

LaSTEM Advisory Council Meeting

August 21, 2019

10:00 a.m.

The LaSTEM Advisory Council met in session at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 21, 2019, in the Thomas Jefferson Room, Claiborne Building, 1201 North Third Street, Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Susannah Craig, interim LaSTEM Program Coordinator, called the meeting to order.

Committee Members/Representatives Present

Susana Schowen, Co-Chair
Senator Sharon Hewitt
Mahyar Amouzegar
Wendi Palermo (LCTCS
proxy) Jill Cowart (LDOE
proxy)
Kellie Taylor-White (designee)
Michael Gaudet
Kassie Cusuchs (LA Assoc. of Public Charter Schools proxy)
Crystal Gordon
Edwin Litoff (Univ. of LA System proxy)
Jeff Holcomb
Jada Lewis
Frank Neubrandner
Janet Pope
Kristen Reeves
Scott Stevens
Rachel Vincent-Finley
Laura Younger
Tom Yura

Committee Members Absent

Kim Hunter Reed,
Chair
Larry Carter Jr.
Stephanie Hilferty
Carrick Inabnett
Calvin Mackie
Amanda Hill (designee)
Trisha Fos
Stanton McNeely
Ken Tucker
Jaime Williams

Staff Members Present

David Lafargue
Susannah Craig

I. WELCOME, ROLL CALL, & UPDATES

Dr. Susannah Craig called meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and introduced the LaSTEM Program Manager, Dr. David Lafargue. A moment of silence was taken to honor Governor Blanco. Dr. David Lafargue conducted roll call and established quorum.

Senator Hewitt welcomed the LaSTEM Council members and attendees.

Dr. Lafargue asked for a motion to approve the minutes from February 27, 2019. Revision to change Jada Lewis from absent to present and corrections of bullet points on page 9 & 10 changed to IV. and V. were requested to match bulleted outline. Revisions were accepted and motion to accept minutes was initiated by Kellie Taylor-White, seconded by Senator Sharon Hewitt. The Council voted unanimously to accept the minutes from the February 27, 2019 meeting of the LaSTEM Advisory Council.

Dr. Lafargue mentioned updating the LaSTEM website and the creation of a monthly newsletter to provide updates and STEM events occurring throughout the state. The newsletter would be presented once the template was approved and finalized.

Senator Hewitt spoke about the STEM Signing Day at the WWII Museum sponsored by Boeing and Chevron. Senator Hewitt mentioned the company Tallo helped to identify Louisiana students to attend. Senator Hewitt recommended exploring avenues to recognize students receiving the STEM seal with their diploma. The college system signing days were identified as an option as well as a robotics day taking place during the legislative session. Ms. Jill Cowart recommended recognition of the first round of STEM seals to be awarded for this year's students. She also recommended exploring incentives for teacher, students, parents, and businesses to promote STEM pathways. Dr. Frank Neubrandner stated there should be around fifteen to twenty STEM Seals this year with approximately four thousand next year and continuing to increase. Ms. Cowart emphasized educating and informing the public and business of the STEM seals and pathways. Dr. Lisa Vosper recommended recognizing students with the endorsed STEM seals at the June 2020 Board of Regents and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) biannual meeting with council members attending. Dr. Vosper also recommended seeking sponsors to host a STEM signing breakfast for parents on the day of the June 2020 meeting. Senator Hewitt suggested council members or representatives attend commencement or award ceremonies to present and recognize the awarded STEM seal. Ms. Cowart stated scholarships for being awarded the STEM seal would increase awareness and act as an incentive for parents. Dr. Janet Pope suggested schools be awarded additional points for each STEM seal awarded at schools to encourage participation. Ms. Cowart stated two things needed to be considered. These two are interest and opportunities along with strength of diploma. Ms. Cowart commented that these pathways are continually being added and evaluated. Ms. Cowart stated she is working on the Jumpstart 2.0 project recommended by the Workforce Investment Council and BESE to assess effective pathway alignments with workforce needs.

Senator Hewitt recommended tasking a workgroup to explore these areas. The three key areas of focus for this workgroup would be the following:

1. Explore STEM seal recognition venues
2. Identify means of communication to inform and educate students, parents, teachers, and business partners
3. Explore opportunities to incentivize stakeholders using existing resources and/or new resources.

Ms. Susie Schowen recommended using existing subcommittees and proposed future follow-up to confirm workgroup members. Dr. Lisa Vosper inquired about the accountability and reporting of information surrounding this work group. Dr. Vosper asked if the report should be delivered to BESE or another entity. Ms. Cowart stated she would contact Mr. Ken Bradford and BESE then report back to the LaSTEM Advisory Council. Mr. Tom Yura requested written clarity be provided on the purpose of the workgroup prior to moving forward.

II. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Dr. Lafargue discussed the status of the Regional STEM Centers and Directors. The statewide Regional STEM Center and Regional STEM Director model was discussed along with funding goals and implementation timelines beginning in 2020. Ms. Jada Lewis recommended the implementation of Regional STEM Centers in phases based upon the readiness of each region. Dr. William Wainwright recommended included demonstrated resource alignment into the model to determine readiness of the Regional STEM Centers. Mr. Tom Yura recommended the council consider having a workgroup to evaluate the framework and implementation process in order to create an executive plan to present back to the council. Dr. Lafargue emphasized the importance of minimizing regional layers by exploring and partnering with existing regional efforts. It was concluded this effort would be considered at a proposed LaSTEM meeting added in the month of October 2019. The date would be decided upon and sent to the council members.

III. LaSTEM Summits

Dr. Susannah Craig and Mrs. Susie Schowen reviewed the LaSTEM Regional Summit held on June 20, 2019 in Bossier City, Louisiana. Mrs. Schowen identified Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Lafayette, Alexandria, and Monroe as the remaining areas to host LaSTEM Regional Summits. The next Regional Summit was scheduled for October 10, 2019 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Dr. Lafargue discussed the upcoming Statewide LaSTEM Annual Summit to be held on November 7, 2019 at the Raising Cane's River Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Lafargue elaborated on the layout for the event and the keynote speaker, Dr. Jeff Weld. Dr. Lafargue asked the council members to share the summit information, including registration, the call for proposals, and event sponsorships. Dr. Lafargue emphasized the importance of attending the summit to provide feedback opportunities for regional stakeholders. Mr. Michael Gaudet stated the council members should leverage access to existing email lists to promote the 2019 LaSTEM Annual Summit.

IV. **OTHER BUSINESS, ADJOURN**

Dr. Lafargue stated that the next scheduled LaSTEM Advisory Council quarterly meeting would be held on November 20, 2019.

There being no further business to come before the LaSTEM Advisory Council, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.