

Science Materials Center Cooperative Members Meeting
WEDNESDAY, May 23, 2012
Meeting Notes/Minutes

Member district representatives present:

Barb Brausieck, Ferndale
Tracy Dabbs, Burlington-Edison
Laureen Anderson, Lake Stevens
Susie Gaudette, Mount Vernon
Peggy Webb, Lakewood

Joanne Johnson and Kelly Spears represented NWESD.

Scheduling for 2012/13 – [Summer schedule](#) is out. Fall requests are due June 1st. Please send best guesses for teacher names. Adjustments can be made in the fall.

Critter costs for 2012/13 – No increase in cost. The SMC is now growing its own Bess Beetles and Sow/Pill Bugs. The SMC will initiate and email to district contacts a delivery schedule so they can in turn let the schools/teachers know when critters are going to be delivered. The intent is to alleviate issues that arise due to delivery confusion.

DECISION: SMC will conduct one hour Critter Care workshops. It will be required that all SMC member districts receiving critters send appropriate district staff. Kelly will schedule for fall.

Summer opportunities – PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS, August 15, 2012 at the SMC.

Spend the morning (9:00 a.m. – 12 noon) thinking about **Kit Management In Your Classroom**. Access registration and further description at this [link](#).

The afternoon portion of the workshop is **FREE** to SMC member district teachers. Learn about **Using Kits From Our SMC** and making the most of SMC features in our kits. Access to registration and further description at this [link](#). **Should you have teachers who could use some encouragement around kit use, this would be an excellent way to get them re-engaged.**

Data Collection – Members agreed that collecting data on kit usage would be useful information. The following information was requested: # of kits per building used; Teacher Name didn't use a kit; only one set used in a kit (was the lesson a demo rather than kid experience?) Joanne will look into the ease with which this data could be collected. Reports would then be made available on a "by request" basis.

Kit Use Policy Reminder – due to any number of possible situations, NWESD SMC understands that all kits delivered to a district might not be slated for use. Some kit titles

are in limited supply and knowing that a kit were available for use in another district would benefit all SMC Members. If Kelly Spears is notified within 3 weeks of kit delivery in the fall and within 2 weeks of kit delivery at the winter and spring rotations that a kit is not needed and will not be used, the SMC will not charge the district for that kit refurbishment. Arrangements will be made on a case by case basis for the return of the kit to the SMC.

Missing Item Billing Policy Reminder – districts have a complete rotation to find missing items. Kelly will send a list of missing items as kits are inventoried upon return. A reminder to search for missing items will be sent 2 weeks prior to the end of a rotation. Items not recovered will be charged to districts 2 weeks following the end of a rotation in order that new items be purchased and put into kits for the next rotation. The next missing item billing will go out in June. The bills will sub total by school.

Next Generation Science Standards are coming. – during this time of transition, districts are advised NOT to adopt new materials. Those present at this meeting discussed possible approaches the SMC might take as the need for new materials in schools arises. These include, but are not limited to:

- carefully watching as other regions across the country make decisions about materials which meet the new standards;
- analyzing existing SMC material resources and creating kit enhancements to match new standards;
- consideration of a regional adoption model, phasing in the same new materials for each district across the SMC.

DECISION: As the process of adoption of new science standards moves across the nation and perhaps becomes the decision of Washington State, we agreed to be mindful and strategic about any changes that SMC members make. It will be important to consider cost savings which might be realized were a coordinated collaboration undertaken by SMC member districts in the acquisition of new materials.

ACTION ITEMS:

Kelly:

1. The SMC will initiate and email to district contacts a critter schedule.
2. Schedule one hour Critter Care workshops for staff in SMC districts using critters.

Joanne

1. Will follow up with data collection for kit usage

NEXT SMC Cooperative Meeting: FALL 2012, September or October TBD.