

## TFL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 27, 2019 -- 7:00 p.m.

Online via GoToMeeting

### **Present:**

Keith Pittman, Asheville HS -- Chair

Jeff Welty, Durham Academy -- Secretary

Leneise Stackley, Cumberland Polytechnic -- Non-Member Treasurer

Jonathan Peele, Charlotte Latin HS -- Historian

Chris Harrow, Ardrey Kell

Michelle Boswell, Cumberland Polytechnic

Josh Wade, Croatan

**I. Call to order.** Keith called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**II. Approval of June minutes.** There was a motion to approve the minutes, a second, and the motion carried unanimously.

**III. Treasurer's report.** Leneise Stackley provided a report though she had left the paperwork at school. There have been no major changes since last meeting and our finances are in good shape. There was a motion to approve the report, a second, and the motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Committee vacancies.** Deb Brown has resigned. Before Josh Wade joined the meeting, it was noted that he has not attended the last several meetings and has not responded to recent emails from Keith. Thus, the group wondered whether he was interested in continuing to serve. Per Keith, our constitution allows the Chair, with the Committee's consent, to appoint a replacement in the event of a resignation. Keith suggested Megan Butt at Providence, who has indicated that she would be willing to fill the remainder of Deb Brown's term. There was a brief and positive discussion about her and no objections to Keith appointing her, and he did so. The group agreed to make further efforts to contact Josh Wade to determine whether he desires to continue before considering a possible replacement. (Note that Josh subsequently joined the meeting but the group did not return to this agenda item.)

**V. Bid proposal Q&A with Pinecrest.** Ben Denton, the head coach at Pinecrest HS, joined the meeting to discuss Pinecrest's bid to host the state tournament.

- A. Question: Last time we had states at Pinecrest, we had to double flight debate. Same this time? Answer: No, if necessary we could do debate at Pinecrest, speech at Southern Middle, a mile or so away so there would be sufficient rooms to single flight. (On Sunday, all elimination rounds in all events would be at Pinecrest.) That would require completely separate judge pools and perhaps more judges but we have already been discussing recruiting more judges.
- B. Question: The bid mentions a middle school theater showcase being on campus, would that interfere with anything? Answer: The only space they would be using would be the auditorium, and only on Saturday. So the only challenge might be

an opening assembly, which could be done in the gym. Pinecrest may be able to provide transportation to Southern Middle after the opening assembly.

- C. Question: Will there be enough internet bandwidth? That's key with online balloting. Answer: Yes, the technology people will leave it at full power.
- D. Question: Will food be a problem with two sites? Answer: No, the boosters are excited about the opportunity and should be able to handle the food.
- E. Question: Can we have access to Pinecrest computers if necessary for tabbing? Answer: Yes.
- F. Question: At a previous Pinecrest event, the food trucks left early and there was little food. Answer: Pinecrest has learned from that and doesn't plan to rely on food trucks.
- G. Question: Will we be able to get hotel rooms blocked? That can be challenging with golf tournaments in the area. Answer: Yes, if we make a decision soon we should be able to secure blocks.

**VI. Committee discussion and vote on bid proposal.** Pinecrest is the only school that submitted a bid. There was some discussion about the need to be clear that the tournament will be run by the TFL under TFL rules and that Pinecrest's role will be hosting/hospitality. There was a motion to award the tournament to Pinecrest, there was a second, and the motion carried unanimously.

**VII. TFL bids for Dramatic Performance at DSDL tournaments.** Dogwood tournaments now offer Dramatic Performance rather than DI and/or HI. Should students be able to get bids to the state tournament in DI and/or HI based on doing well in Dramatic Performance? There was a motion for the tournament host to report, for each of the top six entries, whether the entry is an HI or a DI, and to award bids in HI or DI accordingly. There was a second and the motion carried unanimously. Michelle offered to ask the two Dogwood hosts so far to send in that information.

**VIII. Tabled state tournament items from June.**

- a. *Media relations person.* In June, the group agreed to appoint one as the tournament approaches. By consensus, the group agreed not to do that today. The group recognized that it may be helpful to talk to Libby Carter about local media.
- b. *Releasing of tournament results.* In June, the group voted not to release results and ballots to competitors in real time (except for round by round debate win/loss decisions) as some coaches do not want their kids to have that information. Chris noted that Tabroom has a "publish to coaches" feature that allows results to be released only to coaches in real time, which would let each coach decide whether to pass that information on to his or her students. There was a motion to do so, a second, and the motion carried unanimously.
- c. *Hired judge coordinator.* In June, the group agreed to appoint a hired judge coordinator to recruit and organize hired judges -- we need more than we have been getting as we are going to stop letting schools pay the TFL to hire judges unless the TFL actually has judges to hire out. Jonathan noted that this may tilt the judging pool more towards a flow/circuit style, but since the people willing to hire are typically former debaters, this may be inevitable. By consensus, Keith will ask Crawford Leavoy whether he is willing to

take on this role. There was further discussion of how far in advance of the tournament to freeze student and judge entries so that we can make decisions about whether schools need to drop uncovered students, how many rooms we need, and so on. By consensus we will not allow students or judges to be added after a week in advance of the tournament.

*d. Awards ceremony components.* By consensus, this item was tabled for a later meeting.

**IX. State tournament manager.** By consensus, Keith will ask Lauren Burdt to be our tournament manager again, on the same terms as last year, \$350 plus expenses.

**X. Update on possible 501(c)(3) status.** Jonathan reported that he has not met with Larry Shaheen recently but will be doing so soon and will update the Committee after that meeting.

**XI. TFL future initiatives.** We did some brainstorming around this last time, and Keith added that working on coach retention and program retention would be important also. He noted that years ago a coaching workshop was held and was successful. Michelle noted that the fact that some coaches are paid and others are not paid is challenging. The group agreed that this sort of issue merits a meeting of its own. By consensus, the Committee will try to meet twice between now and mid-February, one to discuss this sort of issue and another to handle the state tournament.

**XII. Other business.** We will discuss the need for insurance at the state tournament at the next meeting.

**XIII. Next meeting time.** Keith will schedule two meetings as described above, via Doodle poll.

**XIV. Adjourn.** There was a motion to adjourn, a second, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.