

**NJASC Meeting
Westfield High School
Minutes for Friday, March 23, 2007**

I) Call to Order:

- A. President Sara Plotkin called the second meeting of the New Jersey Association of Student Councils 2007 Executive Board to order at 9:52 a.m. on Friday, March 23, 2007.

II) Roll Call:

- A. Secretary Annie Valentine took attendance. All members of the 2007 NJASC Executive Board were present.

III) Review of Minutes:

- A. Annie reviewed the minutes from the February 5 Transition Meeting. There were 2 corrections suggested; the name of the NJASC Executive Board is the 2007 NJASC Executive Board, not the 2007-2008 NJASC Executive Board and everyone in should be referred to by their full name and position the first time only, each subsequent reference will only use the person's first name. Executive Member in Charge of the Review Prerna Bhatia moved to approve the minutes with the aforementioned corrections. Treasurer Mina Ra seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

IV) Treasurer's Report:

- A. Mina Ra reported that as of February 28 the NJASC had a balance of \$94,241.21.

V) Correspondence:

- A. There was no correspondence.

VI) Committee Reports:

- A. Vice-President Jonathan Weisbrod had nothing to report on.
- B. State Board of Education Representative Kayla Stoll reported that she had attended her first State Board of Education (SBOE) meeting. Kayla reported that the SBOE was considering making biology a graduation requirement for all high school students. NJASC Executive Director Wendy Booth Sitzler asked if the biology had included a lab. Kayla replied that it was an ongoing issue but that the biology could include a lab or not, but that there had to be at least one year of science biology. The new science section on the HSPA was discussed in context of this new idea. Following a discussion about the stipulations of a biology requirement, the board voted all in favor of this idea with the provision that there be compatible material and books in all schools. Kayla then talked about how the SBOE is considering instituting random drug testing for students who participate in any extra curricular activity. The SBOE still has to further discuss the details of this matter. After much discussion among the board Kayla said she would inform the SBOE of everyone's opinions and the majority opinion in favor of random drug testing for extra curriculars.
- C. Executive Member in Charge of the State Charity Jessica Derrico said she would make her report during New Business.

- D. Executive Member in Charge of Special Projects Stephen Flynn reported that no schools had been evaluated yet for the Standards of Excellence Award. NJASC Executive Director Lou Miller said he received emails from Southern Regional and Buena Regional High Schools. Borden Town Regional High School dropped and South Brunswick, Phillipsburg and Southern Regional are all eligible. There are currently 4 schools in the running. There was discussion on how small the number of candidates was this year. There is communication underway between the schools but the NJASC Exec. Board needs to decide on the # of hours and approve the new form.
- E. Prerna Bhatia informed the board about the upcoming review. The programs will be sent to the Parsippany printing press and it will cost \$80 for 1500 pages. Each school gets 1 and it has to be downloader friendly. About 200 copies will be needed. LTC Staff member Michael Pierce (SC) will be currently designing the NJASC logo for H.O.M.E. which will be included in the program. All of the officers should email Prerna asap with a new bio and picture to go in the program. Topics covered in the review will be Advisor of the Year, Administrator of the year, high school leader of the year and middle school leader of the year. Thanks to the 2006 board for promoting the web forums. There should also be articles from various schools included in the Review.
- F. Middle Level Representative Michaela Brown informed the Executive Board that she is in the process of sending a letter for Governor Corzine asking him to reinstate Student Council Week. The Board voted unanimously that Student Council week be moved this year from May 3-10, using the Spring Awards Ceremony as the kick-off to student council week instead of the closing.

VII) Advisors Report:

- A. Lou and Wendy informed the board that there will be a State Officers Training session for LTC on March 31 at Brooklawn Middle School, all are expected to attend. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and the board will meet with LTC Senior Staff Members Ken Shulack and Pam Freund. There was also discussion about the upcoming Regions presentation which will be further discussed at the first part of the training session. There is a training and information session for all staff (new and old) at TCNJ on Saturday, May 12.
- B. LTC 2007 was discussed and Wendy said that the meeting with the Disney executives regarding a possible grant went well. The cost will be about \$325 per delegate to attend LTC this year, which is up from last year. So far the LTC Sponsorship Committee has raised about \$11,000. Between \$20,000-\$25,000 needs to be raised in order to keep the cost at \$325 per delegate. The Sponsorship Committee is also looking for funding for multiple years, not only 2007.
- C. Wendy and Lou informed the Board about their upcoming trip to Nationals. Currently there are 40 people attending the trip, but Immaculata HS and Palmyra HS still need deposits. All paperwork needs to be in to Lou by ASAP. (This includes registration paperwork, printed, signed, and mailed to Lou). All payments are due by April 1, and all paperwork by April 5. All cell phone #s, shirt sizes are also due to Lou. The current itinerary for Nationals is now set. The NJ delegation will be flying out of Philadelphia.
- D. Wendy and Lou informed the Board about the upcoming trip to the Regional Conference. The Board will attend the meeting at Union High School and then Wendy and Lou will be driving the members of the Board attending Regions to

NY. The Board will be staying with host families while we are there, the Board will also be hosting a presentation for the other states about the state charity and LTC. The outline for the Regions presentation should be started, last year's NJASC Executive Member in Charge of the State Charity, Kyle Gardner should be contacted for more information.

- E. Wendy and Lou informed the Board about the Advisor of the Year award. NJ has not been able to have an advisor recognized at the national level because the national recognition is done in December and our advisor of the year isn't picked until January. There are currently 3 proposals to solve this problem 1) give the award at the fall business meeting. This proposal puts NJ in a position for 1 month to fill out the required national paperwork however the drawback is there would need to be more promotion updating the schools of the change and the decision would be made at the September meeting at TCNJ. 2) Give the Advisor of the Year Award at the Winter Convention but make the decision and notify the selected advisor in time for the national paperwork. The State Officers would decide on the winner at the November executive meeting and notify the winner immediately. The downside to this plan is that it takes the element of surprise out of the award and the turnaround time for completing the national application would be very tight. 3) Keep things as they are now and nominate what would be the previous year's winner for the national award. The drawback to this is that there would be a very long delay, over a year, between the NJASC decision and the national deadline. The final decision will be made under New Business.

VIII) Old Business:

- A. There was no old business.

IX) New Business:

- A. The Board discussed the packet for the candidates for this year's state charity.
- i. Spread the Magic Foundation: Recommended by former State Officer Jess Peterson. The founder was a young boy's father who would come and do magic tricks at hospitals. The program provides research for a cure for childhood cancers and entertainment for children with cancer while they are in the hospital as well as camps and magic programs.
 - ii. Melanoma Research Foundation: Raises awareness about the skin cancer Melanoma. The program hires scientists to find a cure.
 - iii. Allies Inc.: Provides assistance to individuals with disabilities so that they can live and work as independently as possible.
 - iv. Ronald McDonald House: This charity works to better the lives of children and families who are struck by illness and to provide a better quality of life for families and their children.
 - v. Make a Wish Foundation: Grants wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions.
 - vi. TCI (The Children's Institute): Provides group counseling, reading programs, and the money from the state charity would be given towards construction of a high school.
 - vii. Autism Speaks: Funds biomedical research, causes, prevention, treatments, and possible cures. Raises public awareness about autism and its effects on the individual and the family.

- viii. Jump Rope for Heart: Works to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular diseases.
 - ix. The Valerie Fund: Charity's mission is to provide support and comprehensive health care for children with cancer and blood disorders. They provide medical treatment as well as therapy programs to help the entire family. They also run a camp during the summer for children with cancer and blood disorders called Camp Happy Times.
 - x. The Children's Charity: Raises funds for the care and support of disadvantaged, physically challenged, and sick and needy children around the world.
- B. After discussion about each one of the possible choices, the board voted to narrow down their selection to a top 3. The top 3 state charities chosen will present to the board and the executive directors at the upcoming meeting at Union High School in April. Prerna motioned to accept the Valerie Fund in the top 3 and Kayla Stoll seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. After further discussion, Michaela motioned to accept the Children's Institute in the top 3 and Stephen seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Jonathan motioned to accept the Spread the Magic Foundation in the top 3, Prerna seconded the motion. Stephen and Jonathan abstained, and the rest of the board voted in favor.
- C. Advisor of the year was then discussed again. Mina motioned to accept the Option A for the current Advisor the Year situation and Kayla seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- D. Community Smile project was then discussed. All community service activities "should continue on separate sheet if necessary", which will be added to the application. All apps are due by April 20. Michaela motioned to approve the community smile form, Stephen seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- E. The Board then discussed the Spring Program. The program is still in need of student entertainment: Parsippany Hills volunteered a step team and drum line, Parsippany HS volunteered a dance team. The board then reviewed the schedule and program for the Spring Awards Ceremony at 6 Flags. Wendy and Lou talked about the various workshops each of the officers will be holding. Lou said student entertainment should be confirmed by next week. Also the current board should get in touch with the previous board about the constitution. Wendy and Lou discussed the golf shirts the board will be ordering, for LTC staff, the cost will be \$44 per shirt. Also, Lou will be creating an email list for all the advisors and the directions for each meeting should be emailed a week in advance. Prerna motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mina seconded the motion. All in favor and meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 20, 2007 at Union High School