

MINUTES**NDHSAA Annual Membership Meeting
North Dakota High School Activities Association
January 27, 2015 - Bismarck, North Dakota**

The Representative Assembly Meeting of the North Dakota High School Activities Association was held Monday, January 27, 2015 at 8:00 A.M. at the Bismarck Ramkota Inn. President Hall welcomed the membership, called the meeting to order, and declared a quorum had been established.

President Hall introduced the Board of Directors and staff to the membership.

On behalf of the Canvassing Committee, chair Kirsten Baesler reported the results of the ballots for NDHSAA Board positions.

1. Membership to the Board of Directors from the Class B Northwest for a four year term – Ben Schafer, Ray Public Schools Superintendent
2. Membership to the Board of Directors from the Class A West Region for a four year term – Mark Vollmer, Minot Public Schools Superintendent

Steve Hall, Constitution & By-Laws committee chair, reported on the NDHSAA Board of Directors proposed amendment to academic eligibility. Work began on this amendment in June of 2012 and continued with surveys of schools and 17 meetings of the Constitution & By-Laws committee.

Motion by Dr. Todd Bertsch, Fargo South to propose amendment of Part II: ARTICLE XIV, Section IV, Section V and Section VIII of the NDHSAA Constitution & By-Laws and Part IV: Article III, Section XI of the NDHSAA Jr. High and 7th and 8th Grade By-Law as shown below. Second by Steve Brannan, Garrison.

PART II: ARTICLE XIV - SECTION IV

Students must be making satisfactory progress toward the school's requirements for graduation. The school where the student is fully enrolled and regularly attends shall determine satisfactory progress. Failure to acquire 2 ½ credits at the end of a semester will make him/her ineligible for a minimum of two weeks the following semester.

PART II: ARTICLE XIV - SECTION V

Removed

PART II: ARTICLE XIV - SECTION VIII

Thirty days or more of attendance or participation in interscholastic competition within any shorter period being sufficient to constitute enrollment in any semester.

PART IV: ARTICLE III - SECTION XI:

Scholarship: Jr. High students must meet the same academic requirements as set forth for senior high school competition.

A roll call vote of the membership was taken. Vote Tally: 117 - Yes, 7 – No. Amendment passes and will go into effect July 2015.

Matthew Fetsch provided the Executive Director's report to the membership. All member schools are sent an Executive Director report monthly in an effort to keep schools informed of NDHSAA activities. Fetsch referenced the NDHSAA strategic plan, approved by the NDHSAA Board of Directors in November 2012, and reported progress on the 4 main goals identified.

- 1) The NDHSAA will review and update current by-laws and policies.

- a. Reorganizing and reformatting of the Constitution & By-Laws was completed. The reformat makes items easier to search and more efficient for administrators to use.
 - b. Academic eligibility was addressed by the amendment approved today. Many portions of the Constitution & By-Laws were established in 1937 and much has changed since then. The Board will continue to address changes needed to the Constitution & By-Laws.
- 2) The NDHSAA will develop new policies and/or practices to address changing demographic trends in the state.
- Demographics have changed dramatically in recent years, especially in the western portion of our state. This change in demographics may affect the classification of schools as they approach the enrollment number of 325 which divides schools into Class A or Class B. The Board is reviewing language in the interpretation of the NDHSAA Constitution & By-Laws for clarification as to what time of the year enrollment numbers are used by the NDHSAA for classification. The Board is being proactive in addressing enrollment concerns.
- 3) The NDHSAA will develop long-range plans to address financial stability and operation of the organization.
- The tournament committee is addressing this through implementation of preferred tournament sites when planning state tournament placement. Finances are beginning to play a role in the planning process. Tournament sites are planned 7 years out and the approved calendar is available on the NDHSAA website. The fall financial report indicates income increased 48% from two years ago. Many factors, including the super-region tournaments and tournament placement are responsible for that increase.
- 4) The NDHSAA will develop new policies, programs or practices to address changing social trends in the state.
- a. One social trend in our state is a shortage of officials. This has become an issue in many areas of our state. NDHSAA recently introduced the Local Official program allowing officials to become sub-varsity officials through an online process. The new program has received overwhelmingly positive support thus far. This program will allow those officials to learn the basics of officiating, receive rules books and be insured through the NFHS.

At the January NDHSAA Board meeting, the board voted to separate the Class A and Class B state softball tournaments beginning in 2016 moving each softball tournament to the same community as the same class baseball tournament will be played. This will increase the opportunity for parents and fans to watch both softball and baseball tournaments in the same community should their school have a team in both tournaments.

The Board also approved defined football contact practice guidelines. The football committee was proactive in developing these guidelines with the hope to lessen injury and increase participation. For most schools, it is not a major change from what is currently being done. More information will be available at administrative meetings in the fall and through the football rules clinics.

The 2013/14 school year was the first year Class B basketball and volleyball tournaments were seeded. The seeding process was well received by our schools. This year the seeding meetings for State Class B basketball will be done live on statewide TV.

In closing, Executive Director Fetsch thanked member schools for what they do for students in our state on a daily basis.

President Hall thanked the membership for their attendance and attention. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 am.

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