

CTMSDL Coaches Meeting June 16, 2021, 7 pm on Zoom

1. Jen Posner and Bruce Johnson contributed to these minutes.

In Attendance:

Angelo Calebrese, Board Member, CTMSDL; Torrington Middle School
Harvey Catlin, Board Member, CTMSDL; Seymour Middle School
Cathy Emerick, Board Member CTMSDL, Bethel Middle School
Lee-Ann Harris, Board Member CTMSDL; Ethel Walker School; Simsbury
Ann Walsh Henderson, Board Member CTMSDL; Westfield Academy, West Hartford
Jennifer Hunt, Board Member, CTMSDL; The Hive, Redding
Bruce Johnson, VP, CTMSDL; Eastern Middle School, Greenwich
Charlie McIntyre, Polson Middle School, Madison
Tara Minnerly, Torrington Middle School, Torrington
Michael Panoli, Board Member, CTMSDL; Middlebrook Middle School, Wilton
Jen Posner, President, CTMSDL; Westfield Academy, West Hartford
John Rook, Board Member, CTMSDL; Smith Middle School, Glastonbury
Everett Rutan, Executive Director, CDA
John Smith-Horn, Timothy Edwards Middle School; South Windsor

2. Members approved the Spring 2020 minutes.

3. Membership & Participation (see Agenda)

- 6 schools dropped (Polson plans to return next season). Central in Greenwich needs a new coach. Cromwell hopes to be back for the 2022-23 season. (Club proposals are only considered there during teacher contract negotiations.)
- We had 24 schools participate in one or more events.
- We have double the schools we had in 15-16.

4. 2020-21 Schedule

All events will be virtual until further notice.

Scrimmage: Saturday, October 16, 2021

Tournament: Saturday, December 18, 2021

Tournament: Saturday, February 12, 2022

Tournament: Saturday, April 2, 2022

Championship Tournament: Saturday, May 7, 2022

5. Budget

Coaches passed the proposed budget. We discussed that the CTMSDL could use the CDA's Zoom account so between the 2 organizations we'd only pay Zoom's large meeting add-on fee of \$53.22 per tournament once. Dues will remain \$50/year. As always, new schools may attend one event before paying dues.

We discussed why we have savings of around \$4700. When we started, we didn't know if the ESU would continue to fund us every year and we assumed we'd have miscellaneous expenses.

We discussed using Discord instead of Zoom+ NSDA Classroom. Public schools won't allow students to use Discord.

\$4758.68 Beginning balance 2021-22
-\$1311.10 Proposed operating deficit 2021-22
\$3447.58 Expected balance after 2021-22 season

6. Governance

All current Board members will continue. (Jen Posner, Pres, Bruce Johnson, VP, Cathy Emerick, Treasurer, Jennifer Hunt, Ann Walsh Henderson, John Rook, Lee-Ann Harris, Angelo Calabrese, Michael Panoli, Harvey Catlin)

In August, Lee-Ann Harris announced she is leaving Ethel Walker so she won't be continuing on the Board.

7. Agreement with NYC League

3 NYC League teams competed in February, April and May: Blind Brook, Dalton, City & Country. Only one CT school (Seymour) attended one 2020-21 NY Tournament. A NY team competed in a CTMSDL Final Round at 3 of our 4 tournaments. Two coaches reported their debaters were intimidated by NY team's heckling. The Seymour coach reported his debaters didn't have a good experience at the NY tournament they attended. Most coaches thought their schools wouldn't pay \$600 dues to participate in NY League tournaments (like us, their dues are due after attending 1 tournament). The Board voted 9-4 for discontinuing the relationship.

8. Championship Tournament

Coaches liked having 2 judge panels, 4 rounds, and paying our HS judges. Everyone thought the selection process worked well.

9. Creating Code of Conduct and Equity procedures.

We do not currently have an equity statement, pledge, policies nor procedures, nor a formal code of conduct. The group created a committee to look into that. Eliza Posner, Cathy Emerick, Bruce Johnson, and John Smith-Horn volunteered to be on the committee. Charlie McIntyre and Jen Posner were added later.

There was a discussion about how to phrase such a pledge and/or statement; as a group we agree we want an educational tool, not a punitive tool. We discussed whether or not it would be a tool for judges to use to intervene in a round. Coaches agreed we aren't looking for ways to disrupt tournaments. The goals are to make standards of behavior clear, and ensure the safety and well-being of all, including often marginalized people.

10. Updating & creating CTMSDL documents, procedures, videos.

The coaches agreed that our documents, handbook, and website do not need a review and update this year.

11. Professional Development.

Instead of the usual August PD, we'll have a party at Jen Posner's house on August 7!

Submitted Bruce Johnson August 9, 2021, edited by Jen Posner August 10, 2021