

MSDL Board Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2022 at 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, Josh Cohen, Greg Cunningham, Sue Hennessey, Lisa Honeyman, Jim Honeyman, Sheryl Kaczmarek, Tammie Ruda, Chris Sheldon, and PJ Wexler

1. In-person Shrewsbury & Needham

We need to remind in-person judges (and students) not to sit at teacher desks. Other than that, everything seemed to run smoothly at NCFL National qualifiers this past Saturday at Shrewsbury.

Shrewsbury is ready to host on March 5, with the usual Mardi Gras special events.

Needham is finalizing plans for March 19, as well.

We believe we are in a position to go ahead with both tournaments (March 5 and March 19), barring anything crazy regarding the pandemic.

Josh will reach out to Shrewsbury to talk about whether or not to offer novice divisions in LD and PF.

The Mask mandate for all attendees will remain in place at both Shrewsbury and Needham.

Motion to sanction in person at Shrewsbury (March 5) & Needham (March 19): Bowden

2nd: Hennessey

The motion passed with unanimous consent.

2. States

Debate: March 25-26, 2022

Speech: April 9, 2022

Do we need to charge schools for States this year? We have over \$35,000 in the account. Expenses for States will be around \$6000 total for both tournaments.

Motion: We will not charge for entries for the two State tournaments this year: Cohen

2nd: Albert

The motion passed with unanimous consent.

Speech States location - Acton-Boxborough (tentative)

WIFI: Currently, A-B doesn't have enough infrastructure to support their guest wifi network. The school district is planning to install and test a new guest network over February vacation and Sue is hopeful that the situation will be resolved by April.

FOOD: As of now, groups using A-B are not allowed to sell or consume food after school hours in the building. While food trucks will solve the issue of selling food during the tournament, the *consumption* of

food would have to be done outside -- which may be cold and difficult to enforce. Sue will be in touch with the A-B superintendent about whether or not those restrictions will be lifted in time for States. She will contact the board by March 4 so we have time to find another location if necessary.

Debate schedule

Josh Proposes:

Friday (March 25) evening: Two preliminary rounds of debate held online, starting around 5:00/5:30 so that parents would be able to judge and students won't miss school.

Saturday (March 26): Four preliminary rounds + three out-rounds. (Hoping to clear most or all 4-2s). If we are unable to complete finals, we'll run it at a later date, online.

If Policy debate ends up being just one school, we'll run that online so we free up rooms at Chelmsford for other divisions of debate.

Tim Averill has volunteered to put together a panel of "distinguished judges" to hold Varsity finals online as a webinar at a later date.

We also considered holding finals the following weekend at Speech finals, but there seem to be too many obstacles to make that practical.

3. Employing an Equity officer for MSDL Tournaments (Lisa)

Students from Newton South have asked the MSDL Board to consider employing an Equity Officer at MSDL tournaments.

- If we want someone to take on this role, we would need to be prepared to pay them to be on call all day until after rounds are completed.
- Cost would be about \$150-\$250 per tournament, depending upon how long the tournament runs. (One day/two day etc.)
- The equity officer could be available remotely and meet with concerned folks online.
- There is agreement that we should have an equity officer so that students and adults have somewhere they can go with concerns.
- Is this something the MSDL will pay for or something host schools should pay for?
- It seems like the board could cover this cost. It would also be nice to have some consistency from tournament to tournament and if the league covers the costs.
- Financially, we would have to consider where the money will come from over time. Right now, we have the money in the account, but going forward, we need a mechanism to raise funds to cover the costs. If going forward we need to raise funds, we can discuss it at the time.
- For now, we are only talking about Saturday tournaments, not week-day scrimmages.

Motion: For the rest of the MSDL sanctioned tournaments being held this year, we will hire an equity officer to be on call during tournaments: L. Honeyman

2nd: J. Honeyman

The motion passed with unanimous consent.

PJ, Tammie & Kaz will form a committee and find qualified folks to hire for the remaining four tournaments for this season.

4. Buying a new printer (Suggestion: <https://www.tomsguide.com/best-picks/best-portable-printers>)

Our old printer needs a new drum and is difficult to transport because it is bulky and heavy. Since replacing the drum is expensive, now seems like a good time to invest in a more up-to-date and portable printer to take to tournaments. We talked about the benefits of laser over ink-jet printers and came to the conclusion that a laser printer makes more sense.

During the meeting, Josh revealed that he has a new drum and toner cartridge for our existing printer. We'll put those in our current printer and use it for the rest of the season. Then Jim will look into a replacement over the summer.

(Suggestion: HP LaserJet Pro M15w Wireless Monochrome Laser Printer (W2G51A) - \$119.99 at Quill.com and also sold at Best Buy.)

Josh asked what to do with the obsolete league equipment (printer and laptop from 2013) that is currently stored at his house. He will have them recycled since they are no longer usable.

5. Annual meeting May 7 - In-person or virtual?

If it's virtual, more people may be able to attend/participate.

If it's in person, we may get more accomplished. When online, there is much less interaction/discussion. The side conversations are important. It's also where coaches meet each other. More social.

We can wait a little while before deciding, but we need time to find a location if it's going to be in person. We'll try to decide at the next board meeting on Monday, March 14.

Motion to adjourn: Albert

2nd: Cohen

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

--Lisa Honeyman

Clerk/Secretary

Next MSDL Board Meeting: Monday, March 14 at 7:30 pm via Zoom