

QSDA Meeting
May 29, 2003
St. George's School of Montreal

Present: Riley McMullen, President Q.S.D.A. (St. George's), Jane Darek (St. George's), Sharen McDonald (Weston), Kozo Ota, (St. George's & Marianopolis), Tim Maly (The Study), Rachel McCabe (Trafalgar), Jill Rollins(LCC), David Grossman (Bialik), Deborah Banks and Judith Schurman (E.C.S.), Jamie Roy (St. Thomas H.S.), Catherine Grimanis (St. George's School/ E.C.S.)

Regrets: Tino Bordonaro (Sacred Heart), Liana Palko (Selwyn House), Jeff Deepröse (St. George's), Geoff Henderson and Sarah Hollywell (GCC), Denis Brault (Loyola), Daryl Bambic, Joan Wasserman (Laurentian) Gloria (Royal West)

1. Welcome/Call to order (4:00 p.m.) R. McMullen warmly welcomed all members.

QSDA Executive 2003-2004. On behalf of QSDA, Riley McMullen sincerely thanked outgoing Vice-President, Judith Schurman, and made a presentation to her for her years of service and her valuable contributions to debating and the Association. Judith plans to retire at the end of this school year. Congratulations and thank you, Judith!

In order to ensure continuity, Riley agreed to continue as President for 2003-2004. All schools expressed appreciation to Riley for a job well done during the past year. Rachel McCabe kindly offered to continue as Treasurer for 2003-2004. Sincere gratitude was extended to Rachel for her excellent work during 2002-2003. Sharen McDonald stepped down as Secretary (2001-2003) and agreed to accept the post of Vice-President for 2003-2004. The post of Secretary remains to be filled.

3. Treasurer's Report: Annual fees were waived in 2002-2003 for two schools who just rejoined QSDA: Stanstead and John Rennie H.S.
Balance at year end: \$5,100.00 plus \$1,000 outstanding (Bialik -Jr. & Sr. Nationals)

Expenses: \$1,710.00 - QSDA Web page start-up and maintenance
Regarding judges' ballots for tournaments, it was agreed that schools will make their own arrangements and cover the cost of providing ballots.

The question of obtaining a credit card on behalf of QSDA to cover chaperones' expenses on trips was discussed. It has proven to be problematic and unfair to depend on members of the executive to charge transportation and other expenses to their personal credit cards. Rachel will explore the available options and report to the members next fall. Judith knows a travel agent who could help coordinate flights.

QSDA Procedure

4.1 Selection Process for National Events:

Senior National Championships. (November). Clarified by Tim - the first 3 pairs, i.e. the top 3 teams from different schools, at Quebec's senior qualifying tournament, will be sent to this event. If we are invited to send more teams, they will be the top 2 teams not already selected, and may come from a school already represented in the top 3.

Junior and Senior Nationals. Discussion centred around whether debaters should be chosen entirely by ranking or whether it was more important to encourage debating among as many schools as possible by limiting the number of debaters who may attend from each school. The opinion was expressed that it was important "to spread the wealth". If some schools dominate the provincial teams, then new schools become too discouraged to join QSDA, thereby working against one of the Association's goals, i.e. to encourage debating in Quebec's schools.

Moved by David, seconded by Tim, that Quebec teams for the Nationals shall be comprised of the top 3 debaters from different schools at the qualifying tournament, and that the remaining places will be assigned by rank, regardless of school. Passed unanimously.

4.2 Quebec Junior and Senior Pre-Provincial Tournaments. Riley questioned the purpose of using the title Pre-Provincial for these tournaments.

Moved by Tim, seconded by David, that the title, Pre-Provincial, shall no longer be used for the tournaments which precede the Provincial tournaments.

Passed unanimously.

4.3 Chaperone's Travel Expenses to Junior and Senior Nationals. Moved by Judith, seconded by Rachel, that QSDA will pay the registration fees for The coach (i.e. the primary chaperone) at national events. Passed unanimously.

Moved by Rachel, seconded by Judith that, in order to reduce the cost to students for attending national events, QSDA will subsidize a percentage of the flight for the coach (i.e. the primary chaperone), in an amount to be determined each September, according to QSDA's financial position.

Passed unanimously.

Moved by Rachel, seconded by Jamie, that QSDA will encourage coaches of other member schools to attend national events as a form of professional development on the understanding that the costs of attendance will be borne by her/himself and/or her/his school. Passed unanimously.

6:30 p.m. Regretfully, secretary had to depart. Many thanks to Catherine for completing the recording of the Minutes.

Upcoming Tournaments and Competitions 2003-2004:

Senior Qualifying Tournament, Friday, October 3 @ LCC - Jill Rollins

Public Speaking Tri-Event, date TBA in October @ Loyola - Denis Brault

Public Speaking (International Independent Schools) October 23-27

Debating Tournament, November 7,8,9 @ McGill U.

Senior National Debating Championships, November 14-15 in Calgary

Junior Tournament, Friday, December 5 @ Sacred Heart - Tino Bordonaro

January, 2004 - Royal West

February, 2004 - Marianopolis

Junior Provincials, April , 2004 @ St. Thomas

Tournament and date TBA - St. George's

Model UN @ The Study

n.b. Senior Provincials need to be held before the end of February!

6. Correspondence: Concern was expressed by Joan Wasserman via e-mail with regards to the possible skewing of judges' opinions in favour of QAIS students who wear uniforms. As some public school students also wear uniforms and some QAIS students do not, it was decided that this ought not to be an issue.

7. National Seminar: Tim had already distributed a copy of his report via e-mail on May 26, 2003. Two important items to note:

a) CSDF will implement a new selection procedure for the World Schools Debating Championships. Students will be required to send in a CV at least two weeks prior to the event and will be interviewed by a selection committee. As this is a team-oriented event, this procedure is required in order to get to know students better. Jane expressed the opinion that there is insufficient coaching for students qualifying for world events.

b) The Opportunities Fund (\$85,000 per year) has been created by CSDF to fund two initiatives:

i. Chair of Debate - Tim has been hired for this post. 1/3 @ UCC and 2/3 travelling across Canada to promote debating. Congratulations, Tim!

ii. Provincial projects to encourage debating in an innovative manner or a new geographical area or to stimulate growth within an association.

8. Junior Provincials: Concern was expressed about teams which did not show up at the tournament. It was agreed that it is important to have an adult in charge of the registration process.

Secondly, there was a question of a tabulation error. Tim suggested that tabulation take place on two computers and two sets of spread sheets in order to corroborate the results.

9. Website: Tim has been maintaining the QSDA website but with his departure, this could present a problem. Tim is willing to continue the maintenance for another year.

Meeting adjourned.