



Diversity Stage Meeting Thursday 19th November, 2015 Minutes

✿ Welcome & Grace

✿ **Apologies:** Ranees Prasad (Papatoetoe High School), Alfriston College, Botany Downs Secondary College, Tuakau College, Lynfield College, St Dominic's College

✿ **Present:** Sarah Woods (Papatoetoe High School), Grace Birdsall (Diocesan Girl's High School), Ronjili Mudaliar (Mangere College), Vicky Ram (Aorere College), Nalini Singh (Mangere College)

✿ Feedback from Festival

- Concern

Groups that performed first didn't have any audience to perform for.

- Plan

Discussion regarding more advertising and directions around event for Diversity Stage.

- Concern

Difficult for people to see performances from covered area.

- Plan

Maybe have a screen/projector available for covered area, or move stage forward.

- Concern

Groups that were mostly/completely non-Indian that performed Indian dance had difficulty learning classical dance and so had more non-traditional movements in their dance. On judging sheets the only feedback

was that their performance was Bollywood. Students found this upsetting and would rather participate and enjoy themselves and not be part of the competitive section.

- Plan

Look to change wording in rules regarding traditional style dance. Judges to include positive feedback for all groups. Indian groups encouraged to try folk dances such as stick dance.

- Concern

Groups chosen to perform on Saturday were notified too late. This was due to time restraints and difficulty getting hold of TIC or tutors.

- Plan

Profile sheet will include box to tick if group is interested in performing on the Saturday. Profile sheet to include phone number of person to get hold of after-hours/in emergency.

- Discussion regarding same music being used for Indian performances. In future look at how we could prevent repetition, such as a live document or schedule showing the music being used. We concluded that this is going to be difficult to do and will continue to think about other ideas for the future.

Trophies

- Suggestion

On feedback survey sent out to schools it was asked if we could have trophies for each country represented such as 1st Fijian, 2nd Fijian, 3rd Fijian, and so on

- Plan

There are simply too many countries represented for this to be viable. However, a possible solution is to have a trophy for each continent. So the plan is to have a trophy for Oceania, Africa, Europe (if there are three or more groups from here), Asia (India falls in this area also), Americas (if there are three or more groups from here). More trophies will be added as the event grows. There may be more trophies for areas that have the most entries.

The current trophies will still be used across all groups that enter.
We will have judges for each area that have specific knowledge of dance/performance/culture for that area.

Scores will count as follows:

Judge/s for Oceania – scores used for Oceania trophy and also the current overall trophies.

Judge/s for Africa – scores used for Africa trophy and also the current overall trophies.

Judge/s for Europe – scores used for Europe trophy and also the current overall trophies.

Judge/s for Asia – scores used for Asia trophy and also the current overall trophies.

Judge/s for Americas – scores used for Americas trophy and also the current overall trophies.

Other judge/s – scores used for current overall trophies only.

✿ **Stage Specific Rules**

- Stage specific rules were handed out.
- Some rules from the general rules will be added to the stage specific rules.
- This has happened because some of the general rules regarding performers, etc have slight differences and variations for each stage.
- As we only had four schools in attendance we decided not to go through the stage rules in detail. Sarah will go through the stage specific rules and put each group of rules into headings to make it easier to follow. These rules will go up on the ASB Polyfest website and feedback will be requested on them.

✿ **Theme**

- “Return to our natural resources – for body and spiritual wellbeing.”
- Quick discussion regarding how the theme can be incorporated into costume, music, props.

✿ **Traditional Music**

- The other Pacific stages have speeches on Wednesday and some on Thursday as well during festival.
- As our stage has so many different countries/cultures being showcased it would not be possible to have a speech contest.
- Instead we will be beginning a traditional music competition on the Wednesday of event.
- Schools can enter solo, duo or groups of students playing traditional instruments to perform.
- Just as the speeches do not cost to enter to participate, the traditional music competition will not cost performing school students to enter.
- More information regarding this exciting new experience will be on the Diversity page soon.

✿ **Diversity Stage Committee**

- Other stages have a committee that assists with the stage and comes up with people that can judge, decorating the stage, etc.
- Discussion about starting a Google Group for Diversity stage and all Diversity stage TIC, tutors, Arts Coordinators, etc are members of the group. People can then provide replies to things they can help with and answer what is pertinent to them. We can also use this to set up the costume swapping/selling/leasing idea that we have been trying to organise. Sarah will speak to SMC and see if we are able to set this up.

✿ **General Business**

- None

✿ **Close** approx. 5.45pm