

MSDL Board Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2022 @ 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, Josh Cohen, Greg Cunningham, Sue Hennessey, Lisa Honeyman, Jim Honeyman, Sheryl Kaczmarek, Chris Sheldon, Tammie Ruda and PJ Wexler. We were joined by Janet Novack.

1. Novice Tournament Prep (Joyce/Josh/Joe)

Debate is going to have to run two debates in some rooms simultaneously due to size constraints.

Debate TAB: Kaz, Janet, PJ, Tammie & Josh

Both Speech & Debate need spaces for morning judge briefings.

A203 & A204 will be used for judge training.

Congress: Hopes to run in one chamber

We hope to run a Group Discussion Tutorial. Greg will create the envelopes for that.

2. Revere Tournament Prep (Joyce)

Greg: Group Topics
Lisa: Extemp

3. Averill Tournament Prep (Josh)

Right now, Josh doesn't need anything
We believe they will accept payment after the fact

4. Videos for judge training (Chris)

Chris has been working on short videos and hopes to have one recorded and posted on the MSDL website soon. (We already have one for the online balloting posted.)

5. The post office box (Jim/Greg)

For the past year, we have used it for tax filings and annual reports. We would like to start using it more so officers don't have to use their personal addresses for MSDL business.

We will continue to maintain the existing PO box (in Needham).

6. Price increase for our equity officer (Jim/Scott)

The equity officer we used last year charged \$150 per day for a remote consulting fee. For this year, she has asked for an increase to \$175 per day.

We are curious what the going rate is for equity officers. Is \$175 per day for virtual availability in line with what other leagues are paying?

For the additional cost, should we be expecting someone to be in person? (She was available to us virtually last year).

If we continue to offer this service and the cost continues to increase, we may need to charge more for participation in tournaments.

Scott will continue to be the liaison to the liaison at speech tournaments. Kaz will be the liaison at debate-only tournaments.

The MSDL will pay for 1 day at each sanctioned MSDL tournament.

Motion - J. Honeyman: Re-hire Gretchen Segars at \$175 per one day tournament and \$275 for Debate States

2nd: Albert

Passed Unanimously

7. MSDL policy for reimbursable travel for MSDL (Jim)

If we continue to pay for insurance and equity officers to be at tournaments and we also pay for travel expenses, with no increase in revenue, we will run deficits going forward.

Question: Is the cost of reimbursing travel for MSDL worth it to the MSDL? If it is, how do we want to go about deciding when and how to allocate funds?

Proposal: Designate a set amount of money for grants to be used for board member travel to national meetings as a representative from the MSDL. A grant committee would accept applications one or two times per year with requests to pay for part (or all) of the travel expenses for folks who attend these types of meetings. The first responsibility of the committee would be to decide upon the amount of money they would designate per year. (They will bring that amount back to the board for approval.) The committee will consist of the MSDL Treasurer, one debate coach and one speech coach.

Motion: Sheldon

2nd: Ruda

Abstain: 2

Passes without objections.

Committee: Jim Honeyman (Treasurer), PJ Wexler (Debate), Scott Caron (Speech)

8. Home schooled students (Greg)

The Massachusetts Board of Education leaves it up to the cities & towns to decide whether or not homeschooled students can participate in extracurricular activities at their public schools. Some local Superintendents have decided they will not allow homeschooled students to participate as part of their teams.

How do we want to handle a situation where a student who is homeschooled, but cannot participate in their local school's extracurricular teams because the public school will not let them, wants to participate in the MSDL?

Is this different from a student who attends a school but doesn't have a team?

A homeschooled student is essentially attending a school of one. Assuming that their families have filed paperwork with their local city or town to officially be homeschooled, should we allow them to join the league? They would have to be a team of one and bring their own judge and chaperone to each tournament. Unless they have a sibling at home who is also being homeschooled and is of high school age, they could only do individual events.

MIAA requires students to attend a degree-granting institution. A home school counts under this definition.

Motion - Sheldon

When a Massachusetts homeschooled high school student does not have the option to participate with their public school of residence, the student may take part in MSDL tournaments as an independent homeschooled student, provided all other eligibility policies are met. The student's parent or guardian will be responsible for completing the MSDL Participation Agreement and ensuring all rules and policies are followed.

2nd: L. Honeyman

1 abstention.

Passes without objection.

9. Extemp Question format (Lisa)

We'll go back to 12 questions per round and students picking three strips, keeping one and throwing the other two back rather than continuing with the strips of paper with three questions on each.

10. MSDL Online LD & BQ Tournament on 11/12/22 (PJ)

Proposed so as to allow more local competitive opportunities for LD and BQ. So as not to compete with the Scarsdale tournament, which is the same weekend, we would only allow MA students to participate.

Kaz and PJ recommended that schools that were planning to go to Scarsdale continue to plan to attend Scarsdale in person, rather than attending a virtual tournament that same weekend.

This would be an MSDL run tournament. If we still have medals, we could use those for awards. Registration fees would be sent to our PO box.

Motion - Bowden:

Sanction an online LD & BQ Tournament on 11/12/22.

2nd - Cohen:

Abstain: 3
Passes without objection

Motion - Kaz

Sanction **debate** bids for virtual NYCFL/New York tournaments that invite MA schools

2nd: Ruda

Passes without objection

11. Student Engagement Committee (Greg)

Patrick Blomberg has asked if this group could continue.
We will invite him to our November 14th meeting to tell us what he has in mind.

Motion to adjourn - Cohen

2nd - Sheldon

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

--Lisa Honeyman

Clerk/Secretary

Next Meeting: November 14, 2022 via Zoom 7:30 PM
The January meeting has been moved from January 9 to January 10, 2023.