



Minutes of the 2023-2024 Board of Directors Videoconference

December 14, 2023

The 2023-2024 Toastmasters International Board of Directors met on December 14, 2023, with International President, Morag Mathieson, DTM presiding. The other officers and directors present were: Radhi Spear, DTM; Aletta Rochat, DTM; Stefano McGhee, DTM; Matt Kinsey, DTM; Anwasha Banerjee, DTM; Pawas Chandra, DTM; Farzana Chohan, DTM; Kimberly Dueck, DTM; Dawn Frail, DTM; Jean Gamester, DTM; Helen He, DTM; Benjamin McCormick, DTM; Kimberly Myers, DTM; Sondra Nunez, DTM; Jesse Oakley III, DTM; Dana Richard, DTM; Violetta Rios, DTM; Frank Tsuru, DTM; and Chief Executive Officer Daniel Rex. Chief Financial Officer John Bond, Chief Operations and Information Officer Heidi Hollenbeck, Chief Marketing and Development Officer John Lurquin, District Growth and Support Director Jonathan Lam, Club and Member Engagement Director Danielle Mitchell, Board Support Director Mona Shah, Education Programs and Training Director Kate Wingrove, Education Development Manager Jessie Lester, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer Amber Villa, and Secretary Kristen Kyriazis were also present. No Board Members were absent.

1. The agenda was adopted as presented.
2. **HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**
3. The Board received the report (attached) of the November 6, 2023, Executive Committee videoconference as presented by International President-Elect Spear. The Board accepted the Committee's report as presented in items #1 and 2.
4. The Board received the report (attached) of the November 30, 2023, Strategic Planning Committee hybrid meeting as presented by Immediate Past International President Kinsey. The Board accepted the Committee's report as presented in items #1, 2, and 3.
5. The Board received the report (attached) of the November 29-December 1, 2023, Executive Committee hybrid meeting as presented by International President-Elect Spear. The Board adopted the Committee's recommendations as presented in items #1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 18. Item #2, relating to the 2024 Toastmasters International budget, will be considered at a separate meeting. The remaining items were considered separately by the Board.

The Board discussed item #6. The Board approved the Smedley Fund disbursement for the Member Clubs in Morocco. The Board voted not to approve the Smedley Fund disbursement for the unpaid individual members resident in Ukraine.

The Board adopted item #7.

The Board adopted item #11.

The Board discussed and voted on each of the Committee's recommendations in item #12 individually. The Board adopted the following recommendations for the 2024-2025 contest cycle:

- To no longer grant exceptions to the *Speech Contest Rulebook* allowing the current contest types to be conducted in an online or hybrid format beyond the club level.
- To instruct World Headquarters to draft proposed amendments to the *Speech Contest Rulebook*, and associated documents as necessary, supporting the addition of an online speech contest and present them at a future meeting.
- To amend Policy 6.0: Speech Contests for consistency with the *Speech Contest Rulebook*.
- To amend Policy 6.0 to clarify the rules around non-English contests.
- To approve the *Speech Contest Rulebook* translations, as presented.

The Board agreed that the meaning of the term "multilingual speech contest" was unclear. They adopted alternative phrasing for those amendments to Policy 6.0 (attached) to increase clarity. The corresponding amendments to the *Speech Contest Rulebook* (attached) were subsequently adopted by the International President and the Chief Executive Officer, in concurrence with the International President-Elect.

The Board discussed item #15 and voted not to approve the proposed closed club reinstatement program.

As there was no other business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned.

Pursuant to Protocol 11.3: Board of Directors Confidentiality, items contained in the minutes of this meeting were classified as "unrestricted" upon distribution of the minutes by World Headquarters, not to include any matters marked "restricted."


Kristen Kyriazis
Secretary

Distribution: Board of Directors
Nonprofit General Counsel
Chief Executive Officer
Past International Presidents
Past International Directors