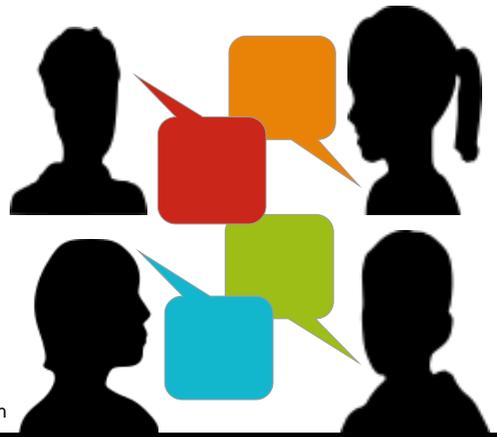


Polokwane Debating Society

Those who do not know their opponent's arguments do not completely understand their own



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 03 MARCH 2021 15:00 AT POLOKWANE CITY LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBILITY AND DATE
1.	<p>OPENING AND WELCOME</p> <p>1.1. Ma'am Augustine opened the meeting with a prayer.</p> <p>1.2. Tlou welcomed teachers to the academic year and the 2021 debating season.</p>	
2.	<p>ATTENDANCE REGISTER</p> <p>Teachers were asked to complete the attendance register. The attendance was circulated in while teachers arrived.</p>	All attendees
3.	<p>2020 Reflection</p> <p>Round 1 was completed with very little hiccups. Frans Mohlala hosted both the junior and senior rounds. We released the motion for the second round and the country went into a national lockdown.</p> <p>The DBE also suspended extra-curricular activities till the 23 October 2020. An attempt was made to facilitate a few rounds but it became evident that it would not be possible.</p> <p>The hope is that some kind of debating can be hosted by the library this year.</p>	
4.	<p>2021 The year ahead and covid adjustments</p> <p>As indicated, the aim is to facilitate activities this year. To achieve this, the library is exploring online debating and training until such a time when physical events can be hosted.</p>	

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	<p>Tlou explained the implications of online debating for schools and their teams. The equipment required and the availability of municipal libraries in the different parts of the municipality.</p>	
4.1.	<p>Communication</p> <p>Maurdy goes through tremendous trouble to ensure that messages are delivered to schools. She will communicate via email, whatsapp group chats, sms's to teachers and also a call if necessary.</p> <p>Teachers were encouraged to acknowledge communication when it comes through. Even a simple, "Noted" will suffice to acknowledge that communication was received.</p> <p>For the year ahead communication is even more important because in an online environment if you don't respond the library has limited means to know what the situation may be.</p>	
4.2.	<p>Punctuality</p> <p>Punctuality was highlighted for this year's competition. Fixtures will start at 15:00 on Wednesday.</p> <p>On enquiry of the feasibility of online fixtures, schools were asked to indicate how learners are attending school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners attending once a week i.e. Gr 8's on Monday, Gr 9's on Tuesday etc.: Kgakoa, Dr AMS Makunyane, Mamolemane, Bokamoso. • Learners attending school everyday: Pax, Northern Academy, Stanford, Pepps, Noorderland. • Learners attending in split groups: Grade 8's split in two groups etc.: Taxila, Mountainview <p>Grouping fixtures for this year is going to be a difficult task.</p> <p>Mr Morrisen from Westenburg suggested into seeing if learners can be swapped out to make it easier for teachers to organize their groups.</p>	



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	<p>It was also suggested that teams be grouped in distinct grades to make it easier for teachers i.e. compose the junior team of Gr 9's exclusively.</p> <p>Mr Mashatole from Mountainview highlighted that the library must communicate in advance because teachers do not see children every day.</p>	
4.3.	<p>Postponements</p> <p>It became apparent that postponement for this this year's competition was going to very difficult to arrange. Nevertheless, teachers are required to communicate whatever calendar trouble they may have as soon as possible so we can redraw the fixture.</p> <p>Tlou indicated that the library would be quite limited in its ability to accommodate postponements.</p>	
4.4.	<p>Complaint Procedures</p> <p>Tlou indicated that the library rarely reverses decisions and highlighted the lengths the library goes through to ensure adjudications and fixtures are fair.</p> <p>However, complaints need to be addressed in writing so that they can be investigated and responded to.</p> <p>Mr Mashotole stressed the importance of prepared adjudicators citing an instance where his learners were adjudicated by an inexperienced learner. Ma'am Augustine highlighted the same.</p> <p>Tlou indicated that he would follow-up on the case.</p> <p>In all instances it was understood that the library must remain cautious when placing adjudicators and teacher were encouraged to not always side with learners.</p>	
4.5.	<p>Venues and adjudication</p> <p>Teachers were asked to consider hosting learners for debate fixtures at their schools. Debaters are generally well-behaved learners and debating at different schools in the municipality really "democratised" the activity.</p> <p>Teachers were also encouraged to help us source adjudicators for the competition. The library always welcomes a few extra minds to the community.</p>	



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<p>5.</p> <p>5.1.</p> <p>5.2.</p>	<p>Registration</p> <p>List of debaters</p> <p>Teacher were encouraged to compile a list of debaters by just taking a register of learners that participate at the first round. Additions to the list may be made during the year.</p> <p>Certificates</p> <p>Certificates will be produced based on the list submitted above.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Training Workshop</p> <p>Maurdy will announce training workshop dates as the year progresses. The hope is to provide more regular training throughout the year as opposed to doing all the training at the beginning of the year.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Calendar</p> <p>Various schools indicated that their calendars are always subject to change. Dates can only be confirmed based on the current circumstance. The usual tradition of seeing which Wednesday would be possible for the year would be difficult to facilitate.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Motions</p> <p>Motions are researched and discussed before they are announced. Teachers can rest assured that learners are getting Fairly set motions.</p> <p>Teachers shared some topics. The suggestions were noted down separately for the motions committee to explore.</p>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Closure</p> <p>Ma'am Augustine closed the meeting in with a prayer.</p> <p>Tlou thanked the teachers for their tireless efforts in producing learner that a more than certificate holders.</p>	

