

MINUTES**General Assembly Meeting****North Dakota High School Activities Association****October 22, 2015 - Bismarck, ND**

The General Assembly of the North Dakota High School Activities Association met at the Bismarck Ramkota on October 22, 2015. President Wiberg called the meeting to order at 4:39 p.m.

President Wiberg welcomed member schools to the NDHSAA General Assembly. He thanked administrators for what they do for students, schools and communities of North Dakota through their attendance at this meeting and their support of education based activities in our state. Wiberg also thanked NDHSAA staff and the NDHSAA Board of Directors. He encouraged the membership to consider a Board position in the future.

President Wiberg 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 Kent Dennis, Hankinson Public Schools to approve the minutes. Second by Kevin Rogers, Hatton Eielson School. Motion carried.

The minutes of the January 2015 Membership Meeting were addressed. Motion by Lorell Jungling, Mandan Public Schools to approve the minutes. Second Todd Olson, Fargo Public Schools. Motion carried.

Jordyn Hetland, 2015/16 NDHSAA/Farmers Union Insurance Distinguished Student from Wyndmere High School, addressed the membership. Hetland discussed the benefits and opportunities of the NDHSAA Distinguished Student program. She explained the process and encouraged administrators to nominate a student from their school. Students are missing out on this opportunity because not all schools are submitting a candidate. Through this program, Hetland was able to attend the NFHS Leadership Conference in Indianapolis this summer where she learned about team building, creating a professional online identity, being respectful, being a good role model along with service to others. Through participation in NDHSAA activities students develop as leaders in our schools. The benefits are irreplaceable and those opportunities have turned her into the person she is today. Participation in co-curricular activities has helped push her past her boundaries. She has become someone who knows how to lose and still push herself to improve and be the best she can.

In closing, Hetland encouraged administrators to support and encourage students to participate in activities. Participation allows students to continue to grow into young leaders.

President Wiberg introduced Matt Fetsch, NDHSAA Executive Director.

Board member Andy Dahlen, Football Committee Chair, provided a football survey report and football plan update to the assembly. Dahlen introduced the Football Committee and reviewed results of the survey. Survey results appear below.

1. If four divisions are established for the 2017 and 2018 football plan, in what division would your school best fit?
 - a. AAA – 15
 - b. AA - 10
 - c. A – 29
 - d. 9-man – 49
2. Would you have opted down a division and been ineligible for playoffs?
 - a. 4 schools
3. 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%)
- 4. 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
 - b. Only includes 9 current teams and cooped partners of 4 others
- 5. 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

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

1. Steve Hall, Kindred High School, reported nominations for the Class B Southeast representative
 - a. Tom Rettig, Superintendent, Enderlin Public Schools
 - b. Mitch Carlson, Superintendent, LaMoure Public Schools
 - c. There were no other nominations from the floor.
2. Dr. Mike Bitz, Supt., Mandan High School, reported nominations for the Class A At-Large representative
 - a. Lana DeCoteau, Superintendent, Turtle Mountain Community High School
 - b. Scott Privratsky, Superintendent, Devils Lake Public Schools
 - c. Guy Fridley, Activities Director, Dickinson Public Schools
 - i. Motion by Adam Hill, Mott to add Guy Fridley to the nominations with a second by Randy Cranston, Watford City.
3. Jim Roaldson, AD, Jamestown High School, reported nominations for the NDIAAA representative.
 - a. Michael Sorlie, Athletic Director, North Sargent High School
 - b. Patti Aanenson, Athletic Director, Larimore High School
 - c. There were no other nominations from the floor.

Motion by Rick Jacobson, Wahpeton Public Schools to approve nominations. Second by Mike Campbell, Sargent Central Public Schools. Motion carried.

Ballots will be sent to member schools in December. Ballots will be canvassed at the January meeting.

The Executive Director gave his report:

- Fetsch indicated the theme of his report is “the only constant is change”
- NDHSAA unveiled new blazers at the General Assembly.
- The Local Officials Program, which began January, 2015 had 30 officials participate in the 2014/15 school year. Currently the program has 116 registered officials with 4 local officials from 2014/15 becoming fully registered officials in 2015/16.
- Football contact limitations reported in January, 2015 began in the fall of 2015/16 making football in North Dakota safer than it has ever been. We continue to spread that word throughout North Dakota.
- NDHSAA held a new administrator workshop at the NDHSAA office in August with 19 new Athletic Directors receiving training for their new position.
- The Board and staff continue to study a requirement that schools have a Code of Conduct policy.
- Due to numerous inquiries from member schools, the NDHSAA Board of Directors and staff are working with legal counsel to develop a regulation regarding the participation of transgender students in NDHSAA athletics and activities.

- Fetsch indicated the constant is change, but it's amazing how similar our current status is to that of 50 years ago citing the following examples.
 - In 1965-66 a new Class A high school was formed - Fargo North.
 - In 2015-16 we have a new Class A school in Bismarck and one in West Fargo. We also have two new Class B schools for the first time in a generation.
 - In 1965-66 the sport of hockey was added to NDHSAA sports administrated with the anticipation curling and skiing would be the next sports added.
 - In 2015-16 many schools are adding clay target as a club sport.
 - In 1965-66 a staff position was added to work more closely with officials.
 - In 2015-16 the NDHSAA Board approved the addition of a media specialist position in the NDHSAA office.
 - In 1965-66 there was a change in classification from 3 classes to 2.
 - In 2015-16 Watford City will be Class B in 2016-17 and 2017-18.
- Fetsch shared with the membership, the numerous requests the NDHSAA Board of Directors and staff receive to waive approved Board of Directors regulations or By-Laws, written and amended over the past 100+ years by member schools, prohibiting a student from participating in activities. Parents, coaches, or administrators frequently request exceptions be made, that a violation be overlooked, or the consequences of the violation be reduced or waived. When the request is not approved, it is not infrequent that those applying the rules will be told: "You don't care about kids." In reality it is the presence of high standards of eligibility and conduct that contribute to the value of participation for students, their schools and the community. If we raise standards, we raise the value of the program; if we lower standards, we diminish the value of the program for participants, schools, and communities. As an example of creating high standards, Fetsch cited the following changes to the NDHSAA Constitution & By-Laws.
 - In October 2006 the number of days a transfer student was ineligible to participate in varsity contests was changed from 90 to 180 days with a 71% approval of the membership.
 - In October 2008 the elimination of the re-transfer rule passing with a 97% approval of the membership.
 - In January 2015 academic eligibility changes were increased with a 94% approval of the membership.
- Fetsch told the membership North Dakota currently has the highest standard for alcohol, drug, and tobacco suspensions in the country. Those numbers clearly show member schools support raising standards, and that educationally-based activities in our great state are a privilege and not a property right. When told "You don't care about the kids," Fetsch' response is that making and enforcing rules will always be the first and foremost way the NDHSAA cares about kids. It is NDHSAA's tough love, something that a majority of parents in today's world refuse to give.
- Fetsch provided the membership with photos of the recently created Champions Room in the NDHSAA office and invited schools to stop by the NDHSAA office for a tour.
- 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 and to call the NDHSAA office with any questions they may have.
- Fetsch closed with a humorous video about over-bearing parents.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schell
NDHSAA Assistant Director