

Massachusetts Junior Classical League Congress (SPQM)

October 12, 2013

Mt. Greylock High School

Attendance:

Joana Jankulla	President	BLA
Julia Pan	Secretary	BLS
Wesley Raczka		AKF
Olivia Painchaud		AKF
Katie Hodge		AMSA
Eliza Mendoza		AMSA
Georgie Contreras		BLA
Bianca Dy		BLA
Essmaa Litim		BLA
William Burnett		BLS
Allyson Ping		BLS
Emma Charbonnier		Everett
Nathaniel Nowell		Everett
Sylvia Conte		Montrose
Abby Gillis		Montrose
Veronica Beaupre		Taconic
Nar Lin		Taconic

Highlights:

- ❖ Suggestions for Snowball: cheaper venue, location be moved to central Massachusetts (Mechanics Hall).
- ❖ Snowball should instead be a concert with JCL performers only, followed by a dance.
- ❖ People can audition by YouTube submissions.
- ❖ The video submissions will be sent to Amol, so he can post it on the website and people will have three weeks to vote for their favorite performers to play at the JCL concert.
- ❖ MassJCL could perhaps hold an essay contest at next year's State Convention.
- ❖ Perhaps there could be a noncompetitive certamen round for schools not in the certamen finals.
- ❖ MassJCL will try to find stricter chaperones for the dance to ensure that it is appropriate.
- ❖ Swimming during free time could be added again, however MassJCL will need to limit the amount of people allowed to participate

Minutes:

Should MassJCL have cancelled Snowball?

1:41- Joana states that no schools outside of Boston come to Snowball. What can we do to attract people to attend Snowball?

1:41- Wesley & Olivia say that Boston is crowded and has a lot of traffic in general. Somewhere in the central of the state would be nice, that way everyone can access it.

1:43- Bianca & Essmaa say that if money is a problem, perhaps the venue could be cheaper. The 2013 Snowball was at the Harvard Club of Boston, which is a pretty expensive place to rent out.

1:43- Olivia recommends Mechanics Hall as another option, which is in Worcester.

1:43- Emma suggests in order to make Snowball more accessible, perhaps there could be mini Snowballs.

1:44- Bianca says that if there are many smaller versions of Snowball, there would be less of a profit.

1:45- In addition small chapters like Montrose and Everett would have less people attending their Snowballs, so there would be less profit again.

Should we create an event to replace Snowball?

1:45- Joana tells the Congress that the board considered making Snowball a concert, followed by a dance. Only JCLers will be playing in the concert. The event would start at 6:30 and end at 10:30.

1:47- Bianca suggests making Snowball an overnight event to attract more people, however that would require a lot of chaperones and much more money and in addition too much work for the chairs.

1:47- Emma says that it took Everett three weeks to plan and get a bus for Kickoff, and that Everett would not come to an overnight Snowball.

1:48- Everyone likes the idea of a concert, then a dance, because then people can leave before the dance so they can go home if they live far away. In addition, it is more appealing than just a dance.

1:48- Will says that the concert could instead be like a talent show, or a bigger version of That's Entertainment. Allyson suggests the BLS Dance Club, and Will suggests BLS Step Crew for entertainment.

1:51- Emma, in response to the question of holding the Snowball dance outside, suggests a building with full length glass windows so people could feel like they were outside.

1:51- Call the concert JCL Battle of the Bands? Or JCL Music Showcase?

1:53- In order to make this idea successful, we have to working on advertisement correctly, perhaps by reaching out to JCL chapter presidents.

1:54- We definitely need to find a cheaper venue and also find a place for bands to play. Wesley likes the idea of the musicians dressing up classily too.

1:56- Will suggests that people send a video in order to audition for the event.

1:56- Veronica says that we can post all of the video submissions on the YouTube page and have people vote for their favorite—also makes the event more appealing.

1:57- Video submissions will be emailed to Amol to put on the website and people have three weeks to

vote.

II. State Convention

1:59 p.m.

When is there a lot of free time?

1:59- There is a lot of free time at State Convention on Friday night and Saturday afternoon. Wesley and BLA delegates like the free time, however some people do not like this. Wesley says that there could be more optional activities in that time, but no mandatory activities because that takes a lot of freedom away.

What are some of the activities we can add to the schedule that may interest people?

2:00- Allyson suggests having an essay contest, like at Nationals, as an optional test.

2:02- If MassJCL did hold an essay contest, we would have to limit the amount of people who can take the test, which is not very fair.

2:03- Will says that he knows that people like the free time so they can change for the dance and not miss anything.

2:04- Will suggests replacing one of the Impromptu Art sessions with the essay contest.

2:05- Impromptu Art is very popular, there might be some uproar if there is only one session.

2:05- Emma suggests a non-competitive certamen round. She knows that the people at Everett do not study for certamen as much as the bigger schools. Some schools do not even have a buzzer machine. Many people get intimidated after attending one tournament and have stopped coming to certamen practice altogether.

2:08- Emma suggests divisions of certamen like “lower Advanced” and “upper Advanced”. It’s a great idea, however, logistically divisions would not work.

2:09- All the small schools would like to have one round without the big schools to get some points. The difficulty of the questions is not the problem, but the speed of other players’ sometimes makes it harder to get points.

2:11- Certamen scrimmages get a lot more participants from Montrose over certamen tournaments.

How can we improve or fix a JCLers’ overall experience?

2:13- The bus system was horrible.

2:14- Joana tells the Congress about how the board discussed assigning certain doors to certain schools that would leave to different buses.

2:15- Allyson says that at State Convention it was difficult to get to the back of the auditorium to get her stuff because there was a movie playing in the PAC, which is also where the BLS fellowship room is located.

2:16- Wesley suggests staggering the events (Karaoke, Dance, Movie).

2:17- Veronica suggests giving bus tickets to the chapter sponsors ahead of time.

2:17- Will says that people will not be happy about leaving at certain and restricted times.

2:18- The dance on Saturday night often become “dirty dances”.

2:19- Dirty dances can be found everywhere from public to private schools.

2:20- Joana says that MassJCL will try to find stricter chaperones.

2:21- Bianca says that it is inevitable that dances will always so crazy; people can always go to another section of the floor.

2:22- Bianca says the best way to handle the situation is to talk to the State Convention delegates during fellowship and remind them to not go overboard with the dancing and no twerking or grinding. In addition, Karaoke should probably be moved to a different location.

2:24- Wesley really looked forward to swimming during the free time at the last convention, but it was closed. The year before swimming got too hectic, however MassJCL can limit the amount of people allowed swimming.

2:25- The contract MassJCL has with the Barnstable hotel is very cheap, so that is why we are not changing locations.

Duration: 54 minutes