

Westchester Library System Battle of the Book Full Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2019
(Submitted by Rebecca Fitzgerald on June 29, 2019)

Attendees: Ashley Bressingham (WHI), Deb Gaffey (WHI), Jane Hennessy (YRK), Amy Kaplan (BRI), Allison Pryor (WLS), Maggie Leung (CRO), Ellen McTyre (MAM), Patricia Cohn (WNR), Tara Ferretti (SOM), Melanie Brocklehurst (MON), Lisa Dettling (RYE), Catherine Riedel (CRO), Oswaldo Coto-Chang (PEL), Sarah Prosser (RYE), Jonathan Heifetz (EAS), Amelia Buccarelli (EAS), Rebecca Fitzgerald (HAR)

Volunteers

- **Every team expected to have 3 volunteers, at least one non-parent**
- **Volunteer driven event - 70-80 to run (non-parents)**
- **Limited roles for parents**
- **Materials on wiki - any info on program (for coaches)**
- **Terry Kirchner sent volunteer flyer out to WLS**
- **The flyer is in publisher format and should be sent to volunteers' emails**
- **Suzy and Kathlyn are in charge of volunteers - email them**
- **Volunteers email is bob.westchester.volunteers@gmail.com**
- **Parents can be involved with the opposite age group or lunch**
- **Volunteers are ideally ages 16+up, jobs for ages 14+15 will be limited**
- **Volunteer roles cannot be combined**
- **There is a flyer and form letter to send to schools on the wiki**
- **All volunteers from 2016-2018 have been emailed**
- **Reach out to organizations, other libraries, and school contacts**
- **Do not feel intimidated by volunteer duties**
- **Kathlyn and Suzy will contact coaches if they don't have volunteers by the end of August**
- **We will still take volunteers in September but the earlier we have 70-80 people, the better**
- **Libraries will be credited for volunteers previously associated with them if they volunteer again**
- **In Croton, the Friends are sponsoring BOB - they will bring 6 volunteers**
- **Important that everybody tries to get volunteers**
- **We have 2 photographers - one from Peekskill, 4 is ideal - always better to have more pictures**
- **We have a lot of classrooms, each staffed with 4 volunteers**
- **Maggie from Croton will reach out to Queens Library Students, Jonathan contacted Albany**

- Fios 1 News showed up to interview about BOB - children's librarian and team in Mamaroneck!
- Email influencers in the school district - school libraries, Friends or Foundation, staff, and teens (including former BOB participants)
- Full day is 8:30-2:30; volunteers can also pledge ½ day if they are not available for full day.

Questions

- Mallory is in charge of 4-6 questions, Tara, 6-10
- They are the go-to people on Battle Day - the MC is not the judge, Mallory and Tara are
- 40% of questions are "in which book" and 60% are fact-based 1-3 word answers
- Pronunciation does not count
- There may be instances where words and names are used interchangeably
- If you have a concern about content, please contact Mallory or Tara
- Coaches are not required to share questions, but can choose to.

New Coaches

- Amy is rules committee person
- 2018 rules - fire code has to be updated
- July 16 meeting - open also to prior coaches who feel they need a refresher
- First year can be overwhelming
- Amy is willing to have 1 on 1 meetings as well
 - Suggestions
 - It's all about the buzzers - practice as much as you can with them
 - Don't let parents interfere - ask kids to treat it like a sport
 - Useful to have mini battles - a lot of work
 - Wear good shoes - lots of standing and walking
 - Every team makes t-shirts and every team has a team name (WLS has a t-shirt press and vinyl cutter)

Fire Code

- Hommocks has more space - fire code is 36 people per classroom
- 16 (15+coach) + 4 volunteers
- Each coach gets 16 tickets - coaches should hold on to them - monitor will count them as they enter the classroom
- 16 includes anyone associated with the team (including spectators) - communicate to parents up front that they may not see the matches

- No maximum for # on team but Jonathan strongly suggests not bringing more than 15 kids - it's a "logistical headache"
- We are on WLS insurance - we absolutely cannot have overcrowded classrooms
- We do not know if there is a cap as to how many people can be in the overall building

Buzzers

- To make a buzzervation, email Alison Pryor - there is also a tab on the wiki
- All buzzers must be back the Friday before the battle
- If you are setting up Friday night, you may bring the buzzers to Hommocks

Day of Battle

- Hommocks Middle School October 19th
- There is no food or drink in the auditorium - it cannot be the place to gather for breaks
- If numbers still hold up, every team will play 6 matches, no quarter final
- Teens - 3 divisions w/ quarterfinal - they will play 5 matches each
- BOB is not individually driven - it is collaborative - it's all about the team!
- If coach has two teams, he/she/they needs a stand-in
- We need donations of water and baked goods - maybe Starbucks in Larchmont? Anybody who has connections, please reach out.
- There will be a pizza lunch for all participants
- Volunteers will receive a light breakfast in addition to lunch
- Jonathan needs to talk to Pat - she gets a grant from the Hope for Youth Foundation every year
- WLA is providing SWAG
- We are very lucky - this is a free event to libraries - Suffolk County does a BOB and charges \$200 per library. This is due to WLS, WLA, Hope For Youth \$, and the fact that our venue is free!
- Parking - very good! Ample.
- Try to get more people to attend the final battle - might do something after? Make more of a ceremony?
- Winning team will receive trophy to display in its library for a year and participants will receive small trophies
- Mandatory Full Committee Meeting October 4 @ WLS