

# Winter Board Meeting

## Meeting Details

- **2025-01-04, 10:00 – 12:00 PDT**
- <https://highlineschools.zoom.us/j/93493763371>

## Attendance

Invited	Region	Present?
Lei Jiang (Interim State Director)	SW	yes
George Sun (Chair)	NW	yes
Scott McComb (Vice Chair)	NW	yes
Marla Haugen (Secretary)	E	yes
David Rosi (Treasurer)	SW	no
Sheila Guard	NW	yes - @ 11
Edie Lie	NW	yes
Jay Loutherback	E	yes
Senthil Natesan	E	yes
Banny Wong	SW	yes
Florence Liang (Student Advisor)	SW	no
Amanuel Nega (Student Advisor)	NW	yes
Jane Park (Student Advisor)	E	yes

# Meeting Notes


## I. Call to Order

- A. Called to order 10:00 AM.

## II. Roll Call

- A. See above

## III. Approval of Prior Minutes (5 min)



- A.  2024 09 14 - Fall Board Meeting
- B. Scott moved and Jay seconded to approve the minutes, passed unanimously by voice vote

## IV. Agenda

- A. State Director update

1. WSAC (Potential funding source) - They have not opened a new round and likely will wait till 2026 to do so, if state funding still allows. So no rush in writing proposals.
2. Team registration extended for 10 days to allow payment and a few new teams to navigate the registration process, deadline Jan 15. Regions set up in Scilympiad, total team count should be above the target in our budget (140 expected).
  - a) Most new teams Div B NW
  - b) Edie stepped up to host additional regional to accommodate
  - c) About 10 teams have not yet paid - Lei has contacted them
3. Proctors for State Tournament, will likely rely heavily on regional support
4. Medal/Trophy orders were sent to the national office
  - a) 1 trial event per division for regional tournament
5. Invitation to help at the National tournament

- B. Finances

1. Budget and registration update
  - a)  Proposed Budget FY-2025
  - b) From Fall Meeting:  Tournament Site Funding Proposal.xlsx
    - (1) Use this going forward, finalize numbers when registration closes
    - (2) This year we have a target of \$2000 per region so will use this and use George's next year
  - c) Increased registration = increased income
  - d) Intel matching hours = about \$3000 in March
2. Treasurer update

- a) Checking account: \$35,020.65
- b) From David: There is an outstanding payment for trophies that is being paid for \$4600+ by Monday. The credit cards we received were locked still and under Sue's name for some reason. Since we had not needed to use this just was discovered. I have communicated with Banner and made the necessary changes. Deposits from teams have all been electronic. I have the original checks, there are electronic images on the bank site if we need to confirm any payments. I believe Lei is up to date on all teams who have paid. Many districts are still putting Sue's name on checks, but so far this has not been an issue. Districts have not been putting what team the payments are for, so all payments are at a district level.
- c) Taxes were filed in November with David's help and renewed nonprofit status

#### C. Regional board & tournament site updates

- 1. We will share tests across all Regionals - Scott, Amanuel & Florence are writing B
- 2. Need C writers for Fossils (David working on someone), Dynamic Planet - Lei will send out complete list after the meeting
- 3. Invitationals
  - a) Completed: Camas B/C (Dec 7/14)
    - (1) Good # of volunteers
    - (2) B Attracted CA and (1) TX team - many teams
    - (3) Timberline coach mentioned school district not wanting to support Science Olympiad (Edie noticed as well)
    - (4) Good feedback on Sustainable
    - (5) Army of volunteers by RAHS team
  - b) Jan 11: Bothell B
    - (1) Sheila is hosting - total of 22+ & need to run X,Y,Z
  - c) Jan 18: RAHS C
    - (1) Preparation is on track
  - d) Feb 1: Evergreen B
    - (1) Originally said limit of 3 teams per school
    - (2) Now hosting 33 teams! (with help from Scott & Edie who have been meeting Monday nights with Evergreen)
  - e) Tried Game Agent as trial at Camas Invitational, but only two schools (4 teams from Skyridge, 1 team from CA). If Lei goes

to Nationals to help, he can share Game Agent & Sustainable Energy with them.

(1) Nationals has a trial event web page:

<https://www.soinc.org/learn/trial-events>

4. Eastern

- a) B/C: Lewis & Clark (Mar 15)
- b) 1 new/returning team - Colton
- c) Senthil is Regional Director - Sue shared planning doc
  - (1) Going to Lewis & Clark HS next week
  - (2) Jay, Senthil & Marla will have a zoom meeting after going to LC in person

5. Northwest

- a) B: Bothell (Mar 15), Northshore (Mar 15)
  - (1) 22 teams to Northshore Regional - they are newer teams so probably fewer volunteers.
  - (2) total of 28+ to Bothell & might need to run X,Y,Z
  - (3) That is a need for a lot of volunteers on same day....
- b) C: Bothell (Mar 1),
- c) RAHS (Mar 8) -


6. Southwest

- a) B/C: LCC (Mar 8)
- b) Longview MS is new - might be having trouble recruiting
- c) No SW board member so will report later

7. State


- a) April 12, 2025 at CWU
- b) Possible sponsorship at State (with corp like HP) or demo/showcase
  - (1) Key Cap program from HP
  - (2) What events could we include HP in? (Potential sponsoring winning team for job shadowing?)
- c) Little precedent for sponsorships but past have involved t shirts at state

8. Sites for 2025-26

- a)  2025-26 Regional and State Date
- b) Do we want to alternate State CWU with Clark College
- c) Regional:

- d) State: Consistent venue is good for consistency. Need someone local to be our “champion” and advocate for hosting us. Lei will bring up with Danica - is her new boss (new Dean) going to be supportive of us coming
  - (1) Central is “central” so nice
  - (2) Scott chatted with the new Dean before the awards ceremony last year to build relationship
  - (3) Involving their Ed department could make it more enticing for them

#### D. Policy revision approval

1.  2025\_WSO\_Policies
2. Question - do we want to “require” a school to host an invitational? Maybe...but administrators and district support vary. Might want to leave as a recommendation
  - a) Moses Lake only starts in January so not ready for invitational
  - b) East side has transportation issues
  - c) As a state we give a lot of support to our National teams - should they repay by hosting?
  - d) Nationals provides educational resources but not so much financial resources (to help with hosting)
  - e) Might be easier to require test writing or volunteering instead of hosting
  - f) Keep looking for a balance of Regions contributing to the overall health of WA Sci Oly
  - g) Last bullet needs more discussion so we will vote on the first 3 policy revisions
  - h) Marla moved and Banny seconded to approve the 2025 WSO policies as amended in red (the 1st 3 bullets). It then needs to be voted on in June. We can aim to finish our discussion about requirements/suggestions for winning teams in time to vote on it in June. (Appended in minute is the language taken out that need more discussion)

#### E. Website transfer update

1. Domain & email transfer
  - a) Cheaper hosting & through 2028...URL remains the same.
  - b) New email address working OK...having to CC to old address to archive
2. Posting minutes/updates, content transition

F.

**V. Next Meeting**

A. Spring Meeting –  Board Meeting Availability

B. Annual Meeting –  Board Meeting Availability

1. Do we want to set a consistent time to block out for Annual meeting

C. Might need to discuss recruitment and retention as well as conflict management when districts are not willing/able to financially or otherwise support Science Olympiad teams

1. Scott's thoughts: to ensure district liability coverage, a staff member must be involved and present at each team meeting and event, i.e., even the most self-directed and responsible students need staff supervision while on campus. Asking a teacher or other staff member to devote this kind of time is a big lift. [Our robotics team and solar car team have run into this road block this year to the detriment of both teams.]

**VI. Adjourn**

A. Meeting adjourned 11:38 AM.

Appendix: Passage considered for policy update but taken out for more discussion (page 5).

**Invitational Tournaments**

WSO encourages both high schools and middle schools to host Invitational tournaments throughout the season. It is the best way for teams to practice, build camaraderie, and provide feedback for regional tournaments. In particular, we recommend the state champions to host an invitational at Div A, B, or C levels as appropriate in the two years subsequent to their championship. It is a wonderful way to give back to the community and help new teams in their communities. Outstanding volunteers (or teams) would be recognized at Invitationals, and those schools with the biggest community impact would be considered for the annual Spirit award given out at Regional or State tournaments.

## Response to student asking re gene expression

COOL idea!

In principle, I am enthusiastic about piloting new events and giving people additional ways to nerd out about science.

The timing is challenging:

- I do NOT have the time to write or test, or to find someone who can. [Writing a quality test takes me ~30 hours, and I have many years of practice.]
  - a. Possible solution: You could share some! Have you written some practice tests already, or do you have access to tests that reasonably well-prepared Olympians would not have seen? [Some of the more competitive teams in our state travel to MIT, Northern California, etc.]
- We operate in a small school; we do NOT have rooms available
  - a. Possible solution: depending on the timing [i.e., not opposite other life science events] and room availability, we may be able to squeeze it in.
- We do NOT have proctors or scorers available
  - a. Possible solution: Almost always there are a handful of supporters who come and end up without a lot to do [think 'bored parents']. If we were to ask them to proctors / scorers, the respondents' answers MUST be easy to score fairly by non-expert evaluators. Questions MUST have discrete answers.
- Competitors do not have much time to prepare. If I sent the message to coaches today and they sent it to their teams immediately, competitors would have 15 days to get ready. That's tight for a trusted event, tighter still for a brand new one, particularly when the event in question is unvetted.

Rather than race to get something in place on a too-tight time frame, I'd be willing to consider it for the roster for next year. The Washington Sci Oly Board determines the event roster at our June meeting. That conversation will go more smoothly if...

- You can justify why gene expression should replace an existing event
- There is additional external support [especially useful would be someone willing to write tests or coach test writers]

If this is something you think you would be interested in, let's touch base again in May prior to the WSO summer meeting.

Kind regards,