



APPROVED Minutes  
Education Committee Meeting  
Forum  
2500 West Broad Street

January 18, 2024  
1:00 p.m.

**Present:** Cristina Ramirez, Dr. Denise Walters, Patricia Nicoson, Dr. Rodney Berry, David Mills, Gina Burgin, Ukay Jackson, Karey Malysko, Amishi Amin, Dr. Richard Groover.

**Staff Present:** Timshel Purdum, Rich Conti, Ada Sue Siler, Ash Harris, Cat Erdas, Portia Chan, Jared Strawderman, Jennifer Guild, Laura Hughes.

**Other Attendees:** Deborah Love, Office of the Attorney General  
Cindy Norwood-Marquez, Committee Member at Large  
Dr. Brian Green, Architectural Historian

Dr. Berry called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m.

**Welcome and Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Berry welcomed everyone and asked for everyone present to review the meeting minutes from the October 19, 2023 Education Committee Meeting. Dr. Berry asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2023 Education Committee meeting. The motion was called by Dr. Grover and seconded by Dr. Walters. A vote was taken by verbal affirmation which passed unanimously without objection.

**Education Team and Inspiration Index**

Ms. Purdum shared an overview of the last two months from Team Education.

- Several new community outreach programs are underway.
- Overnight “camp in” events have proved very successful, and the process is now more standardized.
- Spooky Science programming during the Fall was a big hit.
- Model Railroad Weekend brought over 12.5k visitors over the three day holiday weekend.
- Two Sunrise Science lectures have been held, and attendance is on an upward trend.
- Collaboration with the Autism Society continues.
- Minds of All Kinds (MOAK) sensory friendly evenings are well attended and well reviewed.
- Community outreach opportunities continue to grow.

- A current area of focus is the library pass program.
- Area libraries are given a Science Museum membership that is checked out by patrons and used for a defined period of time, then returned to the library just like book.
- Richmond local libraries were the first to participate in the offering, the team is working with Chesterfield County and Petersburg to initiate the program in those jurisdictions.
- The Museum received another LEGO grant, *Build the Change*, focused on learning through play.
- A new guest experience, a LEGO build table, was installed outside of the Forge.
- With support from Genworth, new senior centered programming was developed.
- The first Senior Mornings activity was just hosted, with three more on the books in the coming months.
- The holiday programming themed around Favorite Things was well attended during the week between Christmas and New Years.
- The Forge hosted the Metropolitan Business League recently for a guided activity.
- Measurements were taken in The Green during the Winter Solstice to inform the development of a sundial.
- The Museum will install a life size model of a Quetzalquatalus, the largest flying animal to ever live, in the SPEED gallery once fabrication is complete.
- Funding was received to develop expanded programming for early learners.
- Science on Tap, the 21 and up event, is returning in March.
- The Dome will have a laser show system installed.
- The first laser show program will be Pink Flyod and will be an adult only event.
- Summer camp is ready to launch with a registration go live date set for January 29, 2024.
- Summer camp will be 9 weeks this year, compared to 6 weeks previously.
- A Teacher Open House will be held this coming Saturday.

Dr. Groover offered to assist with any efforts to coordinate with Hanover county to implement the Membership Pass program there.

Dr. Groover asked about the attendance at the two Sunrise Science lectures. Ms. Purdum responded that the average attendance was 140 people.

Dr. Berry asked what quarter of the fiscal year has the highest attendance. Ms. Moyer said the highest attended months are July and August.

Ms. Amin asked about the overnight camp in events, do they sell out? Ms. Purdum said that the private sponsored events do sell out quickly. The un-sponsored ones generally sell out as well. Registration for those events are \$10 per person for sponsored camp ins and \$55/\$65 per person for un-sponsored camp ins.

**New Business**

Dr. Berry asked for any new business.

**Adjournment**

With no further business Dr. Berry asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Burgin made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Ramirez. Dr. Berry called for a vote which passed unanimously without objection and the meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

The Education Committee will meet again on April 18, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.