



Carlisle Area Science Advisory Committee

To promote interest in science among our area's young people

CASAC MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was held at Lamberton Middle School on Wednesday, February 18, 2009. The meeting was called to order by Pam Foster at 4:04 p.m.

Members present: Linda Stoltz, IFEC; Rosa Rangel, PADEP; Jill Brown, St. Patrick; Laurie Gray, Yellow Breeches; Emily McDevitt, Carlisle HS; Pam Foster, Carlisle, HS; Jean Fendrich, Lamberton; Allison Thumma, Wilson MS; Greg Rudder, Grace Baptist; Debora Trozzo, CASD.

The January minutes were reviewed. They were accepted with the correction of the year of the meeting from 2008 to 2009.

Treasurer's Report: The current balance is \$3176.66. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Committees:

Judges Dinner – Per Laurie, we were able to save \$300 on this year's dinner. There are still some people who owe Laurie for their dinners.

Fundraising – Per Laurie, we have about \$1,000 less in checking than we did this same time last year. The banquet dinner last year was \$11 per person. Do we raise the price this year? We need funds for the two scholarships this year. Jean will send a scholarship sponsorship letter to Julie Daniels. Pam will check with Ed Owens regarding the status of the endowment funding. At this point in time, we need to concentrate on raising money for our immediate needs.

Ribbons, Trophies & Medals – Per Laurie, the medals purchased last year cost \$1700. We may not have the funds to award medals this year. There was some discussion as to less expensive alternatives. Discussion will continue at subsequent meetings.

Science Fair: Pam discussed updating the Fair rules on the website. She will send the changes to Tom Ha. Pam asked Linda and Laurie to review the Elementary section and to send needed revisions to her or to Tom. There was discussion on revising the Junior, Intermediate & Senior Division judging rubric. For clarity, "Observation" was changed to "Testing/Trials." We want to be able to use the same rubric for all divisions, but adjusting the scoring to make it appropriate for each division. Pam also suggested adding a page with two questions that will offer feedback to the students ("1. What did you like about this student's science project?" and "2. What suggestions can you offer to help this student improve his or her science project?").

Judging – Jill brought up a concern some people had about a judge having or having had an affiliation with the school that they are judging, i.e. that the judge may judge more harshly/favorably. We did not feel it was necessary or advisable to question all the judges regarding past or present affiliations. Judges work in groups of two or more, using rubrics that would help with group decisions.

Science Fair Logistics: A suggestion was made that when volunteering for "Fair Set-up" a list of specific jobs be made available so that volunteers (especially new ones) would have a better idea of what to do when they arrive.

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New Business: Next year's Fair will be the last weekend of January (29, 30, and 31). Per Pam, Mike Stefanic may not be able to help out with next year's Fair. Pam will look into getting a donation box for the banquet.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 pm. **The next meeting will be held at Lambertton Middle School, Room 77, on Wednesday March 18, 2009 at 4 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa M. Rangel, Co-Secretary