

# STEM Investment Council

**February 1, 2019**

9:00am – 12:00pm

Public Service Building, Third Floor, Room H301

255 Capitol Street

Salem, Oregon 97310

## Members

Jim Piro, Chair

Celeste Edman

Herb Fricke

Rita Hansen

Eric Meslow

Paul Stewart

## Ex-Officio Members

Melissa Dubois

Todd Nell

## Staff

Karen Humelbaugh

Julia Steinberger

Stephanie Solomon

## MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present:** Jim Piro, Chair, Rita Hansen (phone), Eric Meslow, Paul Stewart (phone), Herb Fricke

**Members Excused:** Celeste Edman

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Melissa Dubois

**Staff Present:** Karen Humelbaugh, Julia Steinberger

## [AGENDA](#)

### 1.0 Introductions & Welcome

1.1 Chair Piro called the meeting to order at 9:03AM and provided opening remarks. Opening remarks included a thank you to Todd Nell for stepping in during the interim and provided an introduction of Julia Steinberger as the new STEM Investment Council Director.

### 2.0 Consent Agenda

2.1 CONSENT ITEM: Approve November 2018 Council Minutes

### ACTION ITEM

Motion: Council Member Meslow moved to approve the November 2018 minutes as presented; Chair Piro seconded the motion. Chair Piro called for a voice vote. The motion passed.

### 3.0 Public Comment

- Craig Hudson, and Bruce Schafer, ORTOP, highlighted organization's progress. (provided handout) Emphasized the connection between program and an increase in graduation rate. Looked at Umatilla HS as a great example of first robotics competition teams that have a majority of members from unrepresented groups. Mr. Hudson shared that they have mixed demographics and gender specific (female only) teams. There are teams of 10, with 5500-6000 students statewide reached.

- This used to be in the ODE (Oregon Department of Education) budget. It is not in the current GRB (Governors Requested

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Budget). They are here to ask for support and hopefully to receive funding

- Marty Nelson, Alchemy Lab, educating himself and representing private career schools in this arena. Target is transitional students (coding). Looking at ways to connect. They issue certificates such as, Web JavaScript Application.
- Jeri Ann Able- Co Director Portland Metro STEM Partnership. Encouraged the council to think broadly about the investments. A lot of interest in early and HS, but what is missing is elementary.
  - Chair Piro shared that the metrics aren't 'showing the story' so anecdotal info is needed to tell the story. This includes how the Hubs are part of this change and what is going well.
- Kristen Harrison, Co Director Portland Metro STEM, but representing the STEM network. (provided handout) The numbers are 'thus far' in the biennium as they know these are conservative.
  - Councilwoman Hansen asked for clarity about the "students impacted" and "hours" statistics. 223,559 students impacted is based on teacher professional development. The 153,927 student hours is student hours spent directly in Hub-sponsored STEM events. It is showing the leveraging of teachers vs the direct students served.

**4.0 Update on Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS)**

4.1 Ben Tate, Chief Education Office, provided a review of the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), which is now a research tool for Oregon Department of Education (ODE), Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and Oregon Employment Department (OED). Mr. Tate emphasized the importance of governance in the system, and full spectrum of data is available doing back 10 years (on the safe side). Mr. Tate explained that funding for SLDS is in the Governor's budget. Question posed to Mr. Tate regarding factors and variables in the system. Mr. Tate shared that it is aggregate data, including demographics, with state and federal reporting as the base. The system currently does not include things like GPA or postsecondary program enrollment other than at entry and exit. It also does not include non-public institutions in higher education or charter or private K-12. The SLDS team wants the system to track educational outcomes, prior to adding other partners, such as Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Corrections (DOC), etc... Chair Piro inquired if a student could be tracked through a program of study (such as robotics). Mr. Tate was unsure of the ability, and will follow up with Director Steinberger. The council showed great interest in leading versus lagging indicators.

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**5.0 STEM Innovation Grants**

5.1 Chair Piro and Director Steinberger provided an overview of the STEM Innovation Grants. Currently \$5 million investments in the ODE (Oregon Department of Education) budget. Discussion included where the council wants to invest, areas included: STEM hubs, Digital Literacy and Computer Science, Math in Real Life, and STEM Outside of School. Director Steinberger will also discuss with the STEM hubs at their next meeting on 2/13/19. Critical questions include- Does the Council want to invest in the same things or new? Investments can be new innovative or previous. Previous investments have all been K-12 and not post-secondary even though the STEM Education Plan has both secondary and post-secondary focus. This also includes Pre-Kindergarten. Director Steinberger highlighted areas that were brainstormed with the ODE (Oregon Department of Education). Questions posed, and Director Steinberger will research and follow up with the Council: How do we evaluate the proposals? What is the process? How do we encourage proposals? How do we ensure it is a fair process, and not an insider game? What is allowable and not?

**6.0 STEM Investment Council Legislative Report**

6.1 Director Steinberger presented and led a discussion on the prepared legislative report. Idea brought to the table: measuring progress may need to be rebranded as setting up the ‘state of STEM’. The history section of the report may need to include leaders and legislators who led initially; Gov. Kitzhaber, Gov. Kulongoski, Sen. Devlin, Rep. Betty Komp, Rep. Tobias Read. Important to highlight the impact of the STEM hubs and how they impact their districts, particular to the rural districts. Discussion continued on impacts versus just test scores. The council was encouraged and very pleased with the work that has been done.

**7.0 Discussion of STEM Education Plan**

7.1 Chair Piro led a discussion of Goal 3 of the STEM Education Plan. Reviewed the priority outcomes and key initiatives to achieve goal. Councilmembers provided feedback. Councilmembers noted that a number of dates in the priority outcomes have passed or will pass soon and must be changed. Councilmembers also discussed the need to define “high quality professional development” and raised the possibility of adding a priority outcome about needing to teach teachers new ways of educating students. Furthermore, councilmembers questioned whether all of the priority outcomes were measurable and noted the importance in being able to track progress. Finally, several councilmembers noted the ongoing question of whether or not there should be a centralized body/structure, or whether all activities should be undertaken at a regional level. For example, should there be one leadership academy for school administrators or should there be multiple regional academies? At Chair Piro’s suggestion, the Council tabled discussion of Goal 4 until the next meeting.

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**8.0 State-mandated Ethics Training**

8.1 Tammy Hedrick of the Oregon Government Ethics commission provided training on the Do's and Don'ts of Oregon Government Ethics Law. Training objectives were to understand the limits on financial benefits, limits on private and subsequent employments, how to handle conflicts of interest, gifts and nepotism, also an awareness of where to find resources or direct assistance for Government Ethics issues. Definitions provided of the following: public official, relative of a public official, member of the household of a public official and what is a business with which the person is associated. Ms. Hedrick recommended that requests for guidance be submitted in writing, so they can be referred to in the future.

**9.0 Other Business and Next Steps**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Adjourn**

10.1 Meeting adjourned at 12:02pm by Chair Piro.