

MINUTES**General Assembly Meeting****North Dakota High School Activities Association****October 20, 2017 - Bismarck, ND**

The General Assembly of the North Dakota High School Activities Association met at the Bismarck Ramkota on October 20, 2017. President Dahlen called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

President Dahlen welcomed member schools to the NDHSAA General Assembly. Dahlen gave an overview of the NDHSAA over the past year and 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 Dahlen declared a quorum and introduced the NDHSAA Board of Directors and the NDHSAA staff and thanked both for all they do for member schools.

The minutes of the October 2016 General Assembly Meeting were addressed. Motion by Jim Roaldson, Jamestown Public Schools to approve the minutes. Second by Brandt Dick, Underwood Public School. Motion carried.

Dahlen introduced Anna Holen, 2017/18 NDHSAA/Farmers Union Insurance Distinguished Student from LaMoure High School. Holen thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve as the 2017/18 Distinguished Student. She explained the many benefits of being involved in sports and activities. Students gain many qualities from being involved in activities such as patience, understanding and drive. Sports and activities unify schools and communities. Communities are supportive and students in return become involved in their communities. Leadership is also learned through student involvement. Leadership is influence on fellow students. By modeling behavior and attitude, students have the ability to change how people behave. Leadership is taking a problem and turning it into a challenge. Holen challenged administrators to show an interest in students and be a positive influence. Students and staff are a reflection of the administration. Holen challenged administrators to increase communication in their schools. One way her school is doing this is to turn off all cell phones at lunch on Thursdays. A throwback Thursday to promote communication with no distractions. The lunch room is much louder on Thursdays now, but very refreshing. Holen thanked the assembly for their time and reminded them of their responsibility to shape the hearts and minds of their students. She gave a special thank you to her principal, Mr. DeLaBarre, her school and the NDHSAA for the opportunity. It is truly a blessing to serve as the 2017/18 NDHSAA/Farmers Union Insurance Distinguished Student.

Board member Ben Schafer, Football Committee Chair, introduced the football committee and presented the survey results for the 2019 and 2020 football plan to the assembly. Schafer thanked the NDHSAA staff and the football committee for their work on the football plan.

Results of the football survey were presented.

- Representatives from 75 of the 104 (72%) football teams in North Dakota responded to the survey
- 9-Man schools in favor of having less teams make the playoffs to avoid first round byes
 - 9-man schools – 38 responded
 - Yes – 19 (50%)
 - No – 19 (50%)
- 9-Man Schools interested in fielding a 6-man team instead of a 9-man team for the next football plan
 - 2 schools from 9-man answered yes
 - Two years ago 17 9-man schools answered yes to the same question
- Most important criteria for the 2019-2020 football plan
 - 94 schools responded
 - 1) Competitive Balance – 58 (62%)
 - 2) Travel – 15 (16%)

- 3) Ease of scheduling – 13 (14%)
 - 4) Traditional Rivalries – 8 (9%)
- How many divisions favored in the next 2-year football plan.
 - 94 responded
 - Five – 22 (23%)
 - Four – 63 (67%)
 - Three – 9 (10%)
- If you could have opted down a division in the current plan and been ineligible for the playoffs, would have you?
 - Representatives from three (3) 11-man teams answered “Yes”
- If four divisions are established for the 2019 & 2020 football plan, in which division would your school best fit?
 - •Note – Teams that did not respond to the survey are included in their current division
 - AAA – 14 teams
 - AA – 8 teams
 - A – 32 teams
 - 9-man – 47 teams
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2019 and 2020 Football Plan Timeline:

- December 2017 – male enrollment numbers from DPI
- December 2017 – second survey possible
- January 18, 2017 – NDHSAA Board establishes guidelines for next plan
- January 19, 2017 – Guidelines sent to membership

President Dahlen introduced Matt Fetsch, NDHSAA Executive Director. Fetsch gave the membership background information on the proposed By-Law amendments and how the amendments were developed.

Motion by Randy Cranston, Watford City Public Schools to propose the following amendment to Part I, Article V, Section II of the NDHSAA Constitution & By-Law. Second by Todd Olson, Fargo Public Schools.

Part I, Article V, SECTION II: Board Members shall be nominated at the annual meeting of the Representatives of the Association, hereinafter called the Representative Assembly, and shall be elected by mail electronic ballot. ~~Such ballot to~~ Such ballot shall be prepared by the Secretary and mailed delivered to member schools on or before January 1st following the nomination and shall be returned to the Secretary before January 15th. ~~The ballot is valid if the envelope in which it is mailed is postmarked before midnight January 14th.~~

Should any member move from the state profession, change into a different class school or different area of representation, cease to be an administrator or athletic administrator, or should the secondary principals representative cease to be a principal of a member school his/her position shall be declared vacant immediately and a new member appointed by the Board to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting when the regular procedure of nomination and balloting shall be followed to fill the vacancy of the remainder of the term of office.

A roll call vote of the membership was taken. Amendment passed. (Yes - 120 No – 0) and will go into effect immediately.

Motion by Terry Bentz Grant County Public Schools to propose the following amendment to Part IV, Article III, Section III of the NDHSAA Junior High Seventh and Eighth Grade By-Laws. Second by Michael Campbell, Williston Public Schools.

Grant County High School proposes the following amendment to Part IV, Article III, Section III of NDHSAA Junior High and Seventh and Eighth Grade By-Laws.

Part IV, Article III:

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)~~ seventy-five (75), 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.

A roll call vote of the membership was taken. Amendment passed. (Yes - 89 No – 35) and will go into effect July 1, 2018.

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

Dr. Todd Bertsch, Principal, Fargo South High School reported nominations for the Class A East representative.

1. Mike Beaton, Fargo South Public School
2. Kris Arason, Red River High School
3. Motion by Jason Wiberg, Devils Lake to add Mark Rerick, Grand Forks to the nominations with a second by Jim Roaldson, Jamestown. Motion passed unanimously.

Kirk Ham, Superintendent, Park River Area High School, reported nominations for the Class B Northeast representative

1. Mitch Jorgenson, Valley-Edinburg Public School
2. Jeremy Brandt, Central Valley Public School
3. There were no other nominations from the floor.

Motion by Kent Dennis, Hankinson High School to approve nominations. Second by Michael Campbell Williston Public School. Motion carried.

Ballots will be sent to member schools in December of 2017. Ballots will be canvassed at the January 2018 NDHSAA Board meeting.

Executive Director Fetsch made a special presentation of lifetime passes to tournament managers Mitch Lunde, Minot Public Schools and Dave Zittleman, Bismarck Public Schools. Lifetime passes are earned through points earned from managing NDHSAA state tournaments.

The Executive Director gave his report:

Last month Fetsch had the privilege of attending the NDSU Hall of Fame presentation. The presentation opened by NDSU President Dean Bresciani. Bresciani told how he travels across the country the most common question he is asked is “How does NDSU continue to produce quality programs?” Bresciani’s answer is tradition and culture. Fetsch likened NDHSAA to NDSU. He is asked the same question from people around the country in positions similar to his. “How does NDHSAA do it?” The more Fetsch thought about the question, he realized the answer for NDHSAA is the same as for NDSU. Through tradition and culture. NDHSAA recently finalized a new post season television broadcast contract (Tier I) with Forum Communications. North Dakota is the only state in the United States that preempts network programming to bring high school sports to their viewers. The second phase of the post season broadcast rights (Tier II) should be finalized at the end of November. Most states do not reimburse schools at the end of each year as NDHSAA does through their team payment policy. Recent data compiled through NFHS participation surveys ranked North Dakota as 47 out of 50 for the number of students participating in sports and activities. If you cross reference North Dakota’s population and participation, we have almost four percent of our population participating in educationally based sports and activities making us fourth out of 50 in the country. NDHSAA and member schools seek to promote learning and minimize risk putting the welfare of students above winning.

To quote a fellow Executive Director, Alan Beste, Iowa, "We don't forget the participants are students now but citizens forever."

In closing Fetsch stressed NDHSAA remains a member driven organization. Proof is passage of two amendments today. Fetsch thanked the administrators for their hard work and told them to keep up the good work.

With no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:17 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schell
NDHSAA Assistant Director