



SDIRC STEAM Committee Meeting

Date: April 14, 2021

Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Location: District Office TEC and Virtual Teams Link

Participants:

April Perez (SDIRC DO), Patrick Hiser (SDIRC DO), Becky Teske (SDIRC DO), Cynthia Emerson (SDIRC DO), Kelly Baysura (SDIRC DO), Missy Weiss (Ocean Research and Conservation Association), Mitzi Plunkett (SDIRC Teacher), Ronald Gehrke (SDIRC Teacher), Coletta Murray (SDIRC Teacher), Becky O'Donnell (Digital Integration Specialist), Amy Shea (Environmental Learning Center), Elizabeth Laviska (SDIRC Teacher), John Martin (SDIRC Teacher), Marie Gruber (Parent), Melissa Sleeper (SDIRC Teacher), Kristen Racine (SDIRC Assistant Principal), Tosha Jones (SDIRC Principal), Claudia Wahl (Community Member), Adam Faust (SDIRC Principal), Aretha Vernetta (SDIRC Principal), Anne Bieber (SDIRC Principal), Shawn O'Keefe (SDIRC Principal)

I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes on Feb. 18, 2021

Minutes were passed out for review. Motion by Coletta Murray, second by Marie Gruber that the minutes be approved as presented. With no additions or corrections, the motion passed as presented.

II. Unified Mission and Purpose

April Perez talked about the Unified Mission and Purpose. Suggestions were taken before this meeting for input. The suggestions were incorporated into the Unified Mission and Purpose and reads as follows:

- Unified Mission: To provide equitable and inclusive STEAM learning experiences that prepare SDIRC students for the 21st century.
- Purpose: SDIRC STEAM education fosters creativity and innovative thinking. Interdisciplinary STEAM learning experiences promote inquiry, technology integration, and authentic project-based learning that is connected to the real world. In the STEAM classroom, partnerships reach beyond the walls of the school to include higher education and community organizations.

Motion by Maria Gruber and second by Adam Faust to accept the Unified Mission and Purpose for the STEAM Designation Program. The motion passed as presented.

III. STEAMfest Activity

April Perez discussed SDIRC involvement with STEAMfest. STEAMfest is this Saturday, April 17, 2021 at the IG Center. April showed a sample of the STEAMfest bags that will be distributed from SDIRC. Each bag has information on STEAM Designation schools, CTE programs, take home activities from schools, and the [Superintendent Engineering Challenge](#). Schools donating take home STEAM activities include, Rosewood Elementary, Osceola Elementary, Pelican Island Elementary, Glendale Elementary, Vero Beach High School and Melissa Sleeper who will be going as a NASA Solar Ambassador from Gifford Middle School.

IV. Showcase Outline

April Perez went over the information concerning the STEAM Designation Showcase. The date is May 20, 2021, in the TEC. April gave a brief overview of the general outline for the school presentations. April also shared the STEAM Showcase Committee Feedback Form that will be used by our committee members during the STEAM Showcase.

V. Planning for the Future

April Perez led the discussion about plans for next year. Information was shared concerning the following areas for next year: STEAM Professional Development, STEAM School Visits, Book Study, STEAM Showcase, STEAM Advisory Committee, and STEAM Fair and Expo.

Pat Hiser shared plans for next year's STEAM Fair and Expo to be held at Gifford Middle School on January 29, 2022.

Cindy Emerson shared plans for next year's School Choice Fair on October 9, 2021, at the IG Center. This would be a great place for schools to also promote STEAM Designation.

VI. Other Business

Claudia Wahl passed out information and data to the committee. This included: Miami Dade STEAM Designation Rubrics, Mathematics Course Enrollment and Information, AP/IB Course Offerings and Information, as well as FSA Math and Science Data for Indian River County, especially in the areas of African American and economically disadvantaged achievement.

Ms. Wahl shared to the committee the need for improvement in our math areas, especially in the way of course offerings needed for those students going into STEM fields at the college and university level. It was suggested that the committee look at the MDCPS elementary, middle and high school rubrics.

Other discussion with various committee members centered around looking at opportunities of being certify a school as Nationally Certified.

Ron Gehrke mentioned the need to look at the vertical pathways for our students in STEAM Designation.

The next item of discussion centered around programs in mathematics for the summer. Summer school STEAM Camp will be done in conjunction this year with Crossover Mission and our SDIRC TechVentures to engage students in hands on mathematics and growth mindset activities.

Cindy Emerson and Marie Gruber expressed their interest to make sure that we are making sure that girls are involved with STEAM programs and clubs to promote these fields for women in STEM as a career path.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM. The next meeting is set for June 8, 2021, in the TEC at the Indian River School District Office.

The above minutes were approved on June 15, 2021.