

January 11, 2023

Members Present: Mauree Haage, Jared Brown, Yen Verhoeven, Sara Nelson, Todd Osterle, Kay Schmalen, Matt Stephan, Mike Pedersen, Kidron Knox, Anne Tedore, Jeff Weld (central ops), and Marc Benedict (central ops)

Minutes:

- Welcome
- Statewide Updates - Jeff Weld and Marc Benedict
  - Jeff shared that there are 42 new STEM BEST models for the upcoming year which brings the total statewide to 160 models! This also includes 117 new business partnerships!
  - Jeff also mentioned there are a dozen districts that are working on Work Based Learning plans for K-12.
  - Governor Reynolds is moving to streamline government offices and as a result she is wanting to reduce her direct reports (which we are one of) from 37 to 16. This would involve our organization moving under the umbrella of the Department of Education but wouldn't take effect until July 1 pending legislative approval. This move won't affect the regional managers or boards and would mainly affect the central ops team.
  - Marc gave a background on teacher externships which involve teachers going into the workforce to learn and bring back authentic learning and an understanding of the skill sets needed to their classrooms. These externships are for 240 hours with teachers gaining graduate level credit and \$20/hour for their time. So far there are 47 hosts statewide with four of those in our region. Marc is actively looking for teachers and hosts still, especially in North Central Iowa. There will be a webinar on January 25th for interested hosts.
- Regional Updates and Discussion
  - Board Chair Updates
    - No new updates
  - Updates from any board members
    - Sara shared the news that Nutcracker + STEM was awarded the STEM Seal of Approval!
  - Scale-Up Applications
    - The menu of 13 programs and the application went live on January 9th. Mauree has been visiting schools to help teachers learn more about Scale-Ups and help with any questions about the application process.
    - Mauree shared a folder of promotional materials to help board members speak with educators about the programs.
    - She also shared a spreadsheet with the schools who have either never participated or haven't for several years. The board suggested sending mailers

out to these schools as well as calling them to make sure they are aware of the program. The board will look through the list and sign up for the ones they may have a connection with and will call the principal or curriculum director to provide them information and ask if they would like a follow up by the regional manager, Mauree.

- The board decided to make a goal to get 20 of the previously non-participating schools to participate this year.
- FY23 Residual Dollars
  - Mauree shared the estimated residual dollar amount for FY23 Scale-Up programs. She stated we are on par with the other regions and shared the options of where this money can be used. The board suggested using the funds to buy some kits from providers to make a STEM Night in a box to help school districts take the first step into having a festival as well as having the chance to firsthand use previous Scale-Up materials. The board agreed to award additional materials to educators where possible and this will be discussed further at the March meeting.
- Important Dates
  - February 8th is STEM Day at the Capitol from 10 AM - 1 PM. Following that will be a Mega Board Meeting from 1:30 - 3:30 PM at the Lucas Building. This meeting will take the place of our February meeting.
  - February 9th is the STEAM Night at Alden Elementary from 5:30-7 PM. Mauree is needing 1-2 volunteers to help with this.
  - March 7th will be our next meeting. Mauree is still working on getting the location and time set and will let everyone know once that's done.