

Minutes from June 7, 2025 KHSSL Board Meeting

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Members in attendance: Mary Amburgey, Katy Cecil, Alyssa Davis, Karen Feldhaus, Neomia Hagans Flores, Chase McCoy, Beth Randolph, Michael Robinson, Bria Stacey (virtual via Google Meet), Chuck Stamper, Erin Tharpe, Karen Tompkins, Aaron West, Woody Zorn plus Executive Director Steve Meadows.

Members absent: Tia Smith

Meeting opened by Executive Director Meadows at 10am.

FIRST ORDERS OF BUSINESS

WELCOME

Held by Executive Director Steve Meadows

ELECTIONS OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2025-27 TERM

Chair - Woody Zorn (unanimously approved)

Vice Chair - Karen Feldhaus (unanimously approved)

Secretary - Michael Robinson (unanimously approved)

Treasurer - Beth Randolph (unanimously approved)

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING'S MINUTES

ZORN moved to approve minutes from last meeting

CECIL seconded

All approved

ANNUAL REPORTS (Meadows)

Executive Director Activities Report

*Meadows noted Neomia Hagans Flores - NFHS award recipient – awaiting national award announcement

*Kentucky Keynote - open the tournament up worldwide, have Kentucky and Worldwide awards; let the size of the tournament awards depend upon the number of entries

*Stamper suggested ARC grants to help with KHSSL funding

*Tharpe suggested looking at Educational Co-ops

*Zorn and Cecil mentioned reaching out to folks regarding inservice opportunities

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Membership Report 2024-25

*Meadows noted growth with middle school division

FINANCIAL REPORTS (Meadows)

Income and Spending Report 2024-25

*Hagans Flores inquired about a rainy day fund

*Cecil suggested two quarters of the executive director's pay be the amount for the rainy day fund (@\$16,000)

CECIL proposed a basic minimum surplus of \$16,000 to the KHSSL account

RANDOLPH seconded

All approved

FINANCIAL REPORT

ZORN moved to accept the financial report

TOMPKINS seconded

All approved

Proposed Budget for 2025-26

*Meadows noted we have received the scholarship money for 25-26

*Trophy costs went up @\$800

*NFHS membership is new

STAMPER moved to accept the proposed 2025-26 budget

CECIL seconded

All approved

Swag Sales Report

*Meadows noted swag sold very well

Inventory of KHSSL Property

*Meadows noted property is housed at his home

*Ultimate goal would be to have a location to display and store KHSSL property (historic documents, other items)

TOURNAMENT REPORTS

Blyton Tournament Report 2024

*Meadows noted the tournament was smaller this year

*Invitation will go out this summer as schools are getting back

*Meadows noted it's worthwhile for the novice kids

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Regional Tournament Report 2025

- *Continued strong support of regional competitions

State Tournament Reports 2025

Speech

- *Positive feedback from board members about middle school state at one site
- *Meadows suggested offering the tournament out to member schools
- *NKU, Louisville, and Murray State could be possible options for state tournaments
- *Board members shared positive discussion of rotating tournament locations
- *State tournaments have been growing

Debate

- *Meadows noted state debate was a success
- *SPEAK will probably be more DEBATE focused this year
- *Congress numbers growing
- *Meadows noted the one day debate model worked well
- *Meadows suggested extending the day to accommodate a run-off round
- *Hagans Flores suggested a debate banquet

NFHS Conference Report and Approval for 2025

- *Meadows suggested KHSSL join NFHS
- *Robinson noted excitement and support for KHSSL joining NFHS
- *Board members echoed the support
- *Meadows noted his upcoming role as a new member of the National NFHS Speech Committee; Flores is also a new member; both will attend the annual meeting prior to the annual NFHS Performing Arts Conference (Speech/Debate/Theatre section)

SPEAK Update

- *Saturday September 27 will be the date for virtual NewSPEAK
- *October 18 will be the date for SPEAK in Louisville

Invitational Tournament Calendar 2025-26

- *Davis noted BOONE COUNTY TOURNAMENT on 12/6 will be swing tournament
- *Schedule will be posted with the addition of Boone Swing (River Rats)

- *Lunch break @12:30pm
- *Meeting resumed @12:45pm

Hall of Fame Nominations

Katie Donohue and Amy Zuccaro were voted into the Hall of Fame by the board members present. Congratulations!

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Access and Achievements

Report given by Committee member WEST

*Excellent discussion. Committee chose to focus on several key areas (NEW BUSINESS)

Debate Education

Report given by Committee member HAGANS FLORES

*Committee met via LIVE DOC

*Committee agreed KHSSL should use NSDA rules for Extemporaneous Debate

*Group suggested a one page tip guide and videos for debate

Evaluation/Executive Director -

*Meadows noted the committee report coming later this summer for August meeting

Judge Certification

Report given by Committee member STACY

*PowerPoint presentation presented to the board

*Technical difficulties delayed til a few minutes later

Student Advisory Board

Report given by Committee member FELDHAUS

*Students would like to have a social media for KHSSL (Instagram account)

*Students discussed the need to make prompt delivery more efficient in competition (impromptu and improv duo); Executive Director noted that judges are supposed to pick them up – no delivery is promised or expected.

*Celebrate who wins regions on the KHSSL website; highlighting regional speakers, coaches, admins, etc.

Judge Certification

Report given by Committee member STACY

*PowerPoint presentation to the board

*Reactions to the presentation were favorable

STAMPER moved that we accept the JUDGE CERTIFICATION CRITERIA (At some point in the school year, all judges will complete the NFHS training BEFORE regionals and state. It is HIGHLY recommended that they complete it before the season begins.)

CECIL seconded.

All approved.

SPEAK Report

Report given by Committee member Steve Meadows

*Meadows reported that SPEAK went well.

*High praises for James Weaver from NFHS.

*Discussion about possible keynote speaker for the fall.

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OLD BUSINESS

Alumni association (Meadows for Seifert and C. Hagans)

*Meadows reported he had not received any follow-up from the committee

*Tharpe volunteered to look into the Alumni association and report back in August

Constitutional Amendment about Board Meetings (Meadows)

RANDOLPH moved to accept the amendment

CECIL seconded

All approved

NEW BUSINESS

Add Extemporaneous Debate to State Debate Tournament (Hagans Flores)

ZORN moved to accept the proposal that Extemporaneous Debate be made a main event at DEBATE STATE TOURNAMENT (3 entries max)

CECIL seconded

All approved

Change Broadcasting Rules (Meadows / Zorn)

*Meadows discussed the lack of clarification about the rules and the rule change was delayed

*West, Zorn, and Cecil agreed to work as a committee to come up with Broadcasting suggestions for the August meeting

No action taken

Event Grade Limitations (Hagans Flores)

*Meadows to send message to send to membership asking if there is value in limiting events to grades 9 and 10 so that students feel they have a space that older students are not competing in

Improv Duo practices update (Meadows)

CECIL moved to accept the update

ZORN seconded

All approved

Storytelling rules clarification

*Meadows discussion

*Discussion of "Using the words of the author"

*Meadows will revise and present something new in August

No action taken

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MISCELLANEOUS CHANGES

Audience Rules (Robinson)

*Meadows made a friendly amendment regarding the wording of the change

ZORN motioned to accept the change with Meadows' friendly amendment

DAVIS seconded

All approved

Ballot Scrutiny Rules (McCoy)

No action taken

Ban on AI Use in Debate Rounds (Hagans Flores)

*Neomia noted students are using AI for rebuttals

*Robinson suggests that we add DEBATE to page 17 of the KHSSL Handbook

ZORN moved to change #1 on page 17 of the KHSSL Handbook to the following: "Students in events in which speeches must be the original work of the competitor (Extemporaneous Speaking, Improvisational Duo, Impromptu Speaking, Original Oratory, Informative, and Debate) are not permitted to quote or paraphrase text directly from generative Artificial Intelligence sources."

McCOY seconded

All approved

Interp cutting rules (Meadows)

DAVIS moved

Tharpe seconded

All approved

Judge Experience Requirements for Regionals & State (Robinson)

*McCoy discussed his approval with the word "should" in the KHSSL Handbook change

*Meadows said the change was not needed

*Tharpe suggested adding it down the road if the training is not enough

DAVIS moved to accept the change

McCOY seconded

Motion passed

Judging Rubric proposals (Meadows & Access and Achievement Committee)

No action taken – move to August

NFHS Payment (Meadows)

*Meadows discussion

*Davis commented, "Let's do that."

Davis motions to allow the NFHS payment

Amburgey seconded

All approved

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Possibility of adding high school student as intern (Meadows)

No action taken

Regional Learnaments (Access and Achievement Committee)

*McCoy discussion of Learnament concept

*Meadows added Learnament to October 25 on the schedule

No action taken

Safety Settings (Tompkins)

*Tompkins discussion

*Meadows noted part of the expectations for holding a tournament will be that a single stall bathroom should be available to accommodate students as needed

No action taken

Seeding system from Regional to State Speech Tournaments (Hagans Flores)

*Hagans Flores discussed looking into the concept further using tournament data from the 2024-25 season and will report back in August

No action taken

NEXT YEAR AND NEXT MEETING DATE SET

Executive Director Focus for Next Year set by Board

*Meadows noted the work schedule and demands are manageable and enjoyable

*Tharpe asked for coach PD focused on debate

*Randolph and Amburgey asked for a continued focus on growth of the middle school division

*Robinson applauded the NFHS focus

Date for August Virtual Meeting

*Virtual meeting set for August 23rd

*Date for June 2026 in-person board meeting will be either first or second Saturday in June

Meeting adjourned by Executive Director Meadows at 3:56