

PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – June 21, 2023

CALL TO ORDER – 9:05am

Present: Neil Strine, Ben Edwards, Sharon Volpe, Dave Long, Ellen Boyer, Beth Young, Bob Hall, Lisa Bompiani-Smith, Aditya Dhere, Chris Berdnik, Holly Smith, Hugh Ringer, Tiffany Dacheux, Leslie Schumacher & Jess Cerchiaro

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Newly Elected Board Members: Returning Beth, Ellen, Ben, Holly
1. Agenda additions/changes
 - a. Ben added #22
 - b. Lauren Hess will be added to Good of the Order
 - c. Aditya suggested moving # 7 & 8 under Administrative to Financial Reports in the Director's Report.

Ben motioned to *accept the agenda with the changes*. Aditya seconded the motion and the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Aditya motioned to *accept the minutes from the March 16, 2023 meeting*, Lisa seconded the motion and the motion passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. **2024 Drama Festival Dates were discussed.** 1/5/24-1/6/24
2. **2024 State Tournament Dates were discussed.** 3/15/24-3/16/24.
3. **Neil announced that we had 57 Member schools Vote in the 2023 Executive Board Election.**
4. **Financial Report:** Chris Berdnik supplied the reports.
 - a. Chris explained that we took a loss this year due to extra cost of food. Action is needed to raise fees/structure to compensate for the inflation.
 - b. Discussion was held on raising membership fee/tournament fees/ and the food structure for the tournaments.
 - c. Ben motioned to *have schools purchase judge meals for "through the line tickets" and PHSSL will purchase Hired Judge meals for "through the line tickets" on FRIDAY DINNER only. Tournament entry fees will also be raised to \$25 per competitor.* Dave seconded the motion and the motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Review the Constitutional changes necessary to reflect the changes in PHSSL.
 - a. Beth motioned to *modify the Constitution C5.2 – See Addendum #1.* Ellen seconded the motion and the motion passed.
 - b. Beth motioned to *modify the constitution C5.6 & C5.6D – See Addendum #1.* Ben seconded the motion and the motion passed.
 - c. Beth motioned to *modify the Constitution 8.6 – See Addendum #1.* Ellen seconded the motion and the motion passed.

2. **The 2023-2024 PHSSL Brochure**
 - a. Discussion was held to put the Brochure online only.
 - b. Discussion of what to do with schools who are not PHSSL members.
 - i. Jess motioned to *create a postcard graphic image/card that District Chairs can use for Recruitment to schools in their Districts*. Beth seconded the motion and the motion passed.
3. **The 2023-2024 PHSSL Calendar was reviewed.**
 - a. Dates to add
 - i. Congress Bills due February 1, 2024
 - ii. Last date for District Tournaments is February 25, 2024
 - iii. Topics for Parli debate topics sent on March 1, 2024
 - iv. Registration for State Tournament is due March 7th by 4pm
 - v. Judge entries and Drops/Changes to Tournament Registration is due by March 12th by 4pm
4. **District Assignments were reviewed. All will stay the same. Updates to all Board member information will be emailed to Jodi.**
5. **Regional Drama Festival Chair assignments were reviewed. All stay the Same**
6. **Hall of Fame Coordinator was discussed. Dave will continue.**
7. **Membership Price for 2021-2022 – Moved to Financial Reports under Director’s Report**
8. **Raising Entry Fees at States – Moved to Financial Reports under Director’s Report**
9. **Clarification of Drop Fees**
 - a. Drops fees wording needs to be added to ALL EVENTS – See Addendum #3.
10. **Rebranding**
 - a. Ben moved to *form a committee that him and Jess will head to explore the rebranding of PHSSL. It will be an open committee with members outside of the board*. Jess seconded the motion and the motion passed.
11. **Procedure for Electing a District Chair and/or Committee**
 - a. Discussion was held.
 - b. Aditya motioned to *set up online nominations and elections for each District starting in 2024. Nominations will need to be done by February 1st and the Election will be done by March 1st with results being announced after*. Jess seconded the motion and the motion passed.
 - c. Chris Berdnik will follow up with District 11 on who will be Chair for this current year.
12. **Digital submission of the Membership Form**
 - a. Jodi has set up a form that will work with a link on the PHSSL Website for Digital Submission.
 - b. Beth motioned to *go digital by eliminating the Principal Signature for the Membership and adding the link to the Website*. Aditya seconded the motion and the motion passed.
13. **Eliminate the Communicator**
 - a. Discussion was held. Lisa gave results of the communication survey. Also see Addendum #6
 - b. Lisa motioned to *discontinue the publication of the Communicator and move all information to the website*. Beth seconded the motion and the motion passed.
14. **Clarify how Tabroom.com has impacted the Reporting of District Qualifiers?**
 - a. No District Reports are needed.
 - b. Beth motioned to *remove from the bylaw sections listed in Addendum #. 7* Ellen seconded the motion and the motion passed.

TOURNAMENT CONCERNS

1. Judges

- a. Judge hires for Speech; per entry needed vs. full judge?
 - i. Pro-rated judge hire fee discussed.
 - ii. Dave motioned to *change the Speech/Congress payment structure to \$90 per entry with no overage credits*. Holly seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- b. Align judge hires in debates.
 - i. Beth motioned *that no judges will be hired for Policy Debate or LD, judges hired for other events will be pro-rated based on availability and any hired judges past 1 will be at the discretion of the tournament committee*. Ben seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- c. Judge Requirement for Swing Teams was discussed.
 - i. Discussion was held.
 - ii. Ben made a motion that *judges should not be a requirement for Swing Teams*. Beth seconded the motion and the motion did not pass.
- d. Change Speech Judge quota from 1-3 to 1-4
 - i. Tabled for this year to collect more data.
- e. Adding more judges to supersession of congress
 - i. 2 judges are in supersession but all other finals have 5. Is this correct?
 - ii. Jess made the motion to *change the Congress Handbook to say Supersession has 4 judges plus the parli*. Lisa seconded and the motion passed.
- f. Separate judge pool for congress
 - i. Withdrawn by Beth
- g. Snag with the 4 ratings vs 3.
 - i. Withdrawn by Dave
- h. Final Review on Judges (Hires, Coverage, Constraints, Conflicts)
 - i. Withdrawn by Aditya
- i. Require Debate Judges to Complete Judge Paradigms on Tabroom.
 - i. See Addendum #9
 - ii. Ben motioned to *have all judges in debate complete a Judge Paradigm on Tabroom*. Chris seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- j. Require judges to complete the NFHS Cultural Competency Certification
 - i. See Addendum # 10
 - ii. Ben motioned to *have all judges for the State Tournament complete the NFHS Cultural Competency Certification*. Ellen seconded the motion and the motion passed.

2. Site

- a. Different sections at registration.
- b. Signage and more communication about what events are in what locations.
- c. Set up special sections for people asking questions about Tabroom, for Building Directions, for Judge questions.
- d. Set up spaced for event judge meetings for all events.
- e. Sell concessions at Registration for students and Judges
- f. Judges Lounge was Crowded
 - i. Keep in same place.
- g. Coffee/Snacks judges lounge Friday morning
- h. Printer needs to be available in Tabroom.

3. Schedule

- a. Friday Debate Schedule could be more compact.

- i. Withdrawn by Ben
- b. Meetings for Competitors AND Judges or just for Judges.
 - i. Discussion held.
 - ii. Everyone should be at meetings together for both Speech and Debate Meetings. Not Separate meetings.
- c. Event-Specific Q&A after Judge Meetings
- d. Time of Opening Remarks at the Awards Ceremony
 - i. Limit opening remarks
- e. No Round 4 in News Broadcasting
 - i. Would require another prepared speech.
 - ii. Motion to table until we talk about Storytelling – Ben.
- f. Determine how breaks are announced.
 - i. Aditya discussed.

4. Awards

- a. Sweepstakes – take the top 10 (or whatever number) best entries or – school size, not tournament attendance – something other than this past year.
 - i. See Addendum # 12
 - ii. Discussion held
- b. Set tiers for Sweeps.
 - i. See Addendum #12
 - ii. Discussion held
 - iii. Ben motioned to *divide Sm, Med, LG schools based on # of entries to States (1-10 (small), 11-20 (medium), 21+ (large)), with Top 5 entries counting for Small Schools, Top 10 Counting for Medium Schools, and Top 20 counting for large schools.* Dave seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- c. Revising Sweeps Calculations; Sweeps Rules for Supp Events – Since they are so small these days, should we still be taking half? Or Should we look at something with a qualifying statement – e.g. if an event has more than 30 entries, then use the formula times half; events with 30 entries or fewer, multiply by 1.
 - i. See Addendum # 13
 - ii. Ben motioned to have *Supplemental events scale to 50 and all others scale to 100.* Jess seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- d. Add Supps Events to Debate and Speech Sweepstakes as well as the Overall. Presently they only contribute to overall Sweepstakes.
 - i. Dave motioned to have *Supplemental events count not only for overall Sweeps but also for their genre.* Ellen seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- e. Medals for non-advancing octofinalists in debate
 - i. See Addendum #14
 - ii. Ben motioned to *give medals to all non-advancing octofinalists in debate.* Dave seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- f. Tie Breaks in student leadership award in congress
 - i. Short Discussion. Needs to be in the Rules that tie breakers will be judges preference.
 - ii. Jess motioned that *Tie Breakers for Student Leadership award in congress will be judges preference.* Holly seconded and the motion passed.

5. General Tournament Issues

- a. Set up a BIA? Belonging and Inclusion Advocate
 - i. Very useful – Training on NSDA

- ii. Competitors feel more comfortable during competition.
 - iii. Beth motioned *that at the State Tournament one of our personnel be a BIA*. Ben seconded the motion and the motion passed.
 - iv. Lisa motioned *that in all of PHSSL Documentation His/Her should be changed to They/Them*. Dave seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- b. Registration Duties (Check-in, Money Collection, Hand Out, Pins/Programs, Selling Extra Meal Tickets, Questions/Directions)
 - i. Clearer areas for these duties.
- c. Adding piece titles for Interp events into Tabroom Registration.
 - i. DQ for doing last year's piece. Doesn't say this as a general policy.
 - 1. Discussion held.
 - 2. B21.2 List of Actions Grounds for Disqualification is already listed.
 - 3. Beth motioned *to add to Bylaws that Speech and Readings for PHSSL Tournament may not be used in competition by student prior to the current academic year*. Aditya seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- d. Put S/M/L Winners in program year-to-year
- e. Comments in opening assembly remarks this year.
 - i. Comments made during some of the presentations before awards were off color, we need to make sure that all speakers remember that PHSSL is a safe place and to avoid off handed comments.
- f. Tournament program should be posted on the website.
- g. Formalize a rule on qualifiers with partner drops/extenuating circumstances. Currently we are allowing kids with partner drops to enter into any supplemental event, so we may want to formalize/codify that.
 - i. See Addendum # 15
 - ii. Discussion held.
 - iii. Dave motioned *that S22.C be formed that says all extenuating circumstances will be handled by the State Tournament Coordinator and the Executive Director*. Beth seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- h. Create a checklist for coaches for registration procedures, including some of the items mentioned above.
- i. Allow for digital submission of persuasive and information speeches.
 - i. See Addendum # 16
 - ii. These are submitted to Jodi now.
 - iii. Beth motioned *to change the ByLaws 9.6 & 10.6 and the State Standing Rules to give the option for Digital Submission of Persuasive and Informative Speeches at District Tournaments and mandatory digital submission for the State Tournament*. Aditya seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- j. Adjust the State Standing Rules for Swing Teams.
 - i. See Addendum # 17
 - ii. Can Swing Teams go into Extemp Debate?
 - iii. Discussion held.
 - iv. Beth motioned *to add Extemp Debate as an option for Swing Teams in S.24*. Ben seconded the motion and the motion passed.

6. EVENT ISSUES/RULES

- a. Move the Drama Festival to a Virtual Format
 - i. See Addendum #27

- ii. Jess discussed her findings from the survey.
 - iii. Jess motioned to *make the Drama festival Virtual for Regional and State level*. Holly seconded the motion and the motion passed.
 - iv. *See Addendum #27 for exact details with the following changes*
 - 1. *Students may use the same recording from Regionals for State. They do not need to use the same.*
 - 2. *Regions have the option to hold in person event IF all schools involved agree.*
- b. Create a Festival Director, similar to the State Tournament Director to run the Festival.
 - i. See Addendum # 28 & 29
 - ii. Jess motioned to *create a Festival Director for the State Drama Festival*. Dave seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- c. Remove number restrictions for All State Crew at the Drama Festival
 - i. Ellen motioned to *eliminate a minimum number for the All State Crew*. Jess seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- d. Add to guidelines judge's discretion for kneeling, lying down, et.
 - i. See Addendum #25
 - ii. Ben motioned *for complete freedom of movement in H.I, D.I, and Duo, including eliminating the provisions against kneeling and prohibiting kneeling and falling down and etc.*
 - iii. Dave and Holly expressed what NCFL has for Duo specifically: Physical movement is restricted to performers moving around one another, switching position, pivoting side to side or turn completely. Positions other than standing should not be excessive in length or dominate the performance.
 - iv. Ben amended *his motion to adopt the NCFL rule for Kneeling and Falling down so that it is not excessive in HI, DI, & Duo*. Jess seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- e. Movement of the feet should be disallowed in Prose and Poetry
 - i. See Addendum # 26
 - ii. Discussion was held.
 - iii. Dave expressed what NCFL has for Oral Interp. Speakers should keep gesture in bodily movements to a minimum and should be delivered from center stage. Movement and gestures should be appropriate to the selection, speakers should not walk during performance.
 - iv. Ben motioned to *adopt the NCFL wording for Prose and Poetry as above. Penalty will be at the judge's discretion*. Ellen seconded the motion
- f. Add POI
 - i. See Addendum #36
 - 1. Discussion Held
- g. Add Storytelling as Supplemental Event
 - i. See Addendum #37
 - 1. Discussion Held
 - 2. Holly motioned to *add POI as a Trial Main Event and add Storytelling as a Trial Supplemental Event*. Ellen seconded the motion and the motion passed.
 - 3. Aditya motioned *that is you do not bring a team to News Broadcasting you could add one additional person to any single person Supplemental Event*. Leslie seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- h. Explain difference between Interp and Acting.
 - i. Dave suggests entering statement in information.
 - ii. Holly, Lisa & Ellen will put together something and it will be voted on through email as soon as possible.

- i. Low Point wins in debate
 - i. Aditya held discussion.
 - ii. Aditya motioned to allow low point wins. Ben seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- j. Disclosure in debate events
 - i. See Addendum #18.
 - ii. Ben motioned to *allow round by round publishing on Tabroom in all debate events and also require judges upon submission of their ballots to include the debater or debaters who won and what side they represent*. Jess seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- k. Evidence rules in debate; Sharing and the Definition of Reasonable
 - i. See Addendum #19
 - ii. Ben motioned to *change the Bylaws B2.12/B4.7/B5.7 corresponding to LD & PF as in the addendum. Aditya amended the motion to include that any quoted parts of the evidence need to be clearly highlighted and the evidence needs to be produced in its entirety with at least a link to the full piece of evidence. Ben amended the amendment to include 1 minute per piece of evidence*. Leslie seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- l. Proposal for evidence sharing in debate
 - i. See Addendum #20
 - ii. Ben motioned that *Evidence Sharing be required in Policy Debate, recommended in Public Forum and optional in Lincoln Douglas*. Leslie seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- m. Impromptu Clarification – Should students be in the room the whole time that others are speaking? What happens when a student is (in or out of the room) on the Internet? e.g the 5th place speaker trolling the topic area for thoughts, ideas while the earlier speakers are performing.
 - i. Discussion held on the procedure.
- n. News Broadcasting QF and SF scripts will be edited and timed to fit 3 minutes.
 - i. Short Discussion. Make sure they are edited.
- o. Info/Persuasive “use of notes” Maybe add to these and Exemp and Comm, wording about excessive reference to notes can be taken into consideration for judge ranking.
 - i. Dave motioned to *add note about excessive reference to notes can be taken into consideration for Judge Ranking (B9.7)* Holly seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- p. Notes should not be allowed in Exemp and Commentary.
 - i. See above.
- q. Visual Aids should be disallowed in Persuasive Speaking
 - i. Discussion held.
 - ii. Ben motioned to *change B9.7 to say visual aids may not be used in persuasive speaking*. Aditya seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- r. Parli Point of Order Revision for lesser crimes
 - i. See Addendum # 21 & 22 – Parli Interruptions
 - ii. Ben motions to *add new “Point of Procedure” into B6.5C*. Dave seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- s. Parli – language in handbook
 - i. Ben motions to *add this house regrets with Dave’s definition of the counterfactual as it is advocating something never occurred. And the Pro Side or the Government side has to show what would happen if this had not happened and why its better is something never happened*. Aditya seconded the motion and the motion passed.

- t. Parli – Bylaws clarification
 - i. See Addendum #22
 - ii. Ben motions *to add to B6.2 This house...State Government, local government (city, County, etc) or any House made obvious by the resolution.* Dave seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- u. Evidence in Parli
 - i. See addendum #23
 - ii. Ben motioned *to add to B6.13. Do not rely heavily on published sources and that judges should enforce this rule by giving a claim supported by citation, the same weight as they would for a claim not supported by a citation. (See addendum for specific changes.)* Leslie seconded the motion
- v. Add to DQ list doing last year’s piece
 - i. Discussed during General Tournament Issues Item C.
- w. Formal Statement about ChatGPT and other AI Programs added to tech policy.
 - i. See addendum #30
 - ii. Ben motions *to adopt the NSDA Wording on ChatGPT.* Dave seconds the motion and the motion passed.
- x. Walkovers in Debate
 - i. Tabled until next meeting

7. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Entire section was tabled and will be talked about over email.

- a. Section C8.4 of the Constitution needs to be modified to include the Bid System.
- b. Adjust Bylaws for impromptu to match the recent rule changes.
- c. Adjust Bylaws to match the State Standing Rules
- d. Reports from the Face of PHSSL
 - i. History
 - ii. Site of Competition
 - iii. Leadership
 - iv. Communication
 - v. Drama Festival
 - vi. Events
 - vii. Website
 - 1. Publish Topic Areas including Extemp Debate
 - 2. Include History
 - 3. Include Hall of Fame Members
 - 4. List the Names and Explanations of Various Awards
- e. Growing Policy Debate
- f. PSDA Conference October 7 &8 – State College, PA
- g. Debate Camp Proposal
- h. Check Emeritus Status; at least two names missing – Kate O’Halloran, Alice Ursin

ADJOURNMENT

Leslie motioned to adjourn. Chris seconded and the meeting as adjourned.