

MINUTES

North Dakota High School Activities Association

October 21, 2015, Bismarck, ND

The Board of Directors of the North Dakota High School Activities Association held their meeting on October 21, 2015 in Bismarck. President Wiberg called the meeting to order at 9:20 am.

Members present: Baesler, Vollmer, Wiberg, Bertsch, Dahlen, Hall, Roaldson, Schafer, Rinas, Manley, Stedman

Others present: Randy Cranston – Watford City Athletic Director, Steve Holen - Watford City Superintendent. Greg Grooters - West Fargo Sheyenne High School Principal,

Upon additions to the agenda, motion by Hall to approve. Second by Baesler. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Vollmer to approve the consent agenda. Second by Roaldson. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent agenda items:

- a) Approval of Minutes - September 22, 2015
- b) Financial Reports
 - (1) Balance sheet - September 2015
 - (2) Budget
 - (3) Savings/investments - September 2015
- c) Coop Dissolutions
 - (1) Sawyer and Bishop Ryan, boys cross country, 7-12, 2016-17
 - (2) Sawyer and Bishop Ryan, girls cross country, 7-12, 2016-17
 - (3) Bismarck Public Schools and Legacy, gymnastics, 7-12, 2015-16
- d) Coop Applications
 - (1) Velva and Sawyer, boys cross country, 7-12, 2016-17, no fee
 - (2) Velva and Sawyer, girls cross country, 7-12, 2016-17, no fee
 - (3) Velva and Sawyer, volleyball, 7-12, 2016-17, no fee
 - (4) Edgeley and Kulm, boys cross country, 7-12, 2016-17, no fee
 - (5) Edgeley and Kulm, girls cross country, 7-12, 2016-17, no fee

Jason Wiberg, Executive Committee chair, reported Executive Committee actions.

- a) Three school self-reported violations.
 - 1) A Thompson High School volleyball athlete played too many sets. Prescribed penalty was applied. Forfeiture of match in which the violation occurred and the student sat out the next match. A letter of reprimand will be sent to the school.
 - 2) A Center-Stanton High School volleyball athlete played too many sets. Prescribed penalty was applied. Forfeiture of match in which the violation occurred and the student sat out the next match. A letter of reprimand will be sent to the school.
 - 3) A Washburn volleyball athlete played too many sets. The error was not discovered until a later date. Prescribed penalty was applied. Forfeiture of match in which the violation occurred and the student sat out the next match after the violation was discovered. A letter of reprimand will be sent to the school.
- b) The committee discussed game contracts between member schools. Schools need to be reminded to be thorough in completing contracts.

Motion by Bertsch to approve Executive Committee report. Second by Manley. Motion carried unanimously.

Andy Dahlen, Football Committee Chair, provided an update on the member school survey regarding the 2017 and 2018 football plan.

Following are results of the football plan survey.

1. 11 teams did not submit responses.
2. If four divisions are established for the 2017 and 2018 football plan, in what division would your school best fit?
NOTE – teams listed above that did not complete a survey were included in their current division
 - a. AAA – 15
 - b. AA - 10
 - c. A – 29
 - d. 9-man – 49
3. Would you have opted down a division and been ineligible for playoffs?
 - a. 4 Teams – All currently in the AA division
4. How many divisions do you have in the next 2-year football plan?
 - a. Five – 36 (29%)
 - b. Four – 68 (55%)
 - c. Three – 20 (16%)
5. If offered, would you be interested in fielding a 6-man team instead of a 9-man team in the next football plan?
 - a. 17 answered yes, but that only includes 9 current teams and cooped partners of 4 others
6. Most important criteria for the 2017 and 2018 Football Plan
Averages
 - a. Competitive Balance – 1.54
 - b. Travel – 2.56
 - c. Ease of Scheduling – 2.89
 - d. Traditional Rivalries – 3.01

NDHSAA will receive fall enrollment numbers from the North Dakota Department of Instruction in December to be used in the next football plan. The Board discussed the future football plan and timeline.

NDHSAA 2017 and 2018 Football Plan Timeline

January 2016 Board Meeting	Complete guidelines and share with membership
March 2016	Send out preliminary division assignments and request feedback
June 1, 2016	All requests for football coop dissolutions due
September 15, 2016	Deadline for new football cooperative agreements
September 20, 2016	Board meets and addresses coop applications
September 21, 2016	Preliminary region assignments will be sent to schools
September 30, 2016	Deadline for requests to move up a division
First Week in October	Football Committee meets & finalizes recommended plan
October 2016 Board Meeting	Final plan presented to membership

Motion by Hall to approve the Football Committee report. Second by Schafer. Motion carried unanimously.

Watford City High School representatives Randy Cranston and Steve Holen appeared before the Board to request consideration of their classification for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years. Using the DPI Fall Enrollment Report numbers as per Board policy, Watford City's fall enrollment is 322. When enrollments from the schools Watford City is cooped with are added to their enrollment, with the exception of wrestling, cross country and softball as per Board policy, the total number of students is higher than 325. Watford City would like to dissolve the coops listed below and remain in the Class B classification for 2016-17.

Watford City High School coop dissolutions requested:

1. Watford City and Johnson Corners, boys' basketball, 7-12, 2015-16
2. Watford City and Johnson Corners, girls' basketball, 7-12, 2015-16
3. Watford City, Johnson Corners, and Alexander, boys' track, 7-12, 2015-16
4. Watford City, Johnson Corners, and Alexander, girls' track, 7-12, 2015-16
5. Watford City and Alexander, baseball, 9-12, 2015-16
6. Watford City, Johnson Corners, and Alexander, boys' golf, 7-12, 2015-16
7. Watford City, Johnson Corners, and Alexander, girls' golf, 7-12, 2015-16
8. Watford City and Johnson Corners, volleyball, 7-12, 2016-17

Motion by Roaldson to approve dissolutions. Second by Dahlen. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Hall, committee chair, provided a report from the Constitution and By-Law's Committee. The committee continued to discuss a NDHSAA Code of Conduct. Legal counsel, Rachel Bruner-Kaufman was in attendance and recommended NDHSAA not implement a Code of Conduct as discussed. Patti Stedman is going to research the policy recommendation of the North Dakota School Boards Association. The committee consensus was a Code of Conduct should be left to local school district control. Current policies in schools already cover many of the conduct issues that may be covered under a NDHSAA Code of Conduct.

Development of a transgender policy was discussed. Due to numerous inquiries from member schools, the NDHSAA Board of Directors and staff are working with legal counsel to develop a regulation regarding participation of transgendered students in NDHSAA athletics and activities. South Dakota High School Activities Association, Missouri State High School Activities Association and NCAA current policies were discussed. The committee recommendation is to direct legal counsel to develop a draft policy based on Missouri and NCAA policies for committee review. Nationally, 37 states have some sort of transgender policy.

Motion by Schafer to approve the Constitution & By-Law Committee report. Second by Rinas. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Manley, Realignment Committee Chair, provided the Board with a recommendation for placement of Dakota Prairie in Class B wrestling region 2 for the 2015-16 season. Dakota Prairie is planning to request a coop for 2016-17.

Motion by Vollmer to approve the Realignment Committee report. Second by Rinas. Motion carried unanimously.

The General Assembly meeting agenda was distributed and discussed. President Wiberg will chair the meeting. Jordyn Hetland of Wyndmere, 2015-16 NDHSAA Distinguished Student, will address the General Assembly. Nominations for representatives will be accepted for Class B SE, Class A At-Large and NDIAAA.

Staff member Fletschock presented a handout regarding open gym guidelines as per previous Board request. Recommendation to remove Board Regulation #2 from the Guidelines Relative to Out-of-Season Participation and Use of Gymnasiums in Part III, Board Regulations and Guidelines of the NDHSAA Constitution & By-Laws.

~~#2. A variety of activities is available to students and is not limited to one sport or activity on a given date.~~

Motion by Schafer to remove recommendation #2 (A variety of activities is available to students and is not limited to one sport or activity on a given date.) from the Guidelines Relative to Out-of-Season Participation and Use of Gymnasiums in Part III, Board Regulations and Guidelines of the NDHSAA Constitution & By-Laws. Second by Vollmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Stedman to change the word gymnasiums to facilities throughout from the Guidelines Relative to Out-of-Season Participation and Use of Gymnasiums in Part III, Board Regulations and Guidelines of the NDHSAA Constitution & By-Laws. Second by Manley. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board continued discussion on the creation of a student leadership advisory group which was tabled at the September meeting. The discussion indicated the Distinguished Student program is fulfilling the intent for which it was created. Motion by Vollmer to leave the Distinguished Student program as it is currently being operated. Second by Roaldson. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed a Personnel Committee recommendation to create a media specialist position beginning in July 2016 as previously presented. The addition of a media specialist follows the NDHSAA Strategic Plan to address changing demographics, social media and the long term financial security of the NDHSAA.

The following timeline for the process of hiring a media relations position will be implemented.

- Application window opens February 1, 2016
- Applications received until April 1, 2016
- Applications screened April 6, 2016
- Interviews conducted April 13, 2016 in Valley City
- Board approval April 19, 2016

Motion by Roaldson to create a media specialist position as recommended. Second by Schafer Motion carried unanimously.

The Board received a request from Perry Platz, Activities Director at Kindred High School, requesting participation in a varsity football contest prior to the first allowable AA date and to adjust their first allowable practice two days earlier for the 2016 season. Board discussion included the different start dates for different divisions.

Motion by Rinas to allow Kindred High School to play a contest prior to the first allowable AA football first contest date and to adjust their first allowable practice two days earlier for the 2016 season. Second by Roaldson. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

- a) An action plan to address out of season coaching regulations was submitted by Bismarck St. Mary's.
- b) Fetsch received a contract extension to provide Spalding basketballs and Dudley softballs for the NDHSAA tournaments from Spalding/Dudley. We are currently in year five of a five-year contract for basketballs. Spalding offered a five-year extension of their current contract. Spalding will pay NDHSAA \$15,000 per year, an increase of \$5,000, and supply all basketballs for NDHSAA state tournaments at no cost. Dudley agreed to supply softballs for NDHSAA state tournaments.
- c) Fetsch also contacted suppliers of game balls for other sports such as Wilson for tennis balls to request their support. He has not yet heard back from other suppliers.
- d) Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health Insurance renewal was presented. Health insurance renewal shows a .19% increase for family health insurance.
- e) Fetsch presented the Board with notes from the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee meeting held in September. In 2010 the Board had a request to add immunizations to the Pre-Participation Form. The advisory committee indicated the form is intended to confirm if you are healthy enough to participate and immunizations are not a part of that.
- f) Staff member Bubach and Executive Director Fetsch will present a session at the North Dakota School Boards Association Conference at the end of October. The main topics they will present are drug and alcohol rule appeal process and code of conduct.

West Fargo Sheyenne High School principal, Greg Grooters appeared before the Board to appeal to a denied hardship application. Necessary information was distributed to the Board. Executive Director

Fetsch explained the process and his hardship investigation to the Board. Grooters and a parent of the student provided the Board additional information as to reasons they believe the hardship should be granted.

Motion by Baesler to approve the hardship appeal. Second by Stedman. Roll call vote: Roaldson – no, Rinas – no, Vollmer – yes, Bertsch - no, Dahlen - yes, Hall - yes, Baesler - yes, Schafer - yes, Manley - yes, Stedman – yes, Wiberg – no. Motion approved (7-4).

Board Correspondence was reviewed including letters from Devils Lake patrons.

Representative Reports

Dahlen was contacted by a member school concerning streaming fees for post season events. Fetsch indicated NDHSAA is under contract to the NFHS Network for post season events. Member schools that are members of the NFHS School Broadcast Program have the ability to stream their own games, using a subscription model.

Schafer brought up a complaint from Williston expressing frustration with golf coops within Class A schools.

The next NDHSAA Board meeting will be held at 10:00 am on November 20, 2015 at the Holiday Inn Riverside in Minot.

President Wiberg declared the meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Schell
Assistant Director

Signed: _____ Approved Date: ____/____/____