

MSDL Board Meeting  
15 September 2012  
Catholic Memorial High School

Present: Dan Sapir (Sacred Heart), Josh Cohen (Newton South), Lisa Honeyman (Newton South), Rob Croteau (Catholic Memorial), Debbie Simon (Milton Academy), Joyce Albert (Natick), Chris Sheldon (Bancroft), PJ Wexler (Needham), Bob Hutchings (Pike), Jim Murphy (Weston) and Sarah Donnelly (Natick).

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

**1. Ms. Melissa Madden of Choate, Hall & Stewart**

Ms. Melissa Madden of Choate Hall & Stewart LLP was our guest at the start of the meeting. Along with Charles Cheever, she has been working to help our league incorporate and was here to give us an update and to answer our questions about insurance and our relationship with the MMSFL.

Melissa gave us copies of all of the paperwork that has been filed so far and materials that we need to continue to file with government agencies in order to remain in compliance with federal and state laws. We have filed for tax-exempt status and are waiting for our paperwork to be processed by the IRS.

Insurance: Melissa outlined several options and suggested we price out whether it is worth getting a larger policy or just working event by event as necessary. We'll talk to an insurance agent about options.

Bank Account: Rob will open a new account for the MSDL now that he has the EIN number and copy of articles of organization etc.

Middle School Forensic League (MMSFL): They are coming to the MSDL looking for help. We asked Melissa what the possibilities for them to be an affiliate of the MSDL would be. We wondered what it means for an organization to be an affiliate of the MSDL, what level of oversight the MSDL would have to take on if we agree to allow them to become MSDL affiliates. Do we take on liability for them? Melissa will look into it more closely and send us more information about what the implications and possibilities for these two leagues would be. We need to know what the legal implications of affiliation would be and also what the MMSFL wants from the MSDL before we proceed.

Going forward: Melissa suggests we look through the paperwork she gave us today to see what we need to do to maintain our status as a non-profit in MA.

The board THANKS Melissa & Charles for all of their help!

**2. Novice Tournament – at Sacred Heart – October 13, 2012**

Registration will open on Monday morning (September 17).

Dan will get a room list to Joyce.

Ribbons for 1s – Lisa will order

LD will use the "Modest Novice" topic.

PFD will use the October topic.

Speech events – 3 rounds – same events as last few years

There will be an exhibition "round" with three performances. Debbie is taking care of this.

Chris & Debbie will run a drop-in coaches symposium.

Amanda & Joyce will TAB

Lisa will run a judge training for Speech Events – Stop watches for trainees – Debbie will help.

Josh will coordinate a judge training for PFD.

Round 1 GD will be a tutorial – The topic area will be "Elections"

Extemp topic committee will write topics

Impromptu topic committee will also write topics

Congress Legislation writing session – PJ

We talked through the schedule for the tournament for each event group. Joyce will put it in the invitation.

We also discussed how to communicate better with judges in the morning about where & when the judge meetings will be held. Maybe a handout at the door?

Encourage payment of MSFL Dues at Novice tournament: Checks made out to Massachusetts Speech & Debate League.

### **3. STATES – Locations**

We have no sites finalized at this point. Sarah will continue to work on a speech site and Jim will work on the debate site.

### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

- We discussed the circumstances under which non-Massachusetts students compete at MSDL tournaments. There can be no similar league in their state and their principal must give permission.
- Manchester-Essex's invitation will come out shortly.
- Dues – we need to get our dues in ASAP – checks made out to: MSDL
- Group Discussion Topics – We need someone to oversee the topics so we don't have tournaments with topics that are too similar from one week to the next. We'll ask Greg if he will monitor this.

### **5. GOALS FOR THE YEAR**

- Members of the board shared their personal goals for the season.

Next MSDL Board Meeting – Sunday, January 6, 2013 at Milton Academy.

Motion to adjourn: Dan Sapir

2<sup>nd</sup>: Joyce Albert

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lisa Honeyman

VP/Secretary