

MINUTES
General Assembly Meeting
North Dakota High School Activities Association
October 18, 2012 - Bismarck, ND

The General Assembly of the North Dakota High School Activities Association met at the Bismarck Ramkota Inn on October 18, 2012. President Ulland called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

President Ulland welcomed member schools to the NDHSAA General Assembly. He thanked all for what they do for the students of North Dakota. If not for the support and hard work of the people in this room, this association would not be able to be what they are today.

President Ulland declared a quorum.

President Ulland introduced the NDHSAA Board of Directors and staff.

The minutes of the October, 2011 General Assembly Meeting were addressed. Motion by Matt Herman, Ellendale to approve the minutes. Second by Jack Maus, Grafton. Motion carried.

The minutes of January, 2012 Membership Meeting were addressed. Motion by Lorell Jungling, Mandan, to approve the minutes. Second by Kevin Rogers, Hatton. Motion carried.

Board member Olson presented the 2013 and 2014 football plan as approved by the Board of Directors on October 17, 2012. Four divisions will again be used. In preparation for the football plan, schools were surveyed with 84% of survey respondents favoring a 4 division plan and 78 % choosing balanced play over travel.

There was one comment from Doug Jacobson, Barnes County North, concerning the 2013 and 2014 football plan.

Executive Secretary Sylling discussed the NDHSAA strategic plan as proposed. An appointed committee with representation around the state identified 4 goals.

1. Review & Update By-Laws
2. Develop new policies to address demographics
3. Financial stability
4. Policies, programs and practices to address new social trends such as uncivil behavior at events, shortage of qualified coaches, shortage of officials, declining participation

A survey was sent to member schools to gather opinions on the goals set forth. Sylling thanked the 49% of schools who responded to this survey. The survey showed there was no opposition to the four goals established. All schools either agree or strongly agree

with all four goals. One that surfaced ahead of the rest was to review & update our Constitution & By-Laws. Board of Directors will act on the adoption of the proposed strategic plan at the November 2012 Board meeting.

Syilling addressed the NDHSAA Coaches Education program as part of a broad goal identified to maintain and support educationally based activities. Coaches Education will aid in assuring there is educational value in our activities. It has been determined sport in itself has no educational value. Coaches need to teach while students participate in sports. Handouts were distributed with coaches requirements on one side and submission form on the other to assist schools in record keeping. Schools need to supply a list of coaches that are certified or non certified. If coaches show up on a list the first time, they will have one year to certify. The second year there will be a consequence of a \$200 fine. If coaches are hired after the form due date of April 1st, schools are asked to submit those names to be added to the NDHSAA database. Syilling opened the floor for comments on coaches education. No comments were shared.

Nominating Committees for the upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors were asked for a report:

1. Rob Lech, Beulah, reported the nominations for the Class B Southwest position on the NDHSAA Board of Directors:
 - a. Riley Mattson, South Heart
 - b. Brad Rinas, Washburn

There were no other nominations from the floor. Motion by Rob Lech, Beulah, to approve nominations. Second by Curt Pierce, Center-Stanton. Motion carried.

2. Brodie Odegaard, Tioga, reported the nominations for the North Dakota Association of Secondary School Principals position on the NDHSAA Board of Directors:
 - a. Todd Bertsch, Fargo South
 - b. Jason Schwabe, Thompson

There were no other nominations from the floor. Motion by Brodie Odegaard, Tioga, to approve the nominations. Second by Robert Bubach, Strasburg. Motion carried.

The Executive Secretary gave his report:

- The association is off to a good start this year. Syilling thanked the board of directors and our member schools for what they do to promote and support activities in their schools. This would be an impossible task without their support. We have an excellent staff in place.
- Constitution & By-Laws committee has begun to work on reformatting the bylaws as per the strategic plan. There will be effort made to get the language so it fits today. Constitution & By-Laws from five NFHS member state associations who recently reformatted their by-laws were reviewed. Member schools are assured any changes to the approved Constitution & By-Laws would come to a vote of member schools.
- One of the first things the committee is looking at is the less than 50 rule. The 50 rule basically applies to junior high students being allowed to move up and down

between jr. high and high school if school enrollment is below 50. There are some language issues with that. We are asking district chairs and principals to discuss this. If we are going to stay the way we are, smaller schools may have to utilize 6th graders. If so, then we need to have a process to regulate this. NDHSAA is a 7-12 organization and our catastrophic insurance is for students in grades 7-12. There is a possibility we will continue to cover students in grades 7-12 but if 6th graders play, your school insurance would kick in. Physicals for 6th graders have never been mandated by NDHSAA. This may be an issue for schools using 6th graders. Another issue is the eligibility rules of 6th graders. At this time, 7th and 8th graders moving up and down must be passing all of their subjects. How much addressing of 6th grade issues can we do and stay a 7-12. We would like to find a way to de-regulate 7th and 8th graders but still maintain regulation of 6th graders. If 6th graders are allowed to play, parent pressure will be applied to administrators to play 6th graders.

- Another issue would be our academic eligibility rule. Student needs to be passing 20 hours per week. That is assuming they sit in a classroom for an hour in four classes. As it is, a student may be eligible all four years and not have enough credits to graduate. The NDASSP board met and two principals agree to meet with the Constitution & By-Laws committee to discuss rules of eligibility. Classes have changed with courses on line, virtual schools and the allowance of virtual credits for graduation. If a school allows a class for graduation, why would the NDHSAA not allow the class for participation eligibility. Schools will be surveyed to see what direction academic eligibility should take. Opinions on academic eligibility should be directed to the Board of Directors, Mark Andresen, Mandan and Russ Ziegler, Richardton-Taylor who have agreed to work with the Constitution & By-Laws committee as representatives of NDASSP.
- Sylling shared his concern for football in our state. In order to protect the upper tiers of football, we are hurting 9-man. The next 2 year plan is done, but it won't be very long until we start working on the next 2 year plan. Concussion issues are keeping kids out of football throughout the nation. We need to work now on how are we going to maintain football in our state in the future.
- Spirit of Sport is a National Federation award program to recognize students for exemplary actions. Students throughout the nation have been nominated for this award. Information will be sent to member schools. If you have something worthy of recognition, please submit your application to the NDHSAA office. Each state is entitled to one nominee who will forward to Section 5 for a selection of the Section 5 nominee to forward to the National Federation.
- Nominations for the Distinguished Student program are encouraged. Last year we received our lowest number of applicants. Schools are encouraged to submit applicants for this program and to honor their schools Distinguished Student locally regardless if they are a finalist for the program.
- A calendar change of one week earlier was approved for 2013 boys' soccer due to a conflict with NDCEL Conference and possibly NDEA.

The change is:

- a. Start of season-----August 5, 2013
- b. First Contest-----August 16, 2013

- c. Deadline for regular season---October 5, 2013
- d. State Tournament-----October 10, 11, 12, 2013
- Thoughts were shared from Inside Out Coaching, a book by Joe Ehrmann, former NFL defensive lineman for the Colts.
 - How often do kids get to play creatively, joyously?
 - Play fuels the social, emotional and physical development of young people. With the loss of play comes an increase of stress and isolation. Playing in organized sports is near to impossible. In competition, creative play is moved to a performance platform.
 - We need to find a way to keep kids engaged.
- In closing, Sylling shared some cowboy logic for the thought for the day. “People who are tough never have to tell you they are. Same with people that are honest.“

With no further business, President Ulland declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schell
Asst. to the Exec. Sec.