

Japanese Teachers Association of Texas
2016 Annual Meeting
in conjunction with the Texas Foreign Language Association (TFLA) Conference
Brazos Room, Renaissance Austin Hotel, Austin, Texas
Friday, October 14, 4:15-5:30 PM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Members in Attendance (敬称略) :

A total of 13 members:

Yoshiko Fujii Gaines (President), Makiko Fukuda (Vice President, Post-Secondary School) ,
Mihoko Nakashige (Yamamura), Yayoi Takeuchi, Naoki Iwamoto, John Cadena, Yuko Kawabe,
Chikako Cooke, Elizabeth Hojo, Masumi Reade, Yuko Prefume, Erina Romanowich, Yuki
Waugh (Secretary)

1. President Welcome/Introduction -- President Yoshiko Fujii Gaines sensei

JTAT President Yoshiko Fujii Gaines sensei opened the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

2. Financial Report – President Yoshiko Fujii Gaines sensei for Kacie Wright sensei

Fujii sensei conducted the financial report for the treasurer Kacie Wright sensei. The balance from 2015 (\$4756.65) + income January 2016 through September 2016 (\$3529.69) – Expenditure (\$2331.46) – projected expenditure (\$960.65) = expected new balance (\$4994.23). The income was from the membership fees (\$15X54 members = \$805) and the grants. Fujii sensei asked the members to contact her if they would like more details

A member asked a question about the listserv fees. It has been discussed the possibility to change the listserv to save the fees. However, the JTAT has used it because of some reasons including the absence of the association's physical office.

One of the grants was the Japan Foundation grant for the summer workshop. The Japan Foundation granted \$1904.69, the JTAT spent \$158.08 from its funds, and the workshop site Texas A&M University sponsored refreshments, wifi, classroom, and parking. The other grant was Sakura Network grant for the first and second SIG workshops. The Japan foundation granted \$800, the JTAT spent \$99.01, and Rice University, University of Texas at Austin, San Antonio College, and Richardson ISD as workshop sites sponsored the classrooms.

3. New Officer Election – Yayoi Takeuchi sensei

Takeuchi sensei has emailed the members regarding the nomination and selection process for the next JTAT president, treasurer, and directors for the term beginning on January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. She asked the members to nominate the Group A: The treasurer and a director to the Nominating Committee members, Takeuchi sensei (committee chair), Kawabe sensei, and Nakashige sensei. A director shall be a former officer or a director.

After the Group A election, the Nominating Committee calls for approval of the Group B: the president and a director from the members through the listserv. The current president Fujii sensei shall be a director as the immediate past president. The current vice president Fukuda sensei shall be the president. A vice president (college) vacancy position shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

The nomination period is Oct. 10 to Oct. 21, 5:00 p.m. One member has nominated. Takeuchi sensei asked more members to nominate. After nomination, the committee members will ask the nominees for confirmation by Monday, Oct 31. Nominations need to be emailed to all three committee members.

4. Speech Contest Update – President Yoshiko Fujii Gaines sensei for Vice-President Midori Ukita sensei

The area liaisons to the JASH State Speech Contest Committee are:

Austin – Naoko Suito sensei, Yoshiko Fujii Gaines sensei

Dallas – Yayoi Takeuchi sensei, Kacie Wright sensei

Houston – Midori Ukita sensei, Sachiko Fukushige sensei

San Antonio – Yuko Kawabe sensei, Erina Romanowich sensei

There are no major changes about the speech contest. Ukita sensei has emailed members the elected haiku and poems. The members have proposed the haiku presentation procedures that the contestants submit their haiku and explanations in advance.

Kacie Landrum sensei has left her Japanese teaching position in Richardson ISD over the summer and Fujii is working with Nakashige sensei to identify K-12 instructor from Dallas area to replace Kacie sensei in this capacity.

5. Sakura Network Grant SIG Workshops – President Yoshiko Fujii Gaines sensei

The first Sakura Network SIG workshop was about Sharing & Developing Classroom Activities & Materials by Cadena sensei. The second one was about the Quiz Bowl by Reade sensei. The feedback included the ease of access, opportunity to meet and discuss with local colleagues, technical difficulties too much idle time at the beginning, and variety of topics to meet variety of needs. JTAT should provide the members more opportunities with various topics, however the Sakura Network grant for SIG workshops are not available anymore.

6. Discussion for Collaboration – President Yoshiko Fujii Gaines sensei (Speech Contest)

The JTAT has begun offering the JTAT Award at the State speech contest since this Spring. The first award was presented with the prize kindly donated by Kawabe sensei. Fujii sensei suggested members that they collect Japanese prizes when they go to Japan and donate them for JTAT awards. Prefume sensei asked Fujii sensei about the budget. Fujii sensei suggested that the members donate something that teachers think the students would like to have

regardless of the price. Reade sensei suggested that the JTAT calls for donations by email and put the donated items in a gift box as an award.

Fujii sensei called for volunteers who would collaborate and discuss the judging score sheet to have the same judging criteria in all of the four regions. The state speech contest committee does not want the judges to share the score sheet.

Rice University students will entertain and engage audience through quiz bowl-style games using Kahoot in collaboration with other university students during intermission upon request from the State speech contest committee. This idea has been proposed to the Executive Director of the Japan America Society of Houston Ms. Patsy Brown and received her support. Fujii sensei suggested other university students collaborate and create questions with Rice students. Prefume sensei suggested that high school students should have time to explore the beautiful Rice University campus as well, however, Fujii shared the feedback from out-of-town participants and chaperones that the contest is already too long. Fujii sensei will make a suggestion that the contestants could have an option to participate in the Kahoot Quiz Bowl or to explore the campus on their own. This should be noted in the program.

It was also addressed that finding volunteer JTAT judges is difficult because of the requirements that the members cannot judge at the state contest if they judged at their regional contests and their own students are not participating.

6. Discussion for collaboration – John Cadena sensei (SIG #1: Materials & Activities Share)

Cadena sensei offered to create and share authentic resources that the members collaborate and create. Sharing resources could be an incentive to be JTAT members as well. Ideas will be shared weekly. He hopes to continue the conference. This will be a good way to become more familiar with technology and connect people. He asked the members to share any topics of interest with him. Fujii sensei called for technology committee members with the chair Cadena sensei. Prefume sensei and Fujii sensei suggested that the sharing does not have to be every week.

6. Discussion for collaboration – Masumi Reade sensei (SIG #2: Quiz Bowl)

Reade sensei will share the quiz bowl question file that she created with Hojo sensei with the members. The purpose of her workshop was for members to conduct the quiz bowl at their institutions. To conduct the state level quiz bowl in the future, outside support is needed.

6. Discussion for collaboration – President Yoshiko Fujii Gaines sensei (Sakura Network Grant)

Fujii sensei hoped that the SIG workshops will be continued, but she received an email from the Japan Foundation this morning that the Sakura Network grant is now available for the beginner level teacher training. The SIG workshop participants provided positive feedback. Google Hangouts could be connected up to ten sites. She suggested that the members continue the

SIG workshops without funds utilizing technology such as Google Hangouts. The members in present agreed to continue. Fujii sensei will send surveys to members.

Reade sensei announced that the AATJ officer term will end. She volunteered to invite non-AATJ members to be members and suggested that members invite non-members to be members as well. Fujii sensei suggested that JTAT increase member benefits.

At the end Prefume sensei announced that Fujii sensei will receive the Japanese Teacher of the Year Award during the TFLA luncheon. Fujii sensei noted that in the past one teacher from college and one teacher from high school could be nominated. New teachers within three year can be the New Teacher of the Year.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

(Minutes taken by the secretary Yuki Waugh)