

Ag Education State Staff Meeting Minutes

Date: February 7, 2022

Present:

- Charles Parker
- Jill Sperling
- Shay Williams-Hopper
- Jackie Jones
- Greg Beard
- Hugh Mooney
- JessaLee Goehring

Called to Order: 11:01am

Winter State Finals –Parker congratulated Shay on a successful State Finals weekend. Shay recommended we look into changes to Citrus, she has some concerns. Engaging industry professionals could help improve the contest. Judging side of the contest was very poor.

Golden Owl- Discussion on how we plan to recognize the Golden Owls. Send ideas and suggestions to Parker. Plan to recognize

State Conference –Registration is just under 4600 people. Sold about 2000 food vouchers, does not include special guests. 50-70 chapters not registered.

Special Guests Letters went out and great response. Parker wants to know what special guests receive. Hugh said that special guests get you on the floor for the session, but you still must register with chapter. VIP will also have floor access (state officer families, etc)

Discussion began over the COVID plans/concerns and planning ahead to be proactive.

- Vaccinated people will just need to show card each time they enter.
 - Does not need to be boosted
- Testing room in Sheraton
 - Get a wristband to go to Convention Center
 - Who pays for this? Unsure on this.
 - \$38 per test – could be \$100,000 per day for FFA
 - Cannot use home test kits
- Arena- The county requirement that a COVID test be taken within 24 hours
- Parker will send out a PPT that Mosaic put together with logistics about State Conf. – Asked us to review and not send out.
 - Parker brought up potential of having state wide zoom?

- Survey had 250 responses- so you can look at needs of your schools in region.
- Feb 15th- new guidance will come out.
 - Jill requests we wait to reevaluate once new guidance comes out. We should not share anything with teachers now- to reduce concerns, chaos for teachers and then have a zoom.
 - Hugh said that we should have all the information accurate to the teachers when we meet and be changing that information a few days later. Best to have a solid plan.
 - Chuck share the Vaccination Time Table
- Parker asked Jackie to post the State Conf Information PPT to the website, he went over it with us and will share with all regional supervisors via email.
 - Covid protocols, Food vouchers, hotels, food and beverages, and Golden 1 restrictions (no bags, no outside lots of things)
 - Hugh said that everyone with All Access pass will be able to bring in laptops, etc
- Greg asked what happens if schools are prohibited from attending Will registration be reimbursed? Adult Board said it would be best to:
 - Submit a letter to waive registration
 - Submit what districts policies are
 - Greg suggested minutes from school board also be submitted saying they can't attend.
 - What about delegates?
 - Teachers concerned about being placed on probation.
 - Executive Committee decision
 - If on probation they can still participate
- **Statewide Zoom will be on Feb 17th at 4pm** relative to State Conference questions only. Parker will share meeting information with all of us to share with our teachers.
 - Jackie asked about sending a formal letter to state

Plan to go to lunch when conference ends on Tuesday, then we head home.

Assistant State Advisor Job- still working on HAM(?) with Tim for highest EPA salary, Pete did approve and Tim is working on appeal from EPA to EC.

Other Discussion Items:

Discussion about moving calendar dates, this year teachers just felt overwhelmed with conference being moved earlier. Too many deadlines on top of each other.

Jill asked if the staff will be planning to go to Ontario to check out the State Conference site for 2023. Suggested in September during Staff retreat.

Ag Incentive Grant:

- Parker is asking if we should put off the new funding model another year to look at data and work out funding levels. Discussion:
 - Jill said yes on behalf of central region- she would like to postpone – she says we have not given them anything to help them know where they stand in funding or base level.
 - Hugh doesn't think there is a need to keep postponing.
 - Governor has a Budget item to add \$2million to AIG, which has never happened in his tenure
 - This year money is plentiful and may be a good time to do this.
 - Biggest challenge is will schools get less money
 - Shay has concerns with AET and data we have to look at and relying on students to enter things correctly and rely funding on that.
 - Greg is good with what group decides, JessaLee said that she's indifferent and will go with the group.
- Parker asked us to think through this so we can come to a decision soon and what is the right thing to do for programs
- Current AIG extra funds about \$30,000 to be dispersed- need to decide what to do. Is there a program that needs money? Parker wants to do this ASAP and needs a budget of what they plan to do.
 - Send names to Parker and can submit as "pending board approval"

State Scholarship Finalists- Names released on Feb 17th.

Please send Star names/chapters to Hugh ASAP and to Shay

Please send State Proficiency judges name to Shay ASAP, at least 10 names.

JessaLee asked if there was a way to link Field Day results to the websites

- Parker will work with Jackie but she won't be posting those on Saturday or Sunday.

Ended: 12:17pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 22 at- 10am