



# 2023 Advisory Board Meeting

## Minutes

June 6, 2023

The PSIA Advisory Board met at Regents School of Austin, Austin, Texas, on June 6, 2023, from 11:00am to 4:00pm. In attendance were Ellen Allen (PSIA Speech Director and Board of Directors Member), John Allen, Vicky Herget, Heather Huang, Beth Itskin, Doug Ray (PSIA Executive Director and Board of Directors Member), Candice Shields, Jennifer Smeltzer, Cathy Tufts, Bruce Walters (PSIA Business Manager and Board of Directors Member), Pat Walters (PSIA CEO and Board of Directors Member), and Louisette Zurita.

Bruce Walters reported the financial situation of PSIA is good, showing a 70% increase in revenue due to the return of schools after sitting out from Covid-19. A 34% decrease in expenses was explained by more efficient delivery of publications, using the new digital system. It was agreed that we will lend more focus to further recruitment for the 2023-2024.

The breakpoint for classification was changed to 23 students per grade level on average so that the number of "A" and "AA" schools in the program are approximately even.

The Academic State Meet tentative dates for 2024 and location were announced: "AA" State Meet on April 13 and the "A" State Meet on April 27, both at the University of Houston. The State One-Act Play is tentatively scheduled for Friday and Saturday, April 5 and 6, with a location to be determined this summer.

The Advisory Board recommended the following overall changes to the program:

- Children must be supervised at all times while attending meets. Additionally, all participants must refrain from entering restricted areas. Schools with participants who repeatedly violate this policy will be subject to recourse, including but not limited to disqualification and/or removal from meet and property.
- The Code of Conduct will add a new line with the above, including respect for property.
- All adult attendees must wear a badge provided by the individual school, produced through AMC (not just volunteers). The concern here is the safety of the contestants.

Other changes based on contest:

- UIL's A+ Art Smart Bulletin was adapted as the official resource for Art Memory.
- Poetry / Prose Interpretation was renamed to Oral Interpretation. The alternating schedule of Poetry-Prose will continue. The topic for 2024 will be Prose. The name was changed to remove the need to change the Handbook, supporting documents, website, and publications each year from one to the other and to provide a central place in the Handbook where participants can easily find the genre of presentations for each year.
- Information Skills was removed from the slate of contests and will no longer be offered as a regular PSIA contest. Districts are welcome to offer this as a local contest, but it will not advance to State. This decision was based on the advent of ChatGPT's ability to answer the questions without the need for pure research of questions. Further, it opens up the schedule to shorten the contest day.
- Dictionary Skills for grades 4 and 5 will remain the same; Dictionary Skills for grades 6, 7, and 8 will be renamed Dictionary & Research Skills. The first 30 questions will be the same as before and the same as the grades 4-5 test. An additional 10 questions (#31-40) will be added where contestants will

research information on an additional sheet that is provided with the test. This information sheet will be different for each test. These questions will be multiple choice. This combines the research element intent of Information Skills and further encourages the development of middle school contestants' research skills and ability to utilize information quickly. Samples of this addition will be provided some time in the Fall.

- Art Memory and Music Memory will use an enhanced, legal-sized answer sheet that provides a clear separation for which responses constitute separate answers and provides space for each judge to give their scores.
- Spelling audio will feature definitions and/or example sentences for words from Outside the standard list and continue to add definitions and/or example sentences for any words that may need it from the standard list.
- Creative Writing contestants must use the caption words in their stories. The wording in the Handbook and in the resources used in this contest will be amended to reflect this clearly.
- On-site Drawing rules will clearly specify that contestants should sit in a single row around the still life objects or in a single row U-shape around the still life. Additionally, the rules will clearly state that the art should remain at the contestant's seat so that judges can view the art and the objects from the exact contestant point-of-view while judging.
- Oral Interpretation will specifically allow for an embedded introduction.
- A 5-minute warning will be added to many objective contests, with the exceptions of Number Sense, Calculator Applications, & Listening Skills.

The overall schedule of contests has changed to reflect the removal of Information Skills and the desire to shorten the meet day.

Other topics addressed and not adopted or tabled for further discussion:

- mandate manuscript in all contests
- require contest directors to scan essays for Creative and Ready Writing
- require schools to provide a ratio of speech and writing judges based on the number of contestants in those contests that are attending the State Meet.

Additionally, the requirement for a minimum number of contestants in order to allow two contestants\* to advance to State was removed. (\*one contestant for Creative Writing, Storytelling, and Math 2-3 due to space concerns)