

Leadership

Board of Directors Fall Minutes

September 21-23, 2018
West Des Moines, Iowa

The NSDA Board of Directors held its Fall Meeting September 21-23, 2018, in West Des Moines, Iowa. In attendance were President Pam Cady Wycoff, Byron Arthur, Dave Huston, Adam J. Jacobi, Jennifer Jerome, Renee Motter, Tom Rollins, and Tim Sheaff. Vice President Dr. Tommie Lindsey, Jr., Robert Runcie, and Monica Silverstein were not in attendance.

President Wycoff called the meeting to order.

PAST MINUTES

Moved by Rollins, seconded by Jacobi:

“Approve the minutes from the Spring Board Meeting.”

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

FINANCIAL REPORT AND BUDGET

Moved by Rollins, seconded by Arthur:

“Approve the FY17 audit as recommended by the Finance Committee.”

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

Annually, the Board is responsible for approving the prior year’s audit and any recommendations provided. The audit is first reviewed by the Finance Committee and then brought forth to the whole Board for approval.

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Rollins:

“Approve the FY19 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.”

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

Executive Director Scott Wunn and Director of Finance Laura Stein presented a thorough assessment of the organization’s profit and loss statements, balance

sheets, and cash flow assessment from the previous year. They then presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2019 with managerial notes. The Board reviewed the budget and asked questions regarding appropriations of funding.

TECH SUPPORT

Moved by Sheaff, seconded by Jerome:

“Explore and confirm the legal ownership of Tabroom.com.”

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

After considering a timeline presented by the Finance Committee on the future development of Tabroom.com, the Board asked the Executive Director and the Finance Committee to first secure a legal determination on the ownership rights of the source code of Tabroom.com. Doing so will allow the organization to proceed with development of Tabroom.com for the NSDA community. Additionally, the Board received an update from Director of Technology Aaron Hardy. Aaron presented an overview of the past two years of developments and a vision for the future of our web-based solutions. A question and answer session was conducted about these developments.

GOVERNANCE

Moved by Huston, seconded by Rollins:

“Adjourn into executive session for purposes of Executive Director review.”

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

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Arthur:

“Approve the 2018 Executive Director Evaluation Review to be presented to the E.D. by the Governance Committee and the goals for the FY19-20 Evaluation.”

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

Annually, the Board of Directors is responsible for executing a performance review of the Executive Director (E.D.). This review process results in an assessment of the execution of the previous year's strategic plan goals and objectives as well as the execution of non-profit administration best practices by the E.D. In turn, the next year's goals and objectives are established at this time.

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Rollins:

"Adjourn into executive session for purposes of Board self-assessment review."

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

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Rollins:

"Approve the newly revised Board of Directors Best Practices Handbook as recommended by the Governance Committee."

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

Annually, the Board of Directors performs a review of the execution of its roles and responsibilities. This process results in an assessment of the Board's proficiency at non-profit board best practices. Recommendations for improvement and goal setting priorities for the next year are established. This also includes approval of revisions to the NSDA Board of Directors Best Practices Handbook.

Moved by Jerome, seconded by Motter:

"Adjourn into general session."

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

STRATEGIC UPDATE AND OVERVIEW

Assistant Executive Director and Director of Operations Amy Seidelman provided an update for the Board on the early progress and implementation of the tactics for the 2018-2019 portion (year one) of the five-year strategic plan. The new strategic plan was developed by the Board in 2017-2018. The Board also participated in a question and answer session with Amy and Executive Director Scott Wunn to provide clarity and insight.

COMPETITION RULES

Moved by Motter, seconded by Huston:

"Accept the proposal from the Lincoln-Douglas Topic Wording Committee as recommended by the Rules Revision and Evaluation Committee."

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

The Board approved a recommendation from the Rules Revision and Evaluation (RRE) Committee to accept the proposal from the LD Wording Committee to select the September/October Lincoln-Douglas topic through the general balloting system held in August each year. This will replace the current system of using the last place resolution from the previous year's vote. This change in practice better aligns with the quick turnaround provided by electronic balloting and frees up topic areas for consideration by the LD Wording Committee.

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Motter:

"Approve the competition rules revision and evaluation process timeline created by the elected Board members."

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

The elected Board members created a three-year process for major competition and rules changes. This procedure provides extended time for research, solicitation of feedback, and evaluation. In **year one, the Assessment and Development Phase**, the Rules Revision and Evaluation (RRE) Committee of the Board will assess proposals presented via the Rule Submission Form. Those warranting further development will undergo research for the creation of a draft proposal. This may include committee work (focus group, ad hoc committee, or working committee) for the creation of a draft proposal. Piloting may also be used, if appropriate. In **year two, the Collaborative Feedback and Decision Making Phase**, the RRE Committee will give opportunities for the overall membership community to provide feedback on the proposed change. NSDA publications will be utilized to foster awareness of the proposal. This phase may involve ongoing community feedback, revisions, and piloting, as needed. By the end of year two, a decision will be made to either implement a change, further revise the proposal, continue testing and piloting, or not make the change at that time. In **year three, the Trial/Implementation Phase**, if a new rule is passed, it will be implemented during this time.

Moved by Sheaff, seconded by Jerome:

"Apply the competition rules revision and evaluation process timeline to the Public Forum Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations."

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

The Board voted to apply the new three-year rule decision making process to the proposed Public Forum Debate changes. Recommendations were received from an ad hoc committee in year one, and we are now in year two where the proposals are open to membership's feedback and revision. The Board will vote in spring 2019 to implement, pilot, or decline recommendations for the 2019-2020 year.

Moved by Jerome, seconded by Arthur:

“Approve the district tournament qualification pilot proposed by the Executive Director and amended by the Board.”

Passed: 6-1

Aye: Wycoff, Arthur, Huston, Jacobi, Jerome, Motter
No: Sheaff

In the 2018-2019 season, districts may opt-in to pilot a new national qualification procedure in speech, debate, and/or congress. This new method eliminates the up/down method and other procedures, in favor of a method more closely aligned with most standard invitational tournaments. For more information, please view the pilot manual online at www.speechanddebate.org/pilot-district-qualification-manual. Throughout the spring, the piloting will be assessed and reviewed by the RRE Committee and staff. In the spring of 2019, the RRE Committee will recommend the next steps for year two consideration of this change.

Moved by Arthur, seconded by Sheaff:

“Develop a working group to prepare necessary pragmatic and logistical changes to run the Congressional House at the National Tournament due to the increase in the number of qualifiers.”

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

In May, the Board voted to expand the number of National Tournament qualifiers in the House beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. To accommodate this change at Nationals, a working group will be created to provide feedback to the National Tournament Director about adding a quarterfinal round in the House, advancement procedures, and scheduling.

Moved by Huston, seconded by Arthur:

“Rescind the motion to approve the use of internet in debate events.”

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

Moved by Huston, seconded by Motter:

“Rescind the motion to approve the use of internet in congress events.”

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

Moved by Jerome, seconded by Jacobi:

“Rescind the motion to approve the use of internet in extemporaneous speaking events.”

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

Moved by Jerome, seconded by Huston:

“Apply the competition rules and revision evaluation process timeline to the previously proposed internet usage recommendations in debate, congress, and extemporaneous speaking events.”

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

Moved by Huston, seconded by Jerome:

“Allow for the piloting of the internet usage rules committee proposals in debate, congress, and extemporaneous speaking events during the 2018-2019 competition year.”

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

At the Spring 2018 Board Meeting, rules were passed allowing for the use of internet in PF, LD, CX, Congress, and Extemporaneous Speaking. After adopting the three-year timeline for major rules changes (mentioned above), the Board voted to rescind the previously passed rules and apply the timeline to this proposed rule change. As part of the year one Assessment and Development Phase, districts will be able to pilot the internet rules at their 2018-2019 district tournaments. The Rules Revision and Evaluation (RRE) Committee of the Board will evaluate feedback from pilot districts and solicit additional feedback from the membership community. At the end of year one, the Board will determine if additional piloting is warranted for continued consideration of the rule change.

Moved by Jacobi, seconded by Jerome:

“Charge the Governance Committee with creation of protocol for electronic approval of Board meeting minutes.”

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

CORRESPONDENCE

In response to correspondence submitted to the Board by the membership, suggestions and recommendations were discussed and reviewed for action.

Moved by Huston, seconded by Jerome:

“Adjourn.”

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

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS? IDEAS?
We want to hear from you! Send your feedback to board@speechanddebate.org