

Leadership

Board of Directors Spring Minutes

May 3-5, 2019
West Des Moines, Iowa

The NSDA Board of Directors held its Spring Board Meeting on May 3-5, 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, Bob Runcie, Timothy Sheaff, and Monica Silverstein.

President Wycoff called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MISSION MOMENT

To set the tone for the meeting, the Board viewed a “mission moment” video prepared by the staff. It consisted of testimonials from student members reflecting on their experiences in the activity and the impact the NSDA has had on their lives. The Board then discussed their greatest takeaways from the messages as they related to the organization’s core mission and vision.

BOARD PRIORITIES UPDATE

President Wycoff presented the progress report on the Board priorities that have been established. Among these are the maintenance of open dialogue with the membership, effectiveness and efficiency of Board and committee meetings, regular tracking of progress toward meeting the organization’s strategic plan goals, continued financial oversight to ensure the annual budget reflects the Association’s priorities, and continued measurement of the impact of critical programs and initiatives of the organization. The ongoing strategies to accomplish these goals were reviewed and assessed.

DEVELOPMENT REPORTING/PLANS FOR FUNDRAISING ASSISTANCE

The Director of Development and Development Committee Chair provided an update on their efforts to create individualized plans for each Board member to assist with efforts to financially contribute to and/or fundraise on behalf of the organization. The Board members then discussed additional strategies that could be considered on behalf of the organization’s fundraising efforts including corporate sponsorships, national level foundations, and outreach to high profile alumni avenues to expand the Tate Fund, which serves under resourced teams attending the National Tournament.

NEXT YEAR’S CALENDAR PLANNING

The President presented the members of the Board with a rationale for adjusting the timing of standing committee and Board meetings to better facilitate quarterly reporting. A draft meeting calendar for the 2019-2020 school year was then offered for initial approval.

SUMMER CONFERENCE AND INCLUSION WORKSHOP UPDATE

The Executive Director provided a progress report on the upcoming summer conference to be held at the Antler Hotel and Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on August 4-6, 2019, and the Inclusion Workshop to be held at Colorado College on August 7-8, 2019. Conference registration is still open and a limited number of seats for the Inclusion Workshop remain. Please visit www.speechanddebate.org/conferences for more information.

APPOINTED BOARD SEAT E

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Arthur:

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

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Orthman, Rollins, Runcie, Sheaff, Silverstein)

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Jerome:

“Reconvene into general session.”

Passed: 12-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Orthman, Rollins, Runcie, Sheaff, Silverstein)

During executive session, the Board agreed to offer Dr. Mike Edmonds of Colorado College appointment to Board Seat E. Dr. Edmonds has accepted this appointment. This appointment completes the original plan to add five appointed Board members to the original eight elected Board seats. Dr. Edmonds will serve a two-year term beginning August 1, 2019. Dr. Edmonds is currently the Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Life at Colorado College. He has been involved in and supportive of competitive speech for most of his life. He has served on several local and national boards throughout his career in education and will provide important expertise in several key areas, including development, inclusion, alumni relations, and post-secondary administration. In addition to his selection into the NSDA's Hall of Fame class of 2019, Dr. Edmonds recently was selected for induction into the University of Mississippi's School of Education Alumni Hall of Fame.

DISCUSSION OF TERM LIMITS PROPOSAL

Moved by Lindsey, seconded by Huston:

“Accept the [amended] term limits proposal for elected Board members as recommended by the Governance Committee.”

Passed: 11-0-1

Aye: Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Orthman, Runcie, Sheaff, Silverstein

Abstain: Rollins

The Board has changed the term limit policy for elected members of the Board of Directors from one based on an age limit to a traditional term limit system, which allows elected members to serve a total of three four-year terms. The new policy allows elected members to serve two consecutive four-year terms. If a Board member is interested in running for a third term, they may do so after a minimum of one full-term hiatus. The new system includes a grandfathering system for past and current members who have already served more than three terms. Eligibility for Board candidacy requires being a member coach of record with an active member

school and a minimum of five years as a member coach. Additionally, eligibility for leadership roles requires two years of service on the Board. The plan allows for the option of emeritus status for retiring Board members to provide institutional knowledge, as needed. By the 2024 election, the entire new system will be fully implemented. The plan was designed to eliminate the “70-rule” and gradually phase in Board member turnover in a manner that will effectively put into place a long term system of term limits for both membership and leadership roles that encourages inclusive participation. The development of this proposal was based on extensive non-profit organizational research, Board feedback on the initial proposal presented at the March Board meeting, and membership correspondence resulting from the publication of Board agendas. Additional explanation of the new system appears on page 15 of this issue of *Rostrum*.

FUTURE CONFERENCE PLANNING

The Board discussed the future of both the National Educational Conference and National Leadership Conference concepts. Since 2006, the organization has held five leadership conferences and three educational conferences. After reviewing the benefits and costs of yearly conferences, it was determined that the organization will not hold a conference in 2020. This will allow for further assessment of both types of events, the value and demand for these conferences, financial considerations, and the best options to serve the needs of the organization in the future.

DISTRICT APPOINTMENT

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Sheaff:

“District Committees have the option of appointing a sixth member to their committee for the purpose of inclusively representing the current and future community that the district should serve.”

Passed: 9-1-1

Aye: Wycoff, Lindsey, Jacobi, Huston, Motter, Rollins, Runcie, Sheaff, Silverstein

No: Arthur

Abstain: Jerome

Beginning in the fall of 2019, District Committees will have the option of appointing a sixth member to the district leadership. This autonomy allows individual districts to include additional leaders who will improve the overall representation of its current and future membership. The details for this option will be provided to district committees by August 1, 2019.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Moved by Arthur, seconded by Rollins:

“Accept the 2019-2020 Strategic Operating Plan as recommended by the Governance Committee.”

Passed: 11-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Orthman, Rollins, Sheaff, Silverstein)

The Assistant Executive Director presented the 2019-2020 Strategic Operating Plan. Details of the plan will appear online at www.speechanddebate.org. The Board complemented the work of the Assistant Executive Director and staff on their excellent proposal.

BUDGET

Moved by Rollins, seconded by Lindsey:

“Approve the 2019-2020 pre-budget proposal, with the option to revise via online affirmation, if necessary, prior to the start of the 2019-2020 fiscal year as recommended by the Finance Committee.”

Passed: 11-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Orthman, Rollins, Sheaff, Silverstein)

In 2018, the Executive Director began presenting a pre-budget for the upcoming year for Board review and approval to allow for better planning and continuity with the Strategic Operating Plan as of the start of the fiscal year on August 1. This practice will now be the norm. The final budget will be formally approved at the 2019 Fall Board meeting. The Board complemented the outstanding work of the Executive Director and Director of Finance on the pre-budget plan.

PROPOSAL ON LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP CYCLE

Moved by Arthur, seconded by Huston:

“Accept the recommendations of the Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director for changes to the organizational membership structure as outlined.”

Passed: 11-1

Aye: Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Orthman, Rollins, Runcie, Silverstein

No: Sheaff

The Board has agreed to a restructuring plan that will streamline student and coach membership and the Honor Society recognition structure to increase clarity and continuity of the process. It will also allow coaches to be recognized for middle school and high school coaching under the same honor system. A full description of the changes will appear in the September/October 2019 issue of *Rostrum*.

FUTURE NATIONALS

The Executive Director presented several current and “placeholder” bids for future National Tournaments. The

Board directed the Executive Director to gather additional information on bids before making a final determination. Nationals will be held in the following cities in the following years:

2020 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

2021 – Des Moines, Iowa

2022 – To Be Determined

2023 – Phoenix, Arizona

The Board also discussed the concept of repeating the location of the National Tournament in back-to-back years or repeating a location every other year to create higher level of cost savings, ease of preparation for the event, and increased security precautions. The Board has asked the Executive Director to continue his investigation and study into these concepts for additional discussion at future meetings.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION ON TERM LIMITS PROPOSAL

Moved by Jerome, seconded by Motter:

“Reconsider the term limits motion.”

Passed: 6-5

Aye: Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Orthman, Rollins, Runcie

No: Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Sheaff

Moved by Lindsey, seconded by Huston:

“Accept the [amended] term limits proposal for elected Board members as recommended by the Governance Committee.”

Passed: 8-1-2

Aye: Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Orthman, Rollins, Runcie, Sheaff

No: Jerome

Abstain: Jacobi, Motter

The Board participated in an additional discussion to further clarify and review the specific details of the plan passed the previous day. After reconsidering the motion, the original motion was reaffirmed.

2019 GENERAL TOURNAMENT UPDATE

The Executive Director provided an update on the ongoing preparations for the 2019 National Tournament. In general, plans are on track for a successful event.

MEMBERSHIP CORRESPONDENCE

The Board received a variety of feedback from members with questions and comments related to the upcoming Board agenda. These were shared with the Board and this feedback was considered during deliberations on various issues and/or noted for future consideration.

At this point in the meeting, the appointed Board members were excused and the elected Board members began discussions on competition rules.

PILOT QUALIFICATION RULES RECOMMENDATIONS

Moved by Jerome, seconded by Lindsey:

“Continue the pilot district qualification option (as revised) for the 2019-2020 NSDA District Tournament Series, as recommended by the Rules Revision and Evaluation (RRE) Committee.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

After a successful year of the district qualification pilot program, the Board has agreed to extend the pilot for next year with revisions based on the feedback of members. A full description of the revised pilot rules can be found online at www.speechanddebate.org beginning August 1, 2019.

LD TOPIC VOTING

Moved by Huston, seconded by Jerome:

“Use ordinal balloting to determine the LD resolutions that will be used for the school year.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

To create better understanding of the LD voting system, further utilization of topic areas for resolutions, and better align it with other topic voting systems, the Board agreed to move to an ordinal voting system for LD topic choice among the membership. Based on the annual July/August vote, the results will determine the following for the upcoming year:

September/October: 5th ranked topic

November/December: 4th ranked topic

January/February: 3rd ranked topic

March/April: 2nd ranked topic

National Tournament: 1st ranked topic

UPDATE ON NFHS COPYRIGHT PROJECT

The Executive Director discussed the ongoing efforts between the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), the Educational Theater Association (EdTA), and the National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) to produce a course for its members on the issue of copyright compliance. In partnership, these organizations have completed a copyright course through the NFHS Learn system that will better inform members on the laws and regulations surrounding copyright. The Executive Director and Board will continue to discuss this issue and its potential impact on rules and procedures in upcoming meetings.

PUBLIC FORUM AD HOC COMMITTEE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Moved by Motter, seconded by Lindsey:

“Accept the Public Forum Debate Ad Hoc Committee recommendations for rules revisions as presented by the

RRE Committee for piloting during the 2019-2020 NSDA District and National Tournament Series.”

Passed: 6-2

Aye: Wycoff, Lindsey, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter

No: Arthur, Sheaff

The Board has agreed to pilot the following changes to the Public Forum rules for the 2019-2020 competition season:

- One additional minute will be added to each summary speech for a total of three minutes per speech.
- One additional minute of preparation time will be given to each team for a total of three minutes of preparation time per team throughout the debate.

In addition, the following recommendations have been accepted.

- The NSDA will continue to offer two-month topics for September/October and November/December and then one-month topics in January, February, March, April, and for the National Tournament.
- Grand Crossfire will remain. However, proposed language will be added by August 1, 2019 to the NSDA rules manual to encourage alteration of questions by both teams to minimize dominance by one team. The language will read as follows: “**At the conclusion of the summary speeches, all four debaters will remain seated and participate in a three-minute ‘Grand Crossfire’ in which all four debaters are allowed to cross-examine one another. The speaker who gave the first summary speech must ask the first question. The speakers from each team will continue to ask and answer questions. Teams should alternate asking and answering questions rather than allowing one team to dominate so that a balance between teams is achieved. All speakers are encouraged to participate in the Grand Crossfire. Speakers should listen respectfully to opponents’ questions and answers.**”
- Paraphrasing will continue to be allowed. However, proposed language will be added to the evidence rules by August 1, 2019, to further delineate the use of paraphrasing versus summary of evidence in accordance with academic research standards. The evidence language will read as follows: “**Paraphrasing, authoritative source versus general understanding. If paraphrasing is used in a debate, the debater will be held to the same standard of citation and accuracy as if the entire text of the evidence were read. Paraphrasing may be used to shorten or clarify one specific portion of an original source. It should not be confused with general summary of an entire book, chapter, study, etc., which may only be used for information that is widely considered to be common**

knowledge. Paraphrasing focuses on a single idea, while summary focuses on a general concept. For example, if a debater references a specific theory by a specific author, the debater must also be able to provide an original source as well as the specific text from the original source which is being paraphrased. If a debater were to reference social contract theory in general, that would not be an authoritative source that would require citation. However, if the debater references 'John Locke's Social Contract,' evidence would need to be available."

- The Coin Flip will remain.
- The order of speeches will remain intact.

OMBUDSPERSON AND RULES ADJUDICATION PANELIST PROTOCOL/TRAINING

The new National Tournament ombudsperson and rules adjudication panelist protocols to be implemented at the 2019 National Tournament were reviewed with the Board members. The Board also participated in some training and simulation exercises to better prepare for the upcoming tournament.

CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE AD HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Jerome:

"Charge the Executive Director with pursuing options to facilitate a student vote by Congressional Debate district qualifiers to determine prelim and elim round legislation for review at the Fall Board meeting."

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

Based on a recommendation from the Congressional Debate Ad Hoc Committee, the Board has asked the Executive Director to design options to allow for a pre-tournament vote among district qualified students to determine the order and selection of preliminary and elimination round legislation.

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Lindsey:

"Allow district autonomy to pilot the Congressional Debate Committee's recommendation to limit time for debate per legislation to no more than one-third of a session's floor time in 2019-2020, as recommended by the RRE Committee."

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

In some regions, an expectation has arisen that every student must speak on each bill/resolution, which often leads to rehashed arguments and one-sided debate. With precedence and recency, which also locks students into the same speaking position on each bill, judges for a particular round will only see constructive or refutation speeches from

a particular student. Limiting debate on each legislation brings dynamism to a session. The committee's rationale was that limiting the time of debate will keep the debate fresh for students and also encourage new and experienced judges to adjudicate.

Districts will have the autonomy to limit debate on legislation. For those districts choosing to implement the pilot policy, language will read as follows: "Debate shall not extend beyond one-third of a session's floor time, inclusive of any speeches, recesses, motions, or other business which shall occur once an author/sponsor speech has been called upon. A student may move Previous Question any time prior to the time limit. When debate ends on legislation, the chamber is presumed to be ready for the question, which will lead to a vote without the need to move Previous Question. If the student is in the middle of a speech when time for debate elapses, they may conclude their speech/questioning time without penalty."

PILOT INTERNET USAGE RULE RECOMMENDATIONS

Moved by Jerome, seconded by Arthur:

"Allow for the use of internet in Congressional, Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum Debate events, and Extemporaneous Speaking at NSDA District Tournaments as prescribed in the NSDA *Unified Manual*, if approved by a majority of the District Committee."

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

District Committees will once again have the autonomy to determine whether or not the use of internet will be allowed, as prescribed by NSDA rules, in debate events and Extemporaneous Speaking at the District Tournament.

Moved by Huston, seconded by Jerome:

"Allow for the use of internet in Congressional, Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum Debate events, and Extemporaneous Speaking at the 2021 National Tournament as prescribed in the NSDA *Unified Manual*."

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

Beginning with the 2021 National Tournament, the use of internet will be allowed in debate events and Extemporaneous Speaking. As was the case with the phase-in of computers in debate events and Extemporaneous Speaking, the membership is being alerted in advance to plan accordingly for the 2021 Nationals. The option to use at Nationals does not interfere with a district's autonomy to allow or not allow use of the internet in these events at their district qualifying events.

SPEECH FORFEIT RULE PROPOSAL

Moved by Huston, seconded by Sheaff:

“Judges should notify the District Committee of a student who arrives to their round more than 15 minutes after the posted start time of the round. If there are multiple judges in the round, all must agree that the student was more than 15 minutes late. The District Committee may choose to drop each judge score in the round by two ranks. The judge(s) should not adjust the student’s ranks themselves. The District Committee may also waive the penalty.”

Passed: 5-3

Aye: Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Motter

No: Wycoff, Jerome, Sheaff

To ensure continuity with debate, District Committees will have the autonomy to penalize a contestant two round ranks for arriving more than 15 minutes late to a competitive round. This rule aligns with the forfeiture rule in debate events.

DISTRICT CUMULATIVE SWEEPSTAKES PROPOSAL

The Board discussed the District Cumulative Sweepstakes award and the challenges associated with the timing and complexities in calculating the award across multiple weekends and often multiple pieces of computer software. The Executive Director is going to develop options for Board consideration that would allow for the award to continue while decreasing the probability for errors and timing challenges.

INTERP AD HOC COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Motter:

“Form an Ad Hoc Interp Committee for 2019-2020 to review current rules in the areas of publication and script adaptation.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

During the 2019-2020 school year, an Ad Hoc Committee of member coaches selected by the Board President will review the current rules in interpretation events on publication and script adaptation in light of evolving publication practices and copyright standards. The committee will create a set of recommendations that will be made public for community feedback and review by the RRE Committee of the Board.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO DISTRICT LEVELING

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Jerome:

“Approve the changes to the district leveling system as proposed by the Executive Director.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

The Executive Director proposed a series of changes to the district leveling system that will streamline the system for District Committees and member coaches to more easily comprehend their district’s qualification levels for the upcoming year. The changes also put into place more purposeful strategies for working with smaller districts who struggle to meet the district size standards. The new system will be available for review online by August 1, 2019, and district leaders will be notified of their districts level for the upcoming year.

CLASSIFICATION

Moved by Sheaff, seconded by Huston:

“Charge the Executive Director with the exploration and development of a plan for presentation at the 2019 Fall Board meeting to offer a school classification based National Tournament.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff)

The Board wants to examine the merits of increasing access to National Tournament level competition through classification based on school size. Recent membership surveys and focus groups have indicated a growing desire by the membership for the organization to consider increasing competitive opportunities for small and rural school programs as well as addressing competitive equity issues. This initial examination of logistical considerations will provide both a philosophical and pragmatic context for this ongoing discussion.

Moved by Lindsey, seconded by Arthur:

“Adjourn.”

Passed: 8-0 (Wycoff, Lindsey, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter, Sheaff) 

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? IDEAS?

We want to hear from you! Send your feedback to board@speechanddebate.org.