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

Minutes from March 28, 2018 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 suggested we resume the reading of the minutes. We did and had some comments:

NSDA dues - Mr. Jessee said the NSDA does have a way to track student points and what we owe for dues.

The Turtle Incident - Ms. Garner’s turtle is OK, we did pay the vet fees, and we did not find who the culprits were.

Students bringing outside food to tournaments – Mr. Jessee said he will bring this up at the coaches’ spring meeting.

Big Questions Debate - We aren’t doing the Big Questions Debate this year, because Prom is scheduled for that day.

Ms. Ngo moved that we approve the minutes from the November 27, 2017 meeting. Ms. Moore seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Mr. Coletti emailed and discussed the club’s financial situation. Since last meeting, there have been 2 more tournaments, and we make a little per tournament. We’ve earned a little over $5,000 this year, and our assets are over $10,000.

Mr. Jessee listed remaining expenditures for the year: Debanquet, Nationals, certificates/frames for graduating seniors, and graduation cords.

Even though it seemed like we had plenty of judges at Districts, we did not get our $100 bond back, because one of our judges could not make it. Mr. Jessee reminded us that kids are not refunded their tournament fees even if they do not attend, so losing the bond seems fair.

Ms. Logue moved that we approve the Treasurer’s Report, Ms. Moore seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

**Reflections on Districts**

Mr. Jessee congratulated all the national qualifiers and was proud of the efforts of all our students. We got 3rd place in PF sweepstakes, and 3rd place overall sweepstakes (behind Durham Academy and Cary Academy). Sweepstakes are determined by total number of points per event. At most tournaments larger schools have the advantage, but at Districts there is a limit of 4 students per event.

Since Districts was nearby, several students drove themselves. Some had a hard time understanding why they couldn’t take another student home, even if the driver is 18. They need to understand the responsibility and liability issues. Most students were understanding.

Ms. Ngo objected to the fact that Districts don’t reveal who breaks the 2nd day until everyone arrives the 2nd day. Mr. Jessee said it was to motivate the judges to come back. He thought they should let the students know by 6:00 am that morning, and the board agreed.

**Planning for Nationals**

Lam, Mubishir, Madison & Riley will compete at the May 26-27 CFL’s in DC. Ms. Young will judge debate and Ms. Ngo will judge speech. They will make train arrangements. Mr. Jessee made hotel reservations for 3 nights. The hotel is within walking distance of the event locations, so other transportation is not necessary.

AJ & Paloma will compete at the June 17-22 NSDA Nationals in Ft. Lauderdale. Ms. Moore and Ms. Aremendariz will judge debate. They will need to make arrangements for flights, lodging (probably an air B&B) and a rental car.

Mr. Jessee noted that the NSDA Districts will be audited in May.

We discussed costs associated with Nationals. Except for food, all costs for students and judges is paid for by the club, if funds are available. We estimated a total cost of $3500 for each tournament (NSDA is twice as long, but CFL has twice as many students). Mr. Jessee asserted that sending students to Nationals is the main reason the club raises money, and we will still have several thousand dollars left after paying for 6 students to attend Nationals this year.

Mr. Coletti moved that we approve the estimates for full coverage (minus food) for both tournaments, Ms. Aremendariz seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Jessee ask that we keep him appraised of the costs as they are incurred. If we go over the estimate, we may need another vote.

**Debanquet**

Ms. Moore had been busy preparing for Debanquet, referring to Ms. Stuelke’s notes from previous years. Ms. Moore arranged for it to be at the Wessex clubhouse and had the caterer booked at $8.50/person. The clubhouse and caterer were a little more expensive this year, because it is on a Saturday night. That was the only night that worked, given all the CHS events.

Ms. Moore will order food trays from BJ’s, and Ms. Logue will pick them up. Ms. Moore will make chair/tablecloth arrangements, and Ms. Ngo will pick those up. Ms. Aremendariz will handle the centerpieces for the tables. We may send a bouquet of flowers to thank the lady who arranged for us to use the clubhouse.

We anticipate about 60 attendees, including students, seniors’ families, and any parent who has helped in any way this year.

We may send out invitations a week prior. The students receive tickets after they pay.

Debanquet starts at 6:30, is estimated to be over by 8:20, and cleanup should be done by 9:15.

**Other Questions and Concerns**

Since judges get free refreshments during tournaments, Ms. Ngo suggested we give an allowance to the student supervisor (aka Team Mom). Ms. Logue, who filled this role, thought an allowance wasn’t necessary. Further discussion led Ms. Ngo to move that we give $10/day to the student supervisor, Mr. Coletti seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Ms. Logue pointed out that 2 of our board members will not be returning next year, so we will need to fill those positions. There needs to be an odd number of board members. Mr. Jessee will send out an email in May to parents to solicit nominations.

**Next Board Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 31 at 7:00 pm.