

Massachusetts JCL Executive Board Transitional Meeting
Held May 20th, 2006 at UMass Amherst

In Attendance:

Executive Board Officers:

Vanessa Durand, First Vice President 2005-2006, President 2006-2007
Charlie Burke, Treasurer 2005-2006, First Vice-President 2006-2007
Tahisha Desir, Second Vice-President 2005-2006
Carissa Williams, Parliamentarian 2005-2006, Second Vice-President 2006-2007
Grace Laidlaw, Secretary 2006-2007
Kerri Bisaga, Publications Editor 2006-2007
Meseret Oldjira, Historian 2005-2006
Michaela Reif, Historian 2006-2007
Zack Sheppard, Technical Coordinator 2005-2006 & 2006-2007

National Officers:

Rachel Singh, Publications Editor 2005-2006

State Chairs/Sponsors:

Janet Fillion, State Chair (Boston Latin Academy)
Marjorie Keeley, State Chair (Mt. Greylock Regional High School)
Tamara Bauer, State Chair (Pierce Middle School)
Victoria Miklosky, State Chair (Barnstable High School)

Sponsors:

Tamara Yourke

SCL Members:

James O'Neill

Minutes:

10:30- Vanessa calls the meeting to order and asks about last meeting's minutes. Ms. Fillion proposes that minutes should be e-mailed to board members after each meeting for comments and revisions. Mrs. Keeley proposes that everyone at a meeting should be e-mailed a copy of that meeting's minutes. A discussion follows.

10:35- Mrs. Keeley proposes that e-mails of the minutes should be sent within 48 hours of a meeting to everyone in attendance and that proposed changes should be sent back to the secretary within one week. Charlie seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

10:36- General gift-giving ensues. Ms. Bauer is excited to receive orange gifts.

10:43- Mrs. Keeley and Ms. Bauer welcome Victoria Miklosky as the newest state chair.

10:45- Zack offers the Technical Coordinator's report. He describes his efforts to sort out a licensing issue that is currently keeping him from editing the website. Ms. Fillion mentions a problem she has been having with e-mail; e-mails sent using the links on the state website are not consistently received. Vanessa mentions the problems she has been having getting responses to e-mails about board meetings, and asks Zack to look further into the e-mail issue.

10:49- Charlie moves to accept the Technical Coordinator's report. Tahisha seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

10:51- Mrs. Keeley offers the Publications Editor's report. She asks for a volunteer to write an article about state Convention for the *Forum Factorum*. Vanessa volunteers. Kerri mentions that she needs officers' addresses for distributing the *Forum*. Carissa moves to accept the report. Zack seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

10:53- Meseret offers the Historian's report. She says she has e-mailed various schools asking for photos for the scrapbook. She also asks for headshots of the officers. Charlie moves to accept the historian's report. Kerri seconds. The motion passes.

10:55- Carissa offers the Parliamentarian's report. Michaela moves to accept the report. Audane seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

10:57- Charlie offers the Treasurer's report. He reports that the MassJCL has approximately \$31,000 in the bank. Ms. Fillion mentions that there has been a \$2,000 deposit in order to hold seats on the plane to nationals, which the JCL will get back by the end of August. Meseret motions to accept the treasurer's report. Audane seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

11:01- Grace offers the secretary's report. She says that her laptop is officially up and running. Carissa moves to accept the report. Kerri seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

11:02- Tahisha offers the Second Vice-President's report. She goes over the themes for this year's national Convention. Charlie moves to accept the report. Mrs. Keeley seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

11:04- Charlie gives the First Vice-President's report. He tells the board that Classics Day will be held on December 7th at Boston University, with the theme "All the emperor's new grooves." He says that he has already received several confirmations. Audane moves to accept the report. Meseret seconds, and the motion passes unanimously.

11:06- Vanessa gives the President's report. She says she has been working out schedules for next year's Convention. Charlie moves to accept the report. Carissa seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

11:08- Vanessa introduces Part I of the evaluation of this year's State Convention. She opens the floor to discussion of this year's registration process. Kerri mentions that some art entries were not judged this year because they were hidden under other pieces. More tables are needed.

11:11- Mrs. Keeley proposes that schools should register the night before Convention begins, so that activities can begin on time in the morning. Vanessa proposes that this should be optional, with schools that bring Certamen teams "strongly encouraged" to register early.

11:13- Ms. Miklosky says that her school, Barnstable, in Cape Cod might be willing to host next year's Convention. It is large enough to accommodate the Convention, and a local busing company would be able to ferry JCLers to and from local hotels.

11:18- A discussion ensues. Ms. Fillion proposes that the board look into the new venue as quickly as possible. More details are discussed, including the lack of a pool at the Cape Cod high school, and the problem of holding Convention at a high school on a Friday, when classes would be in session. Ms. Miklosky proposes holding Convention from Friday night to Sunday morning in order to avoid running the Convention activities at the same time as classes. Mrs. Keeley supports the idea.

11:24- Tahisha says that she is afraid of problems that will arise with a longer Convention. Vanessa says that, with good planning, a longer Convention shouldn't be problematic. Mrs. Keeley suggests a middle school social at the beginning of Convention to introduce younger students from different school to one another.

11:27- Mrs. Keeley motions for Ms. Miklosky to look into the new venue. There is some discussion of moving the Convention earlier in the year in order to avoid coinciding with AP exam studying. A discussion follows. Rachel proposes that Convention be held the last weekend in April. Mrs. Keeley proposes that Mrs. Miklosky look into holding Convention in Cape Cod the weekend after April vacation. Audane seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

11:33- Vanessa begins the discussion of Certamen preliminaries. She says that art registration may go more smoothly this year because fewer officers are on Certamen teams than last year, so more will be able to help with registration.

11:38- Mrs. Keeley asks for comments about meals, because more money was spent than usual this year. The consensus is that the food was very good. Rachel says that prepackaged lunches prevented food from running out.

11:40- Vanessa initiates the discussion of the scavenger hunt and various workshops. Mrs. Keeley suggests more activities. Vanessa mentions karaoke.

11:44- Discussion of general assemblies begins. Charlie notes a lack of professionalism on the part of the board during assemblies. Mrs. Keeley stresses the need for a binder on stage with detailed information about who will say what.

11:49- Ms. Fillion asks for an assistant next year to help with collecting scores. Mrs. Keeley suggests the use of "pages" to deliver messages and increase efficiency.

11:52- Rachel suggests final officer reports during the last general assembly of next year's Convention. Vanessa agrees.

11:53- Ms. Fillion reports on the testing sessions. She mentions that there were no shortages of pencils or test sheets.

11:54- Rachel brings up a problem with overlapping contests; it is impossible to do all the contests one wants.

11:55- James suggests a Greek test for next year. He volunteers to make one up. Mrs. Keeley mentions that MGRHS will have a Greek club next year. James also wants an introductory Greek workshop at Convention.

11:57- Vanessa begins a discussion of the rooming situation at this year's Convention. Ms. Fillion says that her students enjoyed the hotel. Ms. Bauer says that her students had an issue with noise-making, but that the hotel was very nice about it.

12:01- Ms. Miklosky asks if we have reached critical mass at UMass. Mrs. Keeley says we have.

12:02- Vanessa begins a discussion of Olympika. Mrs. Keeley says that it was much more organized this year than in years past because of pre-registration for athletic contests for the first time. The lack of a track for running events has been a problem, but Mrs. Keeley points out that when the UMass track (currently under construction) is finished, it will undoubtedly cost a great deal of money to use. Ms. Miklosky reports that Barnstable has a working track and tennis courts.

12:06- Mrs. Fillion suggests about an impromptu art competition at next year's Convention. Rachel agrees.

12:07- Tahisha says that Creative Arts contests went well this year. Mrs. Keeley says that Mr. Floyd, from Greylock, helped with organization (he will be attending Convention again next year). Rachel says that testing conflicted with Creative contests. There is some question over whether to judge boys and girls (separately or together) for dramatic interpretation at the upper level. Mrs. Keeley says that they have been judged together in the past. Ms. Fillion says that it is doable.

12:11- Vanessa discusses awards. Mrs. Keeley likes the splitting up of awards announcements between different general assemblies. Others agree.

12:13- Discussion of fellowship begins. The chairs discuss whether sponsors need some sort of agenda for fellowship.

12:15- Charlie says that he liked handing out goody bags at Convention. Vanessa disagrees; she says it was too complicated. Ms. Fillion agrees with Vanessa and says it wasn't worth the effort. There is further discussion of better ways to distribute bags, including placing them on people's seats before the first general assembly.

12:20- Tahisha moves to accept the evaluation of Convention (Part I). Carissa seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

12:21- Ms. Fillion hands out copies of this year's Convention packets for officers to look over.

12:22- The board breaks for lunch.

1:10- Vanessa calls the meeting back to order.

1:11- Vanessa asks about voting (for officers and amendments) at Convention; she finds out that it went smoothly.

1:13- Vanessa opens the floor to discussion of the toga parade. James reports that the parade in Cape Cod would be relatively short. There is further discussion of ways to improve the parade, including starting to cheer before leaving the assembly room to help build spirit.

1:16- Vanessa opens the discussion of the dance. Charlie suggests having a DJ next year. Vanessa says that, for the length of the dance (2 hours), a DJ is not worth the money.

1:19- Vanessa begins the discussion of *That's Entertainment*. Mrs. Keeley says that it was better organized this year than in the past.

1:20- Vanessa asks about rehearsals for *That's Entertainment*, which took place at State Convention this year. She wonders how this could work next year, assuming that the Friday night-Sunday morning Convention occurs. A brief discussion follows.

1:22- A discussion of candidate speeches begins. Ms. Fillion suggests that candidates should be briefed before making speeches on what is and is not appropriate. Vanessa supports this idea. She believes candidates should be required to meet with the parliamentarian at the beginning of Convention.

1:25- Vanessa opens the discussion of candidates' open forum. Tahisha says she liked having questions for the candidates written out beforehand, rather than thought of on the spot. Charlie agrees.

1:27- Rachel says she thought the open forum was lackluster this year. Vanessa agrees, and suggests that questions from people who don't attend the forum should be written down and discussed at the forum. Mrs. Keeley suggests that questions should be written down, rather than asked directly, at open forum, so that the parliamentarian can act as censor and remove offensive or pointless questions. Others agree.

1:30- Vanessa asks the board about judges. The consensus is that there were plenty of judges available. Mrs. Keeley says that running creative contests in two different sessions worked well, because it made judges available for more than one contest.

1:32- Vanessa opens the floor to other ideas. Tahisha suggests more lights for the dance.

1:33- Ms. Fillion suggests that an evaluation of the Convention should be done at State Convention

next year. Audane moves to accept the evaluation of Convention (Part II). Meseret seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

1:34- Ms. Fillion argues for combining the junior highs and high schools in the same districts, so that they would be viewed as one school at Convention, combining any points earned by either school, in order to give smaller schools an advantage in competing for points. She says this would put schools on more of an equal footing, and might also encourage other schools to join. A discussion follows.

1:38- Ms. Bauer suggests that instead of combining schools, the larger schools could be separated into competing halves, so that no school could become too powerful. Rachel argues that this would discourage cooperation.

1:41- Rachel says that combining schools could be an issue with pre-Convention contests like the scrapbook and publications, which schools tend to do separately. Ms. Fillion suggests allowing combined schools to submit two scrapbooks, but only allowing the better one to place. The same could work for newsletters.

1:45- Charlie says combining schools could put small schools that have no other schools to combine with at a further disadvantage. Ms. Fillion says that this is not necessarily true.

1:47- Ms. Fillion moves that middle and high schools in the same district be allowed to combine. Charlie seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

1:48- Vanessa opens the discussion of National Convention preparations. She proposes an evening get-together to allow delegates to get to know each other.

1:49- A discussion of the location ensues. Charlie tentatively offers his house.

1:51- Ms. Bauer's house is discussed.

1:52- The location is tentatively set at Charlie's house.

1:53- The time of the get-together is discussed. It is decided that the get-together will take place in the evening, probably on a Sunday.

1:56- The location of Castra Latina is discussed. While last year's Castra Latina was highly successful, there is some concern over the location of this summer's meetings, because Pierce Middle School (last year's location) will not be available.

2:00- The time of the next meeting is brought up. Zack suggests mid-June. A discussion ensues. Meetings are set for June 17th and some time in August. The June meeting will be devoted to preparing for nationals.

2:05- Zack moves to adjourn. Charlie seconds. The motion passes unanimously.