

MINUTES**North Dakota High School Activities Association
February 3, 2017, Valley City, ND**

The Board of Directors of the North Dakota High School Activities Association held a special board meeting on February 3, 2017 in Valley City. President Rinas called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

Members present: Schafer, Sorlie, Rinas, Dahlen, Privratsky, Stedman, Bertsch, Manley

Members absent: Vollmer, Baesler, Carlson

The special meeting was requested by President Rinas in order to discuss legislative activities. The following bills and resolutions were discussed:

- House Bill 1275 concerning prayer at public events was heard in Judiciary Committee on January 25. Fetsch testified on the current protocol used when following Federal law. This bill will be heard on the house floor in the near future. If a vote comes up, Fetsch will notify Board members.
- House Committee Resolution 3012, a recommendation for NDHSAA to sponsor three divisions of girls and boys basketball and to sponsor 6-man football was discussed. Schafer indicated he had visited with legislative members in his area who sponsored the bill to make them aware of the process used by NDHSAA to determine divisions. Privratsky indicated his legislators did not feel this resolution was needed. The resolution is scheduled for a hearing on Tuesday, February 7, 2017. The Board provided Fetsch direction, if asked, to inform the committee about the NDHSAA member driven organization and the process used to determine divisions. Fetsch indicated he compiled all pertinent information needed such as a timeline as to when these topics were last addressed, the meetings held in all regions of the state, the member surveys, the member straw vote and the most recent amendments concerning classification indicating the majority of NDHSAA member schools are not interested in a 3 class system.
- Senate Bill 2249 is a bill to prohibit some convicted felons and individuals with specific restraining orders issued against them from participating in NDHSAA sports and activities. The bill will be heard by the Senate committee on Monday, February 6, 2017 at 11:00 am. Fetsch asked the Board if there was a need for NDHSAA to testify. Baesler indicated the best approach would be to come and be available to answer questions. She also indicated the same players heavily involved in Marcy's law are also involved in this case. More work will undoubtedly be done in committee. Rinas indicated the difficulty in this bill lies with schools being notified of students being involved in a court process. Whether we take a position or not, this needs to be clarified concerning notification. Privratsky is of the opinion the NDHSAA can support this bill through "Convicted of a AA Felony". The difficult portion of this bill would be the restraining order portion. Testimony would have to show the difficulty schools would have in enforcement. Privratsky also felt it would be advantageous to have our legal counsel present to explain the difficulties schools would have with enforcement. Fetsch indicated our legal counsel will not be able to attend as she has a meeting/hearing at the same time as the committee meeting. Fetsch indicated an issue with this bill is that the North Dakota High School Activities Association is specifically named. NDHSAA sponsors 22 activities, however, there are several activities that are not sponsored, such as DECA, FFA, FCA, Robotics and FBLA. Removing the NDHSAA from this bill would cover all activities, not just NDHSAA activities. Manley asked if NDHSAA had heard from the School Boards Association concerning this. Fetsch indicated there had been no communication with the School Boards Association to this point. Fetsch stated he will be present and available for questions at the committee meeting on February 6th. Fetsch stated he didn't feel there were any issues with the idea or the intent of the bill. His concerns include mandatory reporting of juveniles and school sponsored activities not sponsored by NDHSAA. The Board consensus was in agreement with the above statement.

Next Board meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2017 in Minot.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schell
Assistant Director

Signed: _____ Approved Date: ____/____/____