



Board of Directors Spring Meeting, May 3-5, 2019
Meeting Location: 401 Railroad Place, West Des Moines, IA

Call to Order – President Pam Cady Wycoff at 9:00 a.m.

Record of the Approved Minutes

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/2019-march-board-minutes/>

Reports

1. Governance, Finance, Development Committee Report Q&A

Background: These Standing Committees hold a minimum of four quarterly meetings per year. All minutes of the meeting are provided to each Board member for review. This is an opportunity for the Board to address questions regarding each committee's progress on their goals since the March Board Meeting.

2. 2018-2020 Board Priorities Update (President)

Background: Among the Board's priorities, Public Relations and Advocacy is primary. In conjunction with this, the status of ongoing strategies to maintain an open dialogue with the membership will be addressed. In addition, the Board continues to prioritize the effectiveness and efficiency of its own meetings to ensure the highest level of productivity. Targeted efforts in the areas of Strategy (tracking progress toward organizational goals); Finance (ensuring the annual budget reflects the Association's priorities); and Program Oversight (measuring the impact of critical programs and initiatives) will also be reviewed.

3. Board Development Plans and Fundraising Assistance (Development Committee)

Background: As part of a Board member's duty to financially contribute to and/or fundraise on behalf of the organization, the Development Committee will present the results of their efforts to help Board members determine individualized plans to facilitate development goals for our organization.

4. Next Year's Calendar Planning (President)

Background: The Board will discuss logistical considerations for the 2019-20 calendar of meetings.

5. 2019 Summer Conference and Inclusion Workshop Update (Executive Director)

Background: The Executive Director will provide a status update on the preparations and plans for both events.

Unfinished Business

1. Appointed Board Seat E (Governance Committee)

Background: The Governance Committee will present a recommendation for a fifth appointed Board seat. The full Board will have the opportunity to assess the qualifications of the candidate for final approval.

2. Discussion of Term Limits Proposal (Governance Committee)

Background: The Governance Committee was tasked with assessing the value of term limits for Board tenure and leadership roles as well as a potential plan for implementation. A proposal will be presented for consideration.

3. Future Conference Planning (Governance Committee)

Background: Since 2006, our organization has offered five Leadership Conferences and three National Conferences for the membership. The Board will assess the purpose, past practices, benefits, and financial considerations of these events to determine their overall value for the membership and our organizational priorities.

4. Discussion of District Appointed Leader Proposal (Governance Committee)

Background: The Board will review a proposal to allow District Committee members to appoint a sixth member to enhance diversity of representation. The proposal will include some initial feedback collected. This proposal allows the sixth member appointment to be optional, not mandatory to implement.

New Business

1. 2019-2020 Strategic Operating Planning (Executive Director / Assistant Executive Director)

Background: The Executive Director and staff proposal for an operating plan to support phase two of the organization's five-year Strategic Plan will be presented. The strategies designed to meet our Strategic Priorities (1. Reach More Students; 2. Support More Schools; 3. Earn Loyalty; 4. Drive Inclusive Participation; and 5. Strive for Stability) will be evaluated for approval.

2. 2019-2020 Preliminary Budget (Finance Committee)

Background: A preliminary budget, directly tied to the Strategic Plan, will be presented for pre-approval. If pre-approved, the operating plan will effectively go into place on August 1. At the end of the fiscal year (July 31), the budget may be adjusted for final approval at the Fall Board Meeting. However, the intent is to present a budget that will responsibly support the operational plan presented.

3. Proposal on Lifetime Membership Cycle (Executive Director)

Background: The Executive Director and staff will propose membership strategies necessary to best execute the Board directed alignment between middle school, high school, and alumni/coach membership.

4. Discussion of Proposed Changes to District Leveling (Executive Director)

Background: The Executive Director and staff will propose potential changes to the District Leveling system to increase ease of understanding among the membership and to better streamline the process from year to year.

5. Louisville, KY Bid to Host the 2022 National Tournament (Executive Director)

Background: The Board will review the proposal submitted by the City of Louisville, KY with support from the Jefferson County Public Schools and the NSDA Kentucky District Committee and will determine its viability for 2022.

6. Same Site National Tournament Proposal (Executive Director)

Background: The Board will begin to discuss the pros and cons of identifying one consistent site for future Nationals. This would require a change in a past practice that generally rotates the tournament to various locations. Given that this model has been used successfully by other organizations to continually refine logistics, streamline planning, strengthen security and supervision methods, provide consistency for attendees, and save costs, the Board will review the concept for potential implementation in the future.

7. 2019 General Tournament Update (Executive Director)

- A. Basic Logistics Updates: *The Executive Director will cover the general status of tournament preparations and address any major concerns that may have arisen.*
- B. Background Check Procedures Update: *The Executive Director will present a procedural plan for background checks for key tournament officials at the National Tournament.*
- C. Equity Office/Harassment and Discrimination Policy: *The Executive Director will present an overview on the Equity Office at the 2019 National Tournament and the procedures that will be followed for harassment and discrimination reporting.*

8. Review of Membership Correspondence

Background: In accordance with our goal of increased membership engagement, letters submitted to the Board will be included in our meeting materials to inform the Board of ideas, requests, and concerns that have been submitted for consideration.

Competition Rules Agenda

Reports

1. Rules Revision and Evaluation (RRE) Committee Q&A

Background: This is an opportunity to review any rules issues discussed in committee that will not be directly discussed during the Board Meeting.

2. New National Tournament Congressional House Procedures (Executive Director)

Background: Given the increase in House qualifiers, the Executive Director, with consultation from tournament officials and the RRE Committee, has devised schedule adjustments, legislation counts, qualification progression, chambers sizes, and revised sweepstakes points. This will be reviewed.

3. Presentation of 2019-2020 LD/PF Balloting Plan (Executive Director)

Background: The Executive Director and staff will present plans for LD and PF balloting for the 2019-2020 resolutions that are designed to make the process easier to understand and provide for more community input in the wording process.

4. Update on National Federation of State High School Associations Copyright Project (Executive Director)

Background: The National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) has been working in partnership with the National Speech & Debate Association and the Educational Theatre Association on an online course to better inform the community on current copyright laws. The Board will be updated on this work and will discuss the next steps that will be taken to ensure future compliance within NSDA activities.

Unfinished Business

1. Public Forum Ad Hoc Committee Final Recommendations (Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee)

Background: The Board will review and then determine whether the following recommendations should be further piloted for membership feedback and/or implemented. The extended work of this revised committee has resulted in rationales for the following recommendations.

- A. *The pilot trial of topic timing for November/December topic was positive and recommends continuation of this practice. (Topics for January, February, March, April, and Nationals would remain intact as originally intended with the pilot.)*
- B. *The Coin Flip should remain.*
- C. *Prep time should be increased by one minute so that each team has a total of three minutes of prep.*
- D. *Summary Speech should be increased by one minute.*
- E. *Grand Crossfire should remain in the debate. Proposed language should be added to the rules to encourage alternation of questions by both teams to minimize dominance by one team.*
- F. *Paraphrasing should remain in the debate, but proposed language should be added to the rules to delineate the use of paraphrasing vs. summary of evidence in accordance with academic research standards.*
- G. *The order of speeches should remain intact.*

2. Congressional Debate Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations (Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee)

Background: The Board will review the following recommendations for membership feedback and/or piloting. This committee has presented rationales for two main recommendations.

- A. *Legislative Agenda Setting: This includes steps to narrow the legislation submitted by districts yet provide a sufficient number of acceptable items. National qualifiers should preferentially rank the items to determine preliminary round and elimination round legislation and to eliminate remaining items from the docket. Additionally, when chambers are divided, as is the past practice, districts should be distributed in such a way that each chamber has authorship rights. Prior to the tournament, legislation in each*

chamber that has authorship rights should be identified. Also, the four highest items based on the National Qualifier Docket that are not already on the docket should be identified. The Parliamentarian should be provided with the list, which must start the agenda for the chamber. If all items are debated, then the chamber may suspend the rules to add additional items to the agenda from the remaining docket.

Suggestions regarding the number of docket items at various levels and these recommended protocols have been offered for the Executive Director's consideration.

- B. Limiting Time for Debate: 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 motion for Previous Question may occur 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 for a motion to Previous Question. If the student is in the middle of a speech, when the time for debate elapses, they may conclude their speech/questioning time without penalty.*

3. Pilot Internet Usage Rule Recommendations (Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee)

Background: Districts that utilized the pilot as well as those that did not were surveyed for feedback. The RRE Committee reviewed the findings and is recommending that at the district level in 2019-2020, internet usage should continue to be piloted. Districts should retain autonomy on whether to pilot this option in 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. At the 2021 National Tournament, the internet rules should go into effect. Even if implemented at Nationals, NSDA districts should retain the autonomy on whether or not to allow internet use during the district tournament in the future.

4. Pilot Qualification Rules Recommendations (Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee)

Background: This year, several NSDA districts piloted alternative procedures for qualification to the National Tournament. Districts that participated in the pilots were surveyed for their feedback. Those districts that did not participate were also surveyed about their reasons for staying with the traditional qualification protocols. A report of the responses regarding Congress, Speech, and Debate will be reviewed along with suggested changes for the pilot in 2019-2020.

New Business

1. Speech Forfeit Rule Proposal (Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee)

Background: Debate has a forfeiture rule for debaters who are late for the round, but this is not the case in speech. The RRE Committee has recommended a new proposal for speech.

"Students who are 15 minutes late will be dropped two ranks by all judges in the round. The judge(s) should not adjust the students' ranks themselves. The judge(s) should notify the District Committee of a student who is 15 minutes late, and the ranks will be changed by the tab room. The District Committee may waive the penalty, especially if the student was late due to double entry."

2. District Cumulative Sweepstakes Proposal (Executive Director)

Background: The Executive Director and staff have proposed the elimination of this traveling award. The rationale will be reviewed.

3. Interp Ad Hoc Committee Proposal (Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee)

Background: The RRE Committee has recommended the formation of an Ad Hoc Interp Committee for 2019-2020. The charge for this committee will be to review current rules in the areas of publication and script adaptation in light of evolving publication practices and copyright standards.

4. Ombudsperson and Adjudication Panel Protocol/Training (Executive Director)

Background: The Board has approved a new system to pilot at the 2019 Nationals. The Ombudsperson role is charged with providing important information to attendees and helping resolve complaints and problems that may arise. The Adjudication Panel will consist of three individuals who will adjudicate all protests and offer a final ruling. The two-step process of a protest being adjudicated by a single individual with the option to appeal a protest to a panel of three has been streamlined to one Adjudication Panel ruling. The pilot of the range of rules penalties for infractions will also be utilized at the 2019 Nationals.

Adjournment – Pam Cady Wycoff