

MFL Annual Meeting
Catholic Memorial High School
Saturday, May 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 1:21 by the president, Joyce Albert.

In Attendance: Bancroft Academy, Catholic Memorial, Chelmsford, Milton Academy, Needham, Natick, Newton South, Sacred Heart & Westford Academy.

The minutes from the 2010 annual meeting were accepted without objection.

The Treasurer, Rob Croteau, gave the treasurer's report:

We started the year with \$10,024.26

We ended the year with \$11,902.37 – with a few small bills outstanding.

We spent a little bit less this year on trophies for States.

Sarah Donnelly asked if we could discuss how to spend the money in the MFL account.
Some ideas included:

- Technology- update computers/printers

Printer that is wireless and easy to connect to laptops.

Laptop(s)? 2. One for speech & one for Debate.

What types should we buy? What can we run TRPC on?

It may be time to update to the newer TRPC so we can run it on newer equipment.

The new board needs to take this on.

- Hire someone to give a workshop training league coaches how to Tabroom.com.

- Finalize the 501(c)3 status

Where in the 501(c)3 status are we?

We need a tax attorney to help us figure out the next steps. Anyone know someone who would do it pro bono for the MFL?

- Expand the novice tournament and do more workshops (see below)

- New coach/team outreach

- Judge training

We talked about the history of the MFL doing workshops for new coaches in the fall. We used to run a workshop in the early fall – independent of tournaments. It was very poorly attended. Then we started doing programs for both coaches & students, but attendance remained poor. Then we tried running the workshops on the same day as the novice tournament and again, we had very poor attendance. So, we decided not to do that any more. Perhaps we could do more targeted outreach to new programs.

What about offering a workshop AT a tournament for kids during down-time? This might be better attended because the kids are at the tournament anyway and wouldn't have anything else to do.

What can we do to help new programs grow and stay in the league?

1. Send a league member to a new school to meet with coach(es) to help them get started
2. Have workshops at tournaments
3. Designate a board member to be available at tournaments for questions
4. League could send a letter to principals of new programs congratulating them on tournament results. Could we make this an at-large position responsibility?
5. Plan several round-table discussions during the week to do some idea-sharing. This would be supportive to both new and seasoned programs. It needs to be away from tournaments because coaches are too focused on their teams and/or running the tournament.
6. Maybe use technology? Blog on the MFL website? Debbie would like to start at "President's column" on the website.

Whatever we do, we need to be mindful that coach schedules are extremely packed and it's very difficult to set any more time aside for MFL business.

We also need to cultivate new leadership within the league. Some members of the board would like to step down, but there doesn't seem to be anyone available to move into those roles.

DEBATE ISSUES

Can we come up with a consistent ballot for debate?

Bill Cooper has resigned from Manchester-Essex. He is applying for jobs both within Massachusetts & outside Massachusetts. Depending upon where he finds a job, he may or may not be able to continue as Debate Chair. How should we proceed regarding the Chair of Debate position? Is splitting the job into 2 a good idea? One Chair for PFD and one Chair for Debate (the rest of the events)? This would involve a constitutional change, so it is not something we can decide now.

TENTATIVE 2011-2012 MFL CALENDAR

(with some other known events noted)

*NOTE: We have some unresolved date issues and there may be changes to this calendar.
It is VERY tentative. The board is meeting on June 23 and will finalize the calendar then, if possible.*

Holidays/Vacations

Travel Tournaments MFL Schools often attend

Other Major Conflicts (SATs etc.)

MFL Tournament Weekends in Bold

OCTOBER

15 Oct	Milton Academy or Catholic Memorial	Novice Tourney & Judge Training	Modified MFL Speech Events + PFD
22 Oct			
28-29 Oct	Manchester-Essex		NLD, VLD, NCX, VCX, NPFD, VPFD and Congress
29 Oct	Dighton-Rehoboth		MFL Speech (Congress?)

NOVEMBER

5 Nov	SATs		
12 Nov	Natick – tentative	Gracia	MFL Speech & Congress
18-19 Nov	Lexington Villiger (St. Josephs) Glenbrooks	"Little-Lex"	Debate Events
26 Nov	Thanksgiving Weekend		

DECEMBER

3 Dec	SATs GMU (?)		
10 Dec	Lincoln-Sudbury		MFL Speech, Congress
17 Dec	Natick	Holly Festival	MFL Speech, Congress & Specials
24 Dec	Christmas weekend		

JANUARY

7 Jan	Newton South		MFL Speech, Congress + PFD
13-15 Jan	Lexington	"Big Lex"	All Debate events
21 Jan	Columbia University		
28 Jan	Revere SATs		MFL Speech, Congress

FEBRUARY

4 Feb	Manchester-Essex	Debate	All MFL Debate Possible NFL Congress Quals
11 Feb	Shrewsbury	Catholic Quals	
18 Feb	Harvard Tournament Public School Vacation		
25 Feb	Public School Vacation		

MARCH

3 Mar	Shrewsbury Drama Festival Prelims	Mardi Gras	MFL Speech, Congress & Debate
10 Mar	SATs Drama Festival Semis		
17 Mar	Needham Private School Vacation		MFL Speech & Debate
24 Mar	Drama Festival Finals Private School Vacation		
31 Mar	Location TBA Private School Vacation	STATE DEBATE	MFL Debate events

APRIL

7 Apr	Easter/Passover		
14 Apr	Public School Vacation		
21 Apr	Public School Vacation		
28 Apr	Location TBA	STATE SPEECH	MFL Speech events (not novice)

We discussed how/where to run States. This year the tournament fell to just a few board members and next year we need to be sure more people are involved in planning/running the tournaments.

Announcements & New Business

PJ Wexler: The Boston Urban Debate League is forming a Greater Boston Debate League. PJ handed out information. They are running a debate camp for students as well as coaches this summer, as well as a "Debate Across the Curriculum" workshop for teachers. They also have some job openings.

Debbie Simon: Huge Thank you to the previous Board!

Chris Sheldon: Asks when call for At-Large positions will go out? (Answer: very soon)

Rob Croteau: Do we need to address numbers of bids necessary to go to States? Issue of MFL vs larger competitive world. If we lose tournaments that we can't replace, this may be worth revisiting. If teams choose to travel, we don't need to change our policies.

Motion to adjourn: Dan Sapir

2nd: Sarah Donnelly

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 pm.

Thank you to the previous board!

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Honeyman, VP/Secretary