

MSDL Board Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2021 @ 7:30 PM
ZOOM meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 PM by the president, Greg Cunningham

Board Members in attendance

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

We were joined by Sarah Donnelly (Natick)

1. What are schools allowing for student participation in speech/debate events? (General discussion)

We started by sharing what our own schools as well as what schools around the country are doing this fall in regards to extracurricular activities.

Massachusetts is invited to participate in NY league debate tournaments just like last year under the same conditions - as long as we're online.

2. Novice tournament assignments (Joyce/Josh/Joe) - October 23, 2021

Joyce will put the tournament up on Tabroom and will schedule it. She may not be able to be there the day of the tournament. Josh & Joe will check settings for debate and congress.

Joyce will also start the invitation and circulate it around to the folks who need to add to it before posting.

Speech: Lisa, Chris, Jim and Sue

Debate: Josh, PJ and Tammie

Congress: Joe

Chris: Coordinate the demonstration/round-table exhibition again this year, including contacting folks about participating as examples based upon results from States last spring. (3 performers).

Jim: Will purchase Zoom licenses + a webinar for the MSDL to use this fall (same number as last year.)

Sue: Has enough buttons on hand

Lisa: Will coordinate writing extemp questions

Sue: Impromptu topics

(Extemp Committee: Joyce, Chris (no Feb/Mar), Joe, PJ, Greg, Jim)

Radio: If anyone signs up, Joyce or Greg will create the radio copy

3. Participation Agreement (Jim)

Motion: Modify #6 of the agreement to read: "By signing this participation agreement, your school's adult head coach and head of school acknowledge that students may be participating in speech & debate competitions online. Furthermore, during selected rounds and award ceremonies, students may be

shown on screen as part of a live stream. Students will have the option to turn off their cameras during those times, and may choose not to attend award presentations if they prefer.”

Motion: Lisa

2nd: Chris

Passed unanimously.

4. 2021-2022 schedule/in-person and hybrid options (Joyce/Josh)

23 October: Novice (online)

29-30 October: Averill Debate (online)

30 October: MSDL Speech & Congress (online)

4 November at 7:30: Speech Judge Training

13 November: MSDL Speech & Congress Tournament (online) [Scarsdale is this weekend]

20 November: Little Lex (online) [same weekend as Glenbrooks & Villiger]

THE MSDL WILL RUN tournaments on December 4 & 18. We don't know online/in person yet.

4 December: MSDL Speech & Debate (format TBA)

11 December: [Ridge]

18 December: Holly Festival - speech only (format TBA)

8 January: Winter Festival (format TBA)

15-17 January: Big Lex (format TBA)

22 January: MSDL Speech Only (format TBA)

12 February: Combined NCFL Quals (format TBA)

5 March: Mardi Gras (?) (format TBA) - all MSDL events

19 March: March Merriness (format TBA) - all MSDL events

25-27 March: Debate States (format and which days TBA)

9 April: Speech & Congress States (format TBA)

New York Dates to which MSDL debaters are invited

23 October - NY Debate (online)

6 Nov - NY Debate (online)

20 Nov - Bronx/NY Debate (also Little Lex) - (online)

18 Dec - NY Debate (online)

22 Jan - NY Debate (likely online)

29 Jan - NY Policy Debate (only) (format TBA)

Note: We will continue doing the league overall season awards. If/when we go to in person tournaments, we may offer sweepstakes for individual tournaments, as well.

5. Changes for online tournaments (Do we need any adjustments?) (Joyce/Josh)

Joyce asks some questions for us to consider:

- If we do go back to a tournament in-person, there will likely be some schools that cannot attend and there may be parents who say their students may not attend. How will we plan to deal with this?
 - Do we run two separate tournaments simultaneously -- one online and one in person?
 - Do we run two different tournaments on two different weekends? One online and one in person?
 - By running two different tournaments, it will increase the judge burden on schools - can we address this problem?
- Is an asynchronous option more palatable than a synchronous hybrid option for kids who can't be there in person?

For online tournaments through the end of November - what we were doing last year worked well. We will continue with those policies and procedures.

Pairs events (PFD, DUO, Policy): In the same room? On separate screens? What's our position?

People should follow the rules/dictates of the health departments of their own communities.

We need to convey to the judges that they need to consider the fact that students are participating under different restrictions, based upon their own community and make their decisions with that in mind.

Judge Training:

PFD: There is a good PFD Judge Training video left from last year. We'll direct folks to watch that.

LD: We need a judge training video for LD. - PJ will work on that with Josh.

CONGRESS: Joe will put together a video that we can post online

SPEECH: Chris can run a judge training in person online. It would use the same notes and same powerpoint from last year. Or, people can watch the video from last year on their own. (Or both). Jim will curate examples that are online so we can post examples to our website.

DATE: Thursday, November 4 at 7:30 PM

6. NFHS Performing Arts Conference (Input for Greg's presentation) (Greg)

Greg will be flying to Denver this weekend to talk at an NFHS conference about online competitions. He invites board members to email thoughts/suggestions to him.

NFHS does not pay any travel expenses for folks who present at their conferences or for folks who represent the MSDL at meetings such as the Policy meeting.

Moved by Wexler: The MSDL will pay to cover the hotel expenses for Greg & Kaz for their attendance at the NFHS conferences this year.

2nd: Cohen

Vote: Passes unanimously

Greg also talked about some benefits for our becoming an NFHS affiliate.

7. League Liability Insurance Policy (Greg/Jim)

- Greg will explore what the NFHS offers when he is in Denver next weekend for next year - but NFHS only accepts applications in December and May, so that would be for next year

- Our current liability policy expires in October. It was underwritten by the same company that covers the NFHS. Jim will reach out to the company and see if we can somehow get covered separately from October - December and then go on the NFHS policy.

8. Keith West Memorial Scholarship committee (Sarah)

- Any suggestions for who we would like to suggest serve on this committee? (Let Sarah know)

9. MSDL Board Meeting schedule for the year

Monday, October 11 7:30

Monday, November 15 7:30

Tuesday, December 14 7:30

Tuesday, January 11 7:30

Monday, February 28 7:30

Tuesday, March 22 7:30

Monday, April 25 7:30

Annual Meeting: May 7, 2022 at 11:00 AM

Motion to adjourn by Bowden

2nd: Sheldon

The meeting was adjourned 10:09 PM

Respectfully submitted,

--Lisa Honeyman