

Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association

Minutes

September 6, 2014

Whitefish Bay High School

Voting Schools represented: Sheboygan South, Appleton East, Madison Memorial, Middleton, Mukwonago, Muskego, Appleton West, Janesville Parker, Rufus King, Whitefish Bay, Waukesha South, Brookfield Central, West Bend, Madison West, Brookfield Academy, Reagan, Bradley Tech, North Division, Milwaukee Hamilton, Brookfield East, Golda Meir, Nicolet, Homestead, Appleton North, Cedarburg, Marquette

Emily Summers was present, representing MDL.

The meeting was called to order at by President Stephanie King at 9:43 a.m.

President

Stephanie has sent an email to the list serve for voting on the policy topic. Coaches who did not receive the email should let Stephanie know. Nick Bubb will also post a link to the web site. Stephanie reminded MDL schools that they may only vote once.

Past President

John Knetzger anticipates having the forms for nominations on the web site by October 1. The Executive Committee recommends removing the reference to \$300 from the standing rules and made a motion to that effect. The motion was seconded and **passed by voice vote**.

Secretary

The calendar is on the web site. The November 8 date is open. Cedarburg and North Division are willing to host, pending building approval. Whichever can secure building approval first will be put on the calendar.

Bay View is hosting an MDL meet on October 25, and this will be open to WDCA schools as a sanctioned meet.

A calendar was distributed, and hosts commented on their offerings.

September 20 Lakeland College (put on by Sheboygan South)

September 27 Rufus King

October 4 Mukwonago

October 10-11 October 11	James Madison Memorial West Bend
October 17?-18	Brookfield East
October 24?-25 October 25	La Crosse Central Open MDL at Bay View
Oct. 31-Nov. 1	Middleton
November 8	Open
November 15	Whitefish Bay
November 22	No Frills at West Bend
December 5-6	Appleton East
December 13	Waukesha South
January 2-3	NFL Qualifier
January 10	Southern CFL Qualifier at West Bend
January 17-18	Wisconsin State Debate Tournament at West Bend

John asked if the NFL and CFL meets count as a sanctioned meet for WDCA. Nick indicated that they did not, but then clarified that they could be used as a local meet for a second leg.

Brian Devine moved the adoption of the spring meeting minutes, and the motion was seconded. The motion **passed by voice vote**.

President Elect

Shawn Matson announced that we will plan to have the spring meeting at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. More information will be sent to the listserve.

Treasurer

Zack Vrana introduced himself and reminded coaches to pay their dues.

TPP

Nick announced that the state tournament will be at West Bend. Doris Sexton passed out information about food and hotels and gave us details about some options.

Nick recommended pre-ordered meal tickets plus extra sales of tickets available, based on the complaints that were received regarding the UW-Whitewater experience. John pointed out that there are no food sales nearby in West Bend as there are in Whitewater.

There was a consensus that we would go with Nick's recommendation of having pre-ordered meal tickets with extra tickets available for sale at the tournament.

It was agreed that there would be a spaghetti day and a sub sandwich day, with a salad option offered both days. Doris agreed to look into whether a combination of an entrée and the salad bar could be offered at an affordable price instead.

Nick indicated that all state tournament information would be posted on the web site by November.

Nick explained that as a result of some problems last year, he will be setting up a warm room in which coaches can view ballots after they have been processed. Judges and coaches will also be directed to state very clearly to tab room staff if there is a problem that needs to be addressed.

New Coaches

Steve Goetsch introduced himself and encouraged new coaches to contact him.

Novice Packet

Dan Hansen explained that the novice packet has been posted on the web site. The counterplan will be posted soon but may not be run before October 31 (when restrictions are lifted). He reviewed the packet rules for the benefit of those who are new to this and encouraged all coaches to review these rules with their judges.

hansend@fortschools.org is Dan's new email address.

Old Business

Nick explained that if coaches are not receiving listserv emails, they should notify him. He has been making sure that everything on the site is integrated, so that all links work as they should. He reviewed state tournament qualification procedures for the benefit of new coaches.

Tim Scheffler reminded hosts that they must provide tournament results to Nick in a timely manner, as he maintains a database of qualification information on the web site.

Stephanie stressed that it is important that all information should be entered carefully and accurately by hosts. Nick offered to show hosts how to enter information.

New Business

Steve Goetsch expressed a concern that the V4 contingency policy has the potential to discourage coaches from putting their students into that division during the season. He made a motion to strike the words “at least six (6) schools and” from the standing rules as follows:

In the event the Four-Person Varsity Division has insufficient entries to administer effectively or to ensure the eventual champion has been sufficiently tested by a diverse competition pool, the Tournament Director shall immediately notify affected parties that the Four-Person Varsity Division will not be offered at the Wisconsin State Debate Tournament for the affected year. The criteria for determining if the Division has sufficient entries shall be that the division has representation from ~~at least six (6) schools and~~ at least eight (8) teams. The Tournament Director shall be responsible for notifying all affected schools that the potential exists for invoking the Contingency Policy at the time Registration opens and the affected schools shall be responsible for declaring their registration intentions to the Tournament Director one (1) week prior to the final registration deadline.

The motion was seconded. Considerable discussion ensued, and clarifications were made as to what this change would do. There was support expressed on the basis that it would allow for a fair competition (even if it meant making schools debate themselves), rather than eliminating a division and discouraging coaches from putting students in V4. Tim offered a concern that it might affect judge availability. Shawn Matson expressed concern that it is a problem to allow an event to become too insular and could give the event less credibility in the long run.

Steve Goetsch responded that coaches are able to provide clean judges, as he has done. He expressed the additional feeling that we would lose a fair number of debaters with the elimination of V4.

Nick responded that VSS is a valid alternative for V4 debaters if V4 does not run. Dave Henning suggested that by combining VSS and V4, it would make for a stronger policy tournament. Ernest Chomicki pointed out that there are different styles of debate, and that we do not need to do away with categories just because it makes things easier.

Brian and Ernest both spoke of there being continued support for V4 and that adopting Steve Goetsch’s motion was a fair way to proceed. Tim suggested that if the change is made, schools be required to provide an extra judge or pay a higher fee.

Steve Sexton called the question and this was seconded. The motion to call the question **passed on a voice vote**. The main motion then also **passed on a voice vote**.

Brian then moved that to add the following sentence after the contingency policy: "If the number of schools entered is low enough to require it, the tournament director may, with the consent of the Executive Board, take additional steps needed to assure the competitive integrity of the division and judging pool." The motion was seconded. It then **passed by voice vote.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Devine, WDCA Secretary