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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SCIENCE, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

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Brian L. Mitchell
Director

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Name of Organization: STEAM Subcommittee

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 3:00 pm

Place of Meeting: Nevada State Library & Archives (NSLA)
Governor's Office of Science, Innovation & Technology
100 N. Stewart St., Suite 220
Carson City, NV 89701

Please use the following numbers to join the Conference Call:
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1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Tracey Gaffney

The STEAM Subcommittee was called to order by Ms. Gaffney at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

Members Present:

Alisha Kerlin
Andrew Snyder
Candy Schneider
Jeneane Harter
Mary Holsclaw
MaryJane Dorofachuk
Meghan Schiedel
Sarah Gobbs-Hill
Sue Dehart
Tia Flores
Jen Johanson

Members Absent:

Candace Garlock
Craig Rosen
Laura Christian

Staff Present:

Tracey Gaffney
Brian Mitchell
Debra Petrelli

2. **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.)
Tracey Gaffney

There was no public comment.

3. **Welcoming Remarks and Announcements** (For information only)
Tracey Gaffney

Ms. Gaffney welcomed everyone to the meeting and said she would be conducting the meeting today. Mr. Mitchell announced that Marisa Cooper, former Chair of the STEAM Subcommittee, has left her position at the Nevada Museum of Art and has relocated out of state. He wished her well in her next endeavors. It was discussed that the person who took Ms. Cooper's place was Claire Munoz. Mr. Mitchell said he would contact Ms. Munoz to see if she has an interest in joining the subcommittee to represent the museum.

Mr. Mitchell said he has received several inquiries about OSIT's policy and procedure of replacing the chair position. He said OSIT has decided to reorganize all of the STEM Advisory Council's subcommittee's structures in their designation of a chairperson. He pointed out that in the past this position took on the responsibilities of running and organizing meetings, and deciding on agenda items for each meeting. He said he realizes that all members are busy and have jobs and responsibilities of their own. He added he is very proud of all of the subcommittees and the work they have done, but in going forward it would be more efficient and much easier if OSIT takes over the reigns of the subcommittee chairperson. He said those duties include organizing the work of getting a meeting started, creating an agenda, calendaring, posting, and keeping the work of the subcommittee going. He said this will also help in not having large gaps in meeting schedules and not allow for a lot of extra work for the subcommittee. He pointed out the importance of the subcommittee members and the importance of everyone's expertise and input into these meetings, without the added burden of extra work. He said Ms. Gaffney has agreed to take on that position and take charge of running the meetings to making sure they are in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law. He added he believes this will be a good change to assist in meetings running smoothly. He said OSIT does not want to be the sole-drivers of the meeting agendas and welcomes suggestions from all members, either during a meeting or prior to the posting of an upcoming meeting, including topics that are of interest and would benefit the group in discussion.

Ms. Schneider commented that she actually welcomes this change because it will reflect the work of this subcommittee more as a collaboration as opposed to being attached to one organization's identity. Mr. Mitchell agreed and said that in the future OSIT would like for the subcommittee to reflect a statewide focus on improving STEAM for all. Ms. Gobbs-Hill also agreed and commented that in the past certain events focused on by the group were tied to certain organizations as opposed to other pieces that would have been more statewide. She

asked how it will affect the annual STEAM Conference with the new organization and changes to the subcommittee. Mr. Mitchell replied that the STEAM Conference was perhaps more driven by the organizations that were lead sponsors and the subcommittee was more of a supporting organization. He said he believes the subcommittee could still supply advice and assist in raising awareness, and the subcommittee should provide support in whatever way it can for any organization doing good things in STEAM. He commented that Ms. Cooper and the Nevada Museum of Art did a wonderful job in bringing the STEAM Conference together and believes it greatly benefitted teachers across the state, and added he takes no credit for that.

Mr. Mitchell said in moving forward, OSIT will continue to rely on each member of the subcommittee and their expertise, and he would really like to see more things for the State in STEAM come out of this subcommittee. For example, he said the white paper, completed a couple of years ago, was a real benefit to STEAM in Nevada and certainly has been noticed by many national organizations. He said more of that type of work is needed to provide guidance and best practices, whether formal STEAM in the classroom or for professional development, as well as where the subcommittee feels there is value in providing support for STEAM activities within the state. He suggested that during the next few meetings they chart a course for different work in what STEAM is in Nevada and how to help move it forward over the next few years.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the January 31, 2020 STEAM Subcommittee Meeting

(For possible action)

Tracey Gaffney

Brian Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell asked if there were any corrections or additions to the January 31, 2020 Minutes as written. None were made. Ms. Harter made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 31, 2020 as written. Ms. Holsclaw seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion on the NV STEAM Conference 2020 (For possible action)

Tracey Gaffney

Ms. Gaffney said this is the first meeting since the NV STEAM Conference in February 2020, and is very aware how much work everyone put into the conference and thanked everyone. She added that Mr. Rosen, who is unfortunately absent today, was prepared to report on the conference and asked whether any other member would like to share some comments. Ms. Schiedel commented that the Discovery Museum presented a workshop that proved to be extremely rewarding in working with teachers who participated in collaborative activities with lighting elements including “Design your own LED wearables” by way of tinkering and exploring tools and materials that are part science, part technology, but with a STEAM component. She said it was a very positive event. She added the space was ideal and the museum did an excellent job of supporting any needs they had. It was discussed that teachers unanimously enjoyed the conference and that it was inspiring to them and they looked forward to returning to it in upcoming years. Ms. Gaffney again thanked the subcommittee members that participated for all of their contributions to the event. She suggested they table this item until the next meeting in order to get Mr. Rosen’s input from

his workshops, which were used as a platform to introduce a rubric to STEAM teachers and get their suggestions on developing a STEAM school designation.

6. Discussion on Developing STEAM Policy Recommendations for Nevada (For possible action)

Tracey Gaffney

Ms. Gaffney pointed out that STEAM policy recommendations for Nevada have been discussed at previous meetings and said the idea is to build off of the subcommittee's white paper by adding specific practices or practical applications for STEAM education. She said this is a big project to tackle and believes, from past meetings, the group may not be sure where to start. She suggested tabling this item until next meeting.

Mr. Mitchell added that previously circulated, was a report from the Education Commission of the States (ECS), who works with the National Arts Council on arts initiatives and one of their initiatives was related to STEAM policy recommendations. He suggested this would be a good place for the subcommittee to start and proposed having a dedicated meeting once everyone has reviewed the report, to discuss it more in depth. He said there are two different tracks included in this report; 1) a big picture of policy recommendations including bodies like the legislature, State Board of Education, local district school boards, individual schools and informal educators around STEAM; and 2) what STEAM looks like in the classroom, including teacher or educator practices that could be recommended for both formal and informal classrooms to be endorsed by the STEM Advisory Council. He added, following that, the subcommittee could begin to advocate for those practices and get them implemented by the various audiences.

Ms. Dorofachuk commented that last October, the Nevada Arts Council (NAC) held an arts education stakeholders meeting for both northern and southern Nevada and an ECS consultant along with a data consultant attended to talk about developing an arts education plan for Nevada. She said she has read through the ECS report and pointed out it is very similar to many of the areas discussed by this subcommittee including access, collaboration, professional development, and funding. She said the STEAM component would most likely become a part of the report. She is looking for some direction, but believes if the subcommittee moves forward to work in this area, this initiative will most likely be pulled into that plan along with policy. Ms. Schneider commented that this subcommittee is going in many different directions and believes the group should be more inclusive of those areas mentioned.

Mr. Mitchell, addressing Ms. Dorofachuk, said it appears NAC is putting together a plan on the arts-side that might have a STEAM component to it. He said if somehow there is a plan of STEM and arts, being STEAM, it would be great if there is a joint endorsement of those portions of the plan related to STEAM, rather than having NAC and the STEM Advisory Council release competing guidance papers or policy with regards to STEAM education. He added he is all for collaboration and working together. Ms. Dorofachuk pointed out that after the initial NAC meeting, she was in the process of re-organizing by implementing smaller groups with the hope of taking the next year to develop this plan, however, COVID-19 hit and she is now looking for the best way to move forward. Ms. Flores, also at the NAC meeting, said she agrees with Ms. Dorofachuk, especially since she is able to pull resources

and insight that other states are using and see how they are moving forward with policy that promotes access to the arts and integrates the arts into the STEM field. She said part of the conversation was realizing how hard it is to put something forward when you currently do not know what it looks like, or where the arts are being accessed throughout the state, or how they are being implemented with other core subjects. She said then moving forward, NAC discussed policy that would support access to the arts and integrating it into the STEM field. She added that it would be a cohesive move for this subcommittee and NAC to compare or parallel this work. She said it would give a bigger voice and an opportunity to look at what other states are doing and resources they might have. Ms. Dorofachuk said a portion of that meeting included a discussion on data collection from the Arts Education Data Project (<https://www.artseddata.org/>), and they are working with the State to develop a dashboard for more information. She said she met with the gentleman running that program, and the Department of Education who agreed to become a part of this. She added that COVID-19 has currently delayed the project. Ms. Gaffney asked if Ms. Dorofachuk could share the outcomes of those meetings with the subcommittee. Ms. Dorofachuk agreed.

Mr. Mitchell requested that Ms. Dorofachuk have a side conversation after the meeting with Ms. Gaffney and him to further discuss the progress and expected outcomes with this endeavor and present a glimpse or roadmap of progress at the next meeting to look at how these might be accomplished together. Mr. Mitchell said this will give a clearer picture of next steps for the subcommittee and what the role will be for this group versus other groups. He suggested all members of the subcommittee review the policy paper drafted by ECS to get familiar with their suggestions and then add, subtract or endorse. Ms. Dorofachuk agreed to recirculate the policy paper along with notes from that meeting to the subcommittee.

7. Discussion on a Designated STEAM School Program Similar to the Governor's Designated STEM School Program (For possible action)

Tracey Gaffney

Ms. Gaffney said a STEAM Designated School program, similar to OSIT's STEM Designated School program, has been considered by adding a STEAM attribute or category, which comes from the request of several of the schools OSIT has worked with. She said Mr. Rosen, who had taken the lead on this item, met with teachers and discussed what this attribute would look like, however with his absence today, this item will be tabled until the next meeting. She commented that the STEM School Designation just took place for this year, and the next round will come early in 2021.

Ms. Flores commented that Jen Johanson, a member of this subcommittee, is currently getting her Master's Degree in STEAM, and suggested she would be a great person to seek out some insight, as someone already working with schools and teachers in that field, and get some of the positive aspects of what that might look like, as well as some of the barriers she might have dealt with. Ms. Johanson responded she would really like to give the group some insight on this, but does not have anything prepared for today. She requested to present at the next meeting to give her some time to put information together from people around the school district in Washoe County, about things they see in the classroom as well. She said she has started collecting data and is actually working on her Doctorate in STEAM Education at UNR. Mr. Mitchell commented that it would be very interesting to have a parallel designation for STEAM that goes along with STEM. He said it is clear that some schools'

focus is more on STEAM, so this would provide a more specific avenue for those schools, both to be recognized and to improve, which is ultimately what is wanted out of a designation process, which is for schools to understand what they need to do in order to become a “Model” school.

8. STEAM Subcommittee Member General Announcements (For information only)

Tracey Gaffney

Ms. Flores announced she is currently at the Arts Foundation and today is their first day open again since the COVID-19 closures in March of this year, and is happy to report the gallery had many visitors today.

Ms. Schneider with The Smith Center, commented that sadly, today would have been the second day of ConFABulation, an Arts Integration Conference in Las Vegas for more than 300 teachers, but due to COVID-19 was cancelled. They do however look forward to continuing next year.

9. Consider Future Agenda Items for the Next Meeting (For possible action)

Tracey Gaffney

Ms. Gaffney said she will be sending out the ECS report to everyone and will be one topic of discussion for the next meeting. She also suggested that Ms. Johanson discuss her STEAM research from schools and teachers in paralleling a STEAM designation with a STEM designation program, as well as Mr. Rosen presenting outcomes from his workshop at the STEAM Conference. She said she would also like to add an item to discuss virtual STEAM and some of the initiatives that might be available. She added if anyone would like to add an item to please contact her. Ms. Schneider suggested an item for a summary of the STEAM Conference with data on who attended, areas represented, subject areas and responses to the workshops. She commented that in the past everyone had received a one-page summary on the conference from the museum, which was very helpful with proposals, writing grants, etc. It was suggested to contact Claire Munoz at the Nevada Museum of Art for that summary information

10. 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.)

Tracey Gaffney

There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment

Tracey Gaffney

Ms. Gaffney adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.