal is to offer the resources for free. The program is currently reviewing its models, audiences and programming. Mr. Byers mentioned that different family structures and their unique needs should be considered.

Mr. Egenrieder discussed the Northern Virginia STEM Learning Ecosystem. The program is externally funded, not funded by Virginia Tech. There are multiple pathways to similar outcomes. It is not all about traditional pathways or learning environments. Mr. Egenrieder mentioned how it would be great to have a hub with every chamber of commerce in the state.

Ms. Wornom-Zahraiddin gave an overview of the Coastal Virginia STEM hub. Currently pursuing a memorandum of understanding with a local community college partner. The coastal area of Virginia is a highly industrial municipality with a lot of needs. The program focuses on inclusion with a “per-k to gray” mindset on audiences.

The group then broke for lunch.

Updates from the STEM Summit Workgroup

Dr. Seshaiyer shared that the committee is looking a two week period in June as a potential time frame to host a Summit. The group is alod searching for a location in the Richmond general area to host the event. Dr. Seshaiyer asked for additional assistance in planning the summit.

Questions were raised about funding for the potential summit. Ms. White said that an act of legislation would be needed to allocate funding, and an amendment would need to occur. Mr. Dovi recommended private fundraising. Mr. Conti asked if funds are raised, who will manage them? Where will they go?

With the numerous questions raised about the summit, a collective decision was made to postpone the summit until some of the core questions are addressed.

Proposed 2023 Meeting Dates

Ms. Sabarre shared the proposed 2023 meeting dates

February 3, 2023-virtual

April 28, 2023- in person

June 23, 2023- virtual

September 8, 2023-in person

December 8, 2023-in person

Ms. Sabarre called for a motion to approve the proposed meeting dates. The motion was called by Ms. Tarafdar and seconded by Mr. Artybridge.

Legislative Update

Ms. Sabarre pulled up the Legislative Update document and the group collaboratively provided edits, corrections and observations.

Ms. Sabarre asked for a motion to approve the document. The motion was called by Ms. White and seconded by Ms. Salmon. A vote was taken by show of hands, all approved, non opposed. Motion passed.

Emeritus Status

Motion to amend bylaws to include members who did not get renewed for membership by adding emeritus status.

Mr. Dovi called the motion. Ms. White called the second. The motion was affirmed by a show of hands. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

New Business

No further new business was presented.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Dovi adjourning the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. White A vote was taken by show of hands, all approved, non opposed. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 1:31pm

Zoom Recording Available

Next Meeting is February 3, 2023 via ZOOM.