

PHSSL Executive Board Meeting  
October 11, 2023, 6:00 pm

Present: Chris Berdnik, Lisa Bompiani-Smith, Ellen Boyer, Jessica Cerchiaro, Tiffany Dacheaux, Ben Edwards, Bob Hall, Dave Long, Holly Smith, Sharon Volpe, Beth Young

Sharon Volpe called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and opened discussion on the agenda.

1. Impromptu Rules - discussion on procedure of competitors hearing other speeches in round, logistics of competitors waiting to speak  
Dave Long motioned that students in impromptu will enter the competition room one at a time and other students will be monitored/kept quiet while waiting to compete. Second by Holly Smith. The motion passed.
2. Round 4 News broadcasting - discussion on adding round and which script to use  
Bob Hall motioned that round 4 of News Broadcasting be added to the state tournament and students will use a script of their choice from rounds 1-3 in that round. Second by Dave Long. The motion passed.
3. Walkovers in debate - discussion of pros and cons, current unwritten procedure  
Ben Edwards proposed the following be added to the bylaws for each debate event:  
"In the event two teams from the same school face each other in a bracket, a winner must be determined by the coach of that team and no debate will occur unless the teams have identical records and/or at least one member of each opposing team are from the same graduation year. In the event one of those conditions is met, the tournament will allow the round to run, but it must be done by the time specified by tab staff and all judges must be free from other judging obligations and must represent the team involved in the walkover round.  
Second by Dave Long. The motion passed.
4. Storytelling - discussion on whether use of a chair is permitted, fairness and logistics of having a "uniform" chair in each competition room, liability of providing a chair  
Beth Young motioned that ballot/rules be updated to read that the presentation may delivered standing and/or sitting and no props may be used except for a chair, if available. The chair must remain stationery, with all four legs touching the floor. Second by Dave Long. The motion passed.
5. Belonging & Inclusion Advocates (BIA) - discussion was held regarding how we would find people to serve in this role and how many we would need. NSDA officials noted at some state tournaments there would be 2 BIAs per building at the tournament. Trained BIAs assigned to that role at the state tournament would count as a judge. Consideration should be given to including BIAs from across the state to account for variations in style by region.  
Dave Long motioned that All district chairs are encouraged to have at least one person in their district trained as a BIA for the state tournament. Second by Beth Young. The motion passed.
6. Reports from the Face of PHSSL Committees
  - a. Email Ben Edwards if interested in being part of the branding committee to discuss name, logo, etc. of organization; non-Executive Board members welcome to participate.
  - b. Beth Young has posted past champions on website. Need to confirm small school sweepstakes winners from 2021 and 2022. Ellen Boyer noted Shikellamy won in 2022.

- c. Send any photos from past state tournaments to Beth Young for sharing on the past champions page.
  - d. Ben Edwards is working on organizing hall of fame member bios - please help if you are able
  - e. Beth reported on updates from other committees:
    - i. Site of competition (chaired by Hugh Ringer) - committee wants to keep status quo; continued discussion to be had
    - ii. Leadership (chaired by Lauren Hess) - work is complete with new leadership structure
    - iii. Communications (chaired by Lisa Bompiani-Smith ) - nothing new to report
    - iv. Drama Festival (chaired by Jess Cerchiaro) - addressed at summer meeting; nothing new
    - v. Events/Rules (chaired by Holly Smith) - addressed at summer meeting; nothing new
    - vi. Website (chaired by Kayley Szymanski) - Beth Young has made suggested edits/updates to website with help of Rachael Harris. Still outstanding is list/explanation of named awards. The Branding Committee will take over this task/work.
  - f. Ben Edwards led a student debate meeting with other coaches this summer and brought student concerns to the Board's attention this summer. Another meeting will be held this fall in early/mid November. The meeting seeks to inform students about the process of pairing debate and the opportunity for students to ask questions.
7. Topic areas for commentary, extemp, and parliamentary debate - discussion was held regarding timing and needs
- a. Dave Long, Holly Smith, and Nathan Lawver will develop list of extemp and commentary topics to be shared with the board with a goal to release late fall/early winter
  - b. Parliamentary topics will be written by Ben Edwards and Chris Berdnik and released March 1
8. Resource Manager for website - Beth Young suggested having a PSDA member take the lead on collecting resources that would be posted to the PHSSL website. Discussion shifted to talk of multiple people in the organization having access to/ownership of resources and documents. Several members of the executive board have access to the phssl.org website. All board members can access the [phssl.org@gmail.com](mailto:phssl.org@gmail.com) google account. There was a suggestion to shift ownership of google documents to that account in the event of the loss of a personal or school google account.
- Beth Young motioned that the PHSSL Board allow a member of PSDA to collect resources.  
Second by Lisa Bompiani-Smith . The motion passed. PSDA will meet in the next two weeks to start to plan.
9. Drama Festival Dates - discussion on updating dates for virtual competition
- Ellen Boyer motioned to use the following deadlines for the Drama Festival:
- Dec. 15 - registration for regionals due (intent to participate)
  - Jan. 15 - videos submitted for virtual regionals
  - Jan. 31 - results from regional competition due (whether virtual or in-person)
  - Feb. 15 - videos submitted for State tournament
- Second by Dave Long. The motion passed.
10. Ballots - storytelling & POI - discussion regarding language on POI ballot; questions on storytelling ballot addressed with chair discussion earlier in meeting
- POI ballot language will be updated to match the language on the prose and poetry ballots regarding the use of a binder as a prop. Language about physical action will match the language on the DI and HI ballots regarding movement.

11. Postcard - Jessica Cerchiaro designed a postcard and graphic that could be mailed to schools without a program. Sharon Volpe is working on a mailing list; Dave Long, Lisa Bompiani-Smith , and Beth Young all have started lists for their respective areas. Ben Edwards will ask his principal for assistance in obtaining a list. The group agreed that funds could be used to mail the postcard. Jessica Cerchiaro will check in with Aditya Dhere about mailing options and will acquire printing and mailing quotes.
12. Beth Young shared a graphic history timeline highlighting PHSSL history and noted the need for some additional photos for the project.

Ben Edwards motioned to close the meeting. Second by Chris Berdnik. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Cerchiaro