The scholarship committee met on Wednesday morning, July 21, 2021.

The committee passed to have a statewide unified deadline for applications to be submitted to the areas so that Tyler can turn the app off all at the same time.  That deadline has been set for Monday, April 18th at 5pm.  What this means for us is that we will have to have our applications submitted and checked prior to this date and give our Area 8 Scholarship committee an opportunity to pre-check applications for glaring mistakes before the hard deadline of April 18th because at that point no corrections will be able to be made.  We will still have the opportunity to score and rank at our Area Degree check on April 27th.  Application will re-open on May 4th so that corrections and updates can be made to those that are in our top 25 following completion of State CDE’s and will closed and submitted to the State on May 9th.

Tyler is working on creating PDF format, so that you have the ability to print, view, or email the application after it is created.

Applications will continue to be scored online.  Area 3 proposed to score in-person, but the motion failed.

Agri-science Fair had the option of being counted as an SAE and/or CDE.  Many considered this to be “double-dipping”, so the motion was passed to take away the option of counting as CDE and will strictly count as an SAE.

The committee passed a motion for scholarship application, rules, and policy revisions to be added to the same revision schedule as LDE’s and CDE’s.  So those type of revisions would only be reviewed the same years as LDE’s and CDE’s.  A subcommittee has been formed to look into making revisions to the scoring rubric.  This will be looked at this week.  Both of these items will need state board approval and they are aiming to present these to the board at the September meeting so those changes may take effect for this school year.

Also needing Board approval will be to put a cap on the transcript page where the highest grade that can be entered is 100.  There are some school districts that allow teachers to enter grades higher than 100 that appear on transcripts and school district and counselors consider unweighted.  If passed, the transcript page on the scholarship application will not let them enter higher than a 100.

There had been consideration of removing ACT and SAT scores from the scholarship application since colleges were moving away from using the entrance exams as requirements for admission.  This was kicked back by the state though saying that our scholarship donors such as Houston will not allow it.

Lastly, discussion over increasing scholarship quotas led by Area 3 resulted in their offering a motion to increase the minimum quota of 7 scholarships per area to 8, but the motion failed.

We will keep you up to date following the September Board meeting if any changes are made to the scoring rubric and Mr. Snyder and I will be able to assess when the applications will need to be submitted at the Area Level to be prescreened prior to the April 18th deadline.  Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns or recommendations.

Thank you,

**Jake Mullican**

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