

SW WASHINGTON REGIONAL SCIENCE OLYMPIAD ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes for Monday, 9 May 2011, 6:00 PM, Clark College

Members present: David Bufford, Rick Grote, Erin Harwood, Garry Lee, Jerry Walsh, Mark Watrin, Cheryl Kryger

Washington State Tournament

Saturday, April 16, 2011, Clark College

1. Overall, the tournament went very well.
2. Comments from the event supervisors and coaches were compiled by Cheryl Kryger and distributed by email before the meeting so that everyone could read the feedback.
3. Most of the glitches we encountered involved poorly written rules that were interpreted differently by the supervisors, coaches and students.
4. One coach was very disappointed that t-shirts were not offered. There are several difficulties that we as hosts have to work out.
 - a. Shirts are a huge expense for which there simply isn't enough money.
 - b. Shirts must be ordered quite a ways ahead of time, making exact size ordering a difficult task.
 - c. Historically less than half the coaches submit their size requests prior to tournament day, so inevitably many do not get exactly all the sizes they want.
 - d. With all the details that have to be attended to on tournament day, handling money and the security issues it brings is one that neither Erin nor Cheryl wish to deal with.
 - e. A suggestion was made to look into offering an online outlet where coaches could order and buy shirts for their team. With this arrangement, coaches would deal directly with the supplier, not us. Erin will ask her t-shirt supplier if this is a viable option and if they would want to be involved.

Elementary Science Olympiad Invitational Tournament

1. We decided that the Elementary Invitational Tournament will be held on Saturday, November 19, 2011, at Clark College.
2. Rick Grote has done quite a bit of planning and research. Mark Watrin shared that several of these events have resources that are available through the ESD. Rick suggested these events.
 - a. Paper Rockets: Using paper, pencils and straws, build rockets on site; judge rockets on distance and accuracy of flight
 - b. Pondering Powders: Use different powders than last year including ascorbic acid; limit mixtures to only two powders; possibly use pH paper
 - c. Metric Mastery: This has two sections. First, teams estimate volume, mass, length, etc. in metric terms. Second, teams must accurately measure similar parameters. This was done three years ago. It needs quite a bit of work on scoring, but is definitely doable.

- d. Barge Building: Use different materials than in past (foil) such as zip bags, straws, coffee stirrers, marbles.
 - e. Rock Hound: Given a collection of rocks, place them in order according to their relative hardness or density; no specific identification necessary.
 - f. Garry Lee offered an event, Black Boxes, where students have to identify and/or answer questions about common items that are hidden in cereal boxes. We decided to go with Black Boxes instead of Rock Hound. Garry would like to supervise this event with his Jason Lee teams.
3. Rules will be drawn up by Rick, Garry, and Cheryl, then circulated for review among the board and event supervisors. We will also attempt to involve some elementary coaches for their input.
 4. Cheryl will send out a "Save the Date" flyer to all past coaches and principals and people who have inquired about elementary programs. Jerry Walsh will distribute it through the ESD.

Elementary Coaches Clinic

The Coaches Clinic will be held on Saturday, October 8, 2011, from 8-11 AM, at Clark College. This year we will only offer a session for the elementary level, not divisions B or C. Three clock hours will be available. Publicity for the clinic will be included in the Tournament materials.

Officer Elections

The following officers were elected to the SW WA Regional Board: David Bufford (Chair), Garry Lee (Vice Chair), Rick Grote (Treasurer), and Cheryl Kryger (Secretary).

Clark College Support

Erin Harwood explained that support from Clark College has changed in the last few years. For the 2009 State Tournament, the college underwrote nearly all the expenses for Science Olympiad. Since then, it has narrowed its list of covered events, and fees now come out of Erin's STEM budget. Some of the bigger ticket items for the 2011 State Tournament were \$475 for security, \$500 for custodial services (about half the regular price), and \$500 for printing.

Next Board Meeting: Monday, 12 September 2011, at 6:30 PM, JSH 244 at Clark College. The main purpose will be to plan the elementary coaches clinic and invitational tournament.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Kryger
Secretary