Advisory Board Meeting Summary
Tuesday, May 5, 2026
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Location: Edgewood-Colesburg High School

Board Members Present

Bev Berns (Vice Chair) Keystone AEA		**Seth Harms** West Delaware High School	X	**Anderson Sainci** City of Dubuque	
Sue Burrack Waldorf University		**Doreen Hayek (Chair)** University of Northern Iowa	X	**Stacey Snyder** Retired Teacher	
Kendra Crooks Extension and Outreach		**Jeff Jacobs** TDS Automation			
Rachel Dillavou Boys & Girls Club of the Cedar Valley		**Marla Loecke** Iowa Workforce Development	X		
Larry Escalada University of Northern Iowa		**Allison Plunkett** John Deere Dubuque Works			

X – Present

Others in Attendance: Jeff Beneke (Northeast Iowa Regional STEM Hub), and Ann Gritzner (Iowa STEM Council).

Meeting Summary

Prior to the meeting, students from the Ed-Co Innovation Studio presented projects they completed during the school year. The Ed-Co Innovation Studio is a previous recipient of a STEM BEST grant, and the presentations highlighted the innovative, hands-on learning experiences made possible through the program.

Doreen called the board meeting to order at 11:05 AM.

YTD Financial Statement
Jeff presented the Year-to-Date financial statement. As of March 31, 2026, year-to-date expenditures for the Northeast Iowa STEM Hub totaled approximately $680,472 representing about 90% of the overall fiscal year 2026 budget.

FY27 Scale-Up Programming
Award and non-award notifications have been sent to all applicants.

Iowa STEM Teacher Award
Nominations are now open for the Iowa STEM Teacher Award. Nomination deadline is September 30.

STEM Festivals
Jeff distributed and reviewed the Northeast Iowa Family STEM Festival report. The festival was held on April 9 at Waukon High School in Waukon and welcomed 367 attendees and 26 exhibitors.

The Northeast STEM Hub is exploring opportunities to host additional STEM festivals during Fiscal Year 2027. A planning committee has been established in Jones County, with the goal of hosting a STEM festival in Monticello this fall.

Iowa STEM Council updates
Continue recruiting teachers and business hosts to participate in the STEM Teacher Externship program.

The Iowa STEM Summit will be held on November 6 in Des Moines. The STEM Council is still accepting requests for presenters.

Announcements
No further announcements.

Important Dates

Event/Activity	Date	Time	Location
STEM BEST Symposium	June 14-16	NA	Earlham Community School District
Scale-Up Training Begins	July 1	Various times	Various locations
Iowa STEM Summit	November 6	All Day	Iowa Events Center, Des Moines

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 PM.

The next meeting will be in August.