

AGENDA & MINUTES

Attendees

Participants:

Region 1: Doug Hood - Camas, Washougal

Region 3: Eric Nerison - Kalama, Castle Rock, Toutle Lake and Woodland

Region 4: Chris Griffith – Ridgefield, Green Mountain, Hockinson and La Center

Region 5: Jerry Lewis (Chair) - White Salmon, Centerville, Glenwood, Klickitat, Lyle, Trout Lake, Roosevelt

Region 7: Rhonda Rogers - Private and at-large districts

ESD 112: Kathy Whitlock, Executive Director of Student and School Success

ESD 112: Vickei Hrdina, Executive Director of Career Readiness & STEM Initiatives

ESD 112: Pranjali Upadhyay, Integrated Curriculum Coordinator

Unable to attend:

Region 2: Lacey DeWeert - Kelso, Longview

Region 6: Ralph Pruitt - Ocean Beach, Naselle, Wahkiakum, Mill A, Mount Pleasant, Skamania

Agenda Items

Approval of September 25th, 2019 Minutes

Doug Hood motioned to approve the minutes from the September 25th, 2019 meeting and Eric Nerison seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ESD Program and Staffing Update

Vickei Hrdina has been appointed to the role of Executive Director of Career Readiness for SW Washington STEM and Career Connected Learning Network & ESD 112's STEM Initiatives. ESD 112 has also filled two new positions, Chad Mullen was hired as the Business Engagement Manager, and Scott Culbertson as the CCL/CTE Coordinator. Pranjali Upadhyay will be staying on as the Integrated Curriculum Coordinator and will also be taking over the responsibilities of the STEM Materials Center, including the SMC Advisory Committee as Vickei transitions into her new position.

Critter Release Proposal

ESD 112 has put forth a proposal to eliminate most critters in SMC kits by the end of the 2019-2020 school year. The main reasons behind this proposal are:

- Critters cost \$29,600 per year to maintain and replenish.
- Released critters can disturb local ecosystems or perish as soon as they are released.
- Critters that are returned via courier often perish.

Another reason the ESD is proposing to eliminate most of the critters is that the storylines Pranjali Upadhyay has been working on have de-emphasize critter involvement and have replaced them with embedded FieldSTEM activities where students explore local and natural plants and animals within each unit. There are also other rigorous and engaging activities (engineering design projects, literature connections, STEM discussions, games, art projects, scientific modeling) that will replace the critter labs and provide a more enriching and NGSS aligned learning experience for students. Advisory has approved the

proposal to start phasing-out process of critters by the end of 2019-2020 school year and to use media and communications to spread the word to teachers.

Final Budget through 2020

The final proposed 2019-20 budget comes to a total of \$451,697 with a total of \$437,915 in member contributions. With the \$5,285 carryover from 2018-19 that leaves an estimated deficit of \$8,497. Eliminating all critters that are not part of the storylines will more than recoup the \$8,497 deficit. You can view the breakdown the 2019-20 budget forecast [here](#). Vickei will provide the final budget with the critter savings at the next meeting. Eric Nerison motioned to approve the presented budget with the understanding that the deficit will be made up with the reduction in critters and Doug Hood seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Elementary Program Updates:

There are four new storylines that have recently been published, two for first grade (Air and Weather and New Plants) and two for second grade (Pebbles, Sand, and Silt and Insects). There are currently eleven available storylines that help teachers transition between activities and build connections and coherence through the investigations. Pranjali Upadhyay and her team will be focusing on 5th grade storyline development this year. You can view all available storylines on the [STEM Materials website](#).

Middle School Updates:

The ESD is on year 2 of the 3-year [OpenSciED](#) nationwide pilot for some new openly licensed materials being developed through the University of Texas, Dana Center and Northwestern University. OpenSciEd was launched to improve the supply of and address demand for high-quality, open-source, full-course science instructional materials, while at the same time supporting the implementation of middle school science instructional units. The OpenSciEd units are closely aligned to the Framework and NGSS and are based on research regarding how students learn, what motivates learning, and the implications for teaching. ESD 112 will be holding an OpenSciEd info session in February with an option to attend in person or via ZOOM.

Family STEM Night kits:

Vickei has been working with retired science teacher from Washougal, Marlin Martin, to developing some family STEM night kits. A STEM Family Nights include hands-on science, math, and engineering activities for students and families to complete together. These events include a range of activities covering different STEM topics and connections to exciting STEM careers. Marlin mostly recycled unused materials from the SMC to put together 16 mini kits that will be available for Cooperative districts to check out so they can host their own family STEM night. The cost for these kits were covered using the LASER grant. At the next meeting, more information will be provided about decisions regarding pricing and availability.

Revised Operating Practices Document:

Vickei is asking the Advisory representatives to present the Revised Operating Practices Document at their local superintendent meetings and gather feedback to share at the March 11th Advisory Committee meeting.