

MASSACHUSETTS SPEECH & DEBATE LEAGUE

ANNUAL LEAGUE MEETING

MAY 18, 2013 – 10:30 AM

Present: Joyce Albert (Natick), Greg Cunningham (CM), Marc Rischitelli (Shrewsbury), Debbie Simon (MA), Sue Hennessy (AB), Chris Sheldon (Bancroft), Josh Cohen (NS), Paul Madden (BDL), PJ Wexler (Needham), Sarah Donnelly (Natick), Jessica Tran (ME), Jim Murphy (Weston), Susan Marianelli (Milton), Jim Honeyman (NS), Lisa Honeyman (NS), Patrice Jean-Baptiste (Milton A) and Lajuan Faust (Milton A), Holly Loell (DR).

I. CALL TO ORDER AT 10:41 AM BY THE PRESIDENT, SUSAN MARINELLI

We began with introductions.

II. APPROVAL OF 2012 MEETING MINUTES

Moved: Greg Cunningham

2nd: PJ Wexler

Passed unanimously.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

The report was projected on the board. We ended up the year with pretty much what we started at the beginning of the season.

IV. 2013-2014 MSDL CALENDAR

Note that there are still a few schools that need to confirm dates, so there may be additional tournaments.

OCT 12: Novice Tournament at Sacred Heart (Columbus Day weekend)

OCT 19: Revere (PSATs)

OCT 25-26: Manchester-Essex

NOV 2: (SAT)

NOV 9: Dighton-Rehoboth

NOV 16: Gracia (at Natick) + Judge Training

NOV 23: Little-Lex

NOV 30: (Thanksgiving)

DEC 7: Lincoln-Sudbury

DEC 14: Holly Festival

DEC 21: (December vacation)

DEC 28: (December vacation)

JAN 4:

JAN 11: Newton South High School

JAN 17-20: BIG LEX (NSHS Snow Date)

JAN 25: (SATs)

FEB 1: NFL Quals (location TBA)

FEB 8: NCFL Quals at Shrewsbury

FEB 15-17: HARVARD

FEB 22: (Feb Vacation)

MAR 1: Mardi Gras at Shrewsbury

MAR 8: (SATs)

MAR 15: Needham

MAR 22:

MAR 29: Debate STATES

APR 5: Speech STATES at Acton-Boxborough (tentative)

V. DISCUSSION ON PLANNING MFL NOVICE TOURNAMENT: LOCATION, DATE, FORMAT

Our intent is to offer all official MSDL events this year instead of combining some. Once registration closes, we will look at numbers and then only combine events as necessary. Joyce will put together the invitation and circulate it to the board over the summer.

- For LD use “Northeastern Modest Novice topics”
- Meeting for coaches – new and experienced
- Judge Training – by registration only. If not enough to run, we won’t.

The board will meet in the early fall to finalize logistics.

VI. DISCUSSION ON PLANNING MFL STATE TOURNAMENTS: DATE(S), LOCATION(S)

We have a date and likely site for Speech States. We have a date for Debate States and will talk to schools about hosting.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

Judge Training – Susan suggests the MSDL president will do judge trainings at individual schools in the fall to make it easier. Also, we'll work on the video for judge training.

Novice Division of PFD – Do we want to offer this at one or two fall tournaments? We talked about the pros and cons briefly, then decided to ask a few fall tournaments (Revere, ME & DR) to consider offering a novice PFD division to help these kids get a start to the season.

VII. NEW BUSINESS – PROPOSALS TO AMEND RULES AND POLICIES

A. Multiple Ballot (Cunningham)

Change Multiple ballot description to add at the beginning: *Multiple is an event in which students are allowed to expend creative usage of all materials at their disposal, including binders, furniture and the script itself.* Add at the end (before the word "Time"): *Furniture being used may be moved as needed during the performance.*

Rational: This is more in keeping with accepted practices in the category.

Friendly amendment (eliminate words as indicated below): Change Multiple ballot description to add at the beginning: *Multiple is an event in which students are allowed to expend creative usage of ~~all materials at their disposal, including~~ binders, furniture and the script itself.* Add at the end (before the word "Time"): *Furniture being used may be moved as needed during the performance.*

Moved on the amendment: Wexler

Second: Honeyman

Donnelly spoke in favor of the amendment. This is a unique event in MA. It is a unique way for kids to explore and be creative using more stage conventions.

Rischitelli points out that this rewording is just for clarification purposes. He wonders if this new wording causes more confusion.

We had an animated discussion about multiple and the need to clarify the rules so everyone, especially those without a lot of experience in the MSDL knows what is and what is not allowed in this event.

Moved on the question as amended: Cunningham

Second: Sheldon

For: 4

Against: 3

Abstain: 3

The proposal passed.

Joyce will work on integrating the new wording into the Multiple Ballot.

B. Material selection (Cunningham)

To rules and regulations of the MFL, add section 2.7: *Students (including those moving from middle school to high school tournaments) may not reuse material or originally written speeches used for Forensic competition during a previous academic year, with the exception of students in events in which sources or files are required; sources kept in files from previous years are allowed.*

Rational: To clarify the existing rules to include prohibiting use of materials from any middle school competition.

This proposal was withdrawn since it already exists in our rules document in sections 3.7 and 3.9.

We do want to remind people that this rule exists as they help their students prepare for the fall season.

C. LD & PF Elimination Rounds at State Tournament (Wexler)

Add the following to the Rules and Policies document:

6.1.1 The State Debate tournament's intention is to offer appropriate elimination rounds in Lincoln-Douglas and Public Forum Debate. The tournament invitation shall list the entry number below which elimination rounds shall not be held. The debate chair may add elimination rounds on the day of the tournament but, barring extreme circumstances, may not reduce them.

Moved: Rischitelli
Second: Sheldon
For: 9
Against: 0
Abstain: 1

The motion carries.

D. Debate Judge Quotas (Wexler)

Add the following to the Rules and Policies document:

6.1.2 A judge quota sufficient to single flight debate entries shall be allocated to each entering school. The chair has the discretion to waive this requirement on a case by case basis.

PJ spoke on behalf of his two proposals, noting that at States this year elimination rounds were only held in PFD but not LD. He pointed out that it was largely because of a lack of judges. Without elimination rounds, folks may not take the state debate tournament as seriously as they would if there were elimination rounds. In order to make this possible, we need to be able to single-flight and therefore need enough judges to do that.

Moved: Rischitelli
Second: Hennessy
For: 9
Against: 0
Abstain: 1

The motion carries.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Greg Cunningham:

Greg asks that the new board resume exploring an official affiliation between the middle school and high school leagues.

Chris Sheldon:

Chris has put together a list-serve/discussion Google.group that all MSDL coaches may join so that they can ask questions and discuss MSDL issues. He will manage the group. This group will only be open to MSDL coaches. It will not be moderated, but will provide a platform for MSDL coaches to talk with one another. People can

manage their own subscriptions to the list once they join. We need contact information for the coaches of league members.

Paul Madden:

Paul gave us an update about the Boston Debate League. They have 600 policy debaters in 17 schools. He wanted to clarify that policy debate in the BDL is *not the speed-speaking event* many of us associate with the event. They focus on persuasive speaking that includes rigorous, high-level thinking. Next year they are partnering with Brandeis University.

Their three big issues: Evidence, Coaching, Convincing kids to participate.

They are not trying to get kids out onto the national circuit because they don't want to get involved with the fast-paced method of speaking that other policy debaters use.

They host 4 tournaments open to the Greater Boston area – 2 in the fall and 2 in the winter. They invite MSDL PFD and LD debaters to give it a try and enter one or more of these tournaments. Once we know when their 4 tournaments will take place, we'll add them to the MSDL calendar.

For more information, check their website: Bostondebate.org

Brandeis will be hosting a tournament on November 9th - just policy debate. MSDL teams are invited.

Sarah Donnelly:

Sarah has been contacted by a student leader in the Northeastern University Debate Society. They are interested in hosting a tournament next year. They have not selected a date yet, and they are interested in knowing if there is league interest. It will not be an MSDL tournament: they are thinking of offering Extemp, DI, HI, DUO, OO, OI, LD, PF and Congress for a 2-day, weekend tournament. They're hoping to run a tournament similar to what is done at Yale and Columbia.

Patrice Jean-Baptiste:

Patrice noted that people in TAB should judge more often so that league students will benefit from the expertise of the folks who are usually not judging. She points out the value not only for the students, but also for the coaches who judge. It would definitely improve the quality of education we are giving to our students. During semi-finals, especially, we could use the expertise of the TAB staff.

Discussion about how to make this possible: Maybe if we had ½ day shifts in TAB or some other way to move people in and out of TAB or alternating weekends in TAB so that we can do more of this. It would also make us more available to our teams if we were not tied up in TAB all day. Maybe we can train more people who can do TAB so that there are enough people to swing in and out on different weekends. This may be a better solution than doing shifts because issues that come up early in the day don't always get resolved immediately. We need at least some folks to be in TAB who will remember what happened in the morning so that we don't end up with issues that never get addressed.

Motion to Adjourn: Cunningham

Second: Cohen

Unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Honeyman

VP/Secretary