

## SMC Advisory Meeting

**Date:** 6/30/2020

**Facilitators:** Pranjali Upadhyay and Stacy Meyer

### Agenda

1. Approve Minutes from 3/11/2020 meeting
2. Review Final Budget Through 2020
3. Draft of STEM Support Plan for 2020-2021
4. Storyline Update and Critters
5. Update on Middle School Open SciEd
6. Motion to Approve Revised Operating Practices Document

### Projected Budget for end of 2020

At an earlier review, the program had deficit of \$20,000, and the facilitators expected that they would overspend the budget. However, after removing Critters from the SMC kits and seeing a decreased need for temp hires (due to the pandemic's school closures), the program eliminated the deficit with a budget currently has \$2,464 left in funds for this year which are currently being used to pay temps for summer restocking and staging.

The program does have a need for temp staff to assist Serena Decator, at the STEM Center, with restocking materials and preparing the center's supplies for the fall. This spring, materials were pulled from many kits to build 20,000 STEM-At-Home kits that were sent out to students around the region. Those supplies now need to be replenished using leftover funds. After this restocking, the program will break even.

### Draft of Fall 2020 STEM support plan

Pranjali proposed a [draft STEM Support Plan](#) for committee members' review and input.

While drafting this plan, both Pranjali and Stacy have stayed in touch with teachers and superintendents to assess what things might look like for schools this fall and what teachers' needs will look like. One priority is remaining flexible and paying attention to schools' needs, potential changes, and situations that may require restructuring, changes, and pivots. Pranjali and Stacy are also working on preparing multiple different re-entry plans based on the different scenarios that might arise.

Kits will be prepared and provided at the regular scale this fall. Many teachers have asked for their full kits and material supplies. There's a possibility that teachers may be able to work in the buildings this fall.

Next, the program plans to include three types of STEM professional development for teachers. Online trainings will be uploaded to the website and aligned with specific units or curricula. This may include up to twelve different trainings that will replace the usual kit trainings. Teachers will be able to access these trainings asynchronously, and the goal is to have these online by early August.

The second type of professional development will include grade-specific Zoom trainings on using kits with whatever blended or flexible teaching model will be used in the fall. Pranjali and Stacy will facilitate these, and the curricula materials are on Google Platform for use by teachers. A guiding question for developing these trainings is “How do STEM subjects look different in our learn-from-home situations?” Tentative dates for these trainings have been scheduled for August 17-19, 2020. Several committee members noted that schedules are still unsettled for the coming year, and late August may be problematic for scheduling the Zooms.

The third type of STEM professional development will provide teachers the opportunity to reconvene to collaborate, develop new ideas and strategies for adapting to any changes in learning environment, and updating plans based on new information and experience.

Discussion centered around the need for trainings to address both online and in-classroom instruction, as well as ideas for how to pivot to new learning models if schools are shut down again. Stacy and Pranjali noted that STEM work has the benefit of bringing in cross-disciplinary skills such as ELA skills, research, and fieldwork, which makes it easier to adapt STEM work from classroom activities to learn-from-home projects. The August sessions will include both these and an opportunity for teachers to collaborate on planning for the many possibilities that could affect instruction while using the materials they have already available. The goal is to help teachers plan for the worst-case scenario.

## Middle School and OpenSciEd

The OpenSciEd program has been developing a middle-school scoping sequence with curricula that’s fully open-licensed. The end goal is to provide six units per grade, and all will be free and available for schools to access and use. At this time, only six total units have been published: two units each for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels. The program hopes to have three per each middle-grade level available by the end of summer.

Additionally, as the middle-school curricula nears completion, more updates will be coming concerning materials for other grades. OpenSciEd plan to begin developing materials for high school and elementary grades (3-5) in the coming school year, especially as there’s a serious need for in high schools for these materials.

ESD 112 now has seven teachers participating in the national pilot training, and two of these teachers are also trained facilitators. This means we’re the only region with trained facilitators, and we’ve seen more teachers interested in taking part. Pranjali hosted a February info session to reach out and share information about this program and opportunity with districts.

Moving forward, Pranjali and Stacy would like to build ESD 112’s capacity for training and provide more teacher training. Some training resources are already available online via Canvas, and they would like to increase the online and face-to-face trainings available when possible. This way, when teachers are interested, the program will have the resources to support them in professional development.

Additionally, the program currently has OpenSciEd kits available to loan out. Districts can borrow these for training purposes, for assessing whether they may be useful, and for providing feedback. Currently, the program has four of each published kit. Some of these kits use re-usable materials, while others

contain one-use consumable materials. In the future, SMC wants to provide kits of restocking material for those consumable kits at a potentially lower cost than restocking from the current vendor.

This fall, SMC would like to convene a small committee to discuss how OpenSciEd materials and training can be applied in school instruction. SMC would also like to provide more training opportunities for both teachers and facilitators in Fall 2020. Material-wise, the usual kits, supplies, and resources will be available for checkout at middle schools as we move into the new school year.

### Storyline Updates and Critters

SMC is working on filling gaps in the 5<sup>th</sup>-grade storylines, and several new storylines will be published in the physical science and life science categories. These will be posted online within a few weeks. At least one storyline, the physical science project to “design a healthy and delicious snack,” transitioned easily to a learn-at-home project.

Moving forward, storylines produced for the fall will be directly aimed at helping teachers teach remotely. Plenty of family-facing materials will be provided, and SMC is continuing to think about what sort of activities can be easily transferred to learn-at-home situations.

Work is being done to replace critters in the SMC kits and storylines, and teachers’ responses to this change have been mixed. Plans are being made about how to communicate this change and the rationale to teachers. Unfortunately, the critters are not an ecologically-friendly project, and there’s no way to tell whether this could settle an invasive species in the region until it has actually happened. The hope is to have STEM materials go out in mid-July and a communication can be included with those. The change will also be included in the August professional development trainings.

### Approval of Revised Operating Practices Document

The [Revised Operating Practices Document](#) was provided for review by committee members. A motion was made to adopt by Mike and Jerry, and was seconded by Doug. The document was approved and adopted by a unanimous vote.

### Approval of Minutes

The [March 11 meeting minutes](#) were provided to the committee. Jerry motioned to adopt, Doug seconded, and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.