

## Minutes

NWESD Science Materials Center Cooperative  
**February 19, 2016 - 10:00 – 12:00 PM - NWESD**

### In attendance:

#### At NWESD

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Tracy Dabbs          | Burlington SD    |
| Mark Hall            | Ferndale SD      |
| Graham Cook          | Lake Stevens SD  |
| Andrea Wyatt-Detrick | Lakewood SD      |
| Mike Olsen           | Sedro-Woolley SD |
| Bill Weide           | Sultan SD        |
| Joanne Johnson       | NWESD189         |
| Nancy Menard         | NWESD189         |
| Pam Estvold          | NWESD189         |
| Kelly Spears         | SMC NWESD189     |

#### Via K-20

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Susie Gaudette | Mount Vernon SD |
|----------------|-----------------|

### Welcome and what's new in your district

- Burlington-Edison – A district wide Deeper Learning initiative is examining kits, moving from FOSS to district designed units. Kits will stay with teachers and consumables will be refurbished once a year. Units are integrated, standards and inquiry based.
- Sedro-Woolley – Deeping their content learning as part of a WWU grant. . Secondary NGSS is part of PASTL. STEM School at Evergreen Elementary to include full time STEM TOSA.
- Ferndale – Interested in a once a year kit refurbishment

### SMC Budget for 2016/17

The Science Materials Center opened twelve years ago. At that time the cost for kit refurbishment was \$105.00. In the 2008/2009 fiscal year, the cost was increased to \$115.00. After discussion and reviewing the budgets from 2012 -2016 (attached document), the group agreed unanimously to an increase of \$5 to \$120.00 per kit refurbishment. New inter-local agreements will be executed, effective April 1, 2016.

**ACTION TAKEN: Refurbishment per kit increase to \$120. New inter-local agreement will be executed effective April 1, 2016.**

### Additional Support for Fall 2016

The hard work SMC teachers did last year has been compiled with the hard work from our other ESD partners and put up on a public wiki. Anyone with the URL <http://fossngstransitionsupport.wikispaces.com/> will be able to access and use these materials. In addition to the NGSS Support Guides for many of our most commonly used kits, an explanatory video has been made available to explain their use. As agreed upon at the last SMC meeting, a paper copy of the NGSS Support Guide will go in each applicable kit in fall 2016. Before using these Guides, a basic understanding of NGSS is required. Most districts have been sending teachers to the NWESD Science Leadership Network and those participants, along with the newly created Science Fellows Network, have teachers who can help their peers with NGSS. In addition, feel free to contact Joanne Johnson at 360.299.4046 or [jjohnson@nwesd.org](mailto:jjohnson@nwesd.org) for personalized NGSS overviews at staff meetings or other teacher learning opportunities.

The NWESD offers a Next Generation Science Standards workshop. These are offered once a month (except April). This [link](#) will take you to our registration website with detailed information.

### **Staff Changes**

The center has been having a hard time keeping on-call staff. Kelly noted that she may offer permanent staff more hours instead of keeping a lot of on-call staff.

### **Thinking About Kit Changes – What Did We Learn in Berkeley**

FOSS recommended using the Next Generation Scope and Sequence. NWESD does have manuals that you can review. 10 out of the 18 recommended kits use exactly the same stuff. FOSS will not sell the manuals, separately; they only come with a kit purchase.

A discussion ensued around the instructional shifts necessary to bring our region and the SMC to best practice in NGSS. It was clear to our members that the answer is not in the “stuff” or the “kits”, but rather in the shifts in instruction as written in the NGSS. Tracy Dabbs at Burlington shared that her district is embarking on Concept-Based Learning and will use their kits differently.

### **Providing Professional Learning**

Joanne continued to push the group to consider professional learning for teachers. (See Support for Fall 2016 above) It is clear that instructional changes cannot happen without teachers gaining new understandings.

After some discussion the group agreed that the NWESD SMC needs a clear plan to move forward with providing professional learning and materials to members aligned to the Washington State Science Learning Standards (WSSLS/NGSS). A sub-committee was formed to consider Concept-Based Learning as a framework for professional learning and SMC kit support for SMC Member Districts. The committee will be facilitated by Joanne Johnson, NWESD LASER Alliance Director and include Tracy Dabbs, Burlington-Edison SD, Mike Olson, Sedro-Woolley SD, Graham Cook, Lake Stevens SD and Mark Hall, Ferndale SD. This group is charged with bringing back a plan to the Membership for consideration moving forward. Because the SMC is considering a Concept-Based Learning approach they agreed to encourage SMC District teachers to attend Concept-Based Learning training. NWESD is offering a Concept-based Curriculum & Instruction 2-day workshop. June 28 & 29 from 8:30-3:30. Registration is open and can be accessed, along with more information, at this [LINK](#).

**ACTION TAKEN: No new purchases at this time as a cooperative. Sub-committee formed to consider Concept-Based Learning and formulation of a SMC Plan for moving forward.**

Joanne additionally reported that the NWESD has hired a new Resource Officer. Once the SMC has a plan, Joanne will talk to her about finding us a professional learning grant to support our work.

### **Additional Messages from Kelly**

Kelly asked the group if we should continue to print the hand outs and worksheets included in kits? About half of the documents are returned when the kits are returned. Kelly will include a note in the kits asking the teachers their feedback.

*Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.*

*Minutes kept by Nancy Menard and Joanne Johnson*