

WCCSE Spring Meeting Minutes - June 6, 2022 - 9 a.m.
Fall date is Monday, September 19, 2022; location to be determined

Attendance: Kristin Baker, Kim Reber, Kristin Kane, Wendy Flynn, Lianne Markus, Loren Ackerson, Barbara Weinstein, Becky Snyder, Deidre Mulligan, Bill Nutt, Kelly Reed, Wendy Flynn, Christine Drevitch, Alyssa Eisner, Maggie Devine

Announcements:

Congratulations to retirees Loren Ackerman and Connie Drakeobrien

Nominations:

Kristin discusses organization of meetings for new members.

Elections this fall, nominations as follows:

Treasurer: Christine Drevitch; co-treasurer needed

Webmaster: Kim Reber

Secretary: divided to two positions:

Recording secretary: Barbara Weinstein

Corresponding secretary: Becky Snyder

Chair: Kristin Baker

Professional Development:

Kristin: WCCSE Professional Learning Weebly developed by WCCSE team. Presented by Kim. Great resource for programming and how to set up district learning. Compiled information as resources. Review of website. wccseprofessionallearning.weebly.com This site has become a model for SGTEAC - sites.google.com/njagc.org/sgteacprogramsubcommittee

Zakreski webinar: Registrations 500+ from 5 continents, followed by Part 2 by NJAGC.

National Association for Gifted Children - November Conference/Indianapolis Kristin will be presenting on the value of consortia

Confratute Remote. They are willing to extend the discounted group rate. Clorimar Holyoak, Blirstown; Wendy Flynn, Hackettstown; Jamie Leiser, Hackettstown; Bill Nutt, Great Meadows; Kristin Baker, Mansfield; Becky Snyder, and Alyssa Eisner, North Warren. Consortium will pay if enough sign up.

Programming:

Volunteerism and review of policies.

Convocation - Barbara willing to take on Convocation next year. Would like support.

Geography theme - Barbara presents an idea for a geography event. This would involve humanities and STEM. Loren - contact World Games. Work with that organization to pull it together. Noted as too expensive. Kim mentioned Goose Chase - could use that format. Play

Globe each day as an intro. Geo Guesser. Kim - potential site is the Free Church in Blairstown.

NOTE: Event reports were provided by facilitators and/or attendees, as not all facilitators were present at this meeting.

WCCSE Video Expo & Competition - Kristin - Opened to non-members with a per-school entry fee; none entered. New rule: stock footage no more than 10% of length. This year was a successful event. Next year proposed date not set (likely early May). Need a quote and a single word for theme - send suggestions.

Year Game - Kristin - Discussion on double factorials. Bill - Triple and higher factorials are not acceptable. This rule will be communicated clearly.

Legos on the Loose/Invention - Loren - held it just for Hackettstown this year. Students have to create an original project from a book. Third grade only - but can change. Read a children's book and create a lego based on character, a scene, theme, anything. A display is held in evening. After the exhibition, all kids get recognition for participation. Barbara - night-time events became an issue at some schools. Needs to be taken over for next year as Loren is retiring. Rules: no kits, a certain amount of space, need the book, and a sign with their name and school. Kristin - combine with Math-a-Magicians? Kim - maybe combine with invention (4th grade) so they are similar. Great way to get parents involved. Loren's successor, Jamie, is willing to take on the project.

(Side Note - Becky - come to the fall meeting with dates if you sign up for an event.)

Debate - Kristin (with Joann from Phillipsburg) This event happened remotely, although several teams had to withdraw due to staffing/schedule disruptions that interfered with preparations and/or attendance. Will continue next year, hopefully returning to live event.

Battle of the Minds - Jenn Mazz - plays like Jeopardy. Met virtually. Barbara - General knowledge event. Challenging to train for - because the question can be anything. Trivia, almanacs. If we go back to in-person, we would have to find a facility. Bill - $\frac{7}{8}$ competition centered on Jeopardy and is more focused. Need a chaperone. Kim - please take the idea of signing up for an event seriously - drop-out teams cause scheduling issues for the host.

Battle of the Books - Kim - Will continue with grades $\frac{3}{4}$. Would appreciate support. Would like to go back to in-person. No list just yet. Will have it in the Fall. Limited it to 8 books for the year. "In which..." questions.

Bill five/six. Would like to pass the baton with the event. This year was done during the day. Kelly is will to host at Hackettstown. Christine Drevitch offered to help.

Alyssa - wants it to be in person next year. Willing to do next year. Will have a list by the end of this school year. Looking to March or April 2023. One graphic novel, one non-fiction and will vary fiction genres.

High School Battle of the Minds with Warren/Hunterdon - Maggie - discussed a larger Battle of the Minds competition for high school level. Will send out the information. Typically starts in the morning - Hunterdon County based.

PD Suggestion on writing. Weekend conference for writing. For high school students - Poetry Festival in the Fall in Newark. Poetry workshops all day long. There is a student and teacher day.

Young Writer's Competition - Announced the first place winners. Grades K-8. Next year will open to K-12. Will consider opening it up to more submissions as well as if there should be a theme or not.

Robotics - Christine - no event this year due to staffing. Computer Science standards coming for K-12. Robotics would fill a lot of those standards.

Chess Tournament - K-6 - Mike Micucci coordinator. Kristin, Christine and Kim were involved. Barbara - no 7/8 competition. No response. K - 6 had some technical and timing issues. Mike would be willing to do this if can be done live. Kim agreed - very difficult to manage via online platform.

Spelling Bee - Barbara - small participation. Nine schools and 18 students. Went very quickly. Would like to see it go back to what it was as there was more excitement.

Pringles Project - Barbara - small participation. Would you like to have more individuals but is willing to do this next year.

Marvelous Math/Math-a-Magicians - grades two and three; did not occur this year - Needs a coordinator. Stationed events. Difference is that grade 2 is non-competitive. Kristin - plenty of room at the Free Church in Blairstown. Kim - run them simultaneously. Maybe just begin with 3rd grade. Start slowly. No coordinator yet; to be discussed at fall meeting.

Mind-Nastics - Grade 4 - Kim - Break-out sessions. Bill Nutt has some of the materials needed. Build the highest tower was an event. The activities are time limited.

Phabulous Physics – (Kristin has materials from prior events) Clora and Nancy had offered to be future coordinators. An all day event (typically a half day) so it could be held in the cafeteria. Need a large area. Christine - if it doesn't get picked up - maybe part of Strategic Thinking Day with grade 5.

Strategic Thinking - Becky - Work more on thinking aspect rather than STEM. Blokus, Rubik's Cube, etc for more thinking games.

Break

Treasurer's Report:

Christine reviewed income & expenses.

Kristin & Christine will send reminder notes to districts with unpaid registration fees.

Finances are stable and permit for full funding of Confratute group registrations.

Grant Reports:

Christine - byrdseed.com/puzzlements Great for no-prep lessons.

Barbara - Lucky Doug Building Kit. Block toys. Tiny house project. Used them to lay out their tiny house and see what 250 square feet would look like in actuality. Math interpretations, area, building materials, renewable materials, environmentally friendly materials. Also ordered Simple K-12. PD Site.

Kristin - Creating worlds was the theme. Lucky Doug Building kits; created structures including "elevator" for "elevator speeches. Pixicade. Digital video games by drawing with pixicade.

Kim - bought the game OUISI. Kids loved it.

***Kristin shared BUILDZI activity, demonstrated three different ways to use this puzzle set.*

(Caralee - Approved for Oramagi but did not purchase.)

Maggie - PD Grant for writing retreat; discussed benefits, will add to PD takeaways on weebly.

****Christine** - Grant Committee replacement for Loren. Loren - streamlined.

Professional Development:

Loren - Giving classroom teachers better support on Differentiation. Present as one-on-one and more hands-on. Kristin - Proposed to put together a half day for G&T to put together kits for new teachers who need more support with G&T. Barbara - build toolkits for different grades. Discussion of building PD for teachers. Christine - mentoring program. Kristin - do we propose PD in afternoon or morning of Columbus Day. Letter to be drafted to administrations offering PD for October. Will work on a plan; Kristin & Kim will draft letter.

New Events:

Tech Fest - Kristin - an exhibition of projects that involve technology. Would be an opportunity for students to share their ideas and inspire others. Not a competition.

Family Day - Interest in coming back to Mansfield School. Loren - could it be hybrid in order to allow for virtual option - greater exposure. Have keynote speaker be zoom available. Will revisit in the Fall for programming.