

# THSSDL Fall Board Meeting Minutes

**Type of Meeting:** Regular Fall Board Meeting

**Date:** August 15, 2025

**Time:** 6:50 PM to 10:01

**Location:** Wellington's Restaurant

**Chair:** Kevin Rogers

**Assistant Chair:** Linda Starnes

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## 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM by Chair Kevin Rogers.

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## 2. Roll Call / Attendance

### Members Present:

- Kevin Rogers
- Linda Starnes
- Doug James
- Peggy Russell
- Laura Humphrey
- Gabby Wexler
- Jeff Robbins
- Camryn Pitts
- Danielle Smallwood

### Members Absent:

- Meghann Shoulders (*represented by proxy: David Weatherly*)
- Josh Wilson (*attended via FaceTime with Doug James*)
- Shane Cunningham (*absent*)

### Additional Attendees:

- Dr. Mike and Gina Gotcher
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### 3. Approval of Previous Minutes

**Motion:** To approve the minutes of the April 2025 meeting as written.

**Moved by:** Jeff Robbins

**Seconded by:** Doug James

**Vote:** 9 in favor, 0 opposed

**Motion Carried.**

*The April 2025 minutes were approved as written.*

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### 4. Reports of Officers

#### Financial Report – Danielle Smallwood and Mike Gotcher

- Danielle was added to the bank account earlier that day.
- Sponsorship for trophies has already been secured.
- An additional hospitality fee was incurred at the state tournament. The prep guide has been updated to prevent this in the future.
- Danielle requested to retain Dr. Gotcher and Lee Ellen Beach on the scholarship account.
- A financial card was obtained to manage expenses more efficiently.

*Report received as information.*

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### 5. Reports of Committees

#### Sweepstakes Committee – Jeff Robbins, Shane Cunningham, Hunter Graybeal

##### Discussion:

- A 2-year pilot program was implemented including all events, weighted equally (each area counted as ¼).
- Trophies awarded only to the top team in each category.
- Miscommunication at the state tournament caused confusion about the intended structure.
- Concerns raised regarding equitable recognition for small schools.

**Motion 1:** To establish **four categories of sweepstakes.**

**Moved by:** Jeff Robbins

**Seconded by:** Camryn Pitts

**Vote:** 8 in favor, 1 opposed

**Motion Carried.**

**Motion 2:** To eliminate an overall sweepstakes winner at the 2025–2026 state tournament.

**Moved by:** Doug James

**Seconded by:** Peggy Russell

**Discussion:** Clarification requested on event weighting. Agreed to announce 1st–3rd places regardless of trophy awards.

**Vote:** 6 in favor, 3 opposed

**Motion Carried.**

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## **Debate Committee – Jeff Robbins, Matt Grimes, Christina Crutcher**

### **Discussion:**

- Congressional Debate had numerous issues at the previous state tournament.
- Committee presented updated rules and proposed each district provide a parliamentarian.

**Motion:** To approve the committee's recommendations on Congressional Debate as written.

**Moved by:** Jeff Robbins

**Seconded by:** Camryn Pitts

**Vote:** 7 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention

**Motion Carried.**

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## **Ballots – Kevin Rogers**

- Members were reminded to distribute ballots to their districts and submit feedback for any needed changes.

*Report received as information.*

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## **6. New Business**

### **A. Doubling at State – Doug James**

#### **Proposal:**

- Allow doubling at the state tournament.
- Permit debaters to double in all categories except TV, Extemp, Costume, and Set Design.

**Motion:** To allow doubling with the listed exceptions.

**Moved by:** Doug James

**Seconded by:** Jeff Robbins  
**Vote:** 8 in favor, 1 opposed  
**Motion Carried.**

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## **B. Theater Design Category Proposal – Doug James**

### **Proposal:**

- Currently, Set and Costume Design are always combined at State.
- Suggestion to formally create a single “Design” category.
- Concerns noted that the two disciplines differ significantly.

**Motion:** To form a committee to review the proposal to combine Set and Costume into a single Design category.

**Moved by:** Doug James

**Seconded by:** Camryn Pitts

**Vote:** 9 in favor, 0 opposed

**Motion Carried.**

### **Additional Discussion:**

Possible plays for the upcoming state tournament were reviewed:

- *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- *The Color Purple*
- *War Horse*
- *Metamorphoses*
- *Twelfth Night*
- *As You Like It*

**Action:** Danielle and Kevin will review past selections to avoid duplication, then initiate an online vote to select three final options.

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## **7. State Tournament Preparation**

- The State Tournament job assignments list was reviewed and updated.
  - **Action:** Kevin will distribute the revised job list to members.
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## **8. Announcements**

- Danielle emphasized the importance of student safety at tournaments.
  - Encouraged the use of School Resource Officers where possible.
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## 9. Adjournment

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting.

**Moved by:** Jeff Robbins

**Seconded by:** Doug James

**Vote:** 9 in favor, 0 opposed

**Motion Carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:01 PM by Chair Kevin Rogers.**

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## 10. Approval of Minutes

**Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Linda Starnes, Assistant State Chair*

**Approved by Board on:** \_\_\_\_\_