

MDTA Spring Membership Meeting
Saturday, May 18, 2019
Midland Hills Country Club – Roseville, MN

IN ATTENDANCE: Bob French (Winona Cotter), Ross Eichele (Eagan), Nick Smith (Apple Valley), Raymond Zhang (Minnetonka), Hayley Pierce-Ramsdell (Lakeville Schools), Jake Swede (UDL), Amy Cram-Helwich (UDO), Trevor Martinez (Hopkins), DJ Brynteson (Robbinsdale Schools), Hayden Uihlein (Edina), Becky Chabot (Wayzata, Lakeville Schools), Celisia Stanton (Robbinsdale Schools), Andrew Urevig (Robbinsdale Schools), Rachel Baumann (Farmington), Cody Dorumsgaard (Maple Grove). Board members present were Cort Sylvester – President (Rosemount), Chris McDonald, Past-President (Eagan), Deserea Niemann, President-Elect (Lakeville Schools), Zach Prax, Treasurer (Eastview)

Financial Report: The Foundation has grown this year, and even after the grant being paid to the MDTA, we are in good financial shape. Current account balance in the MDTA account is approximately \$13,000. We will be able to pay grants again for newer programs requesting them.

OLD BUSINESS

Equity Committee Proposal presented at the Fall Membership Meeting – proposals were widely distributed via email and the Facebook group. Becky Chabot spoke to this. They are requesting multiple paid positions for people someone to research and interview students and coaches to retain and promote inclusivity, to communicate findings, etc. Committee was Robyn Madson, Becky Chabot, Celisia Stanton, Kendrick Walton, and others (there was no list kept of the meeting).

There are concerns regarding finances – i.e., can we afford to establish three paid positions that is commensurate with the work being asked. If we did pay, would we need to change tax filings in order to maintain financial legality? In addition, what is the outcome we're attempting to gain – what type of data? What do we want to do with it? We already do some of this research, so what else are we attempting to gain?

After lots of discussion, Cort suggested tabling section E (investigative committees) for discussion in the fall, and to agree to the spirit of the proposals – a support of the expression of intent that can lead to specific policies. This proposal - adoption of resolution that the MDTA SHOULD do parts A, B, C, D, and F under recommendation section of the equity committee proposal – as submitted. That passes and the MDTA is committed to moving forward in the direction consistent with the recommendations.

B, C, and F can be developed without financial involvement. Our next step is to identify point people to be in charge of developing community standards and working on setting up a coach/judge conference. Chris McDonald and Amy Cram-Helwich will work on the coach/judge conference. Perhaps the Jamboree could be restructured to do this – to have judge trainings more comprehensive (rather than just new judges). We could also put training videos on the MDTA website.

Hayley, Becky, Celisia, and Raymond will all work to develop some ideas on how trainings can happen.

Deserea will also develop an official Facebook and Twitter account. Cort and Amy will work to establish the process of a student advisory board.

A total of one hour 20 minutes was spent discussing. In the end, we will defer any decision on paid decisions pending discussion of cost and the type of data we wish to gain.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Calendar is fairly updated for the 2019-2020 school year. Vast majority of schools now return to Monday, January 6, meaning there is only one week available for section tournament competitions. All sections are planning on being held autonomously again.
2. Program Grants – must be completed by the end of May for consideration for the next school year.
3. All-State Awards Committee Proposal – This will now function as a three-person committee, led by DJ Brynteson and two other coaches. Part of this process will include more social media publication of results, etc.
4. Student Service Recognition Proposal – It is suggested to create a service award that students can receive. DJ and Hayden will work to develop criteria.
5. Congress Rules Proposals – DJ distributed a list of five Congress rules changes for the MSHSL State Tournament. They include a movement from indirect to direct cross-examination, cleaning up language in the rules book, adding two final round sessions, having another preliminary round session, and specifying more rules into how preliminary rounds are paired. Rules are all approved, and will now be sent to advisory for MSHSL consideration.
6. DJ has created a “how-to” guide on judging Congressional Debate; this will be posted on the website.
7. DJ wants to form a committee to establish set legislation for different tournaments. This will assist in gathering an assigning legislation for tournaments as recommendations. Ross will head up this committee.
8. Congress Direct Questioning Transition – It is recommended that September and October Tournaments use indirect questioning in prelims and direct questioning in supersessions; in November and December direct questioning would happen in all varsity competition and novice will use direct questioning only in finals. Approved.
9. Possible Congress State Schedule – Congress starts earlier, so their first session starts at same time as policy (10:00 a.m.). Session I: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00. Then, 1:00-3:00, then 4:00-6:00. LD and PF will now end at same time as Congress. By shifting later, we get kids better food options. Will be sent to debate advisory.
10. State Tournament Rules Review – informational – we will look at rules to make sure what is written goes into the rulebook. Everyone else should work to make sure they are reviewing and let us know if they see issues.
11. Electronic Retrieval/Internet – During invitational season, we don’t control it. But, discussion was had whether the MDTA recommend to invitationals that they follow NSDA rules. Unanimously decided that the MDTA will recommend NSDA pilot rules to invitational tournament hosts. Unanimously decided to send this to debate advisory for discussion with the MSHSL in the fall.

12. Public Forum Community Judges – They are here to stay. We will formalize a more specific process shortly and start earlier.
13. Call to have evidence to judge exchanges changed at advisory to allow sharing evidence with judges in all votes. There is not a majority in favor of this. For policy only, this was passed.
14. Call to have better organization in tournament registration, etc. Make a 'helpful hints' form for new programs?