



2022 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2022

The 2022 Private Schools Interscholastic Association Advisory Council Meeting was held at the Embassy Suites at 5901 IH-35, Austin, Texas, on June 4, 2022 from 11:30am to 2:30pm. Attendees included John Allen (Weslaco), Ellen Allen* (Weslaco), Melisa Aranda (Brentwood, Austin), Beth Itskin (Regents School of Austin), Emily Kuiper (Immanuel Lutheran, Giddings), Barbara Lenzer (St. Martin de Porres Catholic School, Prosper), Vicki Pietsch (Immanuel Lutheran, Giddings), Doug Ray* (Executive Director, New Braunfels), Jennifer Smeltzer (Brentwood, Austin), Cathy Tufts (Calvary Episcopal Preparatory, Richmond), Dorothy Walters (Brentwood, Austin), Bruce Walters* (Grapevine), Patricia Walters* (Grapevine), and Louisette Zurita (Holy Cross of San Antonio).

The Financial Report from Bruce Walters indicates the need to tap into the reserve account for PSIA in order to continue operations through the summer. New revenue is expected to resume in August and September with renewal of membership and participation for the 2023 academic season. Due to the current inflationary environment, postage rates will increase slightly. District hosts will now be allowed to charge no more than \$12.00 per entry and state entry fees will rise to \$18.00 per entry to cover increasing costs. Membership and participation fees will remain the same.

The Advisory Council approved a request to include Number Sense 2 and Number Sense 3 as a standard contest. The Problem Sequence for this new contest will be included in the Handbook. To prevent conflicts with Creative Writing, all Number Sense contests will shift from 8:30am to 8:00am. Some practice tests will be made available to all schools to usher in this new and exciting contest.

Additionally, Prose/Poetry Interpretation will shift from 8:00am to 8:30am in order to alleviate pressure on dual entry and provide time to secure additional emergency judging. Evaluation Return for this contest will move to 10:30am.

Concerns about the Science contest were discussed with the following resolutions: (1) develop a study manual for the Science contests to help sponsors coach the contest. The study manual will be centered around the appropriate TEKS. (2) Pilot a new Science 4 and Science 5 contest in several districts. Science 4 and Science 5 will use a separate, grade-level appropriate, 40-question, 30-minute, multiple-choice test. As a pilot test, Sci 4 and Sci 5 will NOT advance to State. All districts are welcome to include Sci 4 and Sci 5 in their offerings for 2023.

The Advisory Council held discussion and approved changes to the rules for Information Skills concerning mechanics and scoring. Correct capitalization, spelling, and punctuation will be emphasized. "Answers that are proper nouns must be capitalized; common nouns must not be capitalized. Correct spelling and punctuation must be used." For scoring, "Correct answers with correct capitalization, punctuation, and spelling are awarded +5 points. Correct answers that lack the correct capitalization, punctuation, and/or spelling are awarded +3 points. Incorrect answers and skipped items are awarded no points." The Handbook will include clarity on the ability for contestants to challenge the scoring of an item for correctness or these mechanics. The burden of proof remains with the contestant to demonstrate the correctness of their answer when it differs from the answer

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key. Students may also have an additional device used solely for the purpose of connecting to the internet (e.g., a “hot-spot”). The device must not be on the table or desk where the student is testing, but can be on the floor at the student’s feet or some other out-of-the-way placement.

To provide more time for Information Skills verification all while minimizing conflicts, the following changes to the schedule were approved. Listening Skills and Maps, Graphs, and Charts will switch time positions. Information Skills and Vocabulary will switch time positions.

Contestants in Prose/Poetry Interpretation will be required to perform the same piece in all sections (Prelims and Finals) at a meet. Contestants can change pieces between meets.

Several districts will pilot the use of a new computer resource called Digital Documentation. Campus coordinators for these districts will enter the documentation information for each of their school’s Prose/Poetry contestant’s pieces. A designee of the Meet Director will approve, reject, or request more information about the documentation. This moves the responsibility of certifying the documentation from the contest director on the day of the meet to a speech expert several weeks before the meet. Documentation approval will be included in a print-out and included with the roster.