

MSDL Board Meeting  
January 5, 2013  
Milton Academy

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 by the president, Debbie Simon.

Present: Debbie Simon (Milton Academy), Lisa Honeyman (Newton South), Paul (PJ) Wexler (Needham), Jim Murphy (Weston), Chris Sheldon (Bancroft), Bob Hutchings (Pike), Dan Sapir (Sacred Heart), Greg Cunningham (Catholic Memorial), Rob Croteau (Catholic Memorial), Josh Cohen (Newton South)

Debbie began by thanking everyone for what the board has done so far this year. She also encouraged everyone to do more outreach to new programs and new coaches, especially when we're at tournaments. Rob suggests that we introduce the board at some tournaments and also to make sure the board is visible at States.

1. Treasurers Report:

Rob circulated a list that indicates which schools have paid MSDL dues. We will encourage teams that actively participate in the MSDL to pay their \$50 dues. Member schools will be posted on the MSDL website.

Rob suggested that we create a priority list of needed purchases at the spring meeting. A more formalized process for large purchase requests would be good.

He also updated us on where things stand with the State of MA in regards our non-profit status.

2. State Debate Tournament – site, planning, staffing (Murphy)

Location: Milton High School is excited to be hosting.

Jim will meet with them to talk about staffing – ballot sorting, copier access etc.

We need to consider how to handle tracking of bids

Jim will work on the invitation.

Jim thanked Josh Cohen and PJ Wexler for their efforts to run debate at local tournaments!

3. State Speech Tournament – site, planning, staffing (Albert)

We don't have a site yet, but Sarah is working on it.

We created a list of who will handle each of the logistics of tournament planning.

4. Coach listserv – this was suggested by coaches at the Novice Tournament Coaches seminar as a means by which coaches could hold discussions (Sheldon/Donnelly)

Coaches Discussion forum would be great to have. Chris Sheldon discovered that we do have a google.group called MFLCoaches. Greg & Chris will work on this.

5. Classification of material – PR vs. PO (Honeyman)

Look for the words “Verse Novel” or “Free Verse Novel” on the ISBN page, Library of Congress and/or Amazon.com. If those words exist, the material can be used in either prose or poetry category. This is how the NCFL has done it in the past. If it says only “Novel” or only “verse” it goes in either prose or poetry respectively, but can only be used in both.

Also – reminder that monologue plays cannot be done in Prose. They are plays.

Many are looked at on a case by case basis.

#### 6. MMSFL Affiliate discussion (Hutchings/Simon)

Bob and Debbie presented a resolution:

*Be it resolved:*

*As of the 2013-2014 speech and debate season the Massachusetts Middle School Forensic League (MMSFL) would be an affiliate of the Massachusetts Speech and Debate League (MSDL).*

*The affiliation with the MSDL would entail the MMSFL taking responsibility for establishing its own mission, constitution and by-laws, rules and regulations and reporting annually to the MSDL board of directors.*

*With approval of affiliate status, the MSDL board will allow the MMSFL to use the official MSDL tax identification code to secure a separate bank account. The MSDL will not be liable for any expenses incurred by the MMSFL.*

We discussed this resolution in depth. Debbie is going to talk to our attorney to find out if we incur any liability by allowing the MMSFL to affiliate with us and also to clarify what it means that the MMSFL must report to us annually.

In addition:

Chris asked if we could have some clarification from the MMSFL about what they see as the relationship between the two leagues.

Is there a way to terminate the relationship if either party wants it? (An exit clause).

Send questions to Debbie for our attorney by Friday, January 11. We’ll try to have a vote before the end of February.

#### 7. Subscribing to Weebly PRO-MSDL website service provider (Honeyman)

Vote to approve paying the subscription fee of \$71.80 for two years for Weebly Pro service.

Dan moved. Greg 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Passed without objection.

8. Nominating committee to select new officers (Simon)

Sarah Donnelly will chair the committee.  
Willing to serve on committee: Chris Sheldon.

9. Hall of Fame Reception vs. State HOF HONOR presentation? (Simon)

We'll just do one presentation instead of two this year.

10. The possibility of offering LD at more MSDL tournaments (Sapir)

Dan asked the board to more actively encourage local speech tournaments to offer LD. He suggests limiting PFD entries in order to make space to offer LD. Because LD is not offered at many speech tournaments, LD participants don't feel that they are part of the team. He feels it is forcing programs that offer LD to go far afield to find tournaments.

We discussed the demands that offering an additional debate event place on tournaments that offer speech and PFD. If we want to go in that direction, we need to find more people who can help in TAB at local tournaments.

The idea of having more opportunities for more kids is wonderful! In spirit we support the idea, but we need to also understand that hosts must make their own decisions based upon their resources.

11. Do the rules of multiple accurately depict current practices (Cunningham)

Nothing in the rules suggests you can move around, nor that you can use the binder in creative ways as a "prop". In fact, the rules specifically state that there can be no props used. The ballot conflicts with what we have allowed for years.

Greg proposes that we create a small committee to look at our written rules more closely. He volunteers to be on it. The point is not to change practice, but to codify what it is we do.

Lisa suggested that the ballot review committee, that currently exists, should be sure to look carefully at the multiple ballot while they are reviewing all of the ballots.

12. *SHARES*/ Video taping resources (Simon)

Debbie thanks everyone who presented *SHARES* this year.  
Debbie proposes that we set several dates and options for future programs and then videotape the presentations. Once they are videotaped, we can perhaps post the videos online so coaches can access them. She will look at the calendar and propose dates for filming.

13. Anything to address before the spring meeting? As this board finishes up, anything we need to complete?

Continue to work on revising ballots to better reflect our practice.  
Can we do something to give feedback to judges about their ballot writing? (good & bad)  
Is there a way to construct our ballots to make it easier for judges to write them?

Next Meeting – Saturday, May 11, 2013 at 10:00 am at Milton Academy.

Motion to adjourn: Wexler  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Sheldon

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Honeyman

VP/Secretary