**Cary High School Speech and Debate Booster Club**

Minutes from November 27, 2017 Meeting

7:00 PM

Members Present:

Patrick Jessee, Chairperson  
Joe Coletti, Treasurer  
Annie Ngo, Secretary  
Yvonne Aremendariz, Member-at-large  
Alma Logue, Member-at-large  
Stephanie Moore, Member-at-large

Mr. Jessee thanked everyone for their hard work on the IMPvitational. The board agreed it was a huge success.

Ms. Ngo suggested that we dispense with the reading of previous minutes, because everyone receives them before the meeting. She moved that we approve the minutes from the September 19th and October 23rd meetings. Mr. Coletti seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Mr. Coletti distributed and discussed the club’s financial reports. Our net income from the IMPvitational was over $5,000. There were about 50 less students than last year, and our net income was about $300 less than last year.

T-shirts: We paid about $100 more for the t-shirts than we collected from the students. Ms. Ngo had offered to pay the difference. Mr. Coletti moved that we make up the difference from the net proceeds of the banquet. Ms. Moore seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Ms. Ngo suggested we charge more for the t-shirts next year.

Mr. Jessee said that NSDA used to keep track of when students have 25 points and therefore owe $20 dues, but now it is up to the coaches to keep track.

With our retained earnings from last year, we currently have almost $10,000 in equity.

**IMPvitational**

The Turtle Incident: Mr. Jessee told how a pet turtle in Ms. Garner’s room had thrown up plastic a couple days after the tournament. Mr. Bryant is reviewing video feeds, but it is believed that someone at the tournament fed the plastic to the turtle. While the turtle appears fine now, Ms. Garner spent $225 in vet fees. Mr. Jessee said that this was truly unfortunate, but was pleased that this was the first incident in the 6 tournaments to date. Ms. Moore moved that we reimburse Ms. Garner the full $225 for the fees, since no matter if it was someone at our school or someone from another school, we should take full responsibility for repercussions of our tournament. Mr. Coletti seconded the motion and it was passed.

Donations: Ms. Moore handed out reflections on Donations and the Judges Lounge. She said that most of the approached businesses ended up donating gift cards or goods. Target, Costco and BJ’s seem to run out of money in October, so she suggested next year we ask for their donations earlier.

We all agreed that it was a great experience for the students to do the soliciting, and the businesses really appreciated their professionalism. Next year the suggestion is that the students meet with the donors a second time to firm up the donations, and the parents would pick up everything the week of the tournament.  
  
Ms. Moore will compose a thank-you letter with our tax ID, have the students sign them, and mail them to the donors.

Judges Lounge: Ms. Moore said that practically all the food was eaten except for ½ a tray of pasta. Starbucks gave us less coffee than they had promised, so we brewed some ourselves to fill the carafes. The Judges Lounge ran very smoothly, there was always great food available, and other teams really like how our judges are treated.

Students Lounge: Ms. Logue explained some shortcomings with dealing with Chick-fil-A. They charged her credit card and took a check from Ms. Aremendariz. It took several days to get the charge to be reversed. Some of their locations never bothered to return phone calls, didn’t follow through on gift cards. They did not even give us a price break on the sandwiches. We discussed other options. Subs aren’t great because it’s so specific on ingredients. Healthier food isn’t eaten. We had about the right amount of pizza.

It was discussed that other teams were bringing food for their students. One team even had fresh pizza delivered. Mr. Jessee explained that a tournament is how a school raises its money, and less money is made if the kids buy less food. There are no official rules on bringing food to the Students Lounge. Ms. Ngo noted that the students don’t have a lot of money, so perhaps we can raise the entry fees and not depend on food purchases. Ms. Aremendariz suggested we try to give healthier choices. Mr. Jessee will try to come to a consensus with the other judges on how much food students should bring.

Ms. Logue and Ms. Aremendariz explained how they often had to clean up after the other schools’ kids. Our school is the only one with a chaperone, and some of the other schools are really messy.

Mr. Jessee expressed his appreciation for the help provided by NHS and Alpha Beta students, and the board agreed. We were also impressed at how helpful our students were in preparation of the tournament and helping set up, etc.

**Judge Training**

We hosted Judge Training and offered Dogwood members to attend, but it was just CHS. Mr. Jessee went through what a judge should expect at a tournament. The students were really prepared and did great. Ms. Ngo suggested focusing on how to judge and pick a winner. Mr. Jessee said LD had someone flowing while the students debated, and we thought having an overhead for someone to flow PF is an excellent idea. Ms. Aremendariz suggested instructional YouTube videos. Mr. Jessee said the training resulted in a good number of parents signing up to judge.

**Calendar**

The board discussed the remaining tournaments of the season. There are 4 Dogwood tournaments, and students need to attend 3 in order to qualify for NCFL. On April 21, there is a District tournament for a new type of debate called Big Questions Debate. Mr. Jessee said this sounds like an exciting new competition with 2 teams of 1-2 students per team. This year’s Big Question is “are humans fundamentally different from other animals?”

**Christmas Party**

The Christmas Party is an after school even for the students to have cake and socialize. It is usually best to leave it up to the students whether to do a secret santa or not, since some don’t follow through. The party is tentatively scheduled for after school on either 12/15 or 12/18. Ms. Logue will bring snacks leftover from the tournament. All board members are welcome to attend.

**Debanquet**

We have sponsors for us to use the Wessex clubhouse for our Debanquet again, so it is booked for 4/28. The board agreed to retain the caterer from last year.

**Next Board Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 3/28 to discuss who qualifies for nationals, how to use our funds, and to further plan the Debanquet.