

- DRAFT MINUTES -

October 9, 2005
Dworkin Bldg – Harvard University
MFL Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm by the president, Chris Palmer.

Present were: Chris Palmer (CP), Amanda Parker (AP), Joyce Albert (JA), Rob Croteau (RC), Lynne Coyne (LC), PJ Wexler (PW) and Lisa Honeyman (LH).

As a general opening, Chris welcomed everyone to the board.

We then moved on to the official agenda.

1. The Consent Agenda was passed without discussion.

- Minutes of 9/21 Coaches' Meeting
- E-mail vote of MMSFL Removal
- Email vote admitting Jean-Baptiste, O'Neill, Paker, Serrano, and Simon as at-large members.

2. Hall of Fame Tournament.

2.1 We discussed whether or not the MFL will pay the \$400 A-B requests for custodial fees for the Hall of Fame tournament. Joyce A. reminded us that a previous MFL Board (3 years ago) voted that the MFL will not pay fees for custodians. Since A-B will make money on concessions, they should cover their building expenses.

Rob Croteau: Moved that "A-B cover the custodial fees for the Hall of Fame tournament from what they make in concessions."

Seconded by JA.

Approved unanimously.

2.2 Schedule (speech & debate)

Chris read it for approval. We discussed various options to keep things moving on time. It was approved.

2.3 Group discussion topics were approved.

2.4 Trophies – RC suggested that we add \$1 fee rather than forgoing trophies and give \$\$ to Katrina fund. He commented that it is very important for students to go home with something in their hands if they do well. LH suggested that our students are being asked to donate in many venues – school, religious organizations, etc. Do we want to ask them, too? If the MFL wants to send a donation, perhaps it should be from the organization.

We decided to budget \$1000 for all trophies and then splitting whatever money we clear (after expenses) between the Katrina fund and the MFL bank account. (We are very low on funds.) Even a small donation will be appreciated.

Lynne Coyne motioned – PW seconded. Approved unanimously.

We have not ordered trophies yet. We discussed where to order them. CP will take care of this.

2.5 For inclusion in invitation – PJ suggested including congress scenario in invitation. It was approved. LH asked if any congress bills had been submitted. PJ said only two school have submitted bills so far, but the deadline is not until next week.

JA asked if we should include a description of the “Rules of Professionalism” in the invitation. We agreed that it would be a good idea to mention them. Chris has added this to the invitation.

When will we have vote for Rules and Regs? Rob suggested a paper ballot vote. Joyce suggested a motion at the Hall of Fame reception. We discussed options.

Motion by JA: “To establish a voting box for coaches to vote on the MFL rules document.”

Seconded: PW

Passed unanimously.

2.6 Assignments at HoF tournament

Joyce – Speech	Lynne – Debate	PJ – Congress
Rob – TAB	Amanda - TAB	
Debbie – Ballot Table (+ AB Person)		
Lisa – TAB	Chris – TAB	Prep – find 2 people
Parli – find someone	Ballot Sorting – AB will provide	

LH suggested that any school with more than one board member that will not be judging, should bring enough judges to cover everyone except one person. We have been strapped for qualified judges in the past. With 5 schools currently holding 2 positions on the board, this may present a problem. (These schools can list one board member as a judge even if they will not be judging – but must cover all other adults who are coming who will not be judging.) This was approved by general consensus.

Extemp topics – to be written and sent to Joyce by Wednesday night (October 18) by PJ, Chris and Lisa. Joyce will write some, too.

2.7 Hall of Fame Award

- Food for Reception: Rob will take care of ordering food and flowers from Roche Borthers. Someone will pick them up during the day as it is nearby.

We need to invite past HoF awardees. Send contact info to CP so they can be invited. He only knows how to reach a few of these folks.

Rob will also call Plymouth Trophy to get plaque made up for DS.

- Words to be said at ceremony:

We will ask Tim Averill to write and speak – he has offered. We want to keep this short and then others can honor DS at the reception or on the following day if they are at whatever is planned.

- Chris, Rob and Patrice will coordinate the Sunday celebration.

2.8 The Debbie Simon Service Awards

Need to make new plaques. Do we want to give them out to the entire out-going board or just those not returning? Do we include at-large? Just officers? We voted to recognize Judy Crocker, Will Crocker and Mark M. Mark is to be recognized for his service as MFL president. Judy and Will are to be honored for their many years of service as they leave the MFL. This was moved by LC and seconded by PW. Chris Palmer will give these out at awards.

3. Independent Entries at MFL tournaments

Can a student from Gann Academy join the MFL and compete if the school is not an MFL member? There are a religious school that will not compete on the Sabbath. What about other independent entries? What about CORI checks? What about students from schools that DO have teams but want to attend tournaments that their team is not attending? Home-school rules are different from town to town. Some require town schools to provide services to these students and others do not.

CP & LC: Students should be at a tournament either with a school official or their own parent at any tournament. For health purposes and legal liability issues, we need to know who is the adult designee with responsibility for all students.

RC: We don't want to bar students from participating. We are an educational organization.

JA: Let's look at the Principal's association guidelines. What do they do? Maybe we should do whatever they do? Chris & Joyce will look into this.

The sense of the board is that we would like to allow students to attend if their school runs a CORI check on their legal guardians and that each student must be accompanied by his/her own parent/legal guardian. But we need to check the Principal's Association

rules. If the Principal Association rules would not allow this sort of participation in other competitive activities, then students in this situation will not be allowed to participate at MFL tournaments.

We will allow the Gann student to participate this year provided that she has written permission from her school, her school runs CORI checks on her legal guardians, and a legal guardian (who has been CORIed) accompanies her to each tournament, provided there is no indication that the Principal Association rules prohibit her participation.

4. Planning and Desired Projects for the Board

4.1 RC: Let's look at the events we offer and the rules for some of them.

We already know we need to look at rules for bids in Multiple for States. Most of this is limited to speech (not debate) events. Joyce, as Chair of Speech, will chair this committee. She will solicit ideas from the league. She will be assisted by RC, AP and PW.

Motion by LH: "To appoint JC as chair and Rob, PJ, and Amanda as committee members to look at current rules and events."

2nd by JC.

Approved unanimously.

4.2 Debbie Simon wants to work on DVD project for new coaches & programs.

But, she wants help. She has a technical person. We will not try to tape people this year, but work with the current tapes and add commentary. LH will work with DS. We need a script.

Motion by JA: "DS will head up the DVD committee and will be assisted by LH."

2nd: AP

Approved unanimously.

4.3 Revise Judges' handbook

Chris will do this.

4.4 Coaches & New Program Handbook

Motion by JA: "To charge LH and Patrice Jean-Baptiste to chair a New Program Handbook committee."

2nd by RC.

Approved unanimously.

4.5 Hosting a tournament booklet

LH: Motion “JA will head a “How to Host a Tournament Manual” committee with CP’s assistance.”

2nd: LC

Approved unanimously.

4.6 Judge training

We need to wait until Wendy O’Neill (she proposed this) is present to decide what this will entail.

4.7 Finish rules for debate

LC will head this committee under her position of “Chair of Debate”. She will assemble a group of 5 coaches who are interested in working on this part of the Rules document. They will split up the 3 debate events (LD, Policy, & PFD) to work on.

Moved by JC, seconded by PW. Approved unanimously.

4.8 Student Advisory Board

Amanda Parker would like to head us this group. She wants the group to be taken more seriously. The students need to know that we care that their organization exists. She will sit in on SAB meetings to be sure they are heard.

Lynne suggested that the MFL liaison might come to a debate tournament to let those students have an opportunity to be heard as well. There is no debate SAB, but perhaps we should start one. LC offers the Little-Lex tournament (Nov 19) as a good place to hold a meeting. Amanda will send out a message to debate schools to notifying them that an SAB meeting will take place at the HoF tournament and they should select students to attend, since they may not be aware of what the SAB is. We will schedule the SAB meeting at 4:45 at the HoF.

LC suggested that perhaps a PFD-type event might replace Group? Maybe the kids can talk about it.

Motion made to appoint Amanda Parker to be chair by RC. Seconded by LC. Approved unanimously.

4.9 Committee vote for Policy Topic Selection

Motion to charge Nicole with defining the scope of what the responsibilities of having a vote on the Policy Topics committee would mean.

Motion by RC. 2nd by LC. Unanimously approved.

4.10 Finishing 501c(3) status

Rob Croteau will work with Judy Crocker to do this.

5. Twelfth Seat on MFL Board. Holly Loell (Dighton-Rehoboth) sent in a self-nomination and missed the deadline because she was in Munich. We voted to accept her onto the board. The Board is now complete.

Motion to appoint Holly Loell by LC

2nd: PW

Unanimously accepted.

LC asks: Can we late-sanction a November 12th debate-only tournament at Manchester-Essex? There was an out-of-state tournament scheduled that date that was cancelled so they would like an opportunity to debate the November topics. The board was agreeable. This is not definitely happening. She was just enquiring about whether it would be permissible on the same weekend as the Gracia tournament.

Joyce moved to adjourn at 3:45 pm.

Seconded by RC

Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Honeyman

Secretary