

MFL Board Meeting
Sunday, March 4, 2007

Present: Chris Palmer, Amanda Parker, Debbie Simon, Joyce Albert, Jim Murphy, P.J. Wexler, Chris Sheldon, Lisa Honeyman, and Holly Loell (arrived at 2:00 pm).

The meeting was called to order at 1:20 pm by the president, Chris Palmer.

1. Consent Agenda

The board unanimously accepted the minutes of the Fall Meeting, the Spring scheduling meeting and the email votes moving States to April 28 and the amendment to the Bylaws regarding elections. The entire agenda passed without objection. States will be held 4/28/07 and the Bylaws were amended to move the league vote for MFL Board members from the fall to the Spring. (See proposal/Bylaws online for details.)

2. States Planning

April 28, 2007 at Silver Lake RHS for speech

March 31, 2007 at Manchester-Essex for debate

Debate registration is already open.

We need an invitation. Joyce brought last year's invitation so we could look at it for changes.

RADIO

Chris Sheldon will make copies for Radio. Joyce will take care of copying material for final round.

GROUP

We wrote questions. They will appear in the invitation.

WILD CARDS

4 in Policy Debate

2 in Novice LD

2 split between Varsity LD and PFD

2 split between speech and congress

New school may enter up to 4 wild cards to use between speech & congress in 1st 2 years.

CONGRESS

Congress Legislation is due to PJ Wexler by Thursday, April 12, 2007

EXTEMP – the committee will write questions. Lisa will coordinate.

International, national, economic

Finals will be "Elections" (not limited to the U.S. elections.)

AWARDS at STATES

Amanda will take a look at trophies and plan the trophy order for both Speech & Debate.

BALLOTS

Dan Sapir will take care of copying speech ballots

Lynne & Chris P. will take care of ballots for debate.

JUDGE MANUALS

Dan will copy these

Wendy will take care of the Cake. She will also be the point person at the tournament since Chris P. cannot be present at STATE SPEECH.

HALL OF FAME

Holly will pick up flowers for the seniors and for the Hall of Fame awardees. Debbie will ask Br. Cavet to chair the presentations that will be done before awards.

JOYCE will take care of the set-up on the website for registration and for the tournament itself.

JUDGE BRIEFING – Joyce will do main meeting and then Chris S. & Holly will take over if necessary.

BALLOT TABLE – one person from SLRHS plus 3 MFL coaches.

SAB meeting – needs a room.

3. 501c(3) status report

We have still not applied for this status because we need to create our bylaws in a way that allows us to give money to students (scholarships) or schools – which are not 501c(3) entities. We need to establish rigorous rules for these procedures. These need to be very specific. Tim Averill might have something we can look at. It would be great to get this put together to propose before the spring meeting. PJ will take this on as a mission!

4. Election Commission

We need 3 people who want to be election commissioners. They cannot be running for elected positions and must be from 3 separate schools. The responsibilities are to get nominees (put out a notice for self-nominees and then encourage people to run for offices that do not have candidates.) They must do this before March 31. The commission must also conduct the elections. Holly will be the Chair of the Commission.

1. Holly (chair)
2. Wendy
3. Jim would be willing to help at the state speech tournament (debate).
4. Chris Sheldon will help at the speech tournament.

The at-large positions will be filled by the newly elected board> They will also establish the 2007-2008 tournament season.

Motion: Debbie for this group of 4 to be the Commission. 2nd: Amanda
Commission was unanimously approved.

5. Project Reports

Joyce is still writing the Tournament Directors Guide. She has collected many examples from other parts of the country and is working to complete this document.

Lisa is done with the (New) Coaches Manual. It was distributed to member schools already.

Our Bylaws and Rules still say little about debate. We need to address this.

Judge training – Wendy is planning to videotape her training so we can give this to coaches and use it at tournaments.

Joyce reminds us that we need to be sure to update documents (Bylaws and Rules) to reflect changes made during this board's tenure prior to handing them over to the new board. Chris P. will do this.

6. New Business

Chris P. – “Yesterday (Mardi Gras) ran well, but there were too many people in TAB. Perhaps we can lower the number of people doing the data entry.” He said that he attended a tournament in N.J. where 4 students did the data entry, supervised by the tournament director and one other league adult and it ran well. He suggests that if we limit the number of people in TAB, we could run board or committee meetings while at tournaments, cutting down on additional time board members must spend on league business.

Joyce – “Ultimately it is up to the tournament director and the coaches who serve on the board to determine how they will run their TAB room and if they choose to judge.”

We discussed the benefits and disadvantages of having students in the TAB room.

At the novice tournament it was helpful to have some students in TAB. This may be a good time for students to learn how the process works.

Chris P. – “Should we try to get more BOARD work done at tournaments?”

Holly – “Committee work could certainly be done.”

Lisa – “We had 17 adults in TAB at one point yesterday. It was distracting. We could certainly have released 4-5 people to do some committee work and the remaining folks could still have done the tournament work.”

Joyce – “This will require a change of mindset. People on the board don't necessarily even put themselves down as judges when they register for tournaments. They expect to be in TAB. Others put themselves down, but include a note indicating that they expect to be in TAB.”

Chris P. – “We lose some of our best judges if all of the coaches are in TAB.”

Debbie – “The ballot table is a critical place for experienced coaches to be. If you look at the ballots you have to be able to be proactive and ask people to complete ballots more thoroughly.”

Debbie is on sabbatical – she formally resigned from the board.

Patrice Jean-Baptiste was nominated by Joyce Albert to fill the vacant board position. There were no other nominees.

The board approved Patrice Jean-Baptiste without objection.

Holly – motion to adjourn.

Chris S. 2nd.

We adjourned at 3:14 pm and ate cake.

Respectively submitted,

Lisa Honeyman, Secretary/V.P.