

**Minutes for the TOPSS Committee Zoom Meeting
July 15, 2024, 7:30 PM Eastern time**

Participating on call: Virginia Welle, Terri Lindenberg, Natasha Alston, Michael Berndt, Melissa Rogers, Jennifer Thompson, Frank Worrell, Jenni Redifer, Emily Leary Chesnes, Aliza Epstein, Sue Orsillo, Nicole Barnes

Unable to participate: Emily Polacek, Stephanie Franks, Hideko Sera

Approving May TOPSS meeting minutes

TOPSS approved minutes from the May 20, 2024, TOPSS Committee call.

APA's Coalition for Psychology in Schools and Education and the TOPSS Representative to the Coalition

Nicole Barnes, Senior Director of APA's Center for Psychology in Schools and Education, joined the Committee and provided an overview of the Coalition for Psychology in Schools and Education, including the composition of its membership and several on-going Coalition projects.

Steven Turner is currently the TOPSS representative to the Coalition and his term is set to end in December 2024. Committee members considered potential candidates to serve in this role and agreed that two-year terms would work well going forward, with a potential option to extend the term for a third year if of interest.

TOPSS Competition for High School Psychology Students

Committee members who had served as judges for the 2024 TOPSS Competition shared their perspective on the amount of time the judging process took this year and a few highlights from the 2024 competition. The Committee had a preliminary discussion to consider if TOPSS met its intended goals with the 2024 competition and whether a competition is the best way to meet its goals of promoting an understanding of psychology's real-world applications among high school students (*primary goal*); recognizing talented high school students (*secondary goal*); and encouraging the recruitment and retention of students in psychology (*secondary goal*). There was a suggestion that the primary goal was being met more so than the secondary goals. If TOPSS agrees to hold a competition in 2025, a potential topic could be the psychology of persuasion.

Small Group Working Time

Committee members divided into smaller groups to discuss two workplan initiative discussions on either professional development or revisions to the new teacher handbook.

Upcoming TOPSS Calls

The next TOPSS call is scheduled for Monday, August 19, 7:30 PM ET.