

MSDL Board Meeting Agenda

March 9, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

Needham High School

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by the president, Greg Cunningham

Board Members in attendance

Joyce Albert, Joe Bowden, Scott Caron, Josh Cohen, Greg Cunningham, Sue Hennessey, Lisa Honeyman, Jim Honeyman, Sheryl Kaczmarek, Chris Sheldon, PJ Wexler and Keith West.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

0. Coronavirus precautions for upcoming tournaments. (Josh)

Brandeis tournament was just canceled.

For now, we are assuming that we're going forward with tournaments.

All drop fees will be waived for tournaments going forward.

Greg will send a note out to the league letting folks know we're watching the situation closely.

1. Planning for State Debate and State Speech (who will do what). (Josh/Joyce)

Trophies have already been ordered for both tournaments.

DEBATE

- Sue is doing cupcakes & flowers

- Josh has his staff set

- Josh has set up the insurance policy that Chelmsford requires. If the tournament is canceled, we will probably lose the \$329.

We discussed what to do if Chelmsford becomes unavailable. We will look at the situation and decide whether or not to try to postpone, find another school etc.

SPEECH

- Radio Material -- Joyce will create and Greg will copy

- Flowers & Cupcakes - Sue Hennessey will do it

- Impromptu - Amanda

- Extemp committee will do extemp (Lisa will coordinate)

- Group Discussion - Greg will coordinate

2. Clean up wording for Multiple (when does timing begin?). (Joyce)

When should the judge start the timer?

- As soon as students start walking on stage?

- If they are singing or humming as students come on and off the stage?

- As soon as students open their binders?

- As soon as students speak?

Some ask, "Isn't that what the 30 second grace period is for?"

No matter how we word it, it's a pretty much a "loosey-goosey" thing, isn't it?

Proposal: Add to the ballot: "It is left to the judge's discretion to start the timer when they believe the performance begins." **(This will be on the agenda for the May League meeting.)**

3. Clean up wording for Impromptu (should outside material be available?) (Joyce)

"No outside material, props, notes or costumes may be used." (Eliminate the words, "during the presentation.") **(This will be on the agenda for the May League meeting.)**

4. The cost of visuals for Informative Speaking (Greg)

One coach reports that a student spent over \$250 for visuals for INFO. The stands, portfolios, and professional-quality, large visuals on large boards are very expensive. But, they seem to be becoming necessary. Is this equity issue something we can address?

Can kids be more creative with the visuals? Is a large, glossy visual necessary?

What if we allow students to use computer projected images if they want in our local league? (How would we coordinate that?)

Or, let kids give a copy of their visuals to the judges if their images are small.

Many students are preparing for possible entry in National level tournaments. Do we want to deviate from the national rules? Will students still enter if we do?

Maybe we should **discuss this at the Annual Meeting?** (Joyce will put it together)

Put options on the agenda:

- (a) eliminate INFO from the MSDL event offerings
- (b) replace INFO with Expos in the MSDL
- (c) keep INFO, but eliminate visuals
- (d) leave INFO unchanged, following NSDA rules

5. Changes to State Congress (Joe) - Proposal to add Morning Hour legislative debate ([link](#))

A good congressperson should be able to research & present on both sides of an argument.

Proposal: Use a piece of legislation prepared by adults. Like in debate, students would find out which side they were debating by draw at the start of the round.

Is this something we want to do this year? At States? Do we really want to change the rules at States so that it's substantially different from what students have been doing all year?

Maybe do as the final session throughout the season, with a goal to be able to use this format at States 2021?

Might this be better to do in finals instead of prelims because of how complicated it would be for the Parliamentarian to coordinate? If this is designed to showcase excellent speakers, finals may be a good place to do it.

Likely to lengthen the day.

This plan could be implemented at either prelims or finals (but not both).

We'll talk about this proposal at the annual meeting, with a goal to implement the plan next year.

6. Sweepstakes calculation discussion (Joyce)

We need a better plan to make debate and speech similar when it comes to sweepstakes points at tournaments.

Can we depend upon Tabroom for Congress and debate points?
Do the things we want to happen exist in Tabroom?

For States 2020, we may be better off doing congress by hand.
We also need to make how we do congress points consistent from tournament to tournament.
We also need a plan to expedite the point entry for Congress.

While at Needham this year, we will hammer out the details during down time in TAB.
We also need a consistent formula for all debate types, too.

7. Insurance for 2020-2021 Tournaments (Jim)

Two Questions:

1. Do we want to pursue coverage for event cancellation again next year?
2. If (1) is yes, how do we want to implement the plan?

Proposal: The MSDL would pay \$100 towards coverage for each school that opts in. For a one-day tournament the cost was \$137 for coverage of up to \$7500 gross income for 2019-2020. If the rates are the same in 2020-2021, the league would pay \$100 and the host school, \$37. For Lexington's Debate tournament, which runs 3 days, the cost would be more. Either the league would have to agree to pay more for Lexington or Lexington would have to pay more for the coverage. Covid-19 is specifically not covered.

Questions:

- What other exclusions are there? (cancellation due to acts of terrorism, storms named or forecast prior to purchase of insurance.)

Discussion

- This seems like a bargain.
- Why \$100 to \$37? Is a different amount more appropriate/reasonable?
- Will this help entice more schools to host?

Motion by K. West

The MSDL will pay 100% of insurance costs for coverage of up to \$7500 gross income per tournament for host schools that opt in. A host school has the option to pay the difference between the cost of a policy for \$7500 and however much more they want if they want to be covered for more than \$7500.

2nd: J. Bowden

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

This motion passes.

8. Form to request a tournament (Greg)

The form will be coming out for next year soon. Please encourage “new” schools to consider hosting next year. We would like to explore running tournaments against National tournaments (like Columbia).

In order to compensate for the loss of the Brandeis Tournament

Motion by J. Bowden

2nd by J. Cohen

Students who were registered for the Brandeis Tournament as of 7:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2020 will still get credit for attending towards their debate bid option.

- + *Each school gets two additional wild cards that can be used for debaters who were registered for Brandeis as of 7:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2020 - in the debate event they were in.*
- + *All 11 kids registered for congress as of 7:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2020. get an automatic bid to states.*

Passed Unanimously.

9. Clarification for expectations of how long debate judges are obligated at tournaments (Chris)

At Mardi Gras, there were a number of very cranky debate judges, wanting to know when they could leave. It was very, very unpleasant for the folks at the TAB table who had to field questions and take attitude from unhappy judges who wanted to go home.

It would be helpful if the expectations were made clear at the judge meeting.

Also - put it out in the message to judges sent the day before the tournament.

It also would be helpful if there were an explanation included, to help judges understand why they need to stay around.

Chris asks: Please remind judges *not* to go to the TAB table to ask for permission to leave.

Judges often feel put upon when they are made to sit around for hours and then they are not used. We need to make a better effort to make judges want to come back. Thus, when we know that certain judges won't be used any more, let's release them in a timely manner.

Next Board Meeting: April 13, 2020 at Needham H.S. at 7:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn: K. West

2nd: C. Sheldon

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

--Lisa Honeyman

Secretary/Clerk