

MSDL Board Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2021 @ 7:30 PM

ZOOM meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM by the president, Greg Cunningham

Board Members in attendance

Joyce Albert, Joe Bowden, Scott Caron, Greg Cunningham, Sue Hennessey, Lisa Honeyman, Jim Honeyman, Sheryl Kaczmarek, Tammie Ruda, Chris Sheldon, and PJ Wexler. Josh Cohen attended the last part of the meeting.

We were joined by Janet Novack.

Agenda:

1. In-person LS debrief and discussion.

Things went well, with the exception of the very crowded awards ceremony. We are not happy with the density of people in that ceremony.

As far as we know, there have been no issues about contact tracing or other information about pandemic related problems.

Students were very excited to be in person!! Speech events were about 50% higher in attendance and some schools that had not been competing regularly attended! For many students, this was their very first in-person tournament! It was an exciting vibe.

Congress felt great. 85-90% of the students in the room had never been to an in-person congress round. They adapted well.

Judges in the judge meeting were excited, too. The meeting was challenging, though, because of the vastly different experiences judges have had with in-person tournaments. (Many had never attended one, many had forgotten etc.)

Greg's comments at the start of the day were very helpful.

Some kids in the cafeteria (L-S kids, in particular?) were not staying masked.

Parents are not likely to enforce masking in the way coaches would. We may need to be sure that at future tournaments coaches have a greater presence in the cafeteria.

Jim asked about invoicing L-S for the NSDA Campus rooms. (The L-S folks know they owe the MSDL that money).

Chris & Sue offered to do another judge Q&A in advance of the next in-person tournament.

2. Approve in-person tournaments for Newton South (1/22/22), Shrewsbury (3/5/22), Needham (3/19/22). (Will middle schoolers be invited to any of these?)

Newton South (January 22):

- We talked about possible solutions to the crowding issue experienced at L-S for the awards ceremony.
- We also talked about events to offer
- All entries will go to the waitlist and will be accepted once we have a sense of numbers.
We will need to consider a cap on entries to limit crowds in the cafeteria
- NSHS hopes to run an extended speech judge meeting during round 1 at NSHS.
- Entry Deadline would be Monday, January 17. On that day, we will accept folks off the waitlist. After that, we will only add entries if space allows.
- Concern about the size of tournaments should center around space in the cafeteria and awards spaces, not just competition spaces.
- Consider how to streamline awards for debate. Maybe invite everyone who is getting an award to the stage and then announce the awards.

Shrewsbury (March 5) - planning to invite middle schoolers, but middle school entries will be accepted on a space-available basis. Our priority is high school students. (This is not a guaranteed date for middle schoolers.)

Needham (March 19) - planning to invite middle schoolers, but middle school entries will be accepted on a space-available basis. Our priority is high school students. (This is not a guaranteed date for middle schoolers.)

We discussed issues of crowding for awards in the Needham cafeteria. Maybe move from cafeteria to the auditorium? PJ will look into options.

Motion to sanction all 3 tournaments: Kaczmarek

2nd: Bowden

Passed unanimously

3. State tournaments tentatively approved as follows:

Speech: Saturday, April 9 at Acton-Boxborough

Debate: Two days needed.

March 26th in person and then either March 25 and March 27 online.

Need to poll the membership to see what the preference is.

If Sunday is the online day, awards and the senior honors would be online.

Josh will do some research and bring results to the board for the January MSDL Board meeting, when we will make a final decision.

4. Preparations for Saturday, December 18 tournament

Joyce has impromptu and radio copy. Greg is working on Group and Lisa is working on Extemp. Joyce says things are moving ahead without issue and she doesn't need anything.

5. New Business

Janet Novack announced that "Big Lex" registration is now open. They are hoping to get names and TBAs in before winter break. She invites everyone to attend!

Move to adjourn: Sheldon

2nd: Albert

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM

Next meeting at Tuesday, January 11 at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

--Lisa Honeyman

Clerk/Secretary