

Montana Creativity Quest Fall Board Meeting, September 28, 2003
YAHOO! Chat Room

Welcome and Roll Call

Present: Heather Geiger (Director), Heide Arneson (Secretary), Alean Skinner (Treasurer), Anne Castren (NW), Kathleen Dent (SW), Laura Jo and Alvin McKamey (NE), Kathy Adler (SE), Esther Wynne (Hardin), Linda Adams (SC, by phone), Roy Mears (member at large, tried several times to get in.)

Meeting called to order by Heather Geiger at 7:14pm.

DI Week:

Heather reminded the regional directors (RD) that they each got green flyers to recruit elementary students and tan flyers for middle grade students. She asked whether the RDs were able to use the materials for DI Week activities.

North Central: They just moved into a new school, so had no time for DI Week activities. They still plan to do something soon.

South West: Flyers were passed out in Missoula and the Bitterroot Valley. They got a call from Florence. They are working on an article and getting the Flagship after school program and the University of Montana involved in DI.

North West: They received the flyers and passed a few to schools in the district so far. Anne will send some to Kathy and Sharon to distribute.

South East: They gave flyers to parents and teachers, looking for team managers and appraisers. Esther delivered flyers and made some classroom presentations. She is working on getting into St. Labre for presentations.

South Central: Linda tried to hit most of the Bozeman School District open houses. She also sent flyers to last year's memberships.

Marketing

Rising Star Program: Heather explained that the Rising Star program is a curriculum for preschool and primary grades (K-2.) She has two kits that contain the curriculum materials as well as the challenge. Heather will be sending the kits around the regions for RDs to preview and share. She will send flyers as well for preschools, Head Start and primary teachers. They are a possible entry into primary grade after school programs.

What to do with the kits? Look at the materials and see if there is a preschool, primary school, or Head Start that would like to use them. The RDs have no responsibilities at the present time, just be aware of the kits as possible resources. Teams doing the primary challenge don't need a kit, but do need to be part of a membership.

After School Kits: Heather is planning to develop one pilot kit of creative problem solving activities to be used in after school programs. The kit is designed with a theme for the whole month. The pilot kit is available to any region for cost of shipping. The kits won't be ready until mid-winter. The MSU Business department is helping with a market analysis to aid in determining how the kit can best be marketed. The purpose is to get creative problem solving into after school programs. It can be any after school program, not just public schools. The RDs asked if they had time to take this on. This is a pilot program, the RDs aren't required to do

anything – but we didn't want to exclude anyone interested in getting involved. A suggestion was made that the Flagship program in Missoula might be interested. Darby, Shelby, and YMCA programs were suggested. Several programs in the Bozeman area are being considered. There is no obligation other than the cost of shipping, but those participating in the pilot will be asked to evaluate the materials and how they were integrated into their program.

Bulk Mailing: A bulk mailing is being sent out to principals in Montana. It contains flyers, a letter, and information on how the DI program meets standards, a timeline and contact information. The flyer stresses No Child Left Behind and gifted education standards.

MEA: Neither Esther nor Anne is going, but Sharon might. Anne will get flyers to Sharon so she will have extra materials. Kathleen will email Kathy Dunn to see if we can get some flyers at the AGATE booth.

AGATE: Heather is attending a Destination Imagination Creative Problem Solving Tools workshop in Denver this coming week, right before the AD meeting on October 9th. She hopes to bring back what she learns and do in service and a presentation at the Montana AGATE conference this spring in Helena. Kathleen Dent is in charge of the committee to get speakers, so she will put Heather down for a workshop on Creative Problem Solving on Friday, August 23. Heather is also willing to do in service training at your school if you want.

DI Online: Please familiarize yourself with all the features. Heather will resend the cheat sheet from last year, plus additional new instructions.

New Team Registration Form: Heather designed a new one page form that asks for all the same information as the old form, so teams can't "ignore" the second page. However, the form does not have the student names, so RDs will have to go online to get the student names. The benefit is that they will be neatly typed. The form is in Adobe Acrobat. Heather will send each RD the forms for their region, but the RDs will need to go online to verify registration. The form will be on the web. The forms cannot be sent via email. Heather will send a copy to Laura Jo in Word, since she still needs to reload Adobe Acrobat. Adobe Acrobat is on the Program CD for this year.

New Training and Tournament Guides: The new Team Manager and Appraiser guides are available on the RD web site. Heather will print these and mail one copy to each region to save on printing costs.

DIAD: Heather requested RD recommendations to take to the AD meeting this coming month. In general RDs seemed to think that things went well last year. Alvin suggested considering shortening the program to one semester to prevent burn out, to fit it in one season like a sport. There would be challenges to that. Washington runs (or ran) the program Halloween to Valentines Day. Then the team manager commitment would be less than nine months. Supplemental CPS materials could make the program a full school year program if needed for those who use it as a full school year curriculum.

Budget Proposal and Discussion:

Growth Proposals:

The Executive Committee is recommending that each team grow by a five additional teams per region over last year's numbers. That would give us a registration income of 20 new teams.

Two levels of incentives proposed - Region and Membership:

For regions, Our growth goal is five new teams per region. For each five new registered teams above your numbers from last year (paid, registration completed, and no refund applied), the region will receive \$50 for use at the region's discretion. (for example: to cover tournament

costs, transportation to state, lunch out, Queen or King for A Day)

For memberships, Each membership that adds at least one more team than registered the previous year, or a new membership with at least one registered team, the sponsoring membership will receive a \$20 rebate per additional membership or additional team in their membership.

Laura Jo commented that Shelby had liked the idea of the "Other program" rebate. The membership rebate can be used at the discretion of the membership. Laura Jo moved to accept the two level incentive program as proposed. Anne Castren seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously, including the vote by Linda Adams over the phone.

Treasurer's Report: \$12,000 in a certificate of deposit, about \$6,300 in checking, totaling over \$18,000 in cash on hand.

Laura Jo proposed a fundraising idea – Hats Off to Volunteers. You can buy a white hat for \$10 and decorate it to recognize whoever helps your team. Heather has logo hats left to sell, or painter hats could be used. Puff paints to decorate them would be a nice touch.

A question was raised regarding possible sources of grant money for this type of program. Mountain Sky Guest Ranch, the founders of Home Depot, have a foundation. There are also other sources of funding for after school programs.

The budget was drafted with a \$5600 deficit, with costs conservative and expenses high compared to income. Actual costs expected to be lower through conservation of resources and in kind donations. We will be trying to get more donations, both in kind and cash to offset costs. More teams also means more souvenir sales, more income. Paying the rent would not put us in the red this year, due to our large starting balance.

Alean Skinner made a motion to pay Heather the rent for the office when the CD matures in January. Kathy Adler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Kathleen Dent moved to accept the budget as written. Anne Castren seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting date: The next meeting will be the end of October, topic to be tournaments. October 26 was proposed and looked like a good date for all. Not before 7pm, so the same time looks good. Heather will remind everyone.

Kathleen Dent moved to adjourn the meeting, Linda seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Heide Arneson
Secretary