

MSDL Board Meeting
10/14/21 - rescheduled from 10/11/21
online

In attendance - Greg Cunningham, Chris Sheldon, Joe Bowden, Joyce Albert, Sue Hennesey, Janet Novack, Sheryl K, Scott Caron, Josh Cohen, Tammie Ruda, Lisa Honeyman

Guest - Jack Burton - Milton Academy

1. Student Proposal - Student Advisory Board

- Proposal - To create a student-led MSDL board (perhaps “student executive board”) to create more interscholastic connection, leadership opportunities across the league, regardless of competitive achievement. Entertaining activities between rounds, ice-breaker activities.
- Logistics - meet between rounds and awards at tournaments. Meet on Zoom call or NSDA campus while online.
- Student board to meet with MSDL board periodically to establish goals. Comprised of team captains, etc.

Discussion

- Joe B - Seems to resemble the old student advisory board. Was a positive experience for Joe.
- Greg - The old SAB fell apart because students didn’t continue leading it. Importantly, it degenerated into a “complaint group”.
- Joyce - likes idea of having reps from each school and another leadership opportunity for students.
- Chris - What are ultimate goals? Advisory to the MSDL Board?
- Jack - Sees board *not* as advising on how tournaments are run, etc. The student board could be a forum for providing input to MSDL Board, but that’s not the main focus. Main mission is social.
- Tammie - How would board support debate and speech, recognizing that the speech and debate tournaments are often separate events? Perhaps this board could start as a speech-focused group, and then we could explore expansion to debate. Eventually, there is a debate council and a speech council. The two groups might convene outside of tournaments. Maybe this group could help facilitate interaction across speech and debate speech.
- Greg - Perhaps have one member of the MSDL board as a liaison to the student board. Asked Jack to draft a prospectus that the MSDL board could forward to other schools. Content would be mission - what we hope to accomplish, start slow on speech side, etc; contact information to respond to Jack.
- Group discussion - Maybe name should be “student engagement board” (SEB), with corresponding mission.

- At 10/30 tournament, Jack can do a brief presentation during the award ceremony. Scott to communicate to Jack.

2. Novice Fest Preparations

- Debate - a staff - Josh, Tim, Tammie, PJ.
 - Note to coaches - identify judges willing to judge LD.
 - Note to remind coaches that BQ offered at Novice tournament.
- Speech -
 - No radio entries at this time.
 - Chris will do judge training
 - Mark Fellows to handle Group
 - Joe - Congress has two entries. Also, only 2 pieces of legislation. Would like a few varsity students - may have commitments from Natick students. But could use some more. Bills can be simple - one sentence - e.g., "Repeal the Export-Import bank."
- Tournament logistics
 - Joyce will buy rooms.
 - May use Natick Labs for speech tab - but need to contact Adam Nir to see if that is possible.
 - Greg will do a general meeting with all the kids - orientation for NSDA Campus, how to check pairings, find stuff on Tabroom.
 - Zoom rooms - Greg - Zoom rooms going active 10/17. Rooms will go to Chris, Josh, Greg. Joyce and Josh to set up these rooms: Debate judge, Speech judge, extemp prep, webinar for student meetings / showcase, radio prep (if large enough for separate room). Student webinar to stay open through at least R1 for tech help.
 - Sue - identify what we need to develop a "road map" web page for tournament debate competitors.

3. Update on MSDL/MFL

- Steve Murphy is working with the AG's office to deal with the name change from MFL to MSDL.

4. Finalize judge training sessions

- Speech - Chris will run an online session on Wednesday, November 3. 7:30 PM. Chris to send a Zoom link to Greg, who will send out an email to coaches. To be sent out within a week or so. Invite will have link to videos on website. The session will flesh things out and allow for Q&A. Invite will instruct participants to watch video.
- Debate - material is online on dedicated web page for each tournament (now on the Averill tournament). We will arrange office hours before each tournament. JTC to

choose a date - Perhaps November 2 for office hours. Communicate to Greg. Contact Greg by Sunday, October 17.

- PJ, Tammie, and Kaz to outline LD material to be the basis for a brief LD supplemental presentation.
5. Update on in-person possibilities this season (and vaccine mandates?) (No decision planned on this, just the start of a conversation)
- Question of what requirements we will have for vaccination.
 - In-person tournaments would have to abide by host school requirements (at a minimum). Question - how to enforce? Tabroom does have the option to upload documents. Greg believes that vaccination status is not subject to HIPAA requirements. That said, it is unlikely that (all) schools would permit submission of that information.
 - When we go back will depend on the evolution of state guidelines. Next benchmark may be on 11/1. Reality is that it will be a while before the dust settles and we can have live tournaments. Maybe quals. Food consumption would be a challenge. Would perhaps need to have a lunch break and send kids to separate classrooms.
 - We could send a survey to schools after 11/1, giving schools enough time to determine what their plans are. Survey would ask for the administration position on this issue. Sue Hennesey to take the lead. Greg to review. Kaz to review.

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh Cohen