SDE Advisory Committee Meeting

Zoom Meeting

August 3, 2020

2:00pm

**Attendance:**

Area 1: JoBonny LeCompte

Area 2: Mackenzie Allison, Bailey Minor

Area 3: Amanda Kacal, Courtney Webb

Area 4: Tiffany Holland, Brittany Kuykendall

Area 5: Billy Johnson, Jim Bob Bradley

Area 6: Tara Spencer

Area 7: Joel Bush, Brad Barnett

Area 8: Chelsea Fewell, Michelle Sammon

Area 9: Lynita Foster, Crystal Taylor

Area 10: Jenny Purcell, Peggy Georg

Area 11: Amy Hartman

Area 12: Tammy Elkins, Allison Hodde

Staff: Austin Large, Tricia Sullivan

Superintendents: Randy Harp, Maggie Salem, Leslie Vann, Chris Haynes, Molly Christensen

**Old Business:**

1. Manuscripts: Last year the advisory committee passed as a recommendation to the BOD to do away with the manuscript and use the abstract, but that wasn’t approved by the BOD. There was one student that didn’t turn their Manuscript in until a later date, and there were no repercussions or guidelines to follow regarding this not being turned in. We need to see if we can come up with a solution as to how to remedy this.

**New Business:**

1. Electronic Rubrics: This year was very successful in using the electronic rubrics for the virtual contests.

* Area 10 would like to see it used on all levels.
* Maggie: From the superintendent level, it was great. Did any of the areas have feedback regarding the comments?
* Hartman – had more feedback this year than in years past. Between Prelims and finals, usually there’s no feedback from day 1 to day 2, but this year, they were able to see comments and know how to improve for the final round
* Maggie: Did everyone have access to the feedback on the e-rubrics before finals?
  + Hartman: Didn’t have anyone in the finals, but we did access the feedback and it was great!
* Jenny Purcell: One thing that was nice is that it was prerecorded. It was great that the judges had plenty of time to review the videos and fill out the rubrics.
* Mackenzie: Judged live for extemp at the area level and there was plenty of time to judge and add critiques before the next speaker came.
* Crystal Taylor – Didn’t have any issues filling out the e-rubric for extemp either. There was plenty of time to complete the e-rubric before the next speaker came into the breakout room.
* Lynita: What is the cost associated with the e-rubrics?
  + Alyssa – The cost is the same level at district, area, state. $1 per rubric. This is essentially the same cost per paper scansheet, per student/judge.
* Austin: We currently don’t have this extra expenditure factored in our SDE budget right now, so we’ll need a recommendation if we want to use e-rubrics moving forward.

**Motion: Mackenzie Allison to use e-rubrics/electronic scoring at the state speaking contest. Seconded by Jenny Purcell.**

**Motion passes.**

* Crystal: Can the e-rubrics be used at the district & area level? Do we need to vote at those levels?
  + Alyssa: Yes, they can be used at those levels. Reach out to your area coordinator and see if it would be a requirement to be voted on.

1. Official Dress: General Rule State Event Procedures #1 – All contestants must be in official FFA Dress as prescribed by the Texas FFA rules. This year we did have two students who were not in complete official dress when they entered the breakout room to give their speech. We need to determine what a penalty may be for not being in OD (as well as not turning in Manuscript). If we have a rule that states something must happen, should it be a penalty deduction or DQ?

Discussion:

* Jenny Purcell: I would recommendation is to adopt the LDE Official Dress Language General Rule #7
  + Austin: Agree. We need clarity as to how this will be handled. It would be good to keep the language consistent across different events.
* Jenny Purcell: is there any language anywhere in the Supt. Making final decisions in special instances.
  + Austin: No there isn’t. In the end, this is a speaking contest, not OD contest, so staff along with Event superintendents to make any decisions for situations like this.
* Maggie: Superintendents just need to make a better effort than checking prior to the start of the event, whether it’s in person or virtual.
* Jenny Purcell: Yes, normally we do have time to correct it, but if there is a special circumstance, we need to allow the superintendent to make that call.

**Motion: Purcell to adopt the official dress language from LDE rules with an addition sentence saying “The superintendent has final authority to make a decision”.**

**Amendment to the Main Motion: Barnett to amend add the words, “in extenuating circumstances”**

**Amendment passed.**

**Amended motion now reads: To adopt the official dress language from LDE rules with an addition sentence saying “The superintendent has final authority to make a decision in extenuating circumstances”.**

**Amended motion passed.**

1. Manuscripts (Submission & APA Format)

* Alyssa: At nationals the manuscripts are required. If they are not turned in, they can compete, but they will place in the bottom of the group. Most other states manuscripts are scored as a separate item. If you use sum of ranks, you can’t combine a manuscript score.
  + Harp: If we have a due date for manuscript to be turned in, then they should be turned in by the due date. They’ve been contacted by JC in the past if their documents were missing.
  + Vann: It is imperative that we do have the manuscripts turned in. It allows us to verify that they are not duplicating speeches. If they don’ turn in paperwork, they shouldn’t be able to compete.
  + Barnett: One reason we did away with manuscript scores was the individual judges’ view on how to score the manuscripts. Can we just have a penalty assigned if they don’t turn a manuscript in?
* Foster: Would be in favor in making it like the LDE rule. Either it’s turned in or it’s not. You have two days to get this done or you don’t compete.
  + Purcell: You submit it, you give them a chance to turn in and compete. If it’s not turned in, they don’t compete.
* Salem: You can put in the rules the most current APA rules
* Purcell: It doesn’t matter because it’s not scored.
* Salem: One issue is version of APA, the other consideration is the teacher is the one turning it in. Are we going to punish the students if the teacher isn’t responding and getting required docs turned in.
* Lynita: To help with staff or whoever having to reach out to the advisor to try and get missing documents, we need to put some of the responsibility back on the area coordinator to get in contact with the teacher/student for missing info
* Brad: Could we just allow state staff to assess a point penalty?
  + Salem: There are so many variables that go along with what is turned in and making sure that all individual documents are turned in on time.
  + Foster: One thought about the penalty, if the entry from an area is going to go in with a penalty from the get go, there may be a better alternate student who might have a better shot of winning state.
* Brad: Maggie, if you’re the one that handles it, you know who you contact and sent it right back in. You also know the people who stalled and didn’t get the stuff turned in. Part of me agrees with Lynita, part of me thinks that’s too much work in having to get a whole other student’s paperwork.
* Molly Christensen: Would it be good to have an alternate contact? Could we do a secondary contact such as the student and/or parent email?
* Purcell: If we could fix verbiage on required documents and what they should contain
  + Brad: State reg for CDEs that says I have read OD statement. Can we do a statement that says I have submitted each separate document checkbox?
  + Alyssa: Yes, It can be another step to add checkboxes but it’s not going to keep them from being able to complete the registration.
  + Lynita: Back to Molly’s point earlier – if we have multiple contacts, parent & student email, and bring in area coordinators to help out, that should be covering all the bases. If required documents are not submitted by final deadline (with discretion to superintendents) student will not compete.
* Harp: Do we need to deduct points or return document if not in APA format?
  + Purcell: No the APA format was just to make sure documents were ready for Nationals if they were to advance.
  + Harp: We need to be able to back up our rules if they say APA format, it needs to be in that format.

There was a lot of discussion over APA formatting and why it’s in the rule if it’s not a requirement. Ultimately, this is not a writing contest, it’s a speaking contest.

\*To help clarify things, Tricia will modify rule language from “Required Documents” to Document Guidelines and add the following language administratively “Using APA will ensure running headers (including student name, title, chapter) are noted on all documents submitted. This will be helpful for national qualifiers sending their documents to the national level.

1. Molly Christensen: Just for input, do we need to do away with SWCD outline packet? The whole document is very specific and gives way more info and structure for preparing a speech. Many speeches are redundant and include the same information.

* Barnett – Do away with it, but answer these questions within your speech may work? It is suggested that you cover these specific points within your speech. You may get too far off topic if you don’t give any boundaries.
* Lynita: We usually read the articles and branch out from there. If the objective is stated clearly, that should be enough to allow the student to create their speech
* Hartman: I don’t think I’ve ever had a soil student use the resources in the packet. Usually they read the topic and create their speech. It also states to consult Degree Check guidelines, that isn’t relevant any longer.

1. Intro on Revision Cycle: Timeline will be sent with committee contact information to this committee and the following committee chairs.

* Kelley Clements – General Rules
* Mackenzie Allison – Sr. Prepared chair
* Stephen Heinman – Jr. Prep
* Jim Bob – Extemp
* Ashley Wildman – Soil Stewardship

Concerns/comments:

* Purcell: In the event of another virtual event, area 10 would like the entire event to be live. Since we had to schedule the Q&A, could we schedule the live speech as well as Q&A.
* Tara: Feedback from Area 6. Are we big enough now that we need to create speaking categories like Sr. Prep?
  + Tricia: That is something that the revision committees can look into
* Joel Bush: It was great to have the contest and very nice to have some type of normalcy during COVID. For this year’s contest final rounds, speakers were placed by alphabetically. We need to follow what was stated in the rules and posted on the website.

**Motion: Bush to modify current rules language to state “Contestants advancing to the finals in extemporaneous, Jr. Prepared, and Soil Stewardship will be assigned times following the order of participation in the preliminaries, alternating between heat one and heat two. Contestants advancing to the finals in Sr. Prepared will follow the posted rotation within these rules.” Seconded by Brad Barnett.**

**Motion passed.** \*\*\*Match LDE language

Meeting adjourned 4:07