

Minutes

Warren County Consortium for Student Enrichment: Fall Articulation 21-22 September 20, 2020 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Kristin Baker /Mansfield, Loren Ackerman /Hackettstown, Jennifer Mazziotta-Walter / Harmony, Deidre Mulligan/White, Christine Drevitch/Washington Twp., Madison Duffy/Pohatcong, Jackie Solecitto/Warren Hills Middle School, Bill Nutt/Great Meadows, Maggie Devine/Warren Hills HS, Kim Reber/Knowlton, Caralee Gately/Belvidere, Clorimar Holyoak/ Blairstown, Alyssa Eisner / North Warren MS/HS, Pamela Cutarelli/Alpha, Barbara Weinstein /Franklin
ON ZOOM: Kelly Brenner/Hackettstown, Becky Snyder / Washington Boro, Krista Wayne/Lopatcong, Nancy Baglio /Allamuchy, Stephanie Condon /Phillipsburg, Joann Bonville /Phillipsburg

1. Welcome, Introductions, & Announcements

- Officers: Kristin, Chair; Loren, Past Chair and Founding Member; Christine, Treasurer; Caralee, Webmaster
Executive Board: Deidre, Maggie, Lianne Markus , Kim, Barbara
- Board transitions
Joining: Deirdre Mulligan
Changes in Officers:
Christine Drevitch requests Co-Treasurer _____
- Welcome to our new members: Madison Duffy, Pam Cutarelli

- **NJAGC**
 - **Conference**, Connie is the Conference Chair.
 - March 18, 2022 at Mercer Conference Center
 - Theme: Explore-Discover-Engage
 - Presenters' portal is now open. If interested, fill out the form at NJAGC.org. Not all presentations will be accepted, but all will be considered. *NOTE: Loren has K-1 STEAM program materials if someone is interested in presenting, but doesn't have a topic in mind. She will be glad to share; contact her for more information.*
 - Hybrid format anticipated- prepared for shift to all-remote if necessary

 - Professional Development** now available
 - Contact Meredith Thomas for more information thomasm@njagc.org
 - Please share this info with your local districts for **SGTEAC** implementation
See information below

 - **Student Contests** (Email to be forwarded, watch your emails) Entries should match conference theme.
 - Writing
 - Art
 - Video
 - NEW: Music Composition

2. OVERALL WCCSE FORMAT for 2021-2022

- PRELIMINARY RESULTS:
 - 25% Yes to Live on-site events
 - 92% Yes to Online Virtual events... Zoom preferred
 - New Results: a bit more mixed, more maybes, and mixed feelings on timing
- Can we plan for hybrid participation?
 - We will plan for all virtual for 1st half of year, and maybe plan for hybrid in the spring, but be ready to transition to VIRTUAL format if needed
 - SHIFT to all-virtual 1st half due to...
 - Concerns with contact tracing
 - Concerns with mixing cohorts
 - Some districts not permitted any field trips/contacts
 - As we plan this year's schedule, dates to keep in mind:
 - *NJSLA (gr 3-6) April/May TBD*

3. Treasurer's Report; finances

A) Financial report

- September 19, 2021 Closing Balance **\$5,871.12.**
- Registration fee \$300/year per school district
- [Registration Form](#)

B) Grants

We have offered PD grants since 2018-2019 and last year offered program grants due to limitations of live programming. Last year, we spent \$2500 on program grants, and \$1043 for PD (the Confratute attendees). We should be able to do more; our tentative budget for 21/22 is \$2000 for programming, \$1000 for PD.

MOTION (by KB, seconded by CG): We make funds available for grants in the amounts listed above, to be revisited after dues monies are received. These grants applications will be available within the next month, and reviewed by committee on a rolling basis. Budget may be increased if funds allow.

PASSED

1) Prof Dev Grant(s)

- July 2021-- 7 WCCSE teachers were sponsored to attend remote-Confratute, which was much more affordable. The attendees were: Kristin (and Rich), Bill, Deidre, Christine, Clorimar, Kelly. All attendees felt it was very worthwhile, and are willing to share their experiences. [see *professional development below*]
- As per motion, we will continue to offer professional development grants for 2021/2022, with a budget as outlined above.
- The grants committee, comprised of Loren (chair), Kelly, Clorimar and Christine, will review all applications.

2) Programming Grants

- We started this grant program last year. Funds were available due to unspent funds from 2019-20
- Grants of up to \$500 per district were available for gifted/enrichment programming. Several members were awarded grants. Some of the uses of the grants were to

purchase Chess.com memberships, greenhouse supplies so students could make a salad garden, and OuiSi sets.

- The grant money could have been accessed in multiple ways: a check to the school, or directly to the member for reimbursement after purchase.
- As per motion, we will continue offering programming grants for 21/22.
- Grant applications are subject to approval by the grants committee (above).

[Click here for your own copy of the grant application.](#)

3) TECH expenditure(s): Zoom vs. Google; related expenditure ... Caralee

The issue: Zoom, which is what we've been using for the majority of our competitions, costs \$14/mo, and must be put on an individual credit card. Google Workspace, which would mean every school would be a group member, costs \$7/mo. However, Google Workspace for non-profits is \$3/mo. Caralee would like us to look into becoming a non-profit (a 501c3) organization. Then we could have a tax exempt number, We know there are some requirements, such as obtaining an accountant, and more. Maggie offered to look at some other groups that are non-profits, and Caralee will investigate the requirements, so we can determine if this is something we can do. In the meantime, we will use Zoom (still on Kristin's account, to be reimbursed) or Google Meet for our competitions.

4. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NEW LAW: SGTEAC ...Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Act

GT Resources: The Strengthening Gifted and Talented Education Advisory Council (SGTEAC) subcommittees have pulled together a plethora of resources to assist educators and parents with gifted students during distance learning, as well as resources to support LEAs with implementing the NJ Law. The pictograph (with all the requirements) can be found on the [New Jersey Association for Gifted Children's](#) site

- WCCSE leaders developed a **PD website** to support members with SGTEA requirements. We reviewed the website and looked at the many resources available.
 - The website is at wccseprofessionallearning.weebly.com This will take members directly to the PD website, separate from our consortium weebly. Therefore, this can be passed along to non-members, also.
 - One way to get this to the districts is to have administrators who are supportive of the consortium, like Matt Eagleburger (Franklin) and Bob Magnuson (Oxford), share the website at the Superintendent's Roundtable.
 - **Confratute** attendees shared highlights of learning from July. Several members spoke of their experiences, speaking of arts integration and program evaluation and more.
 - The attendees have offered to provide PD once a month, on the **1st Tuesday of the month** (except October), after school to share what they learned. Details to follow; check the weebly.
 - Zoom recordings to be made available on WCCSE PD page.
 - **Tech/New CS Standards, tech initiatives**
 - Daryl Detrick, WHHS Tech Coordinator sent us the following statement:
 - Details regarding CS summit:
- Attention All New Jersey K-5 principals, superintendents, district curriculum leads, and STEM/computer science (CS) advocates! Please join us September 22 at 3:00 EST for one

hour, well-spent: it's the online event CSK5, the First National Summit for K-5 Computer Science Education. The theme is Every School Can: First, 30 minutes of guidance and specific resources from five top national organizations in CS education. Then, our 30-minute New Jersey Breakout Session, featuring our specific state programs and assets for your school(s), including discussion about the CS Teaching Hubs and the CS Student Learning Standards. Sign Up Now, then please spread the word to colleagues and staff! See the CSK5 Flyer for more details, and we'll see you at CSK5 and our Breakout Session Sept 22."

- MIT App Inventor ... "*Apps for Good.*" Kristin has been using this with her (gr 6) students: App Inventor is a cloud-based tool, which means you can build apps for Android or iOS devices right in your web browser. This website offers all the support you'll need to learn how to build your own apps. Visit it at ai2.appinventor.mit.edu. You can get there by clicking the orange "Create Apps!" button from any page on this website.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A) "*Parents' Auxiliary*" - resource group to expand parent involvement and support?

- It was suggested that we create a parent "support group" to show our support of families, and to encourage family support of WCCSE. It could also provide parents with educational opportunities outside of school/consortium events.
- Family support of WCCSE
- Discussion: Is this consistent with our Mission Statement?
 - Could be an outgrowth of **Family Day**/*existing page on weebly*
 - IF we decide to explore this, how can we ensure roles are well-defined?
- DISCUSSION TABLED until Spring

B) *Family Day 2022*

- After much discussion, we decided that we would do a virtual session, similar to a webinar. It could be livestreamed, and recorded for future viewing. Dr. Matt Zakreski will be the speaker
 - Have the speaker with 1-2 moderators, so it's more like a panel discussion. Parents can ask questions in chat; moderators will feed them to the speaker.
 - Best time is a Tuesday evening, at 7pm, for approximately 1 hour. It was suggested that we schedule it before Daylight Savings Time (3/13), due to spring sports.
 - We can have a Google Form at the end, to field additional questions, and feel out the parents about the Auxiliary above.

6. PROGRAMS

A) *New program initiatives...*

- **Young Writers' Competition 2021-22**...proposed by Maggie Devine
 - Alyssa Eisner and Barbara Weinstein offered to join this committee, with Bill Nutt, and Deidre Mulligan supporting.
- **TechFest** ... proposed by Kristin
 - Not competitive, more of a show & share Showcase, with student-led breakout sessions
 - Kristin and Madison Duffy will work on this
 - Probably later in the year

- Some formats for both live and virtual events were discussed; Kristin and Madison will get back to the group when they have determined what they will do.

EVENT LIST based on calendars of prior years	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Coord.</u>
<i>Convocation - Grades 6/7</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Virtual ● We will do ½ day Improv (with Walt Frasier) and ½ day cardboard challenge. ● Schools to provide cardboard, but we will get kits with cardboard scissors and tools to each participating school. ● No intra-school teams, but will have group share 	6,7	May-- TBD	Barbara Weinstein & Becky Snyder
<i>WCCSE Video Expo & Competition</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Virtual ● Open up to non-member school on fee basis ● <i>New rule: stock footage no more than 10% of length</i> Themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● TURN ● <i>“There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.”</i> <i>- Edith Wharton</i>	K ...8	May 6 Videos due mid April	Kristin Baker
<i>Year Game 2022</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● YearGame GeekOut, Virtual ● Only single and double factorials allowed this year, but tetration (exponents of exponents) are allowed 	4,5,6,7,8	Dec - Feb	Kristin Baker Bill Nutt
<i>Legos on the Loose (Brick Lit) Invention Convention</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Virtual ● 2 separate events? Up to coordinators ● Both Expos, not competitions. Loren always gave out medals or certificates to all participants. ● For the invention, they had to solve a problem with a working invention. So maybe give them the problem, similar to the provided theme in video expo 	TBD	TBD	Christine D. Clorimar H. Nancy B.

<i>Debate</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Virtual ● Will be streamlined (timing), to avoid last year's issues ● A training session for teachers (as requested by Jenn M.) will be set for mid to late October 	5,6,7,8	Mid Jan	Kristin Baker Christine D. Joann B.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smash/Boom/Best-- podcast to teach debate Need judges TOPIC? Please email suggestions to coordinators 			
Battle of the Minds ^{5/6} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Will probably use old questions; stipend for question writers is available 	5,6	TBD	Jennifer Mazz & Caralee
Battle of Minds ^{7/8} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Will probably use old questions; stipend for question writers is available 	7,8	TBD	Jenn Mazz & Caralee
Battle of the Books ^{3/4} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Will probably use old questions; stipend for question writers is available 8 books, not 10; list is on website 	3,4	May 18, 2022	Caralee Gately & Kim Reber
Battle of the Books ^{5/6} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Will probably use old questions; stipend for question writers is available 10 books (unconfirmed); list TBD 	5,6	Spring	Bill Nutt
Battle of the Books ^{7/8} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Will probably use old questions; stipend for question writers is available 8 books; list TBD 	7,8	April-May TBD	Alyssa Eisner
Chess Tournament - K - 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Up to 8 players per school (unless space); players must be ranked Will be using chess.com 	K ...6	March?	Mike Micucci (Via Barb Weinstein)
Chess Tournament - 7-8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Will be a bracket of tournament above Up to 12 players per school (unless space); players must be ranked Will be using chess.com 	7,8	As above	Part of K-6 tournament
Robotics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual Two divisions, variety of robots. No RC. More information to come 	5 ...8 TBD	Spring	Christine Drevitch Jenn Mazz (Adam Tucker)

Spelling Bee5-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LIVE, will flip to virtual if needed ● 2 people per school for social distancing ● No parents; may be livestreamed for parents 	5,6	Around Valentine's Day	Stephanie Condon
Pringles Project	flexible	Feb matching	Barb Weinstein
Marvelous Math <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will revisit later in the year 	2	TBD	OPEN
Math-a-Magicians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Will revisit later in the year 	3	TBD	OPEN
Mind-Nastics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Virtual ● Will run similar to last year ● Breakout groups in separate Zoom rooms? 	4	October 25, 2021	Kim Reber Caralee Gately
Phabulous Physics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Really needs to be in-person; Mansfield not available ● Probably not for this year; new coordinators willing to do for future 	3,4	OPEN	Clora & Nancy (esp rollercoasters) as future coordinators
Strategic Thinking Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Virtual ● For this year only, include 6th grade because they missed out last year ● For this year only, just Rubik's Cube competition ● Preliminaries to be done in individual schools; final as livestream event. ● Schools will need timers (same as cupstacking timers; see Speedstax timers app) ● Probably 2:00 - 3:00 	5-6	Late March	Becky Snyder

Will choose a date for spring meeting later.

Submitted by Barbara Weinstein