

**BCCTG Minutes
Sept 20, 2024**

1. Call to order (sign in and take PD certificate).
2. Vote to accept minutes as sent to membership—does anyone have any corrections? (The Secretary has a copy if anyone wants to read the minutes).
 - **Janice Ramondi and Cindy Cappelletti voted to accept the June 2024 meeting minutes**
3. Treasurer's report and vote (including update on membership dues for 24-25).
 - **\$5,600.83 is our total balance**
 - **Membership Dues Status: If there is nothing next to the name of the district, then**
 - **it is paid in full; if there is a (PO) next to the district, Teresa has sent back the Purchase Order and is waiting for the check, and if the district is not listed, then it has not paid the \$100 membership fee**
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Cresskill	Glen Rock	Montvale (PO)
Dwight Englewood	Harrington Park (PO)	Norwood
Dumont	Hasbrouck Heights	Old Tappan
Fort Lee	Haworth (PO)	Ridgefield Park (PO)
River Vale	Rutherford	Saddle River
Upper Saddle River	Waldwick (PO)	Eastern Christian School
Hillsdale		

- **If you have not had a chance to pay the membership fee, which allows teachers to attend meetings and students to enter contests and events, please submit payment as soon as possible.**
 - **Gina Picht and Jena Boomhower voted to accept the Treasurer's Report.**
4. Meeting dates for 24-25
 - Friday, September 20th in Paramus (9:00am-2:00pm, with a one hour catered lunch break)
 - Thursday, October 24th in Cresskill (9:00am-2:00pm, with a one hour lunch break)
 - ~~Tuesday, January 28th in Hasbrouck Heights (9:00am-2:00pm, with a one hour lunch break)~~
CHANGE OF DATE: Friday, January 17, 2025 at Lincoln School in Hasbrouck Heights (302 Burton Avenue) We are changing the date because a few districts will be participating in Invenengineering Week during the original date and with so few meetings throughout the year, we want to make the date convenient for as many districts as possible.
 - Friday, June 6th in Paramus (12:30pm-2:30pm), including a catered lunch

BCCTG will reimburse for snacks provided by the hosting district up to \$75 (please provide Teresa with a dated receipt that includes your name and district). Thank you to Melissa for hosting today!

5. Board and Member introductions

- **President- Amanda Almaliah**
- **Vice President- Melissa Dowson**
- **Treasurer- Teresa Scarpati**
- **Secretary- Christine Hickey**
- **Public Relations- Jessica Fishbyn**
- **The rest of the members went around the room introducing themselves sharing names, districts, grade levels, and a little extra about their programming. It took almost 50 minutes to get through all of the introductions.**
- **Vote on Co-PR Position for the board- Dana Petrie**
 - **A new position for the board was created for additional public relations, sharing the great things members of the BCCTG are doing to promote the group. The new “PR Avocate” will possibly create a newsletter sharing highlights of contests, events, or projects and write a letter that can be sent to superintendents in the county to encourage their staff members to join. Getting our name out there on social media or to other schools adds value and significance to our positions. 23/23 members voted in favor of creating this new position.**
 - **23/23 voted in favor of making Dana Petrie the “Czar of PR” or the “PR Advocate”. Congratulations, Dana! Welcome to the Board!**

~~6. Ice Breaker~~ No time for ice breakers since the introductions ran long

7. Classroom Management

- **Contracts**
 - **A number of members ([Amal](#), [Gina](#), [Cindy](#), and [Victoria](#)) shared a template or a copy of their student contracts. These can be found in the Shared Drive. If you plan to use one of the samples, please be sure to MAKE A COPY. The contracts include academic and character expectations for the students involved in a G&T program. Members had a discussion about how this could be a valuable addition to keeping students in check and laying out all the expectations to begin with and having something to go back to if needed. The question as to whether or not items on a contract would really lead to dismissal of a student came up because G&T is really a service for the students who need it, so it should not be taken away because the student is making poor behavior choices. It was added that if the behavior is impacting other students' learning or is too out of hand, interventions need to be made. The contract may be a good reminder for students to keep working to their potential, but not following it may not be grounds for exiting them from the program or class.**
- **Participation: Handling large personalities vs non-project based assessment of shy students**

- When looking into gifted programs, teachers must look at State Standards, Gifted Standards/Skills, and Participation.
- Amanda asked for suggestions for what teachers do when some students are not using their voice as much, while others use their voice too often. Suggestions ranged from starting off class with talking circles and having some item that gives permission to speak, to call out the quiet ones and remind them of their strengths and talents and what they can offer to the group or prompt the students with something like, “Does anyone want to add to that?” or “____ why don’t you add to that?”

8. Gifted Course Requirements

- Eligibility
 - Everyone was reminded that eligibility must be posted on the district website. As another measure, districts can use “Cognitive Ability Test Scores” and it may not be necessary to write out exactly what assessment will be given. If you need an example, check out the [Rutherford website](#).
- Re-evaluation/Complaint Process/Dismissal Criteria
 - These procedures need to be posted on your district website as well. Transparency is very important for parents to know exactly what to expect and the protocol in place.
 - Breaking conduct could mean: 1. Speak to student 2. Reach out to parents 3. Be dismissed from program
 - Having a dismissal policy should be included in the introduction letter or on the website. One member shared that if a student was not meeting expectations, that student could go through a probation period (that is determined by the teacher) and then reevaluated, but that process should be clear and laid out step by step.

9. Shared Drives

- If a member is not part of the Shared Drive, please contact Christine so she can add you to the drive
- Christine and Amanda reminded everyone where to access the Shared Drive.

10. Communications: Group Me

- Since we are not meeting as often as in years past, a suggestion was made to communicate through an app such as Group Me, so emails and questions do not inundate our inboxes.
- Melissa set up the app, so keep an eye out for an invitation.

11. Meetings/PLC Groups

- Members to run convocations: Business Comp; Poetry Comp; STEM comp, (Create a new convocation?) Amanda discussed wanting to create more in-house BCCTG competitions, so this year our PLCs will revolve around improving and developing contests our students can participate in. During our October meeting, we will have

time to meet in our groups to work on these contests. If you were not at the meeting, please sign up for a PLC that interests you. All are welcome to join the contest even if you aren't working on the development of it, but if you do not join a PLC, then your students may not be invited to join or participate in the in-house competitions.

- If you were not at the meeting, please join a PLC [here](#).

Business Competition: Melissa, Amanda, Cristina, Elise, Sue, Michael, Janice, Teresa
Poetry Contest: Gina, Amy, Dana, Christine, Roberta
STEM Competition (brand new): Amy, Josh, Cindy, Maria, Elsa, Dana, Erin
Create Your Own (brand new): Amal, Catherine, Jena

- Other comps: Climate Change, Panasonic Eco Citizenship (Roberta Kleinbard ~ Teacher Ambassador), Noetic Learning Math Contest

- **[PANASONIC ECO CITIZENSHIP PROJECT:](#)** Roberta Kleinbard shared information and changes made to the FREE TO ENTER contest. Five teacher ambassadors from NJ gathered with the Panasonic team to offer suggestions on how to improve the project. If you have any questions, reach out to Roberta (rkleinbard@wandellschool.org) or Consuela (CHooblal@fill.foundation)

1. Teams have from now until May to complete the project, but all submissions will be judged in May.
2. Guiding lessons and questions are provided for the project. It was suggested to stay clear of creating a project around reducing, reusing, and recycling...try to be more innovative.
3. The format of the project does not just have to be a slides presentation anymore, other options are available such as a Canva presentation or video.
4. If you are not ready to tackle this project yet, Panasonic can send you information later in October and November too.
5. Competition is for 5th-8th graders and teams must be 2-4 people. If students from other grade levels are in your class and they must participate, older students can be mentors and younger students can be apprentices.

- **[NOETIC LEARNING MATH CONTESTS:](#)** Teresa Scarpatti shared about the ease of entering the math contests. They are available for 2nd-8th graders. There is a fall and spring contest. Each team can have up to 30 people and it costs ~ \$79 to enter a team.

1. If you don't want to enter the contest, you can sign up for a weekly multi-step word problem that you can use as a Do Now. Old tests can be used for practice or for students who need some additional math enrichment.

2. Certificates, ribbons, and medals are awarded for top scoring students.
 3. 20 question tests can be done digitally or with paper and pencil.
- [CLIMATE INNOVATION CHALLENGE](#): Teresa shared about this “free STEAM program for 3rd-12th graders designed to spark innovative solutions to climate change while enhancing their storytelling skills and video-making talents.” Videos and final projects are due March 7, 2025

Other conferences, events or challenges brought up:

- [NJIT E-STEM Challenge](#) - designed for 3rd-5th graders, but it seems like the registration is at capacity, but you can add yourself to the waitlist
- [NJ School of Conservation](#)- Professional development for educators in nature related events
- [U Conn's Confratute](#)- Grants are offered to teachers to attend a week-long overnight conference/institute sponsored by U Conn's Renzulli Center for Creativity, Gifted Education, and Talent Development. Next summer's dates: July 13-17th 2025
 - U Conn offers a Giftedness Certificate
- [Northern Valley Curriculum](#)- November 11, 2024, some of our members will be heading up a GT round table from 8:30am-2:00pm
- [Battle of the Books](#)- Eastern Christian School is signed up and looking for other schools to compete with
- [Stock Market Game](#)- Diana Daley was sharing her experience and successes with the Stock Market Game which was introduced to her during a BCCTG meeting years ago.