



Board of Directors Virtual Board Meeting, March 9, 2020

Call to Order/Record of Approved Minutes

Reports/New Business

Reports

Governance, Finance, Development, and Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee Reports: Each standing committee holds 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 assess this quarter's committee reports and address questions regarding each committee's progress on their goals since the Fall Board Meeting.

Equity and Inclusion

1. *Equity Statement:* The Board will officially enter into the minutes the results of the vote on the Equity Statement conducted during a special convening of the Board. This online vote was held to allow the Equity Statement to be released to the public on Wednesday, March 4, in coordination with the week of NDSE Day. This statement was created by an Equity Statement Working Group comprised of a diverse group of member coaches, Board members, and staff who attended the Summer Inclusion Workshop. It was then circulated for feedback to the coaches' caucus leaders and Governance Committee, and back to the Equity Working Committee for final feedback and revisions. The final draft version of the NSDA Equity Statement was reviewed and recommended by the Governance Committee and then received approval by the Board.
2. *Mission/Vision Revision:* The Board will review and discuss potential revisions to the NSDA Mission and Vision Statements to ensure alignment with the organization's five core values of equity, integrity, respect, leadership, and service. After feedback is shared, if each adjusted statement meets the expectations of the group, a formal vote of approval will be held. If not, the revision process will continue for final approval prior to the May Board Meeting.

Governance Business

1. *Appointed Board Member Prospecting and Approval:* The seat for appointed Board member Wendy Orthman will become vacant on August 1, 2020. The Governance Committee will outline the process for recommending and vetting potential candidates. The Board is targeting a vote to approve a candidate for the seat at the May Board Meeting. The term for the appointed Board seat is August 1, 2020, through July 31, 2022. The Board will also vote to approve the extension of Bob Runcie's term as the

administrative representative by one additional year to complete four years of service on the Board.

2. *Committee Size and Scope:* The Governance Committee has further developed best practice guidelines regarding the size and scope of standing committees (Governance, Development, Finance, and Rules Revision and Evaluation) as well as Board roles in conjunction with ad hoc committees and working groups. A proposal was initially presented for review at the December Virtual Board Meeting, then underwent an online Board feedback process and revision by the Governance Committee. The final draft version has been recommended for approval by the Governance Committee and will be presented at the March Meeting for final Board approval or additional revision.
3. *Strategic Plan:* The Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director will field questions from the Board concerning the Quarter 2 Report. The Strategic Plan Goals include five priorities: 1) Reach More Students; 2) Support More Schools; 3) Drive Inclusive Participation; 4) Earn Loyalty; and 5) Strive for Stability.
4. *Financials:* The Executive Director and the Director of Finance/Business Management will field questions from the Board concerning the Quarter 2 Report. To ensure fiscal responsibility, four target areas are addressed: 1) Keep operating expenses below operating revenues to annually contribute to our reserves for protection against unexpected shortfalls; 2) Increased development and alumni giving; 3) Establish an economically sustainable model to maintain and develop Tabroom.com as a membership service; and 4) Increase demand for and use of NSDA resources by members and partners.
5. *Nationals 2020 Update:* The Executive Director will update the Board on various logistical aspects of the upcoming tournament. This will include a discussion of the Executive Director's vision for tournament office management and ombudperson and adjudication panel procedures at this year's event.
6. *Pedagogy Committee Update:* The Board will receive a status report on the committee's progress. Feedback will be gathered. Final recommendations will be presented at the Spring Board Meeting in May.

Review Membership Correspondence

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

1. *Rules Change/Clarification Proposals:* The Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee will recommend changes and/or clarifications to various rules and procedures in NSDA

competition. Changes passed will go into effect beginning with the 2020-2021 school year unless specified in the meeting minutes.

- A. *Allow appointed adult representatives to file protests:* An advisor may appoint more than one adult representative prior to the beginning of the district or National Tournament who is on site in order to file a protest. The adult representatives of the school must be approved by the school administration. These rules apply to both districts and the National Tournament.
Rationale: Given that the official school advisor may not be on site, this allows the school approved appointed coach on site to facilitate the protest.

- B. *Clarifying internet rules for 2021-2022 implementation:* This includes listing “non-competing students” on the list of individuals debaters cannot receive information from during the round. It also clarifies that information between the “competitors in the round” can be exchanged.
Rationale: These additions are consistent with the intent of the rule and add clarity on the parameters for communication.

- C. *Increasing the minimum points received in a speech round:* Traditionally the points are on a graduating scale based on rank. The proposal changes the minimum number of points for competing in a round to three.
Rationale: This aligns with the minimum points eligible in debate for a loss. This affords greater validation of the speaker’s performance.

- D. *Changing the student service point system for modernization and simplification:* This allows the coach to have greater autonomy to determine the merit of events, reduces the number of people in an audience to 5, limits the number of points per year to 200, and provides an expanded list of options to encourage service opportunities.
Rationale: This change promotes the value of service in the organization and respects the coaches’ integrity and autonomy to determine the merit of service activities.

- E. *Congress alternates at districts:* The change clarifies that any student participating in a qualifying chamber is considered an alternate to the National Tournament. This expands the current number of allowable alternates beyond 14.
Rationale: The recent increase in Congressional House qualifiers, coupled with double entry conflicts, has created a need to go beyond the 14th alternate in some cases.

- F. *Implementing speaker awards in Lincoln-Douglas Debate:* In LD, the top 14 debaters based upon preliminary round speaker points (dropping high and low) will receive speaker awards.

2. *Nationals 2020*: The Executive Director will overview changes to procedural aspects of competition at the 2020 National Tournament. This update will include an overview of the new judge requirement and allocation procedures, the new supplemental events schedule, and any major changes to the middle school events.
3. *Ad Hoc Committees and Working Groups*:
 - A. *Oral Interpretation Ad Hoc Committee Update*: The Board will receive a status report on the committee's progress. Feedback will be gathered. Final recommendations will be presented at the Spring Board Meeting in May.
 - B. *Lincoln-Douglas Working Group*: The Board will review the committee's recommendation for an ordinal voting system that also accommodates for resolution priorities during the year. This recommendation will be discussed and feedback will be gathered. An overview of the meeting's examination of affirmative speaking times will also be presented. The Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee will then determine the appropriate steps necessary for presentation of final recommendations at the Spring Board Meeting in May.
 - C. *Unified Manual Working Group Update*: The Executive Director will provide an update on the progress of this working group and field any questions from the Board.

Adjourn