

**MSDL Board Meeting**  
Monday, March 5th 7-9 PM  
Room 235, Natick High School

Present: Joyce Albert (Natick), Josh Cohen (Newton South), Greg Cunningham (Needham), Jim Honeyman (Newton South), Lisa Honeyman (Newton South), Sheryl Kaczmarek (Lexington), Adam Nir (Needham), Amanda Parker (Natick), Marc Rischitelli (Shrewsbury) – via phone, and Paul Wexler (Needham).

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by the president, Amanda Parker.

1. MSDL Tax Filing Status (Jim)

Jim reports that he has not yet filed the 2018 tax papers, but he explained the process. He will complete the process prior to the April 15 deadline – probably within the next two weeks.

2. MSDL Coaches Directory (Sue)

Jim has a spreadsheet for every MSDL member school - with every head coach name, email address and phone number that he will share with the board.

3. Grant Committee (Amanda)

We need a committee of people to look into the idea of grants. Greg Cunningham offered to chair the committee as long as it does not start until the summer. PJ Wexler and Jim Honeyman both offered to be on the committee. We will ask the general membership if there are a few people who might want to be on the committee, too. We will limit the size of the committee to 5 or 6 at most.

4. MSDL History (Amanda)

PJ Wexler has offered to chair this committee.

5. New School Award (Greg)

Greg suggested a new school award would be helpful in recognizing and encouraging new school participation.

Motion: Marc R – Establish a "New School" award to be given at States each year. (To be named later)

Second: Albert

Passed unanimously

Greg suggests we add this in the States Rules Section of our Rules & Regs document to be sure it continues going forward.

6. Online ballots on sanctioning forms? (Amanda)

Schools need a robust Wifi network in order to support online balloting. There are other issues that need to be worked out, too. Putting it on the sanctioning form will help make it more viable at tournaments going forward.

7. Attracting new schools: webinars, handouts, marketing materials (Amanda)

Outreach to schools that do not have programs, encouraging principals to build programs at their schools. Form emails? Outreach in general? Greg and Jim will work on this initiative.

Greg suggests we more actively use our Twitter account. He will take on this project.

Amanda offers to work over the summer on some marketing materials.

8. Education/networking opportunities for coaches (Amanda)

- a. Coach Clinics - I keep seeing coaching clinics for sports coaches. Even player clinics. Often one day. As a mid-level coach I would love to see something similar. I can not afford, or nor get support, for attending a week long summer clinic. A one day clinic in Speech and a one day clinic in Debate, would be very helpful. I would be willing to help organize such events.

-Mr. Peter Zopes

- b. Debate coach survey - "There is a real sense on the part of my debaters and myself that we are at a disadvantage relative to the resources other teams have available to them. I have been mulling over the idea of a survey of coaches to test this, asking questions such as: Do you run a summer program for your team?, What % of your debaters have paid to attend a debate camp outside of your school? Does your school or team provide any financial support for this?, For how many hours a week does your team hold practice during the school year? How active are your team's alumni in helping out with coaching? Judging? Do you purchase evidence and/or other resources from an external vendor? From which one(s)? How often? How does your team approach the writing and development of cases--do you create cases that are shared by everyone in the group? Do novices use cases prepared by varsity members? Does each student develop his/her own case? How many tournaments do you participate in each year? How many outside of MSDL? I'd also want to ask coaches to assess the value/impact of each of these investments on the results for individual debaters and for the team. I have two goals in suggesting something like this. The first is to ascertain if there is, in fact, a competitive disadvantage for our team. The second is to identify the best use of the resources I have." -Tammie Ruda, Walpole

- c. Online forums/message board
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Josh suggests we start to create a resource library. Maybe some videos?

Reach out to new coaches about the coach forums at the novice tournament.  
We need a commitment from board members to be at the novice tournament.

On the website create an on-line forum where people can post questions and answers. It would need to be moderated. PJ Wexler offers to be the moderator.

Josh suggests we run a few ad-hoc coaches meetings at other times – maybe in a room near TAB. Perhaps do this at Manchester-Essex debate since it's early in the year.

9. Extemp - using online sources (Amanda)

Tabled.

10. Middle school debate follow up (Amanda)

We have been asked to direct inquiries to the middle school league.

11. Event committee / Proposing a new event slate (Lisa)

The event committee is nearing the end of their process of putting together a mission statement. At this year's annual meeting, Joyce will give an update about what the committee has done.

We can also bring up the idea of someone proposing a slate of events – perhaps look at what other parts of the country do rather than just focusing on what we've always done just because we've always done it. Open up this process to all. We want to be sure we have enough time to have discussions in advance of any major overhaul. People need time to put thoughtful consideration into this process.

#### 12. 2018-2019 Tournament Sanctioning

Forms due by Wednesday, April 25, 2018.  
We'll review forms and prepare a calendar to vote in on May 5.

#### 13. Annual Meeting (May 5, 2018)

Agenda items due Sunday, April 15

Location TBA.  
No item will be voted on that isn't on the agenda  
Vote on tournament calendar

#### 14. State Tournaments:

State Debate @ Chelmsford  
Flowers (Sue), Cupcakes (Amanda)

State Speech @ AB (Joyce/Sue)  
Group topics  
Copies: Ballots & Radio (Adam)  
Flowers & Cupcakes (Sue)

Hall of Fame Update

Trophy Order (Amanda)  
Debate: 5 sweeps & top new school

#### Upcoming Board Meetings

April 9

May 7 (by phone?)

We're looking for a date in late August/early September

Motion to adjourn – Cunningham

2<sup>nd</sup> – everyone. ;-)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

--Lisa Honeyman  
VP/Secretary