



Japanese Sister City Committee Minutes

May 14, 2025 6:00 PM

<https://teams.live.com/meet/9340514050895?p=vw2IOl4Er0PfvjEu>

I. ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER

- A. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM
 - 1. Cassy Pallo, Katie Gall, Danijela Nenadic, Chad Whisenhunt, Laura Garcia-Siegfried, Dustin Henrich, Sabastian Gonzalez, and Patric Koon

II. Approve prior minutes

- A. *Dustin moved to approve the April Meeting Minutes and Chad seconded. All voting members in attendance showed approval by show of hands*

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS, IF ANY

- A. N/A

IV. STUDENT DELEGATE UPDATE

- A. The student delegates are designing t-shirts and Patric has received quotes for shirt production.
 - 1. Cassy advised that the money the delegates have submitted for the trip is enough for tickets, insurance, and t-shirts. So, the committee will pay for

the shirts. Patric will submit a receipt for reimbursement to Chad.

1. *Danijela voiced a motion to pay for the shirts with the money that was collected and Dustin seconded. All voting members in attendance voted their approval by a show of hands, so the motion carried.*

B. The group of delegates has created the skit they will perform in Japan and will be gathering to practice soon. They will perform their skit in Japanese language.

C. Patric asked if he's supposed to contact the Japanese committee.

1. Cassy will send contact information so he can make contact.

D. The group discussed gifts that will be presented during the trip including a gift from Glendale Elementary School, Independence Monopoly, and more.

E. Patric asked what the baggage allowance is per the airline. That question will be submitted to the travel agent by Chad.

V. HOST FAMILIES UPDATE: RECRUITING PLANS AND/OR PROGRESS UPDATES

A. There will be seven students and one adult chaperone. Tracey and Stephanie will host (they hosted last summer). Kim Osborne has sent emails out to the different City committees. Dustin sent emails to Fort Osage schools to distribute. We haven't received any applications.

1. Cassy suggested starting to make direct contact and ask people personally. She also recommended asking the Wagners; they might like to host the escort.

2. Danijela will check into the dates and let the committee know. Laura will also check into the dates.

B. The dates are August 3rd – 17th.

VI. FINALIZE PLANS FOR TRANSFER OF EMAIL ACCOUNTS AND/OR OTHER DOCUMENTS

A. Chad has the email accounts he needs and so does Katie. Dustin, Danijela, and Cassy need to get together to make transfers.

VII. CONGRATS

A. New officers will be taking their positions after this meeting. Cassy will resign at the end of her term. We do have one open position that needs to be filled (two after Cassy resigns).

VIII. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

A. *Dustin made a motion to pay for the travel insurance out of the money students paid for the trip and Danijela seconded. All voting members in attendance voted*

in favor of the motion with a show of hands.

- B. After expenses have been covered (all plane tickets, travel insurance, and tshirts), Chad calculated around \$150 left over per student. Cassy suggested refunding that money for spending money for the trip.

1. *Dustin made a motion to refund the excess student payments after all trip expenses have been covered; Danijela seconded. The motion received unanimous approval by show of hands.*

- C. Van Horn students participated in a fundraising activity at school. The committee discussed whether that money should be distributed to all delegates or just the ones who participated in the efforts. Patric will ask the Van Horn students what they think, especially not that all students will be issued a refund.

- D. Danijela asked for an update on our current balance. We need to know how much we can spend on activities. We need to know if we need to raise funds for activities.

1. We currently have \$30K+ in the accounts

1. We owe \$19,572.51 to the travel agency

2. The last student (who was an alternate) still owes money which will come in at the end of May

2. One activity on the calendar is an elementary school visit on August 5th. Patrick also said he can arrange a tour of Van Horn, and the committee expressed interest in planning that.

1. Additionally, Danijela is going to reach out to Englewood Arts, the Kansas City Zoo, World of Fun, and more.

3. Dustin will reach out to Kim Osborne to ask how the City of Independence can help. We need to schedule the Mayor's Brunch, Palmer Center, and more.

- D. Danijela would like to get together with the committee in person to discuss the Japanese visit after the Independence students return from Japan and before the Japanese students arrive.

- E. Additional Advertising about this summer's exchange (to gain hosts and interest).

1. Chad would like to email the students who applied but weren't selected to this year's delegation to see if they would like to get more involved and potentially host this summer.

2. Cassy is going to email alumni to see if anyone can host.

3. Dustin posted the application to the JSCC Facebook account. And Cassy can add it to the Festival Instagram.

4. Dustin will advertise to Naka-kan.

5. Laura will post to the various ISD Facebook groups.

- F. We plan to get together to celebrate Cassy's successful tenure as Chair. We have some gifts planned and would like to celebrate. More info to come.

IX. ITEMS FOR NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA

A. N/A

X. ADJOURN

A. The meeting ended at 7:07

1. Dustin moved to end the meeting and Cassy accepted.

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11TH 2025

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 11th, 2025