

Massachusetts STEM Advisory Council

One Ashburton Place, Suite 1403, Boston, MA 02108 | www.mass.edu/stem/getinvolved/gicouncil.asp

STEM Advisory Council Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes

March 24, 2016

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Location

Chancellor's Conference Room
University of Massachusetts Boston
Boston, MA 02125

Members

Executive Committee Members attending:

Lt. Governor Polito, Co-Chair
Jeff Leiden, Co-Chair
U.S. Rep. Joe Kennedy III, Co-Chair
Secretary Jim Peyser
JD Chesloff
Marcy Reed
Ira Rubenzahl
Michael Tamasi (by phone)
Steve Vinter

Members Not in Attendance:

Sheila Harrity
Anne Marie Levins
Laurie Leshin

Staff in Attendance:

Blair Brown, STEM Advisory Council & Executive Office of Education
Marnie Burke, Vertex
Nick Clemons, Office of Joe Kennedy III

Minutes

I. FY 17 Budget

Secretary Peyser kicked off the meeting by discussing the initiatives that the Administration is supporting in the FY 17 budget related to the STEM Advisory Council priorities. In his outline, Secretary Peyser highlighted the Administration's support for increased funding for Connecting Activities and Dual Enrollment and continued funding for STEM Starter Academies and the STEM Pipeline Fund.

Secretary Peyser also highlighted the Perkins Grant and the Capital Grant opportunities.

Discussion that followed focused on how Secretary Peyser and EOE think about ‘matching funds’ in particular for the Capital Grant. Secretary Peyser answered that matching funds can include in-kind donations, including staff time.

Rep. Kennedy also discussed a new federal initiative to build centers on manufacturing and other STEM-related topics in states, e.g., new hub at MIT on advanced manufacturing.

II. *Updates from Subcommittees*

a. *Regional Networks – Michael Tamasi, Chair*

Michael Tamasi listed the members of Regional Network Subcommittee and highlighted the upcoming RFP to continue and sustain the funding for the Regional Network that was going out from the Department of Higher Education shortly.

Secretary Peyser and Lt. Governor Polito mentioned the importance of the Regional Networks and connecting that work to the work of the Workforce Development Boards. Secretary Peyser noted the importance of linking the work of the Workforce Development Boards and the efforts around work-based learning.

b. *Work-Based Learning – Marcy Reed, Chair*

Marcy Reed gave an update from the initial call from the Work-Based Learning subcommittee, noting that the subcommittee membership is a mix of academic and business leaders. She outlined that the discussion on the subcommittee was about aligning the experiences of students in work-place learning opportunities and teachers through externships. Also, she discussed leveraging Connecting Activities.

c. *Computer Science and Engineering – Steve Vinter, Chair*

Steve Vinter outlined the work of the computer science and engineering subcommittee. He said that the subcommittee is focused on getting background information and data on computer science and engineering education across the state. He noted the need for more people from industry on his subcommittee.

d. *STEM Early College High Schools/Career Pathways – JD Chesloff, Chair*

JD Chesloff said that the early college high schools/career pathways subcommittee had not met yet as he got up to speed on the topic. He said he was in the process of gathering information about what’s working and talking to stakeholders. JD noted that he and the Lt. Governor visited the Marlborough STEM Early College High School. Lt. Governor Polito shared that there are lot of girls in the school’s program, and 52% of students are going on to post-secondary opportunities in STEM fields. She urged that the Council not lose sight of what’s working.

III. *Funding from the STEM Pipeline Fund*

Secretary Peyser noted that there is a large unspent balance in the STEM Pipeline Fund for FY 16 due to the changing priorities of the STEM Advisory Council. He recommended that some of that funding be spent on better engaging industry leaders on a STEM Council priority – work-based learning. Jeff Leiden agreed with the approach and noted that he would like to see a template developed so that businesses, no matter which Workforce Development Board they work with, have a similar experience and know what to expect.

Marcy Reed said that she wasn't sure that the right people are in the conversations about the work-based learning activities, highlighting that her subcommittee does not have many people from industry. Rep. Kennedy suggested that as a program is built out that the work focus on the places that are doing well, and spread from there.

Secretary Peyser recommended that the STEM Council engage a consultant to brand the program and engage executives. Members agreed.

IV. Minutes Approval

Marcy Reed moved that minutes for the December 7, 2015 Executive Committee be approved, with a second from JD Chesloff. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Minutes approved (6-0) at October 3, 2016 Executive Committee Meeting.