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Brian L. Mitchell
Director

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Name of Organization: Computer Science Subcommittee
Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, September 18, 2018 @ 3:00 P.M.
Place of Meeting: Nevada State Library and Archives
Governor's Office of Science Innovation and Technology
100 North Stewart Street, Suite 220
Carson City, NV 89701

Please use the following REVISED numbers
FOR THIS MEETING ONLY to join the conference call:

North: 775-687-0999 or
South: 702-486-5260
Access Code: 20501

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Chair Mark Newburn

The Computer Science Subcommittee was called to order by Chair Mark Newburn at 3:01 P.M. on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, on the above conference line.

Members Present

Cindi Chang
Dave Brancamp
Heather Crawford-Ferre
Jaci McCune
Kimberly De Lemos
Kindra Fox
Mark Newburn
Melissa Scott

Members Absent

Dr. Andreas Stefik
Dr. Pavel Solin

Frank Mathews
Irene Waltz
Jonathan Reynolds
Kris Carroll
Rob Sidford

Staff Present

Brian Mitchell
Debra Petrelli
Tracey Gaffney

A quorum was declared.

II. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

Chair Mark Newburn

There was no public comment.

III. Welcoming Remarks and Announcements

Chair Mark Newburn

Chair Newburn welcomed everyone. He commented there are only a couple of pieces of business the subcommittee will need to address today.

IV. Discussion and Possible Approval for Expenditure of Computer Science Summit Sponsorship Funds (For possible action)

Chair Mark Newburn

Chair Newburn invited Mr. Mitchell to update the subcommittee on the Computer Science Summit sponsorship funds. Mr. Mitchell commented that during the Computer Science Summit in August 2018, several vendors exhibited their products and were charged an exhibitor fee. He said those exhibitors have all paid those fees to the Governor's Office of Science, Innovation and Technology (OSIT), to include The College Board, Vidcode, NCLab, CodeHS, and Project Lead the Way (PLTW). He said the total amount of sponsorship fees collected was \$2,000. He added the purpose of this meeting is to discuss where those funds should be spent. He pointed out that because these funds derived from the Computer Science Summit, these funds ultimately belong to the subcommittee, thereby requiring approval for expenditures by the Computer Science subcommittee.

Ms. Chang proposed expending funds for travel expenses for Dave Brancamp, Director of Instructional Support at the Department of Education, to attend an upcoming Education Technology (Ed Tech) Standards revision meeting in Las Vegas on October 17, 2018 through October 20, 2018 to review the current 2010 Ed Tech Standards for updates, and assist in facilitating the coordination of the standards. Ms. Petrelli commented his total travel and per diem costs would be approximately \$657.42.

Ms. Chang said the second proposed expenditure is for the Code.org/CSTA State Computer Science Policy Forum in Denver, Colorado on September 27, 2018 through September 28, 2018. She said the proposal is to send two members of the subcommittee, to include herself and Melissa Scott, for a total of approximately \$878.31 for travel expenses.

Chair Newburn spoke in favor of Dave Brancamp attending the Ed Tech Standards event in Las Vegas. He said he would like to get at least one other person from this subcommittee involved in this event as the new Ed Tech Standards are being developed and assist in overseeing that they are in parallel with the Computer Science Standards. He mentioned Cindi Chang, who lives in Las Vegas, will be attending and does not require funding expenses. Ms. McCune, who also lives in Las Vegas, indicated she will also be attending the event. Ms. Crawford-Ferre expressed her interest in attending the event, representing Northern Nevada, but would require travel expenses from Reno. Ms. McCune said she is aware of others that will be attending from the Northwest region of Nevada who are on the computer standards writing team, who also support the alignment of the standards.

Mr. Mitchell commented that at the code.org event in Denver, there is an opportunity for Nevada to share its story with other states and it would be a good opportunity to portray Nevada as a leader in the terms of what Nevada has accomplished and is continuing to do in computer science. Ms. Chang pointed out that with her and Ms. Scott in attendance at this event, they can represent the many accomplishment of this subcommittee and together they have a good perspective on policy and the progression from K-12 to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway.

Chair Newburn asked for a motion. Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the expenditure of Computer Science Summit Sponsorship funds to fund travel expenses for Cindi Chang and Melissa Scott to attend the Code.org/CSTA State Computer Science Policy Forum in Denver, Colorado on September 27 through 28, 2018. Ms. De Lemos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the expenditure of Computer Science Summit Sponsorship Funds to fund travel expenses for Dave Brancamp to attend the Education Technology (Ed Tech) Standards revision meeting in Las Vegas on October 17, 2018 through October 20, 2018. Ms. Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mitchell commented there will be a small balance in the Computer Science Summit Sponsorship's remaining fund and indicated a brief conversation by the subcommittee may be warranted. He suggested delegating authority to spend the remaining funds be given to Cindi Chang, Department of Education - Standards and Instructional Support. He pointed out by doing this it will not be necessary for the subcommittee to come back to approve spending the remaining approximate \$350. Mr. Mitchell asked if anyone in the subcommittee had ideas on how to spend the remaining \$350. Ms. Fox suggested that counties who had not received Senate Bill 200 (SB 200) funding, but would like to be represented at the event, could use it in assisting to offset travel costs to attend the Ed Tech Standards writing event in Las Vegas. Ms. Chang responded she had not heard of any need in that area, but will leave that open.

Ms. Scott made a motion to approve authority for Cindi Chang to decide how to spend any remaining funds of less than \$400 from the Computer Science Summit Sponsorship fund. Ms. Crawford-Ferre seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Discussion and Comments on Final Strategic Plan (For possible action)

Chair Mark Newburn

Chair Newburn asked Ms. Chang for an update on the Computer Science Strategic Plan. Ms. Chang indicated she had added an “Executive Summary” and “Overview,” as well as the names of each member of the subcommittee as contributors. She also organized and streamlined the content of the document, highlighting goals and strategies, as well as linking documents and web addresses. She said she and Ms. Scott had combed through comments received from the last Computer Science subcommittee meeting to tighten up the document. She commented the document had been distributed to curriculum directors earlier today, which included a request for their feedback. She asked that all members once again review the document and return any comments and feedback to her by October 2, 2018. She added if she does not receive any comments by that date, she will take “draft” off of the document, apply ADA formatting, and then post it on the Department of Education’s website.

VI. Progress Update (For information only)

Chair Mark Newburn

Chair Newburn asked Ms. Chang for a progress update. Ms. Chang said the subcommittee needs to be looking for other opportunities for funding. She pointed out that going into the next legislative session, the subcommittee may or may not have access to continued SB 200 funding. She said it is important not to leave any school district hanging, as some school districts have only just discovered this new initiative even though it is already in the second year of funding. She indicated this could cause various superintendents to have no means of implementing their newly acquired strategies. Mr. Mitchell asked what the purpose is for continued funding. Ms. Chang replied it is funding to help support the computer science education effort with professional development within school districts statewide.

Ms. Scott pointed out that TESLA announced an initial \$1.5 million in funding grants in July, 2018. The grant is the first funding towards its agreement to contribute \$37.5 million over five years to K-12 education in Nevada. The goal of the investment is to encourage students of all backgrounds to consider a career in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) or sustainability, and to develop the next generation of engineers in Nevada. She suggested writing a proposal to TESLA for continued funding since their invitation for funding is still wide-open. Ms. Chang pointed out that because the Department of Education is partnered with Tesla, it would be a conflict of interest for them to write a proposal and asked whether the Computer Science subcommittee could write a proposal requesting funding.

Mr. Mitchell said as he understands, the Department of Education did not include SB 200 funds for any professional development for computer science within its budget. He asked, from the Department of Education’s perspective, whether there is a need for this type of funding. He pointed out he does not want to write a grant application without demonstrating a strong need. He said he would have to determine whether the subcommittee would be a good avenue for such a grant request. He stated he would review the Nevada Revised Statutes

associated with SB 200, and if warranted, possibly a separate group from the subcommittee could determine what the funding would be used for and then apply for those funds with the support of the group. Chair Newburn said he believes Tesla is looking more for school districts to apply for these grants and perhaps the subcommittee could come up with a proposal template that school districts could use to write their own grant requests to Tesla. Mr. Mitchell agreed. It was suggested to possibly create a frequently asked questions (FAQ) sheet for school districts that answers questions about how to apply for this grant.

Ms. Scott pointed out that with the professional development piece, the Regional Professional Development Program's (RPDP) College Board funding is eventually going to run out. She suggested that perhaps, RPDP could reach out to Tesla as well. Ms. Chang said she could attest to the fact there is a need for continued funding and pointed out that for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18), the first year of SB 200 funding, school districts did not actually get the grant funds until late, receiving them in January 2018. She said school districts still managed to spend 91% of those funds. She said FY18 went out in August 2018 and anticipates a full 100% spending of those funds. She added it is important to look ahead, because when funding does run out for RPDP, they will be forced to continue Professional Development (PD) using their already allocated budget, which is in place for other programs. She said computer science could ultimately be strangling their budget. She pointed out how important it is to look at different funding sources to continue computer science PD and stay successful in keeping the teacher pipeline in place. Chair Newburn said it appears continued conversation is required on this topic, and what the appropriate roll is for the subcommittee in securing other funding sources.

Ms. Scott reported that she will be meeting with and providing guidance to a computer science writing team to support the alignment of high school CTE computer science standards, taking place on September 20, 2018 through September 21, 2018.

VII. Public Comment (No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

Chair Mark Newburn

There was no public comment.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Mark Newburn

Chair Newburn adjourned the meeting at 3:34 P.M.