**Wisconsin Debate Coaches Association**

**Minutes**

May 11th 2024

Online Meeting

**Schools Represented:** Brookfield East, Brookfield Central,Homestead,Edgewood, Fort Atkinson, Janesville Parker, LaCrosse, Middleton, Rufus King, Regan,Sheboygan South, West Bend,

The meeting was called to order by Casey Hutchenson at 9:05 a.m.

# **Secretary Report**

Justin Flynn moved the approval of the Spring meeting minutes, and the motion was seconded.

**Fall minutes were approved by unanimous consent.**

# **Treasurer’s Report**

Dan Hansen gave his report we had 4500 in the bank last year and this year we will be about 1000 better.

Dan mentioned we have turned around our trajectory on spending, as seen last year.

Dan talked about how Stephanie CX trip will have expenses.

**Interim President Elect’s Report (**no new info)

No report was made

# **President’s Report**

No report was made,

Casey mentioned she is no longer coaching, but wishes all of us well.

# **Judging Standards and Ethics**

Stephine King gave her report She mentioned about prep time skews that happened for accommodations. A concern we had was Ajudge was vaping in round and JSE handled it and the judge is no longer judging

Stephine stated new judge issues as always happened at state, but were managed well.

State was fun with evidence as always, but JSE is handling it well as always.

**Tournament Practices and Procedures/State tournament**

John explained the state tournament went well and there was issues, as explained in the JSE report. Other than that John stated everything went really well.

John explained the minimum round requirement and the evidence challenge adjustment helped the torment run better than in 23.

John explained the winter storm was harsh and wishes we would have canceled in person and go online on thursday as a hindsight 20/20, to avoid issues

John explained the cost saving we had with awards this year.

Ben hamburger thanked John for his smooth transitions

**Media/communications**

No new report

**Novice Packet/New coaches**

Stephine talked about how she will be email CX coaches about a new way of cutting a packet. But there will be a packet.

**New Coaches**

Dan explained we are welcoming new schools as they come in and a representative from said region within the committee.

The group talked about how they are are welcome to new ideas and helping new groups.

Adam Jacobi posted a great resources on said info (see Below)

It was good to see you all and hear what’s happening. I continue to enjoy working with Stephanie on the NFHS Topic Selection process, and appreciate hearing that we deal with many of the same issues across speech and debate contests.

WISDAA had a great pilot of our reinstituting debate through online, two-round weeknight festivals from October-March (with one, culminating in-person State-level contest with Speech in April), primarily with the World Schools Debate format, and have a number of schools interested in Congressional next year. These were suggested through our own, internal governance process, and we will continue to review at our committee and board levels. We did this out of deference to WDCA, to not duplicate, and because we already had a member school doing Congress and who wanted practice with that during the fall.

I would love to host a roundtable of anyone interested in collaborating. Please email me at adam@wisdaa.org.

**DEI**

Becky explained her Report as seen below.

The DEI committee made it their goal this season to get communication rolling on issues of DEI. Every tournament director received an email the week before their tournament containing information on running an equitable tournament. They also received information on logging into the DEI email if they wanted to utilize it. This sometimes worked and sometimes was an issue because it required me to be able to grant them access, and if they didn’t request access before Saturday morning, I wasn’t always available.

We handled a number of reports submitted throughout the season. Most of what we received were submitted through email or the form after tournaments had concluded. Each concern was investigated and dealt with as requested by the submitter.

The majority of what we received were instances that involved a lack of awareness on the part of the person making a comment that appeared to be insensitive. At the state tournament, we had a team of three DEI officers who were very bored. Only one issue came in, and it arrived after hours for the DEI team, so I fielded it. It was an issue that was a rules issue, not a DEI issue, so I forwarded it to the appropriate tournament officials.

John asked if there was a way we could increase uses of the google DEI portal uses, and DEI advocates as a whole

Becky said we just need to normalize the usage of DEI in our culture.

Dan mentioned maybe emailing and setting up DEI info earlier

The group decided reminders could be sent effectively

# **Old Business**

# Elections

# President elect Chris Roe was nominated and elected

# Treasurer Dan hansen was nominated and elected

# JSE chair Stehpenie king was nominated and elected

# DEI chair Becky Hansen was nominated and elected

# **New Business**

Jaya mentioned that no new rules were traditionally presented so we have two new discussion points.

Ben asked what tournaments these were for

Stephine said the MVP should be for state tournaments but if we want to move forward we can modify this to adapt what we see fit.

**Sweepstakes - Benjamin Morris**

At each awards ceremony (and published on Tabroom!), announce each school's "team MVP." Team MVP can either be done at the speaker point level (highest average speaker points)or at the "sweepstakes points earned" level. I prefer speaks -- fewer ties and gives more meaning to speaks.

One of the small-team feelings that sucks the most is spending all the time at a debate tournament and not having your school name said once during awards. Team MVPsolves this by recognizing the top performer from each school -- every school gets their name announced at awards

**Team MVP - Benjamin Morris**

First off, let me say I LOVE the sweepstakes proposal from Fall 2023 and think it's a

fantastic idea. Sweeps are AWESOME. It turns this activity into a true team sport and is

tangible enough to put in front of administrators.

1. Tournament director is responsible for publishing sweepstakes awards on Tabroom at the conclusion of each tournament. Can't put it on a principal's desk if it's not published!

 2. Sweepstakes should use a scoring system more similar to forensics, where the top X

entries from each school are used to determine the school's point score (highest point

score wins). This system is beneficial because large teams are not automatically

guaranteed to win, but each marginal entry increases the chance of winning. The current

system encourages teams to cut their worst competitors to increase their average point

score (you might argue that no one takes this award so seriously as to pursue that

strategy...but if that's the case, why have an unserious award?).

 There's two pieces to make this model work:

 1. How do you offer meaningful competition for small schools (<=15 entries) without

incentivizing them to cut weaker debaters? There's a few options here: (1) classify

schools based on enrollment size or some other metric, like urban debate league

status or programs in their first year or two of existence, and have a separate

category for them vs Open, or (2) keep a 'small team' sweepstakes award and reduce

the number of scoring entries (eg. Open Sweepstakes scores top 8, Small School

sweepstakes scores top 3). I like option 2 -- it smooths the curve a bit so that once

you get to "large school" status you have a solid scoring contingent.

2. What's the cutoff for number of scoring entries? Forensics uses 25, but that's way

too high for debate. Even 10 feels high. 8 seems solid to me.

 3. Because policy has 3 rounds as opposed to 5, it should have multiplier to bring its

points in line with PF/LD (eg. PF win = 6 points, CX win = 10 points; PF loss = 2 points,

CX loss = 3.3 points**)**

We as a group agree these rules need flushed out

Brain Devine thinks that this could be counter productive to team beliefs

We moved to table said bills

**Calendar**

**Review 2024-25 calendar**

Brain made a comment to move the november 30th torment to the 23 since thanksgiving is on the 28th,

Justin was ok with the date switch.

Ben talked moving state to the 18th for having that monday off would help with travel

Brain motions to move state to the 18th

Justin and Stephanie talked about judge concerns with moving the date

Becky talked about how finals affected state and the 18th would work better

More discussion was made on state due to confusion on what was best to do.

Daved brought up judging

Becky brings up judging as well

John discusses that this is something the executive committee should look at and get back to the WDCA at the fall meeting.

Brain withdraws his motion

Callander for now stays the same expert BEHS is moved to november 30th

**Vacancies**

No new spots where filled

**Online or in-person?**

All schools present listed whether they were in person/online, or hybrid.

**Other New Business**

Becky brought up state swag and how it went well considering the weather and she will probably do it again.

There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Flynn

WDCA Secretary

# **Voting overview**

# **Old Business**

# **President elect Chris Roe**

# **Treasurer Dan hansen**

# **JSE chair Stehpenie king**

# **DEI chair Becky Hansen**

# **New Business**

# **New Business was tabled**