

Minutes from the N.E.T.O.L.E. rules committee meeting

April 11, 2013

Alumni Building at Texas A & M Commerce

Total present 16:

Jerri Boles – Bland ISD-HS

Cheryl Brown – Mt. Pleasant ISD-HS

Gaby Diaz – Greenville ISD-HS

Sandi Dillon – Royse City HS

Mary Ann Franklin (president) – North Lamar HS

Casey Gunnels – Princeton ISD-HS

Marcella Hayden – Miller Grove ISD-HS

Alison Hayter (vice-president) – North Lamar ISD-HS

Fany Loftin – Commerce ISD-HS

Cheryl Marquez – Detroit ISD-HS

Eduardo Mendoza (treasurer) Mt. Pleasant ISD-HS

Tiffany Muñoz – Mt. Pleasant ISD-HS

William St. John (secretary) – North Lamar ISD-HS

John Strickland – Paris ISD-HS

J.D. Stutler – Cooper ISD-HS

Maryna Svirska-Otero – Mt. Pleasant ISD-HS.

At 1:05 PM the meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Franklin who apologized for errors and problems with the event due to the recent illness of her son and the passing of her mother.

The minutes sent out were read by Mr. St. John with a disagreement presented by Mrs. Muñoz as to who took the minutes and for which year. Mr. Gunnels moved to suspend the approval of the minutes, motion passed unanimously.

The financial report was given by Mr. Mendoza.

Discussion: determination of membership status; some dues are paid by school checks and individual membership can be difficult to ascertain; should Mr. Mendoza seek non-profit status for NETOLE as discussed at the last rules meeting. Mr. Gunnels moved for Mr. Mendoza to seek non-profit status, Mrs. Brown seconded.

Discussion: the building at TAMU-C being left in disarray, trash, students running in the building, complaints from officials, lack of supervision, and the possibility of not retaining the building in the future.

Awards were announced with Mt. Pleasant receiving the Sweepstakes and High Points. Cooper received Excellent. We were happy to hear the principal from Cooper attended the symposium.

Discussion about the luncheon, problems with construction in the area, confusion due to monitors arriving late, scheduling conflicts and problems with judges, the need for judges to sign in upon arrival, problems with getting judges, and the university's help by supplying judges. It was noted those who do not bring judges will be required to judge more.

Mrs. Hayter reported five schools competed in French, changes in the materials would be coming (nothing taken away, only added to encourage participation from Dallas area schools in French), and she expressed thanks to Mrs. Porter for her help. A thank you note will be sent to Sarah White along with a note of apology.

Mrs. Franklin spoke of the unblemished history of NETOLE and said she will send a letter of apology to the university for NETOLE expressing our dismay with what occurred. Mrs. Brown noted the nature of the situation with college students also in the building at the same time. Mrs. Muñoz stated students were not to have food upstairs and the number of students in attendance compounded the problem. Campus tours were suggested as a means of keeping students occupied when not in competition. Mrs. Marquez noted the information was a little outdated. The food competition was discussed, traffic flow problems it caused, confusion among the students about eating upstairs when food was put out and possible liability issues. Mrs. Brown moved food from the food competition no longer be served to students and guests afterwards, Mrs. Dillon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. St. John brought up the need to approve the financial report. Mr. Gunnels moved to approve the financial report, Mrs. Brown seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business.

Judges. Mrs. Brown suggested an information sheet pairing experienced judges with newer inexperienced ones. Mrs. Hayter talked about level problems with teachers. Mrs. Franklin spoke about disqualifying students as stated in the rules, students in the wrong events, the need for teachers to be more careful and noted students may compete at higher levels but cannot go lower (a beginner level student may compete in intermediate, but an intermediate level student cannot compete in a beginner level, etc.). Mr. Mendoza reminded those present the rules state students without proper paperwork are to be disqualified. Some handwriting on the forms was illegible. Mrs. Brown asked that names not be put on ribbons due to spelling problems. Missing sign-in sheets at doors, the need for more information at the doors, space limitations, purchasing information stands, no students watching the doors, signs in the rooms stating what is required for the judges, loss of packets, different labeling on the packets, and receiving the list of judges late was also discussed. It was noted we are not allowed to

put anything on any of the walls for the competition. Mrs. Svirska-Otero suggested cutting down the number of places.

Mrs. Hayter said the question of the French Advanced Reading Comprehension level being too easy was resolved.

Grading. Mrs. Muñoz said there was a rule of not giving less than 70 when grading. Giving an incomplete in place of 70 for performances below 70 was suggested. Mr. Gunnels moved a grade of incomplete be added, Mrs. Hayden seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gunnels suggested changing the grading to a 50 grading scale. A question arose about whether anything below 70 should be given a place in the first five levels (1st place through 5th). A vote was called for and it was agreed anything less than 70 should not be given a place in the first five places with two members being opposed.

Videos. There were problems with video quality. Memorization versus prompting/reading was discussed. Mrs. Franklin moved to change videos to a cultural event, Mr. Gunnels seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Discussion of instructional videos.

Student Behavior. Discussion of teachers to monitor student behavior during the event. Motion was made to establish monitors during the event, Mrs. Dillon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Distribution List and emails. Discussion of inappropriate use of emails, misuse of emails, demoralization of members, and professional behavior. Mrs. Brown suggested a guideline for emails among the organization and there was a discussion of guidelines. Mr. St. John moved group emails be sent by or through NETOLE officers, not to be used for non-NETOLE business nor for personal issues, and replies not to be through reply-to-all or group emails, Mr. Gunnels seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Changes in French material: No vote needed to add material, only needed to remove or change existing material.

Middle School completion: Discussion of French competition including middle schools and the small size of some schools in the Spanish competition. Mr. Gunnels moved middle schools be included in Spanish competition but only inclusive with high schools (no more than 2 students per event per district rather than middle schools being consider independent of high schools in the competition), Mrs. Dillon seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. St. John moved to adjourn, Mr. Gunnels seconded and the motion passed unanimously.