

MSDL Board Meeting Agenda
Monday, January 29th from 7-9PM
Room 235, Natick High School

Present: Joyce Albert (Natick),), Josh Cohen (Newton South), Greg Cunningham (Needham), Sue Hennessey (Acton-Boxborough), Lisa Honeyman (Newton South), Sheryl Kaczmarek (Lexington), Adam Nir (Needham), Amanda Parker (Natick), Marc Rischitelli (Shrewsbury), and Paul Wexler (Needham).

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by the president, Amanda Parker.

1. Vote Required: Change our current bylaws to reflect that board elections take place every two years

This vote eliminates the staggered terms currently listed in our bylaws.

Motion: Full board elections will take place every two years.

2nd: Cunningham

Passed unanimously

2. Update on the debate documentary filming & discussion about finishing project (Josh/Amanda)

Josh and Amanda met with Lucia at the end of December to discuss issues and concerns voiced by the board regarding filming for the documentary. Josh updated everyone on what has been done so far and told us there is one year left in the project. Concerns include legal consent and competitive fairness. The proposal they came up with is that the filming would only take place in rounds involving Newton South and schools for which the coach has agreed to participate in advance. Even if a coach agrees, if any individual is uncomfortable, then it does not happen. If there **is** a round where filming is taking place, then the documentary film makers would obtain consent from those old enough to provide consent at the time and afterwards would seek consent from the parents/guardians of the under age people who were filmed. The filming would not be used for any purpose other than the documentary. Tournament directors must give permission in advance.

The board discussed the implications of following through with this proposal. If we decide to go forward, the decision would not be considered precedent for future proposals of similar types.

The board would like a “hold-harmless” agreement between the film-makers and the MSDL.

Motion - Rischitelli: We agree to the proposed safe-guards in the form of a later formalized agreement, pending the completion of a hold-harmless agreement.

Second – Nir.

Vote: 9 yes; 1 no.

3. Clarification: How long an agreement the board should be authorized to confirm (Greg)

Unless we set an end date within an agreement, any contract the board enters into is binding beyond the term of the board.

4. Rules & Policies discussion (Lisa)

Lisa reported about her findings from going back through the minutes for the past few years, looking for votes that were made that involved changes to rules/procedures that have not been fully implemented. In some cases rules were updated in the Rules & Regs document but not on ballots, for example. Two specific concerns include a rule about multiple and a rule about how parliamentary votes count in Congress.

Motion – Cunningham: We revert to the rules for multiple that currently appear on the ballot.

Second – Parker.

Vote: 9 yes; 1 abstain.

The recording secretary will take responsibility for updating various documents following votes from this point forward.

In addition, Chris Sheldon went through the Manual for New Coaches and other documents looking for inconsistencies.

All of the documents, on and off-line, will be updated over the summer by Lisa & Amanda.

6. Congress tabulation (Adam/PJ)

Do parliamentary votes count once or twice?

Because of the way the vote went in the past, until such a time as the board chooses to change it, the parliamentary will only have one vote.

7. Prayer space available at tournaments & gender neutral bathrooms made clear at tournaments (Chris)

The MSDL Board recommends that tournament directors include in their invitations or email to coaches where prayer spaces and gender-neutral bathrooms are located. This could be included on maps.

8. State Tournament Planning: “The League shall annually appoint a State Tournament Committee. This Committee shall include the League Event Chairs (Congress Chair, Debate Chair & Speech Chair), and other members as appointed by the Board. The State Finals Committee shall plan and run the State Finals tournament(s). The Chairs of each event group will serve as the tournament director for their respective tournaments. The invitation will be coordinated by the President, with input from each of the Chairs. The Chairs set policy and decisions left to their discretion by the Rules and Procedures.”

State Debate @ Chelmsford (Josh)

Chelmsford requires that we buy an insurance binder. Josh has the documents and we agreed to coverage amounts.

Josh asks if in debate we need 1st through 10th place sweepstakes awards. Sweepstakes is not really something the debate world does. Since the number of awards is up to the Debate Chair, the board agreed to let Josh decide. We may have a “best new school” award, too.

Sue will order flowers for debate seniors.

Amanda will order cupcakes for debate seniors.

Trophies: Amanda will order them

State Speech @ AB (Joyce/Sue)

Joyce asks for ideas for Group Discussion topics.

Also, we will need radio copy. (Greg offers to do that.)

Sue will order flowers.

Sue will order cupcakes for speech seniors.

Trophies: Amanda will order them

9. Hall of Fame (Amanda/Marc)

Amanda updated us about the process. Debbie Simon, Marc Rischitelli & Sarah Donnelly will form the committee.

10. Students who come late to the prep room (Greg)

Some students do not show up for prep on time. They wander in an hour late. This has become a regular problem. Should there be consequences?

The board recommends to tournament directors that after the first round, students who miss their draw time/draw late should be held accountable. Perhaps have them speak at their assigned time, regardless of when they actually drew.

11. Event Committee Update (Joyce)

The on-line discussion about events was not very helpful and we did not get much participation from schools that did not already have board representation.

We are still holding POI and INFO at the side. We do not want to add more events without examining the existing events.

Concern that any proposals come out far enough in advance of the annual meeting so that people have time to review and consider them before the May 5th meeting.

Can we ask people to put a slate of events on the table and defend why the board should vote for that slate? (This is for speech events, only.) This will be a time consuming discussion. Can we start with a blank slate? Are we doing events because it is the way things were always done or because we value what they provide? We are concerned about length of discussion.

Sanctioning forms for the next season need to be in far enough in advance that a slate of tournament dates can be presented at this meeting.

12. Put on website information for potential judges looking to sign up? With contact info.

Upcoming Board Meetings

March 5

April 9

May 7 (by phone?)

We're looking for a date in late August/early September

Motion to adjourn – Rischitelli

2nd – everyone. ;-)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

--Lisa Honeyman

VP/Secretary