

MFL Board Meeting  
September 13, 2009  
Catholic Memorial High School

The meeting was called to order at 2:16 pm, by the president, Joyce Albert.

Present: Susan Marianelli (Milton Academy), Sarah Donnelly (Natick), Joyce Albert (Natick), Rob Croteau (Catholic Memorial), Nancy Gahagan (Montrose), Lisa Honeyman (Newton South), Chris Palmer (Newton South), Greg Cunningham (CM), PJ Wexler (Needham)

The minutes from the previous board meeting were approved without objection.

Today's agenda:

## 1. NOVICE TOURNAMENT & MFL CONVENTION

MFL Convention. Sarah Donnelly is chairing this event. Her update:

There will be 3 tracks. Each session will last approximately 1 hour.

### 1. Interp

1. Sarah Donnelly will offer round-table discussion about DI-HI to DP change. Debbie Simon will participate as will Jim Honeyman (probably). Note: The purpose of this round table discussion is to discuss the situation, not to make any rules changes for the 2009-2010 season.
2. Selection of material and editing – Lydia Nelson
3. Advanced interp – Lydia Nelson

### 2. Debate

1. Chris will talk about starting a debate program
2. Shadman Zaman (Harvard Student) will talk about debate (breaking down a topic; getting from a resolution to a case). This will be open to any debaters as well as those in group discussion and possibly extemp.
3. He will also do an L-D specific session.

### 3. Platform

1. Lydia Nelson (Grad students and teacher at Arizona State University)  
- Starting skills in Original Oratory
2. Chris will talk about extemp
3. Impromptu

Lydia Nelson will give the keynote at the end of the day. She will talk about her experiences in the MFL as well as college speech.

**Motion by Lisa to authorize up to \$1000 to be spent on the convention for speakers' expenses, supplies, judge training materials and small gifts - to be spent or authorized by Sarah Donnelly.**

Second by Susan.

Passed with one abstention (Sarah).

## Novice Tournament

*Running the novice tournament:*

Joyce & Susan will do this with a few students assisting with tabulation.

PJ will run a *Congress* demo/session for novices.

Greg will run a *Group Discussion* demo/session for novices as well as experienced students in the tutorial session. Only the novices will be in rounds 2 and 3.

### *Judge Training*

Lisa will coordinate this. We'll ask Debbie if she'll help and we'll find some students to demonstrate.

*At end, we do demos of representative events.* Lisa will look at the list of State finalists and select some students from a variety of schools who have not graduated who can come to the tournament.

Extemp questions. Lisa will either have the committee write questions or find an alternative source.

### **Motion by Rob Croteau to purchase 150 medals for the novice tournament**

Second: Susan Marianelli

Lisa will order 150 medals.

## **2. BALLOT CHANGES**

Joyce noticed that the DI and HI rules say that material from one *source* is not allowed. DUO says material from more than one *author* is not allowed. We need to be consistent and sure that the wording matches our intent.

**Motion by Chris Palmer to add the sentence, "The selection must be from a single published play a fictional or non-fictional work, or a poem or program of poetry." to the DP rules. (This sentence already exists in the DUO rules.)**

Seconded – PJ Wexler.

Passed unanimously.

## **3. CALENDAR**

Joyce reviewed the calendar that we approved last spring.

Lincoln-Sudbury may be available on December 12<sup>th</sup>. If they are able to host, the board will run the Hall of Fame tournament at that time. No special events. "They can bring the flavor and the board will bring the meat and potatoes." There **MUST** be an official from the school present. Question that must be answered first: Who pays for police and custodial fees?

We are looking at possibilities for adding another tournament so that there are more locals. Possible date: March 6.

4. Sub-committee assignments (chair is in bold).

Scholarship: **Rob**, Susan and Sarah D.

The committee will define criteria for use of funds for scholarship and try to announce these by December.

Extemp Topics: **Lisa**, Joyce, PJ, Susan & Chris

The committee will write topics on request from tournament directors.

Group Discussion: **Greg** – This will be opened up to coaches who are not on the board.

This committee will be sure question wording is consistent with rules of event  
(The tournament director selects topic area – the committee writes the questions.)

Impromptu: PJ, Sarah D., Dan, Nancy & Chris

We seek consistency in types of topic areas and need to avoid cultural references that teenagers don't know. The subcommittee will also try to shape the direction this event is heading in. This may lead to a re-writing of rules.

We discussed whether or not to mandate use of these committees by tournaments. After some discussion, PJ moved: "The board suggests that tournaments utilize the various committees (impromptu, extemp and group) as they plan and prepare their tournaments. If tournament directors choose not to utilize the committees, they must submit their topics/questions to the committee head of each relevant committee by the Wednesday at noon, prior to their tournament for approval. This does not supercede any other requirements or regulations already in existence."

2<sup>nd</sup>: Rob Croteau (CM)  
Passed unanimously.

Radio – We will monitor the first few tournaments to see if things are going well with radio copy. If things are not going well, we will decide if we should establish a radio committee or take other action.

4.5 weeks in advance, we will send out a reminder to tournament hosts about who the committee chairs are and to check to be sure things are going O.K. Joyce will assign liaisons who will help each tournament, too.

## 5. COMPUTER/PRINTER NEEDS

We need a new printer. Chris will also research some small (inexpensive) netbooks to replace some of our aging, bulky laptops. He suggests we get two. Also, toner to go with the new printer. Also, a cart for all of this equipment.

Moved by Susan Marianelli:

We allocate up to \$1000 for new computer equipment. Chris Palmer is authorized to spend it.

Second: Rob Croteau.

Passed – with one abstention (Chris).

### Judge Training during the season

We will ask coaches to tag their novice judges and keep them out of 1<sup>st</sup> time slot at the first few league tournaments. We will then extend the judge training for those folks. Board members can judge during the 1<sup>st</sup> round if necessary in order to ease the impact of this during tournaments.

### Tournament Directing

A letter went out to all tournament hosts to help them get started this season. Joyce is working a sheet of tips to do scheduling.

## **6. LOOKING AHEAD TO STATES**

We went over last year's invitation and made very minor adjustments with regard to Radio (included it), updating dates and topics.

- We can now track casts in multiple to be sure that multiples in states have qualified under the existing rules.
- Greg asks if we can revisit the number of multiples that advance to finals at States at a future meeting.
- States judge requirement – put it on the agenda for next meeting.
- Lisa asks that we discuss using board members as judges at a future meeting. 3-4 years ago we made an unofficial agreement that schools with more than one board member would not list more than one as a judge on their registration unless they were prepared to actually judge. Lack of judges is sometimes a problem, especially at smaller tournaments. It is also beneficial for the board members to get out and see what is going on in the rounds and also for the students to have experienced judges. Mentioned were the possibility of having each board member judge one round during each tournament (rotating out of TAB) or having a limited number of board members in TAB and the rest out judging on a rotating basis.

### Topics for the next meeting

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1. Number of multiples that advance to finals at States
2. Judge requirements for States
3. Review State qualification requirements due to limited number of tournaments on the calendar at this point. As the season progresses, we'll see how things are going.
4. Discuss using board members as judges

Motion to adjourn by Chirs Palmer

2<sup>nd</sup> – Nancy Gahgan

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Honeyman

VP/Secretary