

Massachusetts Speech & Debate League
Board Meeting
28 September 2013
Milton Academy

Present: Susan Marianelli, Debbie Simon, Sue Hennessey, Lisa Honeyman, Joyce Albert,
Jim Honeyman, Josh Cohen and Joe Curran.

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by the president, Susan Marianelli.

I. Novice Tournament

Joyce gave us a status update. Registration is up and running.

We have a room list for Sacred Heart.

Radio Material is set.

We need impromptu topics (3 rounds) – Sue will do this

And extemp questions (3 rounds) – Lisa will coordinate this

Lisa bought the medals and will bring them to the tournament.

We need to check with Greg regarding a group discussion session.

Josh and PJ will coordinate debate TAB.

We discussed whether or not kids in memorized events, specifically OO, DEC and DUO, could have a manuscript. Kids in interp events such as DI and HI that are not memorized should enter PR, PL or whatever genre their material comes from.

Joyce will send out a note to coaches letting them know that manuscripts will be allowed in OO, DEC and DUO.

At the judge briefing, the high school kids who will be judging will be told specifically that they should be looking for the best performance, not whether or not the novices are memorized.

II. Novice Distinction in the MSDL – Marianelli

Motion by Curran: Starting after the 2013 Novice tournament, congress participation will be considered participation in a debate event for novice status purposes.

2nd: Simon

Passed unanimously.

For clarification: A middle school student who attends more than two high school tournaments anywhere (not just in the MSDL), forfeits novice status.

III. New Computer in Debate – Josh Cohen

Our current debate computer needs to be replaced. Josh has done some exploring online. He can get a good computer at Microcenter for \$550. We need to also get Microsoft Office, a keyboard and mouse. Total about \$750-\$800. He asks for authorization.

Motion by Marianelli: Authorize Josh Cohen to spend up to \$1000 to purchase a new laptop for debate as well as needed software and hardware materials.

2nd: J. Honeyman
Passed unanimously.

IV: Finances – Jim Honeyman

Do we need a budget for supplies for the MSDL at the Novice tournament & states? From time to time we need toner and ballot labels, envelopes for impromptu & extemp. For states we buy a cake & flowers for seniors as well as paper plates etc. for the senior “party.”

Motion by Curran: Board members may spend up to \$50 on supplies for MSDL sanctioned events. The president may approve higher expenditures up to \$500, for league needs. Expenditures above \$500 will require a board vote.

2nd: Albert
Passed unanimously.

V: Ballots – Debbie Simon

Over the summer, Debbie & Bob rewrote the middle school ballots. She brought in copies for us to look at. They include check boxes so that kids get some feedback, even from judges who are reluctant to write anything. They will include a glossary to explain terms that appear on the ballot.

Joyce notes that the MSDL ballots need to be updated. There was general agreement that we like the format and that we might consider using something similar in our updated ballots.

VI: Emails to the Board

Susan asks, who is supposed to answer them?

- Josh takes debate questions
- Chris takes new school inquiries
- Joyce takes speech questions
- Susan takes more general questions
- Lisa handles website issues
- Middle school questions can be forwarded to Debbie
 - Speech clubs cannot enter MSDL Middle school tournaments.
 - Students must enter from their own school, with written permission of principal.

VII: TAB Staff Judging

Susan says she would like to make that work, with more board members judging during round 1 and possibly finals. This would also make it possible for Debbie to run an extended judge meeting for novice judges during the first time slot at most tournaments. The novice judges can then merge into the judge pool starting with round 2.

VIII: New Business

Josh: Guidelines for properties of evidence are not clear in our rules document (mostly for debate events). He asks if he can take a shot at clarifying the rules and bring it to the board to review at a later date. He wants to give coaches the resources necessary to help their students. The board thinks this is a good idea.

Debbie: Source material rules in interp are evolving. What does the word “published” mean? In the NCFL the wording is being changed to “readily accessible to all.” She suggests that we change our wording to match because we have the word “published” sprinkled throughout our ballots and rules. Joyce will consider this as she does revisions of the ballots.

She points out that this is only going to get harder and harder as we move forward with so much changing on the internet.

Move to adjourn: Curran
2nd: Albert

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Honeyman

VP/Secretary