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Brian L. Mitchell
Director

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Name of Organization: STEAM Subcommittee
Date and Time of Meeting: Friday, January 31, 2020, 3:00 pm
Place of Meeting: Nevada Museum of Art
Founders Room
160 W. Liberty Street
Reno, Nevada 89501

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1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Marisa Cooper

The STEAM Subcommittee was called to order by Chair Marisa Cooper at 3:00 P.M. on Friday, January 31, 2020 at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, NV.

Members Present:

Andrew Snyder
Brian Mitchell
Craig Rosen
Laura Christian
Marisa Cooper
Mary Holsclaw
MaryJane Dorofachuk
Meghan Schiedel
Sarah Gobbs-Hill
Tia Flores
Jen Johanson

Members Absent:

Alisha Kerlin
Candace Garlock

Candy Schneider
Jeneane Harter
Sue Dehart

Staff Present:

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.)
Marisa Cooper

There was no public comment.

- 3. Welcoming Remarks and Announcements** (For information only)
Marisa Cooper

Chair Cooper welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

- 4. Approval of the Minutes from the December 19, 2019 STEAM Subcommittee Meeting**
(For possible action)
Marisa Cooper

Chair Cooper asked if there were any corrections or additions to the December 19, 2019 Minutes as written. None were made. Mr. Rosen made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 19, 2019 as written. Ms. Holsclaw seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- 5. Discussion on the NV STEAM Conference 2020** (For possible action)
Marisa Cooper

Chair Cooper updated the subcommittee on the 3rd annual NV STEAM Conference 2020 taking place at the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno on Saturday, February 1, 2020. She said it had sold out within 3 weeks with 327 teachers registered. She said no travel grants were given out this year and most of the advertising was by word-of-mouth. The conference will be impacting approximately 1,500 teachers and 15 school districts. She pointed out the most critical change to tomorrow's conference is the change from two workshops to three workshops and one keynote speaker.

Chair Cooper discussed the importance of continuing to support "traveling" STEAM workshops and said she is currently in the process of securing funding for that project. She is anticipating high demand for these workshops in excess of the current grant funding to roll out the first reiteration provided by Nevada Gold Mines, who is very interested in assuring rural cities have access to teacher training. She said currently the commitment is to have 10 workshops for 20 teachers each, which will impact approximately 200 teachers per year. She anticipates a minimum of one workshop per month beginning in April 2020. She will be emailing members of the subcommittee providing workshop content to further discuss who might be willing to participate in delivering these workshops, as well as funding for travel, i.e. rental cars, hotel rooms and supplies.

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

Marisa Cooper
Brian Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell discussed a past Education Commission of the States (ECS) Thinkers' Meeting on STEAM he attended that took place in Washington D.C. He said it was a gathering of 12-15 experts from around the country to gather collective wisdom on key education issues to better inform education leaders across the states on the increasing focus on the role of the arts in STEM, exploring opportunities to create and implement STEAM programs. He discussed the policy brief the group put together which focused on the perspectives of researchers, policymakers and practices. He said collectively, the group considered questions to guide future practice, research and policy work on the "what," and "why" of STEAM value, STEAM workforce rationale and STEAM policy opportunities.

He suggested the subcommittee examine the policy brief and consider policy recommendations for Nevada and build on or refresh the white paper by endorsing some very specific policy recommendations for schools, school districts, legislature and the business community. He said this would go beyond the original subcommittee's white paper, by outlining recommendations for high quality STEAM programs. Chair Cooper requested that Mr. Mitchell send a copy of the Thinkers' Meeting on STEAM report to the members of the subcommittee as an outline to start this project.

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

Marissa Cooper
Brian Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell said the review process for this year's Governor's Designated STEM School program has already started. He said the genesis of this item came from learning about two other states that have a STEAM designation for schools. Mr. Mitchell said he wanted the subcommittee to assist OSIT in the creation of a STEAM school designation similar to the STEM Designation that already exists. He said the process for STEAM designation would be very similar to the STEM designation with a similar but modified rubric and framework. Mr. Rosen discussed his three scheduled workshops taking place at the NV STEAM Conference which will include 15 teachers and using those workshops as a platform to introduce the rubric to STEAM teachers and get their suggestions.

Mr. Mitchell discussed the designation process, which is ultimately approved by the STEM Advisory Council, from schools submitting an application to school site visits by a review team and the final decisions of the designations.

Chair Cooper agreed that workshopping the rubric with teacher input was a good idea, as they are some of the most knowledgeable individuals of STEAM. She suggested that subcommittee members also attend any one of the three workshops presented by Mr. Rosen at the conference and bring back those contributions and information to the next meeting. Ms. Gobbs-Hill inquired whether there is funding associated with the Designated STEM

School program. Mr. Mitchell explained there is no funding currently associated with the program. He explained that the Governor's STEM School Designation is intended to certify that a school has implemented best practices in STEM teaching and that Designated STEM schools are able to promote or use the designation in marketing. Chair Cooper mentioned that the designation would greatly assist those schools applying for grants. He said, in the future, he will be reaching out to members of the subcommittee to serve as Reviewers for STEAM school site visits, then review and score each school.

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

Marisa Cooper

Mr. Rosen announced that Desert Research Institute (DRI) was awarded three Regional STEM Network grants for each of the three locations within the state to include rural, southern, and northwestern Nevada regions. He said, as Project Director of DRI, he will be overseeing all three locations with a local Project Manager at each location. He said the Regional Networks will serve as the clearinghouse for identifying and scaling up quality STEM pipeline programming and be the "one-stop-shop" for all in their region. He said through this effort they will increase student STEM engagement, support a STEM-literate workforce, and build community around the opportunity that STEM brings.

Ms. Schiedel announced the 2nd annual Northern Nevada Science & Technical Festival, a week of free community events happening April 29 through May 2, 2020 at DRI in Reno.

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

Marisa Cooper

Chair Cooper suggested a recap of the events from tomorrow's STEAM Conference as well as further discussion on the Designated STEAM School program. Mr. Rosen suggested further discussion and/or a workshop on the STEAM policy paper. He suggested the next meeting take place as a video conference possibly between DRI and the Nevada Museum of Art. Dates for the next meeting were discussed. Mr. Mitchell suggested a calendar poll be sent out with dates in Mid-April to all subcommittee members.

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.)

Marisa Cooper

There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment

Marisa Cooper

Chair Cooper adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.