

MINUTES

General Assembly Meeting

North Dakota High School Activities Association

October 17, 2013 - Bismarck, ND

The General Assembly of the North Dakota High School Activities Association met at the Bismarck Ramkota on October 17, 2013. President Olson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

President Olson welcomed member schools to the NDHSAA General Assembly. He thanked all for what they do for the students of North Dakota through their attendance at this meeting and their support of education based activities in our state.

President Olson declared a quorum.

President Olson introduced the NDHSAA Board of Directors and staff.

President Olson addressed the membership with a theme of change. A great deal of NDHSAA discussion has to do with change. A change in our state's demographics drives realignment and the football plan every other year. Changes in technology are evident by the new NDHSAA administrative website, the NDHSAA NOW website and the NFHS Network. Changes in eligibility standards discussed this morning will continue to be debated in future months. Change in board members, as we hear new names placed into nomination and other significant changes will be heard today. All these changes are a reminder of the saying, "THE ONLY CONSTANT IS CHANGE".

The changes discussed throughout the rest of the agenda are positive for the students of our state and our Association. North Dakotans don't always like change but manage to come through it better than ever. Olson thanked the membership for their support of education-based activities in our state.

The minutes of the October, 2012 General Assembly Meeting were addressed. Motion by Lorell Jungling, Mandan to approve the minutes. Second by Kent Dennis, Hankinson. Motion carried.

The minutes of the January, 2013 Membership Meeting were addressed. Motion by Brandt Dick, Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock to approve the minutes. Second by Michael Sorlie, North Sargent. Motion carried.

Tyler Toepke-Floyd, 2013/14 NDHSAA/Farmers Union Insurance Distinguished Student from, Wishek addressed the membership. Tyler's theme was opportunity, and he urged leaders and decision makers, to motivate students to take advantage of every opportunity offered. He thanked the membership for the honor of serving as the NDHSAA Distinguished Student.

Nominating Committees for the upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors were asked for a report:

1. Todd Bertsch, Fargo South High School reported nominations for the Class A East position on the NDHSAA Board of Directors:
 - a. Andy Dahlen, Fargo North Principal
 - b. Mark Rerick, Grand Forks Athletic Director

There were no other nominations from the floor.

2. Paula Pederson, Hillsboro High School, reported nominations for the Class B NE position on the NDHSAA Board of Directors:
 - a. Kevin Rogers, Hatton-Eielson Public Schools Superintendent
 - b. Jeff Manley, Cavalier Public Schools Superintendent

There were no other nominations from the floor.

Motion by Scott Ulland, May-Port-CG to approve nominations. Second by Bob Tollefson, McClusky. Motion carried.

Board member Steve Hall discussed committee progress on academic eligibility. Hall introduced the members of the academic eligibility committee. The committee is focusing on academic eligibility on pages 23 and 24 of the NDHSAA Constitution & By-Laws and is seeking input from administrators. The bar for academic eligibility is set as a minimum by NDHSAA with many schools having a higher requirement for students in their schools. The committee began meeting this summer and continued with a breakout session at the NDCEL Fall Conference. They will continue to meet and invite member schools with additional comments to contact any of the members of the committee. They will continue to collect information from member schools on where we should set our standards. Any changes will come through the membership and the membership will continue to be updated on progress.

Jim Roaldson, NDHSAA Football Committee Chair gave a report on the football survey. Minimizing travel was the most important consideration for 19% of survey respondents while balanced (competitive) divisions was the most important consideration for 81%. 21% of respondents favored three divisions of play and 79% favored four divisions. 34% of respondents were in favor of an "opt down" option for teams to move down one division and be ineligible for the playoffs and 66% opposed. 28% of respondents were in favor of a plan allows programs to select the division they compete in, understanding a full schedule could not be guaranteed with 72% opposed. 23 schools comprising 16 current teams, 14 of who are fielding a varsity team in 2013 would consider playing 6-man football if it were an option. The survey was completed by 112 member-schools. The football committee will have another meeting in December to finalize the plan. The plan will go to the Board for approval in January 2014.

Brenda Schell, NDHSAA Staff member, presented members with a brief overview of the NDHSAA site and the NDHSAA NOW site. NDHSAA NOW (www.ndhsaanow.com) is where users will find NDHSAA news and current information. Patrons will also find teams, district and region placement, team schedules, pictures, and rosters, football standings, human-interest stories, twitter feed and much more. This is also where users

will access video from the NFHS Network and video streams from member schools. A link to the NDHSAA NOW site is indicated by the NOW logo at the bottom of every NDHSAA webpage. Schell gave members a visual tour of the NDHSAA site and the NDHSAA NOW site.

The Executive Secretary gave his report:

- NFHS Network has become a reality to North Dakota and 31 other states. In signing on to the NFHS Network, these states sold rights to web streaming for all NDHSAA sponsored post-season events. This is a 5-year agreement with NDHSAA receiving \$35,000 for first 3 years and \$45,000 for last 2 years of the contract. The NFHS Network has become a partner with PlayOn Sports. PlayOn Sports has made available to every school in America, the opportunity to web-stream their regular season events. A letter was sent to member schools by NDHSAA on September 19th explaining the NFHS Network & PlayOn Sports. There is a subscription model in which PlayOn will waive licensing fee and an annual license fee model costing each school \$1,500 web-cast regular season games. The annual license fee model includes a computer & software to accomplish web-casting of events. The NDHSAA office will participate through the annual license fee model. The NDHSAA Board of Directors recently approved a rate card of what we charge for different events around the state. The NFHS Network contract dictates the use of this rate card unless NDHSAA is directly producing or granting permission to a member school to produce an event. This exciting, scary new ground is all part of the NDHSAA strategic plan which indicated the need to showcase our events and students.
- Farmers Union Insurance is still our premier sponsor. They are also the sponsor of the Distinguished Student scholarship program.
- North Dakota Army National Guard is continuing as a supporting sponsor to NDHSAA.
- North Dakota Department of Transportation recently became a NDHSAA supporting sponsor. Their focus will be driving with buckle up and don't text and drive campaigns.
- The NFHS Spirit of Sport award is again being offered. Each of 8 sections around the country has the ability to submit a section nominee for the Spirit of Sport or the new Heart of the Arts award. The recipient must exemplify ideals that exemplify the positive spirit of sport or positive heart of art. There have been incredible winners in the past. We have people in North Dakota that are deserving of this award. Sylling encouraged member schools to nominate a worthy candidate for these awards. January 15th is the deadline to submit nominations to the NDHSAA office. Contact the NDHSAA office for applications.
- Sylling encouraged member schools to send pictures of students participating in NDHSAA activities to the NDHSAA. If you have something good happening in your school, let us know!
- Sylling announced to the board that on June 30th he would complete his term as NDHSAA Executive Secretary. He thanked the current board, past board, and administrators in schools for their support throughout the years. He appreciates what schools do as he has been there and understands their situations. Sylling

thanked his lovely wife, who has been his rock, for her support. Every season comes to an end. Sylling indicated this season is done and he is ready to hunt, fish and trap.

With no further business, President Olson declared the meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schell
Asst. to the Exec. Sec.