

## MSDL Board Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2022 @ 7:30 PM

ZOOM meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by the president, Greg Cunningham

### Board Members in attendance

Joyce Albert, Joe Bowden, Scott Caron, Josh Cohen, Greg Cunningham, Sue Hennessey, Lisa Honeyman, Sheryl Kaczmarek, Tammie Ruda, Chris Sheldon, and PJ Wexler

### **1. Updating mask policy at tournaments. Can we move to removing the mask only when debating/performing?**

Greg looked at the policies of every school registered to compete at Needham and all but one will mask-optional by March 19.

He suggests that we ask attendees to wear masks except when performing/debating and actively eating for the remaining MSDL approved tournaments for the 2021-2022 season. Because it would be optional for students to wear/not wear masks when performing, judges will be told that it is a personal choice and that they need to judge competitors fairly no matter which choice they make.

### Notes about Needham

According to PJ, registration numbers for the Needham tournament are about half of what they were three years ago, so it should be possible for kids to remain spaced out more than in past years at the awards ceremony. They also plan to offer judges a lounge that is not adjacent to the cafeteria.

*Motion: At the remaining MSDL tournaments for the 2021-2022 session, participants will be required to remain masked with the exception of when they are actively speaking or debating in rounds or actively eating.*

Motion: Honoeyman

2nd: Hennessey

The motion passed unanimously

### **2. States Prep (Debate and Speech)**

#### **Entry fee**

*Motion: Fees for States will be waived this year.*

Motion by: Bowden

2nd: Kaz

The motion passed unanimously.

**Observers** - (people who are just at the tournament to observe, not compete or judge).

We will ask teams to register their observers so we have some idea about how many folks we're talking about. Based on numbers we will decide if any restrictions need to be applied.

**Flowers** - Greg will order Yellow Silk roses for speech & debate.

**Senior Cupcakes** - Market Basket will put them in individual packages. Tammie said she would get a dozen gluten-free/vegan cupcakes. Sue will get regular cupcakes for both speech & debate.

**Radio Copy:** Greg & Joyce will each do 2 rounds - Greg can make copies

**Extemp:** Lisa will coordinate question writing

**Group:** Greg will experiment with electronically blasting prompts at the start of each round at Needham. If it works, we'll do that for States, too.

**Impromptu:** Amanda will organize

Registration for Debate States is open. Speech States will be open for registration later this week.

### 3. Girl Talk Movie partnership (see email below)

The producers are hoping we'd publicize the film. They are planning a spring screening on April 24 at Harvard (TOCs weekend). They'd love for us to encourage students to attend - maybe as a team.

In terms of partnerships, it can mean different things for different organizations and groups but below is a menu of opportunities we have compiled and discussed with other groups. We want this to be a mutually beneficial relationship.

#### GIRL TALK PARTNERSHIP

##### Opportunities for your Organization

- Your logo listed and website linked on our website
- Shout outs and signal boosting on social and traditional media
- Priority access and advance screenings
- Hosting community and/or fundraising screenings at a discounted rate (where applicable)

##### Proposed: Community Partner Commitments

- Signal boost GIRL TALK in newsletters, blogs and social media
- Provide quotes and/or testimonials for website and social media
- Organize screenings of the film
- Sharing local and virtual viewing opportunities with your constituents
- Where applicable, provide speakers for community screenings
- Where applicable, contribute to the viewer guide and/or educator toolkit
- Underwriting local and/or national PBS broadcast (we would be unlikely to be able to do this).
- Connect us with other like-minded stakeholders

Tammie will contact the producers to let them know that April 24 is the weekend of TOC and also during April school vacation, so it may be difficult for coaches or debaters to attend on that date.

#### **4. Annual meeting for coaches in-person**

Tentatively at Needham High School in the Library

Saturday, May 7, 2022

10:30 am - coffee & muffins (or other refreshments)

11:00 am - meeting

Greg will put out a call for agenda items.

Greg will also get the refreshments

Our Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 25, 2022.

Motion to adjourn: Cohen

2nd: Ruda

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

--Lisa Honeyman

Clerk/Secretary