

MTDI Spring Teleconference

Sunday April 25, 2010

In Attendance:

Heather Geiger, Tracy McCrossin (South West), Ernie Chang (Web Master), Sandy Palokovich, Linda Troyer (South East), Barbie Potter, Anne Castren (North West).

Treasurers Report:

Barbie Potter: April 2, 2010 statement, before bills
\$24086.89

Amounts after our bills from state have been paid:

Total: \$17,683.47

Payments for Global Finals Shirts and Pins Due from Teams: \$1715.50

Final Balance at end of May should be: \$18,983.37

Do we feel we can pay Heather's Stipend of \$300 and Mileage of about \$810?

Motion was made to pay Heather's Stipend and mileage. Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Regional Reports:

Northeast Region:

See written report of Laura Joe as attached

Regional competition in Great Falls, it was same day as the regional science fair. It made things difficult. We shouldn't do this on the same day ever again. Don't do it on the 3rd weekend of February. They had 11 teams. They didn't run instant challenge workshop. Kim says the teams liked the format of the tournament.

Keva blocks were used. (Kim) – they were shipped to us from DI headquarters. Four full sets, of about 1000 blocks of uniform size. Instant challenges were available, but the kids really like to just play with them. They were an incredible building tool. It gave them something to do during down times. It was very easy. Kim would highly recommend that we do this again. At State we couldn't do them because there wasn't the space. There just wasn't enough volunteers either.

We had half of this region not come to the state tournament.

Southeast – The Billings and Bozeman regions combined for one tournament in Bozeman. Billings had three teams, 2 came to the tournament; and Bozeman had 14 teams. Whittier school will host regional until we outgrow them. Bozeman continues to grow, we should keep the tournament here while it is growing. We need to look into why Billings is shrinking

Southwest and Northwest regions combined for one tournament. Frenchtown held the tournament with a total of 10 teams.

IC Workshops:

We conducted no instant challenge workshops this year. We won't need to do much prep time for this next year, because we still have our materials. Tracy – the older the teams get, the less they need the training. The Rising Star teams would really benefit from these workshops. We want to continue the training without making people travel. We should do the trainings within the schools. Minimize the training for everyone.

Team Manager Training:

Training this year was done through a webinar format. There were 3 on-line webinars on 3 different days. Attendance was sporadic. The webinars were recorded and could be downloaded. Would shorter trainings be better, ie 20 minute ones? Kim thinks on-line resources, short bits, at convenience of team managers would be the most beneficial. This is especially true if they were available early in the year.

Training went well for Tracy. She didn't have her own team, so she was able to go to the practices weekly. The short on-line ones would work great, either to listen to or have hand outs.

Ernie please look at what changes need to be made to accommodate these types of trainings. Heather will check into finding a sponsor to help with these.

State Tournament:

30 of the 40 teams statewide showed up
6 Rising Stars teams

We gave out the "Above and Beyond Award". Last year, Manhattan Christian high school team published a book, they then sent it to an orphanage in Uganda. They raised the funds for publishing. We gave them a plaque and \$100 to spend as they wish. Encouraged teams to take their challenge further.

Professional photographer took pictures at the tournament. If anyone buys pictures off his web site, then 30% will be donated back to us.

The food was great at the tournament.

Tracy- very smooth, it was a great location. It would be a good idea to have more opportunity for people to see the challenges. It might be good to have two sites, the two gyms worked great.

We had about 20 Disney volunteers. Disney volunteers have to volunteer for a day and then they received a voucher for a free day at any of the Disney theme parks.

The Disney program ran out of vouchers, so some volunteers couldn't not benefit from the program.

Globals: Five of 12 eligible teams are going; 2 High School teams, 2 mid level teams, 1 elementary team

They have added on some more camp type things for kids to do.

If the cost goes up much, then Montana teams may likely stop going. Travel is too expensive.

We made \$2,020 on the ipod raffle. We were expecting to earn \$5,000.

Not sure if the price of the tickets was a problem. Team had to sell 30-35 tickets at \$5/ticket.

Maybe get something a little less expensive. We have heard that there are too many things people are working to fundraise for. Some concern was expressed about the odds. We should discuss this at the fall meeting. Fundraising is much more difficult this year.

Heather asked for:

\$2000 from Dennis and Phyllis Washington. Haven't heard on this request yet.

\$5000 from Town Pump Foundation. To give money to each of the global teams.

Encouraging teams to write letters to First Interstate Bank.

Approval of minutes from the last meeting:

Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion was passed with no opposition.

Fall Meeting Planning:

Recruitment is the main topic of our next meeting.

Meeting will be end of August or Beginning of September

Motion to adjourn, seconded. Motion carried, none opposed.