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### Minutes of Board meeting 05/28/15

Meeting Convened at 12:01 p.m.

**Attendees:** Paul Agosta, Greg Marks, Jenny Schanker, Gary Farina, Ali Elyaderani

**On the phone:** Patty Cantu, Christy Cloud-Webb, Linda Daichendt, Gary Gilger, Greg Johnson, Jodie Ledford, Brandon Lucas, Victor Naidu, Michael Tanoff, Monique Q. Wells, Darcy McMahon

**Apologies:** Lisa Gordon, Heather Gallegos, Mary Sutton, Andrew Smart

**Guest Attendees:** Larry Smith, Zion BarEl ([Contact Information](#))

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

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| <b>1. Call to Order</b>  | ED |
| <b>2. Welcome Members and Guests</b>   | ED |
| <b>3. Consent Agenda</b>   | ED |
| a. Previous minutes: ED took a motion to approve the <a href="#">minute of April</a> . The motion to approve was passed. (Greg/Paul) |    |

<b>Board Actions</b> - There are no board actions.	ED
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|---|---------------------|
| <b>4. Hubs Updates</b>  | <b>Hub Liaisons</b> |
| a. <b>St. Clair Hub</b> - Greg Johnson reported that a meeting is scheduled in June to continue Hub planning efforts and goal development.  |                     |
| b. <b>Lake Michigan Hub</b> - Mike Tanoff reported a full hub meeting was held in April at GVSU. The agenda included a presentation from Denso Manufacturing that outlined classroom activities by company engineers in local schools. He added that they also heard a presentation regarding the Michigan Advanced Technician Training Program that is available at several Michigan Community Colleges. A legislative update was also provided through Kent ISD. Mike reported that Battle Creek Math and Science Center is running a STEM based summer school camp July 13 <sup>th</sup> through 31 <sup>st</sup> (This camp was established last year through a Michigan STEM Partnership grant). |                     |
| c. ED asked if Mike could explain more about planning strategy that was part of the Lake Hub April meeting. Mike described that they continued working on Hub   |                     |

charter development, goal, and action planning. He mentioned that the updated plan is available and could be emailed to the board members.

- d. **Bay Hub** - Darcy reported that a hub meeting was held in April. Work included updating the Hub strategic plan, bylaws, and the goals and vision of the Hub. She reported that the hub has set four main goals. Goals include establishing a strategic plan for K-20, supporting student learning through MSS/NGSS, building collaborative relationship between members in the region, and recruiting and engaging non-academic partners. Darcy also added that their hub submitted several grants proposals to the Partnership.
- e. **Straits Hub**, they will update the board in our next meeting on June 25.
- f. **Superior Hub**, Christy reported that she had a meeting with the Math and Science Center Directors in the UP (Chris, Shaun, Lisa, Valerie). With the geographic issues of the UP they determined that they would concentrate more on regional efforts and coordinate in hub level meetings. She added that they are working with Michigan Technological University to develop STEM career activities to make students more aware of STEM programs through tours at the University. They also have planned several community events to inform students and adults about available STEM career opportunities. She added that they are also planning to do a symposium in Fall-2015 to bring more Superior Hub people together.

## 5. Executive Director's Report

Gary Farina

ED mentioned that most of the items in the ED Report will be covered in committee reports and asked to move the report to the end of the agenda and only address items not covered.

## 6. Guest Presentation – Inventive Problem Solving, Ideation International

Zion BarEl

ED introduced Zion BarEl, CEO of *Ideation International*. This organization is a global provider of a methodologies and technologies for innovative problem solving and other applications. (You may get access to the presentation by [clicking here](#)).

According to Zion, by teaching critical thinking and problem solving skills, his company is helping engineers in all areas to become more valuable assets to their companies. The IPS method and technology has great application to STEM as a significant aspect of STEM is problem solving. If introduced to students, it would provide enhanced critical thinking, problem solving abilities, improved innovation and a repeatable method for invention on demand. Zion mentioned that Ideation International is looking to establish collaborative initiatives with schools/school districts to benefit students and address the skill development needs for business and industry.

Zion introduced Larry Smith, formerly with Ford Motor Company. Larry explained that the *Ideation International* method and software helps people to look at issues from different perspective and approaches to ideal solutions. Larry added that this software assists people to create a system map and learn more about the function and resources of the system. According to Larry, this software assists individuals by identifying possible

patterns of innovation and ultimately helps you to leverage the opportunities for innovation. Ideation International has worked with corporations and university all over the world and would like to see these resources available to students and instructors within the K12 educational system.

Mike Tanoff asked Larry and Zion to provide an example of a problem that has been solved through *Ideation international* strategies. Larry explained that as a former member of board of directors for *American Society for Quality*, they have been asked to redesign their education and training system. As a result of using innovation situation questionnaire and strategy, they reached to a new set of goals for their training program. The software also helped them to unfold the complexity of the system and more effectively address the situation. Additionally, Larry overviewed how the process was applied to a very specific and complexed problem at Ford Motor Company. Ideation International is looking for schools/instructors that are interested in piloting the integration of this method and resources into their STEM activities and is willing to provide in-kind contributions of the materials and resources.

## **7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Executive Committee**

**Paul Agosta**

#### **i. MDE/MSP/MMSCN Meeting**

Paul reported that MSP Board members met in Lansing with representatives from MMSCN and MDE. The meeting was chaired by Steven Best from MDE. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify and gain a common understanding of the structure, alignment, and operational needs of the Partnership.

MSP Board members from the Partnership that attended the meeting included: Paul Agosta, Gary Farina, Gary Gilger, Monique Wells, Greg Johnson, Mike Tanoff, Jodie Ledford and Christi Cloud-Webb. Meeting attendees had an opportunity to share their perspective on the meeting.

Paul reported there was through discussion on the history and formation of the Partnership. The central issue was focused on the structure and alignment of the partnership. After discussion it was agreed by all that the Hubs are within and part of the structure and operations of the Partnership. It was also stated that there is a critical alignment and collaborative need between the Partnership and the Math and Science Centers. Regarding the relationship between partnership, network and hubs, Mike Tanoff added that hubs always were part of partnership. Paul commented that MDE (Steven and Megan) believed that Hubs were part of network and not part of partnership but the issue has been resolved.

- ii. **MISTEM Committee** - Paul shared a communication to Adam Zemke that was developed by the Executive Committee. It contained two documents including an email that outlines the commitment of the partnership to the work/purpose of the committee and the desire to be a critical component of any resulting process and coordinating body. The other document is a graphic alignment that demonstrates that the Partnership has been operating in structure and process

that is very similar to the proposed statewide MISTEM process. This makes the Partnership uniquely qualified to be an integral part of any coordinating structure for the MISTEM process.

- iii. **Other** - Paul reported on his recent discussion with Adam Zemke in regard to 2015-2016 funding for the Partnership. Adam believes there should be other funding sources beyond the funding we already have for administrative role. Currently, the section 99.7 funding the partnership receives is subject to specific rules and limitations by MDE. Paul specified that currently, Christi and Gary's contracts have been completed. As a result of discussion with Adam, we hope to move the funding for administrative staff out of *Michigan Department of Education* budget. We should expect to resolve these issues by end of June 2015. He mentioned that Adam Zemke promoted the fact that our 501C3 status will help us to have more funding resources available.
- iv. **Regional Hub** Initiatives - Based on Superior Hub report, ED confirmed that having regional sectors within the hubs would to better address needs and engage partners within hubs. ED added that the idea of having regional initiatives within Hubs was also a point of discussion in the recent meeting with MDE and the MMSCN.
- v. **SAE Foundation** Event - Paul also added that he was invited by Andrew Smart and the SAE to their annual foundation celebration on May 19<sup>th</sup>. He mentioned that the program was well organized around STEM activities.

## **Finance Committee**

### **Update Financial/Expenditure Reports**

**Gary Gilger**

Regarding the estimated budget report ([STEM Grant Summary](#)), that was presented to the board last month; Gary mentioned that not all costs and details were known at that time. More detailed expenditure information has been received from Wayne RESA a complete expenditure report for the past three years has been developed. Carryover funds have allowed for covering the costs for Christy's position for this fiscal year. To ensure funds for the full year we have reduce attendance at conferences and other travel activities.

Regarding 501C3 process, Gary reported that a recent interpretation of funding guidelines will not allow us to use funds for the 501C3 application process finalized. He added that in order to solve the problem we may need to find a corporate giver to provide us the \$1500 to file our non-profit status and become a 501C3. ED added that the estimated costs for filing the 501C3 application should be around \$2000 (\$1400 for Yeo & Yeo services and a \$450 filing fee).

## **Strategic Directions Committee**

**Brandon Lucas/  
Monique Wells**

Monique referred to the [action item list](#) and mentioned that there is a need for the Strategic Direction Committee to meet and review and update action items. Additionally, there is a need to identify and investigate opportunities for MSP to join an existing conference to provide a strand of STEM programming. These opportunities will help us to communicate with attendees and explain more about the work of the partnership and hubs.

### **Governance Committee**

**Greg Marks**

Greg reported that there are 3 open board seats due to members stepping down and 8 open seats due to the normal term cycle. Most of the current representation on the board favors the St. Clair Hub. The Bay hub, Superior hub and Lake Michigan hub are under representative for business side. He asked if the people at these hubs can identify the talented persons and send his/her information to Greg for the further process. Besides business, areas for needed representation include TED – Talent and Economic Development, Post-Secondary, and Career Technical Education. Regarding the MSP board members selectin process, Greg Marks mentioned that we need to find out motivated people to be nominated for opening seats on our board. Application information is on the website

### **1:30 Break at 1:31 to 1:44**

Board Committee Reports Continued

### **Communication Committee**

**Gary Farina**

#### **Open seats on committee**

Due to a mandatory work meeting, Heather was not available. ED reported that there are 3 seats open on communication committee. He asked the board members to contact ED if they desire to assist the Communication Committee until new board/committee members are in place.

### **Board Task Force**

#### **Grant Proposal Applications**

**Christy Cloud-  
Webb/  
Brandon  
Lucas/Andrew  
Smart**

Christy mentioned that the total of 64 grant applications under \$10,000 that are being reviewed. We also received additional 18 applications that requested more than \$10,000 which are under the review process by that Task Force Committee. Christy reported that for grants under \$10,000, volunteer reviewers are solicited. Grant proposal are provided to two or more reviewers to read and score. All scoring is expected back by June 4<sup>th</sup>. Grant awards are determined based on scores – grants are aligned from highest to lowest score and grants awards are offered down the list until there are no more funds. For \$10,000 and over, we expect to have the scores by June 8<sup>th</sup>. Currently, we have over \$800,000 grant requests. Christi also mentioned that she has uploaded the list of grant requests on our Google drive.

#### **Grant Proposals received after April 20th**

Regarding the extension of grant application deadline, ED mentioned that we had a number of non-FIRST grant proposals received after April 20<sup>th</sup>. Based on the decision made by the Executive Committee, these grants were processed with a scoring disadvantaged as previously determined. Christi mentioned that 14 grant applications have been received after April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Brandon added that board needs to think strategically to find the best way for using future

grants funds. ED added that we need to review our grant award model and consider options that could include an earmark of funds for replicating past grant initiatives that were highly successful and/or discretionary support/collaborate with current initiatives being done by other organizations. Brandon added that board needs to think strategically to find the best way for using future grants.

## **8. Additional Items/Updates**

**ED/Board**

### **a. Social Media (LinkedIn/Twitter)**

ED mentioned that issues with LinkedIn account have been resolved and MSP Partnership has the complete ownership and control of the account.

The recent expenditure report identified that, In the past, \$180 per month was spent on managing the Twitter account. Due to these costs we are leaving the account inactive and will look at ways to reactivate the account with a lower cost in the next fiscal year.

### **b. Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form**

ED reminded the board members to sign the form and return it back to him.

### **c. Crain's Detroit Article**

ED mentioned that *Crain's Detroit* had an article about STEM last year. They've contacted the ED for more comments and are running another article to demonstrate the level of activity around the state in STEM over the past year. The article is expected to be published in the next two weeks.

### **d. STEMx**

ED mentioned that we had issues for connecting with STEMx. Currently, issues have been resolved and they have evolved to provide more services and benefits to members. They agreed to send us more information so we can evaluate the materials and determined if we want to continue our membership. Paul added that the annual service costs about \$5,000.

## **9. Other**

**ED/Board**

There were no more comments or issues from board members.

## **10. Next Meeting Date – June 25, 2015**

**ED**

## **11. Adjourn**

**ED**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 P.M.

Minutes submitted by:

Gary A. Farina