

MASSACHUSETTS JUNIOR CLASSICAL LEAGUE
MINUTES FOR PRE-SCHOOL MEETING | NORTHBOROUGH LIBRARY
AUGUST 15, 2015 -- A.D. XVIII KAL. SEPT. A.U.C. MMDCCCLXVIII

Board Members Present:

Linda Qin	President	BLS
Allyson Ping	1 st Vice President	BLS
Daniel Sherman	Secretary	BLS
Dalena Nguyen	Parliamentarian	BLA
Najla Nassar	Publications Editor	MTG
Emily Bonnici	Historian	AKF
Anushree Iyengar	Technical Coordinator	AMSA

State Chairs:

Tamara Bauer		BLS
Janet Fillion		BLA
Nancy Sinacola		St. Bernard's

Guests:

Ayla Baraka	A BLACC President	BLA
Ada Chai	BLSJCL Co-Historian	BLS
Theresa Hsieh	AMSA JCL President	AMSA
Carina Layfield	BLSJCL Publicity Director	BLS
Hanna Seariac	NJCL 2 nd Vice President	AMSA

Regrets:

Veena Lagare	2 nd Vice President	BLA
Anusha Kulkarni	Treasurer	AMSA
Catherine Foley	State Chair	BLS
Viet Luong	State Chair	BLA

Highlights:

1. Kick-off is scheduled for October 17, 2015. It will be held at Mt. Greylock Regional High School. Linda is making the program, and Najla is creating the flyer and activity sign-up form.
2. The September Mailing Packet will be sent out the week after Labor Day. This packet is a collection of various promotional and informational flyers, which outline the events that MassJCL is running this year. It will be sent to approximately 300 teachers.
3. Kick-off may feature either a storyteller of myths or a teacher, who brings historical artifacts for viewing.
4. Instead of the Clark Art Museum, which students toured last year, we will be viewing exhibits in the Williams College Museum of Art. In addition to the art museum, Kick-off will also include Certamen, SPQM (a congressional-like assembly), several officer-run workshops, catapulta and ballista contests, marshmallow catapults, pumpkin painting, worm races, and a hula-hoop competition.

5. Ms. Sinacola will be the main contact person for sponsors, whose students will be attending. Students will need to fill in a form indicating which competitions they wish to attend.
6. Outlines of MassJCL's annual events and the expenses of going to Nationals have been created to raise awareness among JCLers of the activities, which they can attend, and, in the case of Nationals, all foreseeable costs associated with attendance.
7. Allyson has created a comprehensive document discussing her developments in the realm of publicity competitions. A condensed version will be added to the September Mailing Packet.
8. The MassJCL website will be updated with respect to upcoming events, notices, updates, the calendar, and several documents of yearly use, such as the Contest Booklet and the NJCL and MassJCL registration forms.
9. MassJCL will be piloting a new event this year known as Praetoria. Praetoria, literally meaning "military headquarters," is a leadership and chapter development conference, which is tentatively scheduled for February 27 and 28. It seeks to bring two representatives from all the schools in MassJCL together into one overnight meeting, which will inform all attendees about every facet of MassJCL from competitions to events as well as provide attendants with the skills and ideas to return to their chapters and cultivate their growth. Its other main objective is to renew the connections between the chapters in a mutualistic relationship that promotes awareness, growth, strength, and unity.
10. Multiple venues are currently being evaluated for this event based on affordability and convenience. The price per student attendant will most likely be between \$50 and \$75. The student representatives will be chosen by their respective schools' sponsors either based on merit or by application. Please refer to the Praetoria section, beginning at Minute 11:20, for more information.
11. The MassJCL Flickr account will undergo an expansion, as school-specific folders will be appended to the account. A password to access the Flickr for the purpose of uploading photographs will be shared among all the schools' Historians. This development is part of MassJCL's initiative to promote stronger connections between all the schools and undergird the network, which should weave all the chapters together.
12. Allyson is trying to acquire a grant for Classics Day, which could be used to subsidize the cost for all attendants. Hopefully, the grant's effect on reducing costs could entice more people to come and experience a new educational experience without as great a financial worry.
13. Allyson is introducing three new membership contests, which respectively concern percentage growth in chapter membership, chapter membership campaigning, and social media usage. Refer to Minute 12:28 for more information.
14. Most Whole School Contests, including the three membership contests, will only divide schools into small and large divisions. Three places will be awarded in each of those divisions.
15. In future, we will probably dismiss with the reading of individual awards on Sunday morning and instead leave distribution of ribbons to students' respective teachers.
16. MassJCL will have approximately \$3500 in its treasury at the start of the new school year.
17. Dalena is working on a Candidates Newsletter, which includes information on the 9 offices and comments by last year's Board members, to inform all potential new candidates about the responsibilities of state office.
18. The *Forum Factorum: Nationals Edition* is in progress and will be ready for the September Mailing Packet.

19. Sponsors must register their students as both members of MassJCL and NJCL, not one or the other.
20. The next MassJCL meeting is scheduled for November 14.

Minutes:

I. Beginning of Meeting

10:07 A.M.

10:07 – Linda calls the meeting to order, and proceeds to show the Board, state chairs, and guests in attendance the video she and Julia created. It features a summary of the events at Nationals from airline debacles to the heights of spirit. The link for the video is provided here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKUfYOUMgYE>.

II. Kick-off

10:16 A.M.

- 10:16 – Linda will be creating the program for the upcoming Kick-off on October 17. Linda made the program last year, and this year's edition merely requires a few updates of information and dates. Ms. Fillion says that one of the Board members should print out the programs. This task will most likely be delegated to BLS' photocopier. In the past, Ms. Keeley had printed the programs so that they would already be on site at Kick-off. Next Saturday, Najla is meeting with Ms. Keeley, with whom she will discuss this matter. The flyer, however, will definitely be printed at BLS, since it is a component of the September Mailing Packet, a collection of all the important promotional forms for the various events and opportunities hosted by MassJCL. The September Packet is always assembled in the school of the President, and thus the Kick-off flyer will be printed in BLS.
- 10:17 – The meeting was briefly interrupted, as some patrons were inquiring as to how their daughter could join our organization. After Allyson, Hanna, and Anushree went out to talk with the family, we eventually learned that the daughter was already in JCL and they had thought we were a different classics organization. Still, this affair does represent publicity.
- 10:18 – Every year, Kick-off hosts an entertaining show or presentation. Last year, Connie Chang's Yellow Submarine Improv Troupe was well received by most participants. In talking with the California JCL president, Linda learned of another event, which that state hosts, called Project Runway, which is a rather large and intricate combination of impromptu art and entertainment. It focuses on costume design and the subsequent display of these costumes along a runway. The fashion component serves as the entertainment for those, who do not directly fabricate the garments themselves. However, it is for this reason, i.e. the exclusivity of who can participate in the event, that many members of the Board feel that it may not work for Kick-off, during which we wish for everyone to be entertained. An entertaining spectacle on stage, watched by everyone is more inclusive.
- 10:20 – For this year, it is proposed that we bring back the legionnaires, a group of students who provided an enjoyable and educational exposition a couple of years ago. They received mixed reviews in the past and some officers mention that after a while they stopped interacting the audience and their presentation escalated to a point, at which only the most classically educated audience members would understand it. Ms. Bauer mentions a comical British group, which once came to Kick-off. They orchestrated a show, in which audience members were called onto the stage to perform commands given in Latin. Upon incorrectly interpreting the command, a participant would leave the stage, leaving a progressively

smaller pool of participants until only one remained. S/he would be forced to wear armor. However, as their show often incorporated the use of weapons, they cannot fly by plane to perform.

- 10:22 – In the past, a raconteur of mythological fables has come. The State Chairs note that it would be entertaining and informative if he did a presentation. Najla will contact him; however, a conversation between the two will have to happen shortly, since he will need to be included on the Kick-off flyer and program if he consents to participate. In the past, he once hosted an event, in which people decided what gods or goddesses they liked most. However, this part of his presentation was not as effective, since he mostly relayed well-known information about the mythological deities. People would be interested in learning the more arcane details of myths, and so there needs to be a balance between simplicity and complexity of the stories. His presentation should be between 30 and 45 minutes, and he will be paid for his time.
- 10:24 – A possible alternative, if the storyteller is unable to attend, is a particular retired teacher, who in previous Kick-offs, has brought numerous artifacts, reproduction military equipment, and other relics for display in the library. After the various scheduled events, Kick-off attendants were allowed to view this historical showcasing. Ms. Bauer would be able to contact him in the event that we still need a time slot filled.
- 10:25 – Ms. Sinicola advises against bringing back the legionnaires for this year. First, they are more expensive than the former options. Kick-off is generally supposed to be a somewhat lucrative venture, and, traditionally, entertainment had been arranged such that, one year, it would be relatively inexpensive, and then the following year could accommodate a greater financial burden. Second, she favors the idea of rotating entertainers, whereby no entertainer would perform for a minimum of three years after his/her last performance. This system ensures that Kick-off is consistently bringing in new routines and that the audience stays intrigued and interested and does not prematurely disregard a performer merely because s/he came a year or two ago.
- 10:28 – Regarding the art museum, it was initially believed that both the museum itself and the transportation needed to arrive there would present a cost. However, it is eventually determined that the Williams College Museum of Art is open to the public. This year, participants will not be going to the Clark Art Museum.
- 10:30 – Kick-off will feature several key elements: the museum tour, Certamen, *Senatus Populusque Massachusettensis* (SPQM), workshops run by the officers, and the catapulta and ballista contests. In the past, Kick-off included impromptu art as one of the workshops; however, the Board feels that not only does this present an unnecessary expense, but also it is more suited for State Convention. Hanna suggests filling this time with a colloquium event in lieu of impromptu art. Workshops concerning artistic design or mosaics are also suggested. Allyson also notes that she should lead a workshop at Kick-off. On account of the numerous changes and/or additions to the realms of publicity and membership this year, a workshop would serve the very critical purpose of exposing schools directly to these changes, the thinking behind them, and how to take full advantage of new opportunities.
- 10:33 – Four officers must spend their time watching and judging the catapult contests. However, the other officers will be assisting or running workshops. In order to improve the logistics of moving officers around to different activities, workshops will be divided such that half are in the morning and the other half are in the afternoon.
- 10:34 – Ms. Sinicola proposes a pumpkin painting event at Kick-off. Such an event would mimic BLS' own Pumpkin Decorating Contest. Although it was originally suggested that Kick-off

attendants could bring their own pumpkins, the Board realizes that few would comply with that request. Consequently, MassJCL will have to supply the pumpkins and paint. However, bringing 60 to 80 pumpkins represents a large logistical challenge on account of both the pumpkins' collective volume and weight. Thus, it is suggested that Najla, who attends Mt. Greylock Regional High School, try to contact local farms in order to acquire pumpkins. The farms or any local stores would potentially provide the pumpkins at a discounted price owing to the quantity of pumpkins and/or MassJCL's 501c non-profit status. The pumpkin decorating contest would offer students, who do not wish to play Certamen, an alternative pastime. Some students may even have the opportunity to launch pumpkins, with which they are dissatisfied, from catapults.

- 10:36 – Next, the Board discusses the issue of Certamen questions. Kick-off holds two rounds of Certamen and does not include a semifinals or finals round, since the purpose of Certamen at this introductory event of the year is to introduce new players to the concept of Certamen. Carina assuages any concerns about the difficulty of last year's questions by indicating that they were written at an appropriate level with questions of medium difficulty. Many players, who had never before played Certamen, scored. Last year, the SCL wrote the questions and Hanna agrees that that policy is the most fair. However, this year, four of the officers, who also play Certamen, will be writing the questions for the Novice and Intermediate levels. The typical breakdown of question types must be adhered to and questions' difficulty should mostly fall in the easy category with some middle level and challenging questions so that the teams stay interested and everyone has a chance to score. Eighty questions are needed in total for two rounds of Novice and two rounds of Intermediate. Hanna, Daniel, Dalena, and Allyson will be writing questions and will decide at a later date which officers are creating which question types. The ideal due date for these questions is September 1 and Labor Day will be the last chance to submit them. Any Certamen player who competed at the National level should not be permitted to play at Kick-off. They can moderate, spot, or keep time.
- 10:42 – Ms. Sinicola will let Mike Howard know that he is presiding over production of advanced questions, but that is he is not solely responsible for writing all of them. He can solicit help from other SCLers.
- 10:44 – Anushree needs to update the calendar on the website with the upcoming dates for Board meetings, Kick-off, Classics Day, and State Convention.
- 10:45 – Hanna will be leading a workshop, called Club of the Month.
- 10:50 – This year, teachers, who are bringing students to Kick-off, must email Ms. Sinicola with the number of students planning to be in attendance. Since Linda is updating the flyer, she must remember to include a change in the email address from Ms. Keeley's email to Ms. Sinicola's chair email. While the flyer is purely informational and promotional, a secondary sheet will also be sent to all the schools to ascertain how many students will be participating in marshmallow catapulting, Certamen, art museum, and other events. Students, however, will not have to pre-register for workshops. Allyson suggests a Google form, but this idea is rejected. Those schools, which have been involved in the activities at Kick-off in previous years, will be emailed before the September Mailing Packets are disseminated.
- 10:51 – Workshops will include the MassJCL Congress (SPQM), Publicity and Membership (run by Allyson), Club of the Month (run by Hanna), and Photo Scavenger Hunt and Design (run by Emily & Najla).
- 10:52 – Williams College Art Museum needs to be informed before our arrival that we will be touring the museum. Although the museum itself does not impose a fee on visitors, the bus transportation will cost money. The bus will have to drive twice to the art museum, stay

stationary for approximately 30 to 45 minutes, and then return. Ms. Fillion recommends that we hire bus drivers, whom we have used before for JCL events. The time frames, during which students will be at the museum, must be determined soon to schedule a time with the bus driver. In previous years, the time frames were as follows: 11:30 am to 1:00 pm and 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm.

- 10:53 – We are going to the Williams College Museum of Art on account of an exhibit of special interest hosted there. However, the museum is in the middle of a landscape filled with buildings, which may lack suitable parking facilities. Consequently, we need to determine the feasibility of using buses to get to and from the museum. The State Chairs will determine later where the best parking location would be. A possible solution may be to reduce the allotted time in the museum so that the buses are not fixed to one position for an extended period.
- 10:54 – The State Chairs initially believe that watching the catapults should be made mandatory; however, the Board notes that many people are not entertained by watching the catapults in inclement or cold weather especially if they are not actually participating in the launching of projectiles. Thus, several officers propose alternatives for people who want to stay inside away from the cold weather. Last year, hula-hoop contests, worm races, and dancing were offered as recreational indoor pastimes. Hanna can coordinate the music. We can also play videos whether they concern cats or classics. These activities will take place in the easily monitored cafeteria setting.
- 10:57 – Najla will create the flyer for Kick-off as well as the Kick-off registration sheet. Najla will subsequently send the flyer digitally to Linda, who can print them and incorporate them into mailing packet.
- 10:59 – Ms. Fillion suggests printing flyers double-sided, such that one event would be depicted on one side, and another event would be represented on the reverse. However, Ms. Bauer recommends that the flyers be made single sided, since few people would ever look at the back of a flyer when posted on a wall for advertising reasons. The flyers were, indeed, single-sided last year.
- 11:01 – Additionally, last year's Kick-off did not have enough signs and they were also rather inconspicuously located. This year, both more signs need to be made, and those signs need to be placed in clearly visible spots. The signs will specify what places are off limits and those locations, such as bathrooms and competition rooms, which are necessary to find.
- 11:05 – It should be noted that significant discussion was devoted to areas for improvement after last year's Kick-off in the 11/15/14 Minutes, and that this discussion could potentially be useful when planning this year's Kick-off.
- 11:06 – Ms. Sinacola created a cursory guide to the reasons why one should join MassJCL and NJCL. It also includes a brief outline of the various events, which MassJCL organizes. She will send this document to Allyson, for it will be especially useful when trying to boost membership and when bringing new schools into the fold of MassJCL. Ms. Fillion suggests that we include this helpful compendious file in the September Mailing Packet.
- 11:08 – Also on the topic of summary guides, Ms. Bauer has created an outline of all the expenses students must pay for National Convention from the minor fees of spirit materials and bussing to the major cost of airplane travel. The document's purpose is to elucidate upfront all the pecuniary expectations that parents and/or students should have so that attendees and the parents are not astonished by the cumulative cost of the convention's components. Ms. Bauer also notes on the outline that checks should be made out to Massachusetts Junior Classical League and not Tamara Bauer herself. Ms. Bauer is the intermediary for financial

transactions between MassJCL members and the organization itself, not the recipient of payments.

III. Officer Reports

11:10 A.M.

President – Linda Qin

- 11:10 – The officers would like to get T-shirts. Jerseys are proposed, but their exact form will be determined at a later date since the officers have varied senses of style.
- 11:10 – Officers may refer to a separate Google form, which specifies which officers are composing or updating which flyers for the September Mailing Packet.
- 11:11 – Allyson wishes to include a publicity packet in the September Mailing Packet. This 3-page double-sided compendium would include information on the publicity contests and the various other new components Allyson is adding as 1st Vice President. Ms. Fillion notes that such a compilation of information may be overwhelming and suggests creating a flyer to introduce students and teachers to the changes. The flyer can include URLs to Allyson's blog or any other websites, which would further elaborate on the publicity contests. Hanna also suggests that Allyson can walk around the tables at Classics Day or the cafeteria at Kick-off and ask if anyone would like copies of the unabridged information. She can also send the publicity packet to teachers' emails in October when there is a greater likelihood that the email will not be disregarded.
- 11:15 – It is quickly noted that all emails sent to teachers, including the one to which the Kick-off contest sign-up form is attached, should list the teachers in the blind carbon copy section, which prevents recipients from seeing other recipients.
- 11:16 – On this technological note, Linda asks if anyone needs instructions on how to automatically forward emails received by one's state officer email to one's personal email account. This would ensure faster response times and improve convenience, since the officers generally check their personal accounts more than their state emails. She will send the instructions to Veena and Emily.

Technical Coordinator – Anushree Iyengar

- 11:18 – Anushree will add all the dates for events, which we have confirmed, to the MassJCL website calendar. In addition, Linda requests that the link to the old MassJCL website, which is now completely obsolete, be removed from the top of the home page. However, a section for updates and upcoming events should be included on the home page so that JCLers visiting the site can be immediately informed of MassJCL news.
- 11:19 – The Technical Coordinator should also create a spreadsheet, on which all officers and State Chairs can add their suggestions for edits or updates that the website needs.

Praetoria (proposal by President Linda Qin and 1st Vice President Allyson Ping)

- 11:20 – It has been a continual initiative of the Board to uphold and improve upon the infrastructure, which binds MassJCL together. In order to stave off fragmentation, strengthen the bonds between all schools, provide inter-chapter advice on running local JCLs, and cultivate a stronger, more efficient, and more cohesive league of schools in Massachusetts, a new initiative, known as Praetoria, has been proposed.
- 11:21 – The idea of Praetoria was originally created and enacted by the 2014-2015 Vice President of Georgia JCL, Saad Bashir. Georgia was experiencing problems similar to those of Massachusetts, viz. a disconnect between large and small schools, a domination of events by those large schools, an ineffective method of disseminating all information to everyone who

needs to know it, and a lack of a support mechanism that aids smaller schools in developing their chapters.

- 11:22 – Praetoria operates under a three-point plan. It seeks to develop leadership, help chapters communicate and develop stronger ties, and provide a foundation for regional events among different schools in their own geographic areas. Praetoria, the name of which literally means “military headquarters,” is a structural event, which helps to rebuild and expand the statewide infrastructure of the organization. It is itself not a competition of tests and athletics; it is a conference about state and local level organization, form, and development.
- 11:24 – As a leadership camp, Praetoria, in the context of Massachusetts, will be an assembly of two representatives from each of the MassJCL chapters, which ensures equal representation among the schools similar to the United States Senate. One of these representatives will be an upperclassman, who already has a good concept of what JCL is and how it functions. The other representative will be an underclassman, who does not hold an officer position on the local board at his/her school. However, these two representatives will be selected by a teacher or sponsor at their respective school, who has observed their potential. They may not hold an officer position, but by coming to Praetoria they will learn information about the qualifications necessary in campaigning for an officer position as well as the responsibilities, which those officer positions hold. Praetoria also informs the attendants about the election process at States in addition to providing general information.
- 11:27 – As a chapter development program, Praetoria is a springboard for growth, rises in activity and competitiveness, and awareness and preparedness. One of the event’s principal objectives is to tie schools together. The event’s organization is conducive to fulfilling this objective, since the two representatives will be placed in a group, or “legion,” and within this group, all the representatives, or “legionnaires,” can discuss issues their schools are having, in what respects they wish to improve, and the steps schools can take to attain their goals. Legions will consist of large and small school representatives, and, in this way, smaller schools especially can learn the methods, by which large schools have achieved success. Topics may include fundraising, resource allocation, event planning, publicity contests, spirit contests, and/or Certamen. The two representative maximum will also prevent the independent formation of groups of people, who already know one another, and will encourage new friendships to grow. The development achieved through Praetoria may not only boost membership in schools, which already have a JCL chapter, but may also encourage other schools to form their own chapters.
- 11:29 – As a foundation for regional events (termed the “provinciae initiative”) in Georgia’s context, it served to develop strong ties between schools in the same region and, with those ties, cultivate more events just between those schools. It is unclear at this time if MassJCL will be adopting this component.
- 11:30 – All attendants will also receive a Latin Club Guidebook, which is a binder containing information on every conceivable facet of JCL and its operations. The forms cover the full spectrum of activities from spirit preparations to examination information to State Convention rubrics. This Guidebook is perhaps one of the most fundamental aspects of this conference, for not only will all the school representatives be aware of all the possible opportunities available, but also they can bring the information back to their schools and raise awareness there. These binders will ensure that all schools have an equal chance to participate in competitions and that no schools will be left in the dark. Delegates will also be able to take notes during their legion sessions so that they can later mobilize the resources and people to enact any suitable ideas or suggestions proposed by other legionnaires.

- 11:31 – The event’s effectiveness can be measured in Georgia where, after the first year of Praetoria, the number of state officer candidates increased from 9 from the previous year to 19 in the year that Praetoria was introduced. Multiple schools in Georgia later came to Vice President Saad Bashir and indicated that the binders were immensely helpful in boosting membership and expanding the chapters’ growth. It reversed the fragmentation and revitalized both individual schools and the statewide organization as a whole.
- 11:32 – Linda and Allyson are planning to create our own Praetoria conference for Massachusetts, which would most ideally be held from February 27 to 28, 2016 in view of various other events planned before 2016. Weather is the only foreseeable impediment to the current tentative date. It is essential, however, that the conference be overnight, since a single day would mostly be consumed by transportation and settling times. The students would have limited opportunity to actually gain anything practical on account of the brevity. An overnight conference would allow people to settle in, network with representatives from other schools, attend meetings, and fully capitalize on the educational and social aspects of the event.
- 11:34 – Regarding chaperoning this event, it is noted that each school does not need to send an adult representative. Any sponsor could come if s/he wishes; however, it would only be necessary to have two or three State Chairs and one or two male teachers. About 5 chaperones are needed. If a certain number of sponsors do decide to attend, the Praetoria could also feature a workshop for the sponsors, in which chapters could be discussed on an administrative level. Sponsors could also grade tests in a comfortable setting with culinary refreshments and ergonomic chairs.
- 11:36 – Linda also thinks that people could formally apply within their local chapters and the sponsor(s) could then select based on those applications. This system would present a more equitable method of selecting students to attend than a sponsor arbitrarily selecting student. The latter method is subjective and open to favoritism, or simply could be dictated by having greater familiarity with certain students over others. The application process would also help to separate those students, who would not devote much effort into fully benefiting from the event, and those, who are dedicated to and passionate about JCL and wish to see the club’s improvement. Either way, it is essential that the decision be made by the local chapters so that those representatives have the support of their respective sponsors.
- 11:39 – Currently, the price per student is \$50 if Praetoria is held in the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center. Four students will be rooming together, which makes half of the \$50 constitute the rooming expenses for the students. The other \$25 contributes to the cost of the meeting rooms. The current price per student allows MassJCL to break even. Sturbridge, however, has not provided Linda with costs for the food. Once this expense is calculated in, the cost will probably rise to \$75 in order to pay for two lunches, one dinner, and one breakfast. Another possible location is the Great Wolf Lodge, in which case the event would not commence until the afternoon and, thus, the cost of the first lunch would be eliminated. Nevertheless, the Great Wolf Lodge will cost \$75 per person, as will UMass Amherst. The Spirit Fire Retreat Center will cost \$80 per person. Ms. Fillion would like whichever venue will provide the least expense. She also agrees that MassJCL can provide a small stipend if necessary to reduce the cost, since this event is not being considered as a moneymaking event. It is estimated that 28 students will attend at the minimum. The more students, who attend, the cheaper the price gets.
- 11:43 – Praetoria is designed to be less lecture-driven and more hands-on and interactive to stimulate engagement, absorption of information, and retention. For example, we will hold a mock

election to show attendees what the election process is like as well as provide constructive feedback on their campaigning skills.

11:45 – Linda also suggests offering one scholarship, the recipient of which would be determined by application. Ms. Bauer, however, proposes that the scholarship be tried next year if Praetoria proves to be efficacious. For the first year, she believes that people should be subsidized equally. Hanna also suggests that those who attend Praetoria could get a subsidized State Convention package.

11:47 – Linda and Allyson are also looking into the possibility of getting a grant from BLS, which could be applied to a variety of beneficial and educational events.

Historian – Emily Bonnici

11:49 – Emily does have a Flickr account, but she needs to know what username the Board would like. Ultimately, it is decided that it will be massjcl.historian@yahoo.com. Flickr is definitely preferred over Google Drive.

11:50 – In regards to sharing the photographs, there are two options: either the photos are only shared among the Board members, or we can create folders, to which other schools' Historians or equivalentents can contribute photos. However, the password to the account would remain exclusively among the officers and schools' Historians. The Board agrees that the second option, whereby the Flickr account is shared with all the schools' Historians, is preferable.

11:54 – Ms. Fillion also notes that photographs should not be humiliating nor should they contain last names. Usually, no names are included anyway.

11:55 – The password for the Flickr account is determined, but shall remain confidential. It is included in a reference sheet, which includes all MassJCL accounts and their respective passwords.

IV. Adjournment for Lunch

11:55 A.M.

V. Meeting Resumption and Officer Reports

12:23 P.M.

1st Vice President – Allyson Ping

12:23 – Allyson has discussed MassJCL's Classics Day with NJCL 1st Vice President, Michael Kearney, who loves the idea. He suggested looking for grants to help subsidize the students' expenses of coming. Many students travel by buses to Classics Day. The grant could help reduce the costs of bussing as well as the actual fee for attending the event. Subsequently, more students may be interested in coming, and this increased attendance would boost activity across the chapters. Since the event is educational and MassJCL has 501c non-profit status, Allyson believes that a grant should be pretty easy to apply for. She is currently researching possible options.

12:26 – For Allyson's ongoing membership initiative this year, she is looking into finding sponsors in the Masters of Art in Teaching (MAT) program. In order to contact teachers, who have graduated from this program, Allyson has asked Mr. Bartoloma, Ms. Moguel, and Mr. Howard. However, the program, which Mr. Bartoloma and Ms. Moguel did, no longer exists. And so, Allyson now plans to ask Mr. Brownell for some of his UMass Boston contacts and Ms. Francois for her Tufts associates. UMass Amherst, UMass Boston, Tufts, and Boston University all have graduate MAT programs and those should be the focus of our search. Allyson is starting a contact sheet for old program coordinators.

- 12:28 – Next, Allyson begins discussion of the new membership contests. There are three: Percentage Growth of Members within a Chapter, Best Local Chapter Membership Campaign, and Best Use of Social Media Campaign. The first contest honors those schools with the biggest percent growth, e.g. a school whose membership rises from 10 to 20 would receive a better score than a school whose membership rises from 110 to 120. The percentage contest staves off the easy victory, which large schools would have, if the contest were based on total membership. The second contest is primarily a judge of chapters' attempts to boost membership through events, outreach, and promotional materials. The third contest concerns a systematic evaluation of all the chapters' social media accounts and websites and will value visual appeal, quantity of photographs and comments, and the currency of the information. She has created a preliminary flyer outlining what each of these contests entails. She will continue to refine it in order to make it more succinct, and it will ultimately be included in the September Mailing Packet so that all the chapters will be aware of the contests and how to win.
- 12:30 – Ms. Fillion also quickly notes, as a matter of policy, that any time the State Chairs or the officers receive an email asking for information, the response should be recorded down and used for publicity.
- 12:31 – Furthermore, practically everything, from flyers to group emails to programs, can count as publicity. The entire September Mailing Packet is publicity, and all of our materials can be put in the publicity binder. Even social media posts can be used for both membership and publicity contests on account of the close, intertwining nature of the two. Membership is built upon publicity, and the term publicity can be attached to practically any document, letter, picture, or article of MassJCL material. However, there is no state publicity contest, rather it is reserved for the local chapters.
- 12:33 – Ms. Fillion also proposes that, once again, MassJCL should have a brochure to showcase photographs and brief descriptions of the various events that we hold. It would be both informational and promotional.
- 12:35 – Regarding the third contest, the Social Media Campaign, Allyson further elaborates on the concept. She stresses that the chapters with a few social media accounts, which keep posts up to date, will receive more credit than chapters with many obsolete or out of date accounts. Photos will also count towards the social media contest. The future rubric for this contest will reflect these priorities. An example of an item, which can be submitted to this contest, is an Historian Facebook account, which reaches out to people via photographic posts.
- 12:37 – Allyson initially suggested having three categories (small, medium, and large) for Whole School Points at State Convention. Significant debate ensues, and it is ultimately decided that two categories for large and small schools would be preferable so that not every school is winning an award. It gives schools a level to which they can aspire.
- 12:40 – Allyson wants the three membership contests to be in the Whole School category. The fact that some schools will not participate simply on account of the novelty of the competition also serves to support the decision to have only small and large divisions of awards.
- 12:42 – It is also suggested that we introduce a new trophy for smaller schools. If smaller schools see a school of similar size winning contests and trophies, then the following year, they will try harder to emulate the winner of the former year. It is a long-term plan for boosting activity and competitiveness.
- 12:44 – However, Hanna points to a systemic problem in some schools, whereby some sponsors do not have the time or will to actively support the JCL chapters of their respective schools.

This situation complicates matters for the students, since it is difficult to compete effectively in some of these competitions without a sponsor's assistance. For example, having a social media account for JCL at a school requires use of that school's name, which requires permission. The Praetoria and increased dissemination of information, as Allyson is planning, will hopefully mitigate this issue and put more power in the students. However, it still should be noted that contests' rubrics and designs should be crafted to consider this perspective.

12:47 – Ms. Luong, although not present, did have an idea to dismiss with the Sunday morning reading of contest winners. In lieu of this breakfast-time catalog of victors, it is proposed that school sponsors merely receive a bucket of ribbons to be distributed to their students privately without public announcement. This system would also save the time of students coming back and forth to the front of the room to collect ribbons.

12:49 – Tutorial and explanatory videos will be published under the WeAreMAJCL YouTube channel. Allyson will also explain the various new contests at Kick-off.

Secretary – Daniel Sherman

12:51 – Daniel will put the Fellowship Meeting Minutes from National Convention into the Google folder, and they can be used next year when reviewing points to remember. However, they will not be posted online.

Treasurer – Ms. Fillion (reporting in Anusha's absence)

12:53 – All the following figures are approximations. Currently, \$3000 sits in the treasury. Certain checks are outstanding and, when received, will boost the treasury's balance to \$3800. Emily is still owed the \$150 reimbursement for Nationals and Mike will be reimbursed for the cost of transporting the Susan Schearer stick, the venerable prize for winning the World Series of Certamen. With these expenses, the treasury should have \$3500. This year, we made \$2000 from Kick-off, \$2600 from Classics Day, and \$1600 from States. However, we lost \$1200 on Midnight Masquerade and \$4800 from Nationals on account of \$4000 in scholarships and \$800 in expenses in Texas. Our net revenue for the year is about \$2000.

12:58 – The Treasurer holds the checkbook, but if the Treasurer is out of the country, it should remain with Ms. Bauer in the US.

12:59 – A debate ensues about the cost-benefit ratio of Midnight Masquerade. When Connie was 2nd Vice President, people sent in their payments upon signing up. Therefore, MassJCL received money from some individuals, who never attended anyway. When Hanna was 2nd Vice President, though, people paid at the door since they were reluctant to send cash in the mail. Again, more people signed up than attended, which has caused the discrepancy between Masquerade's expenses in one year and the next. In the future, people should pay beforehand. In addition to the financial cost, Ms. Fillion also notes that the event is primarily populated by people from Boston and the east coast. People from the middle and western regions of the state do wish to attend and a few carpool together, but many simply never go on account of the logistical difficulty. The only other major issue was the scarcity of food after a short amount of time. However, the hotel employees did compliment MassJCL on its members' non-suggestive, formal apparel and upstanding behavior. For now, Midnight Masquerade will continue to be held.

Parliamentarian – Dalena Nguyen

1:06 – Dalena has begun work on three or four amendments, which will be discussed much later in the year. Additionally, she is compiling a Candidates Newsletter, which includes reflections and thoughts by the 2014-2015 MassJCL officers. This newsletter will also include descriptions of the offices and will serve to introduce JCLers to the responsibilities

associated with being a state officer. Hopefully, it will clear away some of the vagueness surrounding offices and promote awareness.

- 1:09 – A few miscellaneous notes follow. First, Veena and Allyson are planning to create two Vice President Newsletters with one published in December and the other in June. Second, Emily is still debating between a digital and a paper scrapbook for National Convention next year. She will, however, definitely include a nametag from this past convention, which features the embarrassing and heavily satirized typographical blunder of spelling San Antonio as “San Antiono.”

Publications Editor – Najla Nassar

- 1:12 – Najla has updated the MassJCL stationery, which includes the names, offices, schools, and emails of all the officers. She sends a few drafts around and the Board members select whichever one they like most. The officers’ personal addresses will no longer be included, but they do need to be sent to the National Committee.
- 1:15 – The *Forum Factorum: Nationals Edition* will include an officer spotlight, Connie’s speech, Certamen updates, Hanna’s election, a review on San Antonio, Najla’s experience at her first Nationals, horoscopes, and an article on the Massachusetts mystery concerning the disappearance of all our signs and the majority of our costumes, including the bear, Paul Revere, the peach, and Captain America. Najla also needs original artwork or writing. Linda suggests contacting Will Burnett, who submitted two dozen pieces of art into the graphic arts competitions. Najla also needs all the competition results, which Ms. Fillion will provide her. She will be receiving that spreadsheet next weekend. The *Forum Factorum* does need to be ready for the September Mailing Packets, which are sent out the week after Labor Day. Hence, Najla must send the final draft to Ms. Bauer for review and editing by September 1. Approximately 400 copies should be made. Of these 400, 300 will be put in the mailing packets, 41 will be distributed to actual Nationals student attendees, and the remaining will be extras that Najla may keep.

VI. Other Topics

1:22 P.M.

- 1:22 – The September Mailing Packet will be enclosed in a 9”x12” manila envelope, which must have both the mailing address of the recipient and a return address. The return address should include Linda’s name, position, and then BLS’ address and Ms. Foley’s name so that returned packets will arrive in her mailbox. Linda can create a mail merge based on the updated excel sheet currently being compiled by the officers and Ms. Fillion, and then print the labels. If any packets are returned, Ms. Fillion will have to be notified.
- 1:25 – Information on Classics Day and Kick-off will be emailed in advance of the September Mailing Packet so that teachers can begin to order buses and organize their students’ attendance there.
- 1:27 – Veena will be creating the Community Service Project flyer.
- 1:28 – Ms. Bauer also notes that Anushree will have to upload the updated membership forms for the State and National level registration. Teachers must fill out both forms to register their students with MassJCL and NJCL. The lists of who is on which list are easily cross-referenced. Ms. Bauer collects both of these forms.
- 1:30 – Upon completion of the September Mailing Packet, Linda will need to send Ms. Fillion PDFs of all the documents therein contained for the sake of posterity and preservation. With these records, we can always look back to the packets of previous years and mark the progression of the club and the events it advertises.

- 1:32 – Linda will also try to contact Certamen representatives at Yale and Harvard to try to determine at least a tentative date for these competitions.
- 1:34 – Of critical importance is updating and amending the Contest Booklet, which bears obsolete, inaccurate, and incomplete information. The Contest Booklet especially needs to introduce the new contests and replace the old officers’ contact information. These edits should be completed by September.
- 1:38 – The meeting is adjourned.

VII. Meeting Adjourned

1:38 P.M.

Duration: 3 hours, 3 minutes

Summary:

This meeting was the fourth MassJCL meeting of the 2015-2016 year. This meeting concerned preparations before school commences. Major topics included Kick-off, the September Mailing Packet, publicity and membership competitions, Praetoria, the MassJCL Flickr account, and the *Forum Factorum*. The Board maintains its goal to promote awareness of contests, events, and classical opportunities throughout all the chapters. It also stresses its dedication to strengthening smaller schools, facilitating their growth, and having large schools aid small schools. The new event, Praetoria, will help to address these goals. Similarly, the Flickr account is evolving to become far more inclusive and conducive to stimulating activity among all the schools. The September Mailing Packet, as is constructed annually, will serve as the initial promotional springboard for informing schools of both the events and contests held this year. Lastly, the Board is preparing for the upcoming Kick-off and more information concerning this event will be conveyed soon.

Upcoming Events:

- Kick-off _____ October 17, 2015
- MassJCL Meeting _____ November 14, 2015
- Classics Day _____ December 3, 2015
- MassJCL Meeting _____ January 9, 2016
- BLA Certamen _____ January 30, 2016
- Snow Date for MassJCL Meeting _____ January 31, 2016
- BLS Certamen _____ February 6, 2016
- Praetoria (tentative) _____ February 27-28, 2016
- MassJCL Meeting _____ April 9, 2016
- Massachusetts Junior Classical League State Convention _____ April 29 – May 1, 2016

Inspirational Latin Quote: *Ipsa multarum artium scientia, etiam aliud agentis, nos ornat.*

The knowledge of many arts itself equips us, even those of us practicing another skill.

— Publius Cornelius Tacitus, *Dialogus de Oratoribus* 32

Minutes by Daniel Sherman