

**SUBJECT**

North Idaho STEM Community Charter Pre-Opening Update

**APPLICABLE STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY**

N/A

**BACKGROUND**

North Idaho STEM Community Charter (NI STEM) is a new public charter school authorized by the Public Charter School Commission (PCSC). Approved to open in fall 2012, NI STEM will serve Rathdrum area students in grades K-8 using a project-based curriculum.

**DISCUSSION**

NI STEM will provide a pre-opening update. PCSC staff recently visited the founders and makes the following observations:

1. Governance
  - A strong, active board has been established and continues to make fiscally responsible decisions.
  - Parent involvement remains high, with volunteers contributing to fundraising, landscaping, and uniform design.
  - Highly qualified staff has been hired and professional development plans are in place.
2. Academics
  - The project-based curriculum includes STEM Academy, Shurley English, Khan Academy, Saxon Math, SRA libraries, and Lego Education.
  - Both primary and middle level components are included in the curriculum and incorporate high-level thinking skills.
  - Students will spend one and a half hours each afternoon working on STEM projects.
  - Curriculum is aligned to Common Core state standards.
3. Enrollment
  - 264 students are enrolled for fall 2012, filling all grades to capacity.
  - All grades, with the exception of 8<sup>th</sup>, have waiting lists. The combined waiting list totals 222 students.
4. Facilities
  - The four acres of land owned by the school are being used to house portable units along with a cafeteria/gym/auditorium which is under construction. It is anticipated that the entire facility will be ready for occupancy by July 15.

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- Private funding and donations have contributed greatly to the financing of the facility and technology infrastructure.
5. Budget
- A first year net operating income of about \$24,000 is anticipated.
  - The school projects its carryover will grow to approximately \$55,000 in year two and \$86,000 by the end of year three.

**IMPACT**

Information item only.

**STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff makes no comments or recommendations.

**COMMISSION ACTION**

Any action would be at the discretion of the PCSC.

North Idaho STEM Pre-opening Site Visit Report

April 26, 2012

Scott and Colleen Thompson and one other board member participated in the interview.

**Governance:**

NI STEM's board considers itself to be an excellent board that functions well. They are fiscally responsible, as indicated by the decision to delay opening for a year to ensure financial stability of the school. Board member skills include real estate, finance, engineering, science, and business. It is felt that the board understands their role and fulfills it. Scott Thompson will be leaving the board to apply for the school administrator position. Prospective board members are in place to replace Scott and any other outgoing individuals. The board has participated in several training opportunities.

**Lottery:**

The enrollment lottery was completed in April. Results indicate that a total of 252 students are enrolled. All grades are full with the exception of grade 8. Furthermore, all grades K-7 have waiting lists. The total waiting list includes 189 students and is posted on the school's website.

**Facilities:**

NI STEM owns four acres of land. Portables are being put on the land. A cafeteria/gym/ auditorium is being built. Ground has been broken with an expected completion date of July 15. The portable units are expected to be ready for occupancy by the middle of June. Infrastructure costs are being shared with a nearby church. A contract for the portable units has been signed and a deposit made. The school will own the portables in 6 years.

A \$50,000 donation was received for the portable units and the cafeteria/gym/auditorium is being privately financed and paid for in total by donation. Additionally, the technology infrastructure is being privately funded.

**Curriculum:**

The school has purchased the STEM Academy curriculum for \$62,500. Updates will be needed every 4-5 years. The cost for updates is about \$5,000. The curriculum includes both primary and middle level components. It is project and technology based with an interdisciplinary approach. One and a half hours each day in the afternoon will be spent on STEM projects. NI STEM is also piloting a literacy program through Lego, designed to develop higher level thinking skills. Teaching staff already has access to the curriculum so they can begin working with it immediately.

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The STEM Academy curriculum purchase includes professional development for the staff. This will take place before the opening of the school as well as ongoing online training. Fridays will also be used for staff professional development.

NI STEM has already adopted the common core state standards. The curriculum, including Shurley English, is aligned to these standards. Rather than using basal textbooks for reading, the school will use literature which was chosen from the common core standards literature lists.

Staff:

All staff, with the exception of a half time special education teacher, have been hired. Contracts are signed and all teachers are highly qualified. Grades K-4 have classroom teachers and grades 5-8 will use content specialists to provide instruction. The four specialists will go across grade levels and will facilitate interdisciplinary projects. The gifted and talented as well as the special education teachers will be half time. Additionally, half time music and PE teachers will provide these classes two times per week.

The interviewees feel the school is ready to open. They have worked diligently and feel the necessary components are in place. They appreciate the PCSC asking tough questions that helped prepare the school and make it better.

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## CHARTER SCHOOL DASHBOARD

Date: 6/12/12

**School Name:** North Idaho STEM Charter Academy

**School Address:** PO Box 434 Rathdrum, Idaho. 83858

**School Phone:** 208-659-7794

**Current School Year:** 2012-13

**School Mission:** The mission of North Idaho STEM Charter Academy is to prepare students, through rigorous and relevant content, to be productive and successful citizens by developing a strong work ethic and the higher-level critical thinking skills needed to solve problems in the real world.

### CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

Board Member Name	Office and Term	Skill Set(s)	Email	Phone
Dan Tesulov	Chair	Business/ Real Estate	dancdahomes@msn.com	208-964-5030
Darrell Richardson	Vice-Chair	Engineering	dhrcar@spokaneskynet.com	208-623-3205
Dr. Lorna Finman	Member at large	Business- Science	lornalcf@gmail.com	208-640-9412
Cathy Richardson	Treasurer	Accounting- Technology	lolopass03@gmail.com	208-277-5818
Scott Thomson	member at large	Education/ Business	sthomson@northidahostem.org	208-659-7794

### ENROLLMENT

Grade Level	Current Enrollment	Current ADA	Current Waiting List	Previous Year's Enrollment	Previous Year's ADA
K	44		11		
1	22		27		
2	24		29		
3	26		26		
4	28		46		
5	30		25		
6	30		30		
7	30		28		
8	30		0		
9	N/A				
10	N/A				
11	N/A				
12	N/A				
<b>TOTAL</b>	264		222		

#### Student Attrition Rate:

Is your school planning to increase or decrease enrollment opportunities for the upcoming school year?

If yes, briefly describe planned enrollment changes, including numbers and grades affected:

**STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS**

School Year	Hispanic (# and %)	Asian (# and %)	White (# and %)	Black (# and %)	American Indian (# and %)	LEP (# and %)	FRL (# and %)	Special Education (# and %)
Current								
Previous								

**FACULTY AND STAFF**

**Administrator Name(s):** Scott Thomson  
**Administrator's Hire Date:** 9/1/12  
**Administrator Email(s):** sthompson@northidahostem.org  
**Current Classified Staff (# FTE):** 1  
**Classified Attrition Rate:**  
**Current Faculty (# FTE):** 12  
**Faculty Attrition Rate:**

**EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

**Did your school make AYP during the last school year?**  
**If no, please specify indicator and status:**  
**If no, please describe plan for addressing need:**  
**Was your school selected to participate in NAEP this year?**

**REPORTING**

**Date of last programmatic operations audit?**  
**Date submitted to authorizer?**  
**Who performed your most recent programmatic audit?**  
**Date of most recent fiscal audit?**  
**Date submitted to authorizer?**

**COMMENTS**

**Please describe any significant changes experienced by your school in the past year:**

**Please describe the greatest successes experienced by your school in the past year:**

**Please describe any challenges you anticipate during the upcoming year:**

**Please add any additional information of which you would like to make your authorizer aware :**

**REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS**

- Most recent ISAT and IRI results (as applicable)
- Chart comparing ISAT and IRI scores over the past four years of operation (as applicable)

**July 24, 2012**

- Goals attainment report comparing the measurable student educational standards in your charter to actual results.
- Written response to recommendations from most recent programmatic operations audit.
- Most recent parent/stakeholder satisfaction survey results
- Budget actuals for most recent month-end
- Budget estimates for remainder of current year, and fiscal outlook for next year
- Exit interview data for most recent school year

## North Idaho STEM Charter Academy Report for July 24<sup>th</sup>

### Governance:

#### Board:

- We have maintained a strong, active, and fiscally responsible Board
- Monthly meetings have been and will continue to be held at the Hayden Public Library until our facilities are ready
- Parents are actively involved with the school and volunteering for many things such as playground fundraising, landscaping party, graphic design, embroidery of uniforms, photography, etc.

#### Staff Hired

- 1 FTE Administrator
  - Attended the Idaho Association of School Business Officials Conference in May
  - Will be attending the Superintendents Conference July 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>
- 11.5 Certified FTE K-8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - All highly qualified according to state guidelines
  - Includes a special education, music, physical education, and gifted and talented teacher
- Have contracted with an Educational Psychologist and are currently seeking a Speech/Language Pathologist.
- 1 Classified FTE
- Staff Training/Professional Development to date
  - August 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> The STEM Academy on-site training
  - Intel Teach Elements
  - I-STEM Conference both teacher participation and one member instructing
  - Lego Education StoryStarter – late August/date to be confirmed
  - Teachers shadowing instructors at North Idaho Discovery Association's week long summer robotics camps in July to prepare for First Lego League and WeDo robotics
  - Exploring Teaching with Primary Sources through the Library of Congress (National Council for Computer Education)

## Academics

Project-based learning in a 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom environment

### Curriculum

- The STEM Academy
  - Museum of Science 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Discovering STEM 6<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Designing with STEM 7<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Investigating with STEM 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Shurley English
- The Khan Academy
- Saxon Math
- Prentice Hall Social Studies
- Literature for the Common Core Standards all grade levels
- SRA leveled libraries for science and literatures K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- Phonics Dance
- Lego Education StoryStarter for literacy

### Other Programs

- First Lego League for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- WeDo 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- Participation in History Days for 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Invent Idaho

# July 24, 2012

ENTER SCHOOL NAME AND SUBMISSION DATE OF COMPLETED TEMPLATE	Proposed Budget	Notes	Difference from "Current Fiscal Year"
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Local Revenue			\$0.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
<b>State Revenue</b>	\$886,653.00		
Entitlement		Include enrollment details on which proposed budget is based, as well as actual enrollment if lottery has been conducted.	#DIV/0! reflects State actual from "current FY"
<b>Wages</b>			
Administration			
Teachers			
Classified			#DIV/0! reflects all salaries compared to State actual from "current FY"
Medicaid			\$0.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Benefit	\$97,686.00		#DIV/0! reflects State actual from "current FY"
Transportation			#DIV/0!
<b>Federal Revenue</b>			
Title I			#DIV/0! reflects State actual from "current FY"
Special Ed			#DIV/0! reflects State actual from "current FY"
Title II			#DIV/0! reflects State actual from "current FY"
Startup Grant			#DIV/0! reflects State actual from "current FY"
Other Sources (Specify)			
Other Sources (Specify)			
Other Sources (Specify)			
Total Revenue before holdback	\$984,339.00		#DIV/0!
<b>PROPOSED HOLDBACK</b>		Holdbacks should be estimated at a minimum of 5% - 5.5% for FY 2011.	
Teacher Salaries			
Classified Salaries			
Admin Salaries			
Benefits			
Entitlement			
Transportation			
Total Holdback	\$0.00		\$0.00 there were no holdbacks last year
Total Revenue after holdback	\$984,339.00		#DIV/0! reflects State actual from "current FY"
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>100 Salaries</b>			
Teachers	\$441,500.00		441,500.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Admin	\$60,000.00		60,000.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Classified	\$55,000.00		55,000.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Special education	\$21,000.00		
Other (Specify)			
Other (Specify)			
Total Salaries	\$577,500.00		556,500.00
<b>200 Benefits</b>			
Benefit Dollars	\$70,800.00	Health Insurance	
PERSI/Payroll taxes	\$114,110.00		
Other (Specify)			
Total Benefits	\$184,910.00		\$184,910.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
<b>300 Purchased Services</b>			
Transportation	\$2,000.00	Travel Expenses	\$2,000.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Special Education			\$0.00 reflects projected from "current FY"

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ENTER SCHOOL NAME AND SUBMISSION DATE OF COMPLETED TEMPLATE	Proposed Budget	Notes	Difference from "Current Fiscal Year"
Proctor costs			
Legal	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Insurance	\$12,000.00		\$12,000.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Copier Lease			\$0.00
Printer Lease			\$0.00
Facility Lease	\$70,000.00		\$70,000.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Utilities	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Professional Development	\$4,000.00		\$4,000.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Technology	\$10,000.00	Phone and Internet Services	\$10,000.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Management Services	\$10,000.00	Contract Services	\$10,000.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Legal Publications/Advertising	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Substitute Teachers			\$0.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Board Expenses	\$11,000.00	Accounting and Auditing Fees	\$11,000.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Other (Specify)	\$5,000.00	Testing & Assessment	
Other (Specify)			
Total Purchased Services	\$159,000.00		\$154,000.00
<b>Supplies &amp; Materials</b>			
Teacher/Classroom			\$0.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Office	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00 Not in 2010 budget.
Janitorial	\$10,000.00	Maintenance Grounds	\$10,000.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Textbooks			\$0.00 reflects projected from "current FY"
Other (Specify)	\$23,000.00	Misc, Contingency and Building Maintenance Fund	
Other (Specify)	\$5,000.00	Equipment	
Total Supplies & Materials	\$39,000.00		\$11,000.00
<b>Grant Expenditures</b>			
Specify			
Specify			
Specify			
Total Grant Expenditures	\$0.00		
<b>Capital Outlay</b>			
Total Capital Outlay	\$0.00		\$0.00
<b>Debt Retirement</b>			
Total Debt Retirement	\$0.00		\$0.00
<b>Insurance &amp; Judgements</b>			
Total Insurance & Judgements	\$0.00		\$0.00
<b>Transfers</b>			
Total Transfers	\$0.00		\$0.00
<b>Contingency Reserve</b>	\$0.00		
<b>Building Fund</b>	\$0.00		
Total Expenditures	\$960,410.00		\$906,410.00
Carryover from Previous FY		\$0.00 Reflects projected reserve/(deficit) from "current year" worksheet	
Reserve/(Deficit)	\$23,929.00		