

**MINUTES****General Assembly Meeting****North Dakota High School Activities Association****October 20, 2016 - Bismarck, ND**

The General Assembly of the North Dakota High School Activities Association met at the Bismarck Ramkota on October 20, 2016. President Rinas called the meeting to order at 4:43 p.m.

President Rinas 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.

President Rinas declared a quorum and introduced the NDHSAA staff and the NDHSAA Board of Directors and thanked both for all they do for member schools.

The minutes of the October 2015 General Assembly Meeting were addressed. Motion by Jason Wiberg, Devils Lake Public Schools to approve the minutes. Second by Jim Roaldson, Jamestown Public Schools. Motion carried.

The minutes of the January 2016 Membership Meeting were addressed. Motion by Brandt Dick, Underwood Public Schools to approve the minutes. Second by Dave Zittleman, Bismarck Public Schools. Motion carried.

Rinas introduced Mya Steinwehr, 2016/17 NDHSAA/Farmers Union Insurance Distinguished Student from Hankinson High School, to address the membership. Steinwehr discussed the Distinguished Student program and emphasized the honor of being chosen as the Distinguished Student. Steinwehr indicated the distinguished students are not necessarily the leader on the basketball team, they are the backbone of interscholastic activities. They are the individuals whose participation in high school activities strengthens programs for participants, schools and communities. She stressed the importance of getting involved in athletics and activities. Sports and activities teach leadership responsibility and sportsmanship. Nothing can teach the importance of hard work like sports. Athletics are not always rewarding and gratifying they also teach participants how to deal with failure. She has learned to be positive in defeat and humble in victory. Through speech she has gained confidence through continual practice, music has brought her joy, and the science fair, which demands the most dedication, has brought her confidence and creativity. Steinwehr added sports and activities should never get in the way of academics. Teachers should not be tolerant of missed deadlines or missed assignment. Academic expectations should be the same for students whether or not they are involved in activities. Steinwehr seeks to inspire and motivate those around her. This would not have been possible without teachers, coaches and team mates. The people we should most appreciate are those who put forth the most effort. In closing, Steinwehr stated success is not determined by the scoreboard or the award, it is determined by the way others look at you.

Steinwehr thanked the membership for providing the Distinguished Student program and establishing this award.

President Rinas introduced Matt Fetsch, NDHSAA Executive Director. Fetsch gave the membership background information on the proposed Awards By-Law amendment and how the amendment was developed.

Motion by Guy Fridley, Dickinson Public Schools to propose the following amendment to the NDHSAA Constitution & By-Law. Second by Jason Wiberg, Devils Lake Public Schools.

**Part II, Article IX: Awards****SECTION I: ~~The giving and receiving of awards and medals shall:~~****~~a. Be kept within reasonable bounds~~****~~b. Have symbolic value only, and~~**

~~c. Be done by and with the consent and under the supervision of the superintendent and/or principal concerned.~~

**SECTION I: A student activities participant may not accept monetary compensation in recognition of activities ability, participation and/or achievement.**

~~SECTION II: Awards such as unattached letter, trophy, metal football, metal basketball, metal track shoe or similar article of symbolic value only may be given, provided that the cost of the awards shall not exceed the amount set by the NDHSAA Board of Directors (\$300.00).~~

**SECTION II: A student may accept non-monetary compensation or items of value solely in recognition of activities ability, participation and/or achievement if the total monetary compensation or items of value, including the actual value of any gift certificates (so long as they are not convertible to cash), discounts, coupons, etc., does not exceed the amount set by the NDHSAA Board of Directors during the Association year (July 1-June 30).**

~~SECTION III: Conferences or schools conducting invitational tourneys and meets under Association rules may make awards to the winning schools or contestants, provided that the awards are within the bounds of Sections I and II.~~

**SECTION III: Non-monetary compensation or items of value does not include customary awards of symbolic nature without resale value such as the school's athletic letter, medals, ribbons, certificates, plaques, trophies and other emblems, provided the cost of the award does not exceed the amount set by the NDHSAA Board of Directors.**

**NOTE:** This rule does not regulate or prohibit compensation received by a student for ability, participation and/or achievement in a non-NDHSAA sponsored sport or activity, nor does this rule prohibit the acceptance of college scholarships by students.

~~SECTION IV: Suitable awards of symbolic value only may be given by such organizations as service clubs, patriot organizations, civic groups, Dads' and Mothers' Club, and the sports department of a newspaper, radio or television station. No awards shall be accepted which in any way advertises any firm or individual so far as commercial or business interests are concerned "with the exception of NDHSAA approved corporate sponsors for NDHSAA awards".~~

**SECTION IV: A coach or director is responsible for reporting to the school's athletic/activities director all compensation or items of value received by the students on that coach/director's team within one month of the receipt of the compensation or items of value. School administration is responsible for verifying that the total sum of compensation or items of value received by each student participant at that school does not exceed the retail value amount set in Section II.**

~~SECTION VI:~~ **SECTION V:** The Board shall have authority to designate, give and control medals and trophies to be awarded to schools or individuals on championship teams in any sport or activity, provided that these awards are kept within the bounds of Sections I and II **III.**

~~SECTION VI: Awards, medals, recognitions, gifts, trips and honors shall not be accepted by individuals or schools from colleges, universities and higher institutions of learning and their alumni. High school athletes or performers should be permitted to complete their high school careers without being exploited by outside sources.~~

~~SECTION VII:~~ **SECTION VI:** Penalties for violations of the above rules may be suspension of the school and ineligibility of the individual who accepts the award.

A roll call vote of the membership was taken. Amendment passed. (Yes - 106 No - 6) and will go into effect July 1, 2017.

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

Dr. Mike Bitz, Superintendent, Mandan Public Schools reported nominations for the Class B Southwest representative.

1. Tyler Senn, Principal/Athletic Director, Bowman County Public School
2. Travis Jordan, Superintendent, Beulah Public School
  - a. Motion by Adam Hill, Mott to add Kelly Koppinger, New England to the nominations with a second by Pete Rehmboldt, Glen Ullin.

Ned Clooten, Principal, Wahpeton High School, reported nominations for the NDASSP representative

1. Warren Strand, Principal, Fessenden-Bowden Public School
2. Adam Hill, Principal, Mott-Regent Public School
3. There were no other nominations from the floor.

Motion by Troy Cody, Fargo Davies High School to approve nominations. Second by Randy Loing, Rolla Public School. Motion carried.

Ballots will be sent to member schools in December of 2016. Ballots will be canvassed at the January 2017 NDHSAA Board meeting.

Board member Andy Dahlen, Football Committee Chair, introduced the football committee and presented the final 2017 and 2018 football plan to the assembly. Football divisions have been set with 14 teams in Division AAA, 10 in Division AA, 32 teams in Division A, remaining in the 9-Man division. Regions were presented to the membership. Dahlen described the process and the survey results concerning the number of 9-Man regions Athletic Directors would like to see in the 2017 and 2018 football plan. The 2017 and 2018 plan includes six regions in the 9-Man division. Dahlen thanked the NDHSAA staff and the football committee for their work on the football plan over the past year.

The Executive Director gave his report:

- Explained the process of NDOA recommendations to the Board. Those recommendations will be acted upon at the December 2016 Board meeting. NDOA recommends a 5% increase locked in for two years.
- NFHS developed new baseball regulations concerning pitching limitations. The new regulations limit not only the innings a pitcher can pitch, but also the number of pitches that may be thrown. Committee members met today and will be looking for feedback on recommendations to bring to the Board in December.
- In reference to the 1999 Prince song, "Party Like it's 1999", Fetach reflected on what NDHSAA sports and activities looked like in 1999.
  - Thinking back to 17 years ago, high school sports have changed tremendously. The biggest change is how high school programs now more closely match what college teams looked like in 1999.
  - The By-Law amendment that just passed looks more closely like college NCAA regulations in 1999.
  - Media coverage has changed dramatically with the addition of social media. Television contracts now dictate much of our scheduling for post season. We are likely not too far from TV also dictating not only state tournaments, but also region contests.
  - Flashing back, sport specialization had just taken off in 1999 and at that time, athletes were specializing for college scholarship consideration. Today we are seeing specialization in larger schools, not geared toward college scholarships but geared toward making the high school team.
- The NFHS recently came out with a "My Reason Why" campaign. This has been introduced through various media platforms with the goal to highlight the value and benefit of participating in high school sports and activities. Tom Mix in the NDHSAA office is heading up this campaign. Fetsch noted that it did not take Tom very long after starting at the NDHSAA to develop his "Why".
  - The NDHSAA "Why" includes that our state is fortunate to have low membership fees to our member schools. Ticket prices are kept low. NDHSAA provides catastrophic insurance to member schools and at the forefront, the fact that participation not only develops self and community but the effects are immediate and for the rest of their lives.
  - Fetsch received a parent phone call a couple weeks ago questioning how his child could transfer out of state to a sport academy and remain eligible in his home school on his

return. His child did not want to go. He wanted to stay in his home school and play with his friends. The parent wanted to know how to change the NDHSAA By-Law. The student had it figured out...he knew his reason "Why".

- In closing, Fetsch brought back some of former Executive Director Sherm Sylling's cowboy logic.
  - "Good judgment comes from experience and a lot of that experience comes from bad judgment."

With no further business, President Rinas declared the meeting adjourned at 5:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Schell  
NDHSAA Assistant Director