

MINUTES

General Assembly Meeting

North Dakota High School Activities Association

October 16, 2014 - Bismarck, ND

The General Assembly of the North Dakota High School Activities Association met at the Bismarck Ramkota on October 16, 2014. President Hall called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

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

President Hall declared a quorum and introduced the NDHSAA Board of Directors and staff.

The minutes of the October 2014 General Assembly Meeting were addressed. Motion by Todd Olson, Fargo Public Schools to approve the minutes. Second by Lorell Jungling, Mandan Public Schools. Motion carried.

The minutes of the January 2014 Membership Meeting were addressed. Motion by Rick Jacobson, Wahpeton Public Schools to approve the minutes. Second Dean Koppelman, Valley City Public Schools. Motion carried.

Gavin Muscha, 2014/15 NDHSAA/Farmers Union Insurance Distinguished Student from Richland High School, addressed the membership. Muscha thanked administrators on behalf of his classmates for providing a 4-day weekend. More seriously, Muscha stated education is a tool that anyone can attain and once gained, cannot be taken away. Education opens doors for knowledge and opportunities for more open doors through co-curricular activities. Being part of an athletic team is a special brotherhood and working as a team allows working with people that have different skill sets. Learning how to take a loss as well as taking a win is a valuable lesson to use failures as motivation and a way to improve. Another lesson learned through extracurricular activities is when the going gets rough you still have to stay positive to enhance community support. Other extra curricular activities such as speech & debate teach users to break down problems and analyze all sides of an issue. Communication is a foundation of society and oratory skills that teach people how to communicate smoothly. Confidence is gained as skills increase, which leads to leadership. Extra curricular activities create leaders. Student Congress teaches parliamentary procedure and helps prepare students for adult activities such as NDHSAA meetings, which use Robert's Rules of Order. Education prepares students for the road ahead while co-curricular activities improve character traits, skills, leadership and problem solving skills. Muscha is thankful the Distinguished Student program acknowledges students for leadership. Gavin stated he would not be the person he is today without co-curricular activities.

President Hall introduced Matt Fetsch, NDHSAA Executive Director.

Fetsch invited the assembly to make a motion to accept the Linton High School amendment to Part IV, Article III, Section II of the NDHSAA Constitution & By-Laws as shown below:

Current By-Law:

Section III: If the total enrollment of the seventh and eighth grade pupils in a school or cooperative sponsorship school is not over fifty (50), the fifth and sixth grade pupils of the school may be permitted to participate on all the junior high teams except tackle football and wrestling. Note: The total enrollment count must take place at the beginning of each season in which this rule is applied.

Proposed Change:

~~Section III: If the total enrollment of the seventh and eighth grade pupils in a school or cooperative sponsorship school is not over fifty (50), The fifth and sixth grade pupils of the a school may be permitted to participate on all the junior high teams except tackle football and wrestling. Note: The total enrollment count must take place at the beginning of each season in which this rule is applied.~~

No motion made. Proposal does not go forward for a vote due to lack of motion.

Nominating Committees for the upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors presented the following nominations:

1. Kevin Klassen, Surrey High School, reported nominations for the Class B Northwest representative
 - a. Ben Schafer, Superintendent, Ray Public Schools
 - b. David Schoch, Superintendent, Velva Public Schools
 - c. There were no other nominations from the floor.
2. Shane Martin, Turtle Mountain Community High School, reported nominations for the Class A West representative
 - a. Mark Vollmer, Superintendent, Minot Public Schools
 - b. There were no other nominations from the floor.

Motion by Dan Stutlien, Harvey Public Schools to approve nominations. Second by Scott Ulland, May-Port CG Public Schools. Motion carried.

Jim Roaldson, NDHSAA Football Committee Chair distributed the final football plan. Roaldson reported previous football committees provided template used for the process of creating the football plan. All member schools were surveyed with 112 member schools completing. Survey results show minimizing travel was the most important consideration for 19% of survey respondents while balanced (competitive) divisions 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 allowing football 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 were fielding a varsity

team in 2013 would consider playing 6-man football if it were an option. Following the timeline in the football guidelines, the NDHSAA Board of Directors approved the 2015 and 2016 football plan on October 15, 2014. Roaldson thanked the football committee and NDHSAA staff for their assistance with this process. Roaldson stated the football committee feels under the parameters set by our schools through the survey, it is the best possible plan.

The Executive Director gave his report:

- In Fetsch' first year as Executive Director, the most common question he is asked is what is the first thing he is going to change? Past president Todd Olson summed it up best in last year's General Assembly Meeting by stating "The only constant is change." This has been evident in his few short months, you don't have to look for change, change will find you.
- There will be an academic eligibility by-Law proposal coming forward in January. The Constitution & By-Laws committee has been working on this task for over a year. The NDHSAA Constitution & By-Laws is over 100 years old and written mostly for basketball. Many references refer to schools closing, not opening. There is a change happening in our state with increased population and additional schools.
- Fetsch thanked those who attended the academic eligibility breakout session of the NDCEL conference. Information and input from administrators is invaluable to the committee and will be used for planning.
- Fetsch encouraged those in attendance to look forward to the next 30 years and what high school athletics and activities will look like. He anticipates more changes than in the last 100 years. An ad-hoc committee met a few weeks ago to explore the elimination of district tournaments and movement toward a super-region format. Four of our eight regions will be playing a super-region format of some sort this year. The meeting was very informational and the committee will meet again in March at the State Boys' B Basketball tournament.
- Creation of the football plan is a daunting task for the football committee. The survey weighs heavily in the process the committee uses. Again, looking forward, Fetsch anticipates there will be more change in the next football plan than there has been since 1997 when four divisions were established. There may be fewer teams, more interest in 6-man football, the free & reduced ratio may be taken into consideration for all schools, not just 60% and above as is currently used and other items not yet thought of. The football committee begins their planning for the next football plan in the fall of 2015.
- Fetsch indicated when his season ends in 30 years or so it is his hope we will not be talking about how we used to play football. There were three football related deaths in one weekend this year. The NFHS football committee is looking at guidelines on contact limits for practice. Studies indicate with practice contact limits, participation increases.
- North Dakota Officials Association recommendations go to NDHSAA Board in November. Recommendations include:
 - Requesting 5% increase locked in for 2 years. There was a 0% increase this year as there was a 2 year schedule in place.

- Officials are requesting the ability to purchase a tournament pass for region & state tournaments
 - Requesting no fee for first year officials.
- Fetsch informed administrators of the official shortage in North Dakota. The number of officials registered each year has decreased since we started keeping records in 1977. This is the first year since 1977 that teams have increased. There are 4% more football teams in our state since last year and fewer officials to cover those games. Increased number of schools also increases the number of junior varsity and sophomore teams. Schools may be in crisis mode concerning finding registered officials in the near future. The NDHSAA office plans to be pro-active by developing some strategies to help our member schools.
- In closing, Fetsch thanked administrators for all they do for North Dakota students on a daily basis and for what they do for their colleagues. He encouraged those in attendance to continue to take advantage of opportunities like this conference.

With no further business, President Hall declared the meeting adjourned at 5:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schell
NDHSAA Assistant Director