**SC STEM Hub Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

DATE: Feb. 23, 2015

TIME: 2-4:00PM

LOCATION: Accumold in Ankeny, IA

SC STEM Hub Advisory Board Meeting

1. Members and others present: Corbin, Wiggeland, Sieck, Madison, Gittinger, Wayne, Derry, Henson, Pattison, Harrington, Weld, Chai, McMahill; Weld
2. Members absent: Bontrager, Dhawan, Henshaw, Singleton
3. January minutes approved.
4. Special guest: Grace Sawnson, HR Accu-mold. Swanson spoke about the history and growth of Accu-mold. They make very small, custom parts for other companies. 60 percent of their business is medical; 70 percent ships out of the country. They have an Accu-mold Scholars Program that provides a DMACC education while working 15-40 hours per week. Upon graduation, people work for 2 years for the company. They have about 220 employees and a 5 percent turnover rate. They make very precise parts for specialized items and are globally successful.
5. Chai asked what teacher externs do. Swanson said they match the teacher’s focus area with the project. They might set up training, set up complex spreadsheets, set up electronic application process.
6. Weld asked credentials of new hires. What sorts of careers await them? Swanson said they are middle skill jobs—2 year DMACC automation or tool and dye; 4 year project engineers, quality engineers, manufacturing degrees.
7. Scale-Up Update  
   A. Every Hyperstream will have an additional $150 to spend on materials, travel, t-shirts, etc.

B. Update on 2015-16 Scale-Up—33 applications coming in—15 days away from due date!

C. Please get the word out—part awardees in CC.

D. So far, Sarah has done 4 speaking engagements with 3 more coming; website, twitter, FB; personal emails to non-applying schools (13 schools/ 1 is submitting and the other 2 who have responded want applications)

E. Peck can reach curriculum directors, principals, superintendents, and STEM teachers with AEA blasts; AEA media person is tweeting from websites, also.

F. NEED volunteers to read applications. Let Sarah know if you’re able.

G. March 24—final discussion of budget breakdown; please be there if possible

H. Awarding priorities: Use a similar structure to last year, putting SES and first-time applicants first.

1. STEM Innovation Funds Discussion by Dr. Jeff Weld
2. History: The STEM initiative is very boxed into specific categories; no discretionary pool. Since 2011, there are folks who think there ought to be a way to find some funding for innovative projects. Recently, the Lt. Gov brought up idea of Innovation Fund
3. Two Questions: 1. What would it look like; and 2. How would funds be dispersed?
4. Kim Wayne—She has been meeting with Pi515 and Tech Journey. They need an administrator that can keep parents looped in and give parents information. They also need help staffing special projects.
5. Jan McMahill—She would like to see summer STEM academies for students—single or a collaboration of institutions; 1-2 weeks
6. Gittinger—Would like to see something similar to STEM 7th summer camp in Indianola
7. Hensen—Would like drive-in teacher workshops to encourage STEM endorsements; provide some sort of incentive for the teachers who come.
8. Peck—Suggests a STEM academy for teachers, especially in elementary
9. Harrington—Suggests something similar to an ISU program, where the best science teachers who teach other.
10. Sieck—Wonders how can we stay in contact with students who are inspired by these initial projects? How can we put them onsite and let them be inspired even more?
11. Harrington—Suggests field trip funds to get out in the community
12. Madison—Would like to see a network for the science teachers so they are not operating in isolation
13. Chai—Would like more PD for teachers.
14. Wigeland—Would like to enthuse teacher/students with incentives.
15. Question 2: Imagine there are funds next year and some fraction ($20,000/region)—how would you see administering it?
16. Sieck—We could have an innovation fund, with 2 deadlines to write small proposal for; report at end is open for ALL to see so that people can see.
17. Harrington—Would like for each region to tailor it for themselves; set goals; measure success; etc.
18. Sieck—What would be the funding cycle? 1-2 years?
19. Weld—Suggests something like Jewels that would be scalable across the state.
20. Madison—Would like to make sure that just the population you’re reaching can be considered innovative. AND would like to see innovative ideas with school counselors
21. Next step: —Weld will take conversation to his Friday meeting to the Lt. Gov. If all goes well, there will be a process to come up an application and to define the parameters.
22. McMahill—Suggested every region submits a person; 1 region brings forth a marketing person, 1 person a teacher, 1 person business, 1 person college, etc.
23. Pattison—asked for people who have experience. Sieck has guidelines he can forward. McMahill offered to lead the committee.
24. STEM Festivals
25. While the Hub loves the festivals and what they bring to the community, how can we balance a relationship between the festivals we’ve hosted and the communities who need new ones?
26. McMahill—Suggests forming a 2 year plan with different hosts
27. Harrington—Find an onsite special designation Festival Director/Liaison with STEM.
28. Budget—The more festivals we do, the more it costs.
29. Guide/agreement that shows what the Hub can do for you—press releases, advertising, registration, etc.
30. The Hub also has to address presenter fatigue when working with the festivals.
31. Sustainability—How can we continue the relationships and grow new ones?
32. Peck—Loves idea of having festival in other areas—community college has been a wonderful support—without some of those connections, how can we support them with bringing people in?
33. Derry—Bussing kids from outlying districts might be an answer.
34. McMahill—Requested a status report for next time; consider the politics of not funding all those we currently do.
35. Harrington—Look for STEM champion for each festival.
36. Gittinger—Likes that idea and would like it to be a 2-year rotation, with the second year being a mentorship role for the next.
37. Hensen—Requested a heat map of where they’ve been and where they will be
38. STEM Special Guest
39. Indira Blazevic Karic of the Afterschool Alliance: They are trying to bring ideas from the STEM council to before, after, summer, break programs. Working from a grant that concludes at the end of this year, they are trying to put STEM outside the school day and looking to sustain their framework of what a quality STEM program looks like. (See packet.)
40. Derry reflected on the evaluation tool The Dimensions of Success, which invites outside evaluators from the community to provide feedback on a specific STEM activity. It ensures educators are connecting STEM to fun AND an educational concept. The group’s main partnership has been with the STEM Active Working Group.
41. Harrington—Asked if the framework could be used in the school day, too? Karic said that for the most part, it could be used. She pointed out that some after school workers lack confidence in learning STEM themselves.
42. Gittinger—Wonder who is evaluating these programs. Karic said the have strong evaluators who go through a 2 day training, calibrate videos, and do 2 supervised field visits. Every 2 years, they must be recertified. They are all volunteers; their training costs are covered.
43. Announcements

A. Kemin Award Kacia Cain—1:00pm in her classroom; family, class, cake, former students

1. On March 9 at 5PM, applications close
2. March 30 is the State STEM Summit; please RSVP for lunch counts and such
3. March 14 Ottumwa—Pi Day
4. March 22 S Tama Schools collaboration
5. April 16 Drake STEM with DUCURS
6. Still looking for exhibitors for all festivals
7. Advisory Board Member updates
8. Hensen—Attended a forum on women in the workforce. There was a section on STEM. Then traveled to Phoenix for National STEM Connector “Advancing a Jobs-Driven Economy”
9. Harrington—March 3 Innovation Iowa is dropping at the World Food Prize. Everyone has an invitation; kids are welcome.
10. McMahill—The new STEM facility is progressing. It will house math, computer science, science, and education.
11. Madison—Links is working on having a STEM festival in conjunction with the Boys and Girls Clubs.
12. Pattison—Is hosting a 4H training tonight—pre-meeting activities are various STEM activities and will highlight Scale-Up kits and such. They are reusing kits ofen.
13. Sieck—Is living in world of assessment. He’s be attending a bio/chem inter-jump, taking 19 students and presenting in March.
14. Peck—She involved with promoting Scale-Ups and festival planning.
15. Wigeland—Volunteered to help at any STEM event.
16. Weld—STEM at the State Fair will be Sunday, August 23. If you want to have a presence there, let us know soon! In addition, the state is starting to accumulate info showing a true lift with Iowa students and STEM programming.
17. March 24 from 9:30-11:30 is the next advisory board meeting. It’s very important we have strong attendance so that we can progress Scale-Up awards during the time.