

MINUTES**General Assembly Meeting****North Dakota High School Activities Association****October 19, 2018 - Bismarck, ND**

The General Assembly of the North Dakota High School Activities Association met at the Bismarck Ramkota on October 19, 2018. President Schafer called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

President Schafer welcomed member schools to the NDHSAA General Assembly. Schafer introduced the NDHSAA Board of Directors and thanked the Board and NDHSAA staff for all they do for member schools. Schafer declared a quorum.

The minutes of the October 2017 General Assembly Meeting were addressed. Motion by Brandt Dick Underwood Public Schools, to approve the minutes. Second by Matt Herman, Ellendale Public Schools. Motion carried.

Schafer introduced Michael Hall, 2018/19 NDHSAA/Farmers Union Insurance Distinguished Student from Kindred High School. Michael thanked the NDHSAA membership for their support of the Distinguished Student program. He shared the importance of co-curricular activities and the values gained through his experience such as friendships, memories and skills. Participating in sports and activities have taught him how to work hard and brought him improved time management skills. Michael brought to light how life throws curve balls to everyone and through his experiences, he gained the skills to handle the curve balls. Involvement in music pushed him into being comfortable with being uncomfortable. Many people have helped him throughout the years. Teachers, in and out of the classroom have taught him many skills outside of sports. Coaches, who invest their time in each and every one of their athletes. Finally Athletic Directors and the NDHSAA both make sure school and all activities are available to students. In closing, Hall thanked member schools for their dedication to students in North Dakota. It is appreciated by students.

President Schafer introduced Matt Fetsch, NDHSAA Executive Director. Fetsch called on nominating committees for upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors.

Dr. Mark Vollmer, Superintendent Minot Public Schools reported nominations for the Class A West representative.

1. Dr. Shon Hocker, Superintendent, Dickinson Public School
2. Paul Jundt, Athletic Director, Bismack Legacy High School
3. Motion by Tyler Senn, Bowman High School to add Randy Cranston, Principal, Watford City High School to the nominations with a second by Kirk Ham, Park River High School. Motion passed unanimously.

Ben Schafer, Superintendent, Ray Public School, reported nominations for the Class B Northwest representative

1. Dave Schoch, Superintendent, Velva Public School
2. Nick Klemisch, Superintendent, Garrison Public School
3. There were no other nominations from the floor.

Motion by Warren Strand, Fessenden-Bowden High School to approve nominations. Second by Michael Sorlie, North Sargent Public School. Motion carried.

Ballots will be sent to member schools in December of 2018. Ballots will be canvassed at the January 2019 NDHSAA Board meeting.

The Executive Director gave his report. Fetsch began by relating the inspiration for his presentation began with a new pastor in his church giving his first sermon to the congregation. The sermon reminded Fetsch of the first presentation he gave in an educational setting which was at NDIAAA in 2009. When Fetsch returned home after church he looked through flash drives to find that presentation. The

presentation is still timely today. In 2009, he presented on the benefits of multisport participation. In 2008 he surveyed the Grafton hockey and boys basketball teams, both state champions and found 50% of participants were three sport athletes, 41% were two sport athletes and 9% (3 individuals) were single sport athletes. His research further showed in 2008 there were 77 academic scholarships to each sport scholarship with less than 1% of college athletes receiving a full ride.

There is information out in the media participation is dropping; however, in 2008-09 participation was 82%, and in 2017-18 participation was 89%. When three sport athletes were asked why they participate in 3 sports, the overwhelming conclusion is because of their peers. They want do what their friends are doing.

The NDHSAA Board understands the changing demographics in our state and is researching ways to address the changes. One change was in track & field and swimming & diving, NDHSAA sports which do not normally have a JV division at meets. The NDHSAA recently approved the ability of transfer students to participate in varsity track & field and swim & dive meets, providing certain stipulations are met.

Several states have passed By-Laws in the past year, adding "if you have not participated in a sport in your school the previous year, you are eligible in your new school".

Fetsch indicated state Executive Directors across the nation agree the biggest challenge in their field is youth sports. We've become what we thought was wrong in Eastern-block countries that forced kids to pick sports at a young age.

Jack Roberts, retiring Michigan Executive Director summed up what we do. "Sports brings help and hope to parents and schools. We turn good athletes into great citizens down the road."

Fetsch also stated the NDHSAA Distinguished Students are a great representation for our organization. "Train effective leaders", "leaving a legacy" and "effective and realistic goals" are just a few memorable comments made by students through the interview process. Fetsch thanked Michael for sharing his thoughts with the membership.

Fetch stated the NDHSAA organization works best as a member school led organization. The Board discussed in June and September through the realignment committee, a three-class plan for volleyball, girls basketball and boys basketball. The Board decided to survey member schools for their opinion on the proposed plan.

The survey results are as follows:

41.9% in favor of the proposed plan

58.1% not in favor of the proposed plan

Pro-rated to 123 girls basketball teams and 128 boys basketball teams:

38.5% in favor of the proposed plan

61.5% not in favor of the proposed plan

In closing Fetsch again thought of his new church pastor who is reading "Faith", by Jimmy Carter. The quote that stood out in the book is "Our work is never finished". Which is true of the NDHSAA organization.

Fetsch thanked administrators for their hard work and told them to keep up the good work they do for their students on a daily basis.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Schell

NDHSAA Assistant Director