**SC STEM Regional Advisory Board Meeting**

May 17, 2017, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart School

1. Present: Michael Brown (Mesquaki Apprenticeship Program) , Steve Seick, Sarah Derry, Jan McMahill, Ben Chrisman (132nd National Guard Outreach), Angel Mendez, Bob Volp, Katherine Harrington, Amber Pargmann, Amy Volstead (Sacred Heart) Kari Hensen; Julia (Sacred Heart ELP) and Jane Kinney (Sacred Heart Prinicpal)
2. Absent: Kim Wayne, Becky Wigeland, Mary Madison, Jack Gittinger, Mary Bontrager, John Arbuckle, John Chai, Stacy Singleton, Karen Pattison
3. Overview of Sacred Heart Makers Space (Amy Vollstadt)

Summarized in an article for the newsletter

About two years ago, technology teacher Amy Vollstedt began looking for ways to incorporate more STEM into Sacred Heart’s curriculum. She attended the ITEC Conference that year, attended a session on Markers Spaces, and was hooked. She then took a class at ISU, and one of their assignments was to design just such a room.

Eventually her enthusiasm led to the creation of a creative, flexible area that serves as a home to the school’s computer lab, makers space and meeting room. With movable tables, simple chairs, rolling storage bins, portable technology, hours and hours of time, and community/parent donations, her vision came to fruition.

“We spent about $25,000 on the project,” said Vollstedt. They were fortunate to have the chairs, computers and iPads. A big chunk when to S-shaped tables on wheels that can be converted to circles or rows. Some of it went to devices. “About five years ago, we had around 65 devices,” she noted. “Now we have about 350.” Now they are working to relate the room’s use to their science core curriculum and 21st Century Skills.

Students can sign-up to work in the room for 30-minute increments and teachers can reserve the space for their whole class. Here are the materials mentioned the day the Hub visited:

* Osmos
* TinkerCad and MakerBot 3-D Printer
* Little Bits Circuitry
* Legos
* Straws and Connectors
* Take-Apart Station
* Magnitiles

“The kids love it and parents are really receptive,” said Vollstedt. And how could they not! It’s organized, welcoming, and thoroughly engaging—just what students love.

Vollstedt had some ideas for school who might want to create or improve makers spaces at their schools:

1. Define your space.

--What purpose will it serve?

--Where will it be?

1. Evaluate what you already have.

--What existing furniture/storage might work?

--What technology is around?

1. Determine a budget, perhaps in phases.

--Parents/communities like to donate to things like this that have tangible results.

--What funds could detour toward a room like this? Textbook money, PTO funds, etc.

--Consider applying for a Scale-Up or STEM BEST award.

1. Contact your AEA and borrow their materials for a day.

--Let the kids try out items you’re considering before you buy.

--Create an evaluation tool that students complete when testing materials. Collect
feedback cards with questions like: What did you like most? How could this fit with what you do in the classroom?

1. Set money aside for storage and organizational materials.

--Bring in a professional consult, like the Container Store.

--Make sure storage is portable and durable as rooms change and teachers check out
materials.

1. Look for ways the materials relate to core curriculum and work skills.
2. Closing out our fiscal year
3. There’s a total of $11,000 in remaining funds.
4. Derry will attend the ABI Conference
5. The remainder will go toward creating a database that helps the SC Hub and the entire STEM Initiative network.
6. The database will ensure accurate, timely and easier reporting in all STEM areas. UNI is creating it.
7. HUB Inventory
8. There are four or so kits/material collections that the Hub will not be moving.
9. To fairly distribute the items, the Hub will: A. Ask other managers if they would like to take ownership of them. B. Using past check-out records, schools/organizations will be offered them.
10. Overviewed the contents of the STEM Media/Awareness Kit—everything you need to use to communicate what we do.
11. July 17-21 is STEMpoluzza.
12. Educators learn how to use STEM in the classroom. Must commit to the entire week. Free, including lodging. Will be held at the Waukee Learning and Innovation Center.
13. Important future date
14. Contact Derry for additional information:
15. Future Ready Iowa Conference – June 21
16. Improve schools with community collaborations
17. Iowa Event Center
18. STEM Day at Fair –August 20
19. Sign up for 3 hour shifts; under tent; help stuff backpacks, evaluations
20. 9am-7pm
21. 25 STEM exhibitors plus stage acts. Can also comp a kid/husband.
22. 2017-18 STEM Festivals

A. Clarke County Fair STEM Night – July 20 4-7PM

B. Twin Cedars STEM Fest– August 8 from 1-4 pm

C. Centerville STEM Fest – October 21

D. DMACC STEM Experience—focus on middle school students; fall

E. IMMAW in Iowa – Education Day 20th Anniversary—January 26

1. Board members changes
2. 5 members turn over every year: Harrington, Pattison, Madison, Wayne, Gittinger
3. 3-year commitment
4. Let Derry know if you have recommendations
5. Next meeting: June 19, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.