

MSDL Board Meeting Minutes

November 7, 2021 @ 8:15 PM

ZOOM meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:21 PM by the president, Greg Cunningham

Board Members in attendance

Joyce Albert, Joe Bowden, Josh Cohen, Greg Cunningham, Sue Hennessey, Lisa Honeyman, Jim Honeyman, Sheryl Kaczmarek, Chris Sheldon, and PJ Wexler

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss Lincoln-Sudbury's application to host the December 4, 2021 Speech & Debate tournament in person, rather than online.

Joyce, Josh, Joe, Greg and Lisa met with the folks from L-S on Thursday evening (November 4) in order to talk about the possibility of hosting an in-person tournament in December. We were impressed by the presentation by the three students and the faculty advisor, Nancy Goldstone, who were on the call and the plans they have made. They were very open to our questions and suggestions and seemed to be serious about trying to make this work safely.

Some highlights:

- **Lunch:** Their cafeteria can hold up to 600 people. If registration is so large that this is not sufficient, we can stagger lunch times and expand into classrooms if necessary. (There is also the possibility to eat outside - although it is December, so it might not be an appealing option.)
- **Awards:** Depending upon the size of the tournament (how many people are there), we could split the awards ceremonies into more than one location - or maybe only have people who broke to out-rounds attend in person in the auditorium and everyone else zoom in from elsewhere. We would decide, based upon how many people attend.
- **Alternative Large spaces:** So that everyone isn't hanging out in the auditorium, LS is looking for spaces such as a gym or other large spaces.
- **The board will run the tournament**, but the L-S folks will have involvement in writing the invitation, planning for activities for kids to do during down-time, etc. The tournament directors and Greg will go to L-S and do a walk-through to help make decisions about which rooms will be used for which purpose.
- With social distancing, standard sized classrooms can hold at least 16 people, which is more than sufficient for holding all of the events we offer.
- **Library:** Extemp and Radio Prep
- **Registration fees go to Lincoln-Sudbury.** They will purchase trophies and pay for the NSDA campus rooms.

Jim reminded us that for the past year and a half, schools have been used to paying tournament registration fees within 30 days of a tournament by mail. L-S will need to be clear in the invitation about what the expectations regarding fee payments will be. (They don't go to the MSDL).

Invitation: Joyce will send L-S her draft of the invitation after we approve it. She will make sure L-S knows they will need to reimburse the MSDL for the fees we are charged to use Tabroom. She will also make sure they are aware that checks will likely come in after the tournament. They will need to include an address for payment in the invitation.

Size of tournament: We are concerned about size. When the board does the walk-through, they need to be clear about how large a tournament we can accommodate and stick to that number. All entries will go to a wait-list and once the number of entries that can be accommodated has been determined, limits will be set, if necessary.

Concern about judges: Will we be able to get enough adults who are willing to come in person? We discussed this a bit. We have to go back in person some time. We will need to see what happens.

Judge Lounges: We talked about having several classrooms near the room that has been the judge room in the past so judges can go into the room to get coffee/snacks etc. and then go to a classroom to sit. We'd need at least one space where no one can take their mask off, even to drink coffee, so that those who are not comfortable being inside with others who are unmasked have a place to go.

Suggestion: Could the MSDL consider adding another tournament for speech competitors so that students who cannot attend an in-person tournament have one more opportunity to attend a tournament? (Maybe on January 22?)

How do we deal with bottlenecks? How do we deal with folks collecting up at the TAB table?

Question: If schools say they can't attend, registrations are seriously low, or there's a Covid-19 outbreak, can we revert to an online tournament?

Answer: Yes.

Greg said that most schools that answered the survey he put out said "yes" they are eager to start attending in person tournaments.

Masks: L-S will have signs to remind people to wear masks. Adults from L-S will help monitor mask wearing. We need to be sure students know they can leave a competition room where someone is not wearing a mask and go to TAB to ask someone to deal with it.

Motion: Bowden

The MSDL Board sanctions Lincoln-Sudbury as an in-person tournament for Speech, Congress, PFD and BQ on December 4, 2021. We reserve the option of converting the tournament to on-line if it becomes necessary closer to the date of the tournament

2nd: Cohen

Vote:

For - 6

Against - 3

Abstain - 0

The motion passes 6-3.

Motion: Wexler

Add LD to the tournament.

2nd: Albert

Passes without objection.

New wording: The MSDL Board sanctions Lincoln-Sudbury as an in-person tournament for Speech, Congress, PFD, LD and BQ on December 4, 2021. We reserve the option of converting the tournament to on-line if it becomes necessary closer to the date of the tournament.

Site Visit: Joyce, Josh, Joe and Greg will work with L-S to find a time for a site visit.

Will schools be able to attend?: Greg will put that question in the announcement and ask schools to notify him yes/no about whether their administration will allow them to attend as soon as they know. (Be sure you've thought through transportation, judges etc.)

Drops: We will ask schools to notify us as soon as they know about drops so we can plan as much as possible in advance.

Participation Agreements: In the league letter: remind folks that without a participation agreement, no students will be admitted off the wait-list.

Judge Training: One more the week before the L-S tournament to remind people about the differences between in-person and on-line tournaments.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Honeyman

Clerk/Secretary