

# Leadership

## Board of Directors Minutes

March 4, 2019

The NSDA Board of Directors held its March Virtual Meeting on March 4, 2019. In attendance were President Pam Cady Wycoff, Vice President Dr. Tommie Lindsey, Jr., Byron Arthur, David Huston, Adam J. Jacobi, Jennifer Jerome, Renee Motter, Wendy Orthman, Tom Rollins, Timothy Sheaff, and Monica Silverstein. Robert Runcie was not in attendance.

*President Wycoff called the meeting to order.*

### PAST MINUTES

A record of past minutes were approved via email prior to this meeting for publication in *Rostrum*.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Meeting minutes from the Governance, Development, Finance, and Rules Revision and Evaluation (RRE) Committees were submitted in advance for Board members to review and ask clarifying questions during the meeting.

### BOARD SELF-EVALUATION PRIORITIES

#### Moved by Huston, seconded by Rollins:

“Approve the targeted goals and strategies developed for the 2018-2019 Board Self-Evaluation Priorities and extend them through 2020 for evaluation.”

**Passed: 10-0** (Wycoff, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Orthman, Rollins, Sheaff, Silverstein)

Prior to the meeting, Board members were surveyed to offer specific strategies for implementation during the year to increase their overall effectiveness as a Board. These suggestions were then compiled, reviewed, and narrowed. The primary focus area is Public Relations and Advocacy. New strategies along with the advancement of current strategies were endorsed. This also included a review of goals that are currently being addressed by standing committees, working groups, and focus groups. Tactical suggestions for the Executive Director and staff to consider were also presented.

### ELECTED BOARD AND BOARD LEADERSHIP TERM LIMITS DISCUSSION

As part of a review of non-profit best practices, the Governance Committee prepared research along with three potential proposals on the topic for review and discussion. The NSDA Board of Directors is committed to evaluating its current structure, including term limits of elected members and term limits of leadership (president and vice president). The examination may result in changes in current practice or a decision to maintain the status quo. During the meeting time allotted, Board members discussed the pros and cons of current practices as well as feedback on the various proposals to institute term limits. Further discussion will continue online via shared Google Docs in preparation for discussion at the May Board Meeting.

### CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS

The Constitutional revisions outlined below fall into two categories. First, there are proposed edits to modernize the document and language to reflect 21st century rules and operations. One of the most significant revision clarifications officially recognizes middle school coach and student memberships, hence verifying voting rights for our middle school advisors in national elections. Second, there are revisions for the purpose of organizational innovations. Among these are changes that reflect the use of digital services over paper, as well as language to move forward with a strategic initiative to foster diverse representation within District Committees. All immediate and future changes to the NSDA Constitution and Bylaws can be found at [www.speechanddebate.org/constitution-and-bylaws](http://www.speechanddebate.org/constitution-and-bylaws).

#### Moved by Huston, seconded by Jacobi:

“As proposed by the Assistant Executive Director and reviewed by the Governance Committee, modernize the NSDA Constitution document and language to reflect 21st century rules and operations.”

**Passed: 10-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Orthman, Rollins, Sheaff, Silverstein)

**Moved by Huston, seconded by Lindsey:**

“As proposed by the Assistant Executive Director and reviewed by the Governance Committee, amend constitutional Bylaw #11, item 2, to read as follows: ‘The chapters in each district shall elect a chairperson and committee of voting members by weighted ordinal ballot; the ballot for each chapter to be counted equally. Ties will be broken by voter’s head-to-head preference, then the number of first place votes, then the number of second place votes, and so on. The term of office shall begin on August 1, and continue for two years or the current term length as approved by the Board of Directors.’”

**Passed: 10-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Orthman, Rollins, Sheaff, Silverstein)

**Moved by Orthman, seconded by Rollins:**

“As proposed by the Assistant Executive Director and reviewed by the Governance Committee, amend constitutional Bylaw #11 to read as follows: ‘When prescribed by the Board of Directors, the district committee may be allowed to appoint additional member(s).’”

**Passed: 10-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Orthman, Rollins, Sheaff, Silverstein)

**Moved by Rollins, seconded by Jerome:**

“As proposed by the Assistant Executive Director and reviewed by the Governance Committee, amend constitutional Bylaw #15 to read as follows: ‘Any coach on the national records shall be marked inactive if such person does not appear on the active roster for any school. Any student on the national records shall count toward school strength if their membership is paid and they have not yet graduated. To be district eligible, the student will also require a valid, unique email address in the system.’”

**Passed: 10-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Orthman, Rollins, Sheaff, Silverstein)

**Moved by Motter, seconded by Jacobi:**

“As proposed by the Assistant Executive Director and reviewed by the Governance Committee, change the High School Unified Manual to read as follows: ‘Eligible Members: Coaches and students will count in determining chapter strength, and therefore, district standing as soon as their individual memberships are paid. Students are district eligible if their membership is paid, they have a valid, unique email address on their NSDA account, and they have met the 25 point threshold for district participation.’”

**Passed: 10-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Orthman, Rollins, Sheaff, Silverstein)

**TABROOM.COM ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH PLANS**

**Moved by Rollins, seconded by Silverstein:**

“Table the original Tabroom.com timeline in favor of the revised ‘Concept 2’ proposal as an intermediate step with an analysis step in the fall of 2019 as recommended by the Finance Committee.”

**Passed: 10-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Orthman, Rollins, Sheaff, Silverstein)

The Board continued its discussions on the community and organization’s reliance on the NSDA supported Tabroom.com tabulation software and potential steps to best ensure its technical viability, quality of service, and economic sustainability. Over the next year, the NSDA will continue to provide Tabroom.com as a general service to the community and some enhanced services to the NSDA membership for District Tournament and National Tournament registration, tabulation, and results reporting. In addition, data will be gathered to assess the software and determine appropriate future pathways for the organization as a whole.

**STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

The Assistant Executive Director provided a summary of strategic plan priority areas and outcomes achieved in Quarter 2 of 2018-2019. Board members collectively complimented staff on second quarter progress.

**MEMBERSHIP CORRESPONDENCE**

In accordance with the Board’s goal of increased membership engagement, letters submitted to the Board were included in meeting materials to inform the Board of ideas, requests, and concerns that have been submitted for consideration.

*With the governance agenda completed, the appointed Board members were excused from the remainder of the meeting. The elected Board members remained to discuss appointed Board member recommendations and Competition Rules Committee issues.*

**APPOINTED BOARD MEMBER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Moved by Lindsey, seconded by Huston:**

“Adjourn into executive session to discuss and review appointed Board member recommendations.”

**Passed: 7-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

**Moved by Huston, seconded by Lindsey:**

“Reconvene into general session.”

**Passed: 7-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

During executive session, the Board agreed to offer Tom Rollins and Monica Silverstein re-appointments to Board seats C and D. They will each serve an additional two-year term. Additionally, the Board discussed the future of an appointed board seat E, which will be considered for appointment at the May meeting.

## COMPETITION RULES

### *Cultural Competency Guidelines for National Tournament Judges*

As part of our 2018-2019 Inclusion Commitments, the NSDA continues to strive for a diverse, inclusive, and representative judging pool at the National Tournament. To meet this promise, the staff will produce introductory cultural competency guidelines through a course created in partnership with the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS). This voluntary course will be promoted as an online resource for all judges at the National Tournament. (See the article on page 21 for more information.)

### *World Schools Debate Points at Nationals*

#### **Moved by Jerome, seconded by Jacobi:**

“Adopt the Rules Revision and Evaluation (RRE) Committee’s recommendation to award 10 points for a win and 8 points for a loss in World Schools Debate starting with the 2019 National Tournament.”

#### **Passed: 6-1**

**Aye:** Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter  
**No:** Sheaff

World Schools is a main event, yet the points awarded are not consistent with other debate events. Currently, WSD team members receive 6 points for a win and 3 points for a loss. Although two members of a team do not speak in the round, they are part of the team’s preparation. Therefore, the RRE Committee recommended that all team members should be awarded equally. However, the Committee agreed that sweepstakes points should not be allocated because the teams are generally composed of students from multiple schools and sweepstakes is an individual school award. The Board accepted this proposal as presented.

### *National Tournament Supplemental and Consolation Event Pilot*

#### **Moved by Huston, seconded by Motter:**

“Adopt the National Tournament Supplemental and Consolation Event Pilot Proposal as recommended by the RRE Committee.”

**Passed: 7-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

In conjunction with our strategic plan, the Executive Director and staff recommended a proposal to make supplemental and consolation events a better competitive and economically worthwhile experience for students. Upon endorsement, the Executive Director and staff will move forward with designing and implementing the tactics

for this proposal for implementation at the 2020 National Tournament. (See the article on page 12 for details.)

### *National Tournament Rule Infraction Penalty Range Pilot*

#### **Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Jerome:**

“Pilot the new rules infraction penalty ranges proposed by the RRE Committee at the 2019 National Tournament.”

**Passed: 7-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

The RRE Committee has created a range of penalty options to better address varying levels of rules infractions at the National Tournament. These penalty options will be piloted during the 2019 National Tournament and administered by the tournament adjudication panel. See the *High School Unified Manual* for further explanation of the procedures. At the conclusion of the pilot this summer, the procedures will be evaluated for potential implementation at the District Tournament level and at future National Tournaments.

### *National Tournament Bud Process Proposal*

#### **Moved by Huston, seconded by Motter:**

“Adopt the National Tournament Rules Adjudication Process Proposal for implementation at the 2019 National Tournament as recommended by the RRE Committee.”

**Passed: 7-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

In an effort to continually clarify and improve the rules adjudication process for the membership, as well as those staffed to assist with adjudication, the NSDA has further defined the roles of Ombudsperson, National Tournament Director, and Rules Adjudication Panel. An *NSDA Ombudsperson* is a person who, via the tournament office, attempts to provide important information to attendees and helps to resolve issues that may arise throughout the course of the tournament. *Rules Adjudication Panelists* are responsible for gathering all relevant data associated with a formal protest, interviewing the protesting and protested parties, and rendering a final decision to uphold or decline the protest and determine the appropriate penalties, if applicable. The *National Tournament Director* serves as an advisor to the Rules Adjudication Panelists and Ombudspersons.

#### **Moved by Jerome, seconded by Jacobi:**

“Adjourn.”

**Passed: 7-0** (Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

## QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? IDEAS?

We want to hear from you! Send your feedback to [board@speechanddebate.org](mailto:board@speechanddebate.org).