



SDIRC STEAM Committee Meeting

Date: June 15, 2021

Time: 4:00-6:05

Location: District Office TEC and Virtual Teams Link

Participants:

April Perez (SDIRC DO), Patrick Hiser (SDIRC DO), Kelly Baysura (SDIRC DO), Rick Myhre (SDIRC DO) Mitzi Plunkett (SDIRC Teacher), Ronald Gehrke (SDIRC Teacher), Elizabeth Laviska (SDIRC Teacher), John Martin (SDIRC Teacher), Melissa Sleeper (SDIRC Teacher), Claudia Wahl (Community Member), Barbara Ingram (Community Member) Rachel Finnegan (SDIRC Principal), Coletta Murray (SDIRC Teacher),

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes on April 15, 2021

Minutes were passed out for review. Motion by Melissa Sleeper, second by Mitzi Plunkett that the minutes be approved as presented. With no additions or corrections, the motion passed as presented.

2. Committee Member Roles and Responsibilities: Pat Hiser discussed the roles and responsibilities of the STEAM Advisory Committee: advisory in nature, meets three times annually during the school year, participates in Steam Fair & Expo, participates in the STEAM Showcase, and go on STEAM walks at schools. Melissa Sleeper asked if there is a mechanism to visit classrooms and do the walk. Rick spoke about some of the possibilities to visit. Kelly Baysura expressed that the schools are excited about having the STEAM Team visit schools.

3. STEAM Glows and Grows: April Perez discussed the STEAM Designation in our inaugural year. The Glows were that we had 10 schools participating: 7 Elementary, 2 Middle, and 1 High School. The schools who participated were on a voluntary basis. We formed a STEAM Designation Advisory Committee, developed a Unified Mission, STEAM Team participated in Fall and Spring school visits, PD implemented at the School and District level, participated in the STEAM Showcase, participation of students in STEAM Summer Camp at Storm Grove MS, and feedback from leaders and stakeholders to improve the overall STEAM Designation. April also mentioned about Computer Science courses in middle school. It was offered for the first time ever this year at middle school and over 500 students completed the course.

Rick Myhre mentioned as a glow the ability for schools to participate in STEAM Designation during this year of Covid and their commitment of doing their very best under the conditions we had this year.

April Perez also talked about the Grows for next year: recruit more schools to participate: especially Sebastian River H.S., develop three rubrics (elementary, middle and high), update school plan template, combine STEAM Plan and PD on STEAM Designation Rubric, update Student Learning Experiences on STEAM Designation Rubric to include "look fors" for classroom walkthroughs, and add Acceleration Points to MS and HS for Data with the STEAM Designation Rubric.

4. STEAM Designation Plans: The revised plan was shared to the committee. April Perez discussed the improvements made the plans, which has been revised to look more like the school improvement plan to make this more seamless between the two documents. April mentioned how schools should develop a budget for STEAM curriculum and activities.

Mitzi Plunkett asked about funding resources. Group discussion centered around checking with Cindy Emerson who is the Director of Instructional Innovation for possible sources as well as the Education Foundation High Impact Grants.

5. STEAM Designation Rubrics: The DRAFT rubrics were passed out the committee. Pat Hiser discussed the changes to the rubric for next year. He emphasized that this rubric is still in draft form. The major changes for next year: splitting the rubric into Elementary, Middle and High School, identifying specific artifacts for each indicator, combining STEAM Plan and STEAM PD, expanding the indicators for Student Learning Experiences, added course offerings to middle school and high school rubrics, and adding acceleration points to the data rubric for middle school and high school.

Ron Gehrke mentioned he liked the new rubric. He asked if it would it be possible to add the program alignment with feeder schools? Makes it so much easier if they have that background knowledge. The STEAM team will look at that recommendation.

6. Other Business: Barbara Ingram discussed that feeder patterns, could affect the type of students to be in certain math and science classes if they must be a level 3 or higher. She is worried that the criteria will be eliminating students. The committee agree with her concern and that school leaders are encouraged to be flexible with students entering in specific programs.

Melissa Sleeper mentioned at Gifford Middle School scores did not hinder any student from entering the STEAM wheel course offered this year.

Coletta Murray discussed that elementary level student test scores are not used to eliminate student participation with STEAM activities. She mentioned at Treasure Coast Elementary, the school theme is Marine Science with kindergarten focus on sea turtles, first grade whales, second grade sharks, and will touching on topics to instill enthusiasm to sustain to the next grade level.

Melissa Sleeper recommended that the committee review the Outlier Study by the University of Chicago on the 8 Elements of STEM Schools as good information for reading. She also mentioned that to do project-based learning, that it would be helpful to reduce or eliminate district unit assessments. Kelly Baysura mentioned that there is a possibility to be flexible for those classes doing this type of teaching.

John Martin talked about their STEAM Plan for next year. Beginning in 10th grade cohort of 135 students, the subjects involved will be: English with History Math with Science. There will be training this summer for teachers to design curriculum with much more hands on in math (concept before algorithm) and science will use CER (Claims, Evidence, Reasoning). The Math progression is Geometry/Algebra 2/Statistics/Precalculus or Calculus. The VBHS STEAM Team and guidance worked together to identify those students who would be successful for this program. John Martin said he would send their STEAM plan for next year to the committee by e-mail.

Claudia Wahl asked about the STEAM plan submissions for next year. Is there a timeline of the second year of the program with the plans so that they are implemented at the beginning of the year? April Perez responded that last year that some schools were not ready due to Covid and deadlines for schools were pushed back.

Claudia also mentioned would it be possible to add a meeting to review data in second week of August. Many committee members agreed with that idea. Claudia also expressed that it is important to get materials and information ahead of time before the meeting.

Pat Hiser discussed the important dates for next year. July 14 will be the next date which is the District STEAM PD at Vero Beach H.S.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM. The next scheduled meeting is set for September 15, 2021, in the TEC at the Indian River School District Office. The STEAM team will investigate setting another meeting in early August to discuss school data with STEAM schools.