

MINUTES**General Assembly Meeting****North Dakota High School Activities Association****October 18, 2019 - Bismarck, ND**

The General Assembly of the North Dakota High School Activities Association met at the Bismarck Ramkota on October 18, 2019. President Privratsky called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

President Privratsky welcomed member schools to the NDHSAA General Assembly. Privratsky introduced the NDHSAA Board of Directors and NDHSAA staff and thanked the Board and NDHSAA staff for all they do for member schools. Privratsky encouraged member schools to have open communication with their Board representatives and the NDHSAA office. Privratsky declared a quorum.

The minutes of the October 2018 General Assembly Meeting were addressed. Motion by Brandt Dick, Underwood Public Schools, to approve the minutes. Second by Kent Dennis, Hankinson Public Schools. Motion carried.

Privratsky introduced Cassandra Rostvet, 2019/20 NDHSAA/Farmers Union Insurance Distinguished Student from Northwood High School. Cassie's involvement in high school sports and activities have affected her immensely. Coaches, teachers and teammates have supported and encouraged her throughout her high school life. She indicated NDHSAA allowed her to be an athlete. Her coaches put a huge emphasis on growing as an athlete, but even more emphasis on growing as a person. Her favorite quote from her basketball coach is: "You're never as good as everyone tells you when you win, and you are never as bad as they tell you when you lose." Cassie has learned she can count on teammates as sports build relationships. NDHSAA fine arts activities have given her self-confidence and poise. Fine arts have impacted her and prepared her for the future by making her feel worthy, valued and loved. In closing, Rostvet reminded the membership they educate the minds of the next generations and it is comforting for students to know they are there for them.

President Privratsky introduced Mark Rerick, NDHSAA Football Committee chair to report on the 2020 and 2021 football plan survey.

Survey results include the following:

- 124 surveys were submitted
- Desire to continue with 4 divisions
- Questions on a 6-Man division will require follow up with some schools
- AAA & AA prefer East vs West over QRF for playoff brackets
- There was not clear direction on the minimum number of teams per division. This topic will need follow up.
- Overwhelming direction on the most important criteria
 - Competitive balance. 69% of all schools prefer competitive balance over travel
- The greatest parity exists in Division A
- 64% of respondents prefer using multiple factors instead of just adjusted male enrollment

The football plan timeline is as follows:

November

- Solicit additional information from member schools

December

- Possible second survey to member schools
- Receive enrollment numbers from DPI
- If necessary, solicit additional information from member schools

January 16, 2020

- Finalize guidelines for 2021-22 plan

January 17, 2020

- Guidelines sent to member schools

Motion by Todd Olson, Fargo Public Schools, to introduce an amendment to Part II, Article XIV, Sections II, IX and X of the NDHSAA Constitution & By-Laws. Second By Dave Zittleman, Bismarck Public Schools. Motion passed 116-Yes, 1-No.

Amendment to: Part II, Article XIV, Sections II, IX and X

SECTION II: A student shall not participate in more than four seasons in grades 9-12 in any interscholastic activity. A student shall have only eight consecutive semesters (four consecutive years) of eligibility in high school in which he/she may participate in one season per year in any activity.

SECTION IX: REMOVE

SECTION X: In the event that a student has been unable to participate in an activity due to a diagnosed life threatening illness or other exceptional reason, the Executive Secretary has the power to grant/deny the student one or two additional semesters of eligibility provided the member school of attendance submits and supports an extra semester(s) application establishing that the student has not reached his/her twentieth birthday and the student is academically eligible. The decision of the Executive Secretary may be appealed pursuant to the Due Process Procedures of Article VI, Sections XV through XVII of these By-Laws (see Extra Semester(s) Appeals Flow Chart, attached hereto at page 38 and incorporated by reference), provided the student has not reached his/her twentieth birthday and is otherwise eligible. (October 2019)

Motion by Jason Wiberg, Devils Lake Public Schools, to introduce an amendment to Part IV, Article III, Sections VI, IX and X of the NDHSAA Constitution & By-Laws. Second by Shane Martin, Turtle Mountain Community High School. Motion passed 109-Yes, 7-No.

Amendment to Part IV, Article III, General Regulations, Sections VI, IX and X

Section VI: Any team combination of 7th and 8th grade is considered junior high school. Ninth grade teams may declare their status and participate as either a high school team or as a junior high school team. Any 7th or 8th grade student who plays on a 9th grade team plays at the status chosen for that team. If the 9th grade team choose high school status, high school rules apply, or if a 9th grade team declares itself a junior high team, junior high rules apply.

Section IX: A student is eligible for only TWO SEMESTERS in each the 7th and 8th grade beginning with the first semester of entrance in each grade. A student who is repeating a grade is not eligible. Junior high students are limited to one season per year sport/activity. The same rule as applies to senior high schools relative to what constitutes a semester's attendance shall prevail.

Section X: A ninth grade student shall not be eligible to compete in the junior high division on or after the day on which the seventeenth anniversary of his/her birth occurs, a seventh or eighth grader on or after the day on which the sixteenth anniversary of his/her birth occurs.

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

Scott Privratsky, Superintendent Devils Lake Public Schools reported nominations for the Class A At-Large representative.

1. Josh Johnson, Superintendent, Valley City Public School
2. Ned Clooten, Principal, Wahpeton High School
3. There were no other nominations from the floor.

Mitch Carlson, LaMoure High School, Superintendent, reported nominations for the Class B Southeast representative

1. Rick Diegel, Superintendent, Kidder County Public School
2. Travis Lemar, Athletic Director, Central Cass Public School
3. There were no other nominations from the floor.

Patti Aanenson, Larimore Public School Athletic Director, reported nominations for the NDIAAA representative

1. Michael Beaton, Athletic Director, Fargo South High School
2. Guy Fridley, Athletic Director, Dickinson Public School
3. There were no other nominations from the floor.

Motion by Dave Zittleman, Bismarck Public Schools to approve nominations. Second by Kirk Ham, Park River Public School. Motion carried. Ballots will be emailed to member schools in December of 2019. Ballots will be canvassed at the January 2020 NDHSAA Board meeting.

Executive Director Fetsch gave his report. He began with a photo from the New Administrator meeting in the NDHSAA office in August which got him thinking about the year 2040 and how different things may look.

In his crystal ball the year 2039-40 may include the following:

- Girls wrestling (first team this year at Grand Forks Central)
- 3-day State Track & Field Meet (to include wheelchair divisions)
- e-Sports (beginning this year in North Dakota as a non-sponsored activity)
- Instant replay (currently limited usage in state hockey, state basketball and state football)
- Fair Pay to Play Act (NCAA Scholarships have been declared illegal)
 - Statement from NFHS earlier this fall:
 - "If amateurism were to gain way to professionalism at the college level, high schools would struggle to fulfill their ultimate goal of preparing large numbers of well-rounded individuals for futures beyond athletics."
- Student-athlete safety – Concussion insurance is now an option available for NDHSAA member schools.
- Fetsch reported a breakdown of association revenue now vs a guesstimate of association revenue in 2039-40.
 - Media piece of the pie will continue to grow.

However, we need to focus on the NOW. Fetsch thanked Cassie for her presentation. Fetsch indicated Cassie and the NDHSAA Distinguished Students are great representation for our organization. Great leaders: "admit when they are wrong", "realize they can't please everyone", "raise the level of all they lead", and "appearing calm even when you don't know what's going on" are just a few memorable comments made by students through the interview process. Fetsch thanked Cassie for sharing her thoughts with the membership.

In closing Fetsch mentioned he had his first experience of a parent of an NDHSAA athlete this year beginning August 12 when his oldest son joined the cross-country team. There was a noticeable difference within the first few days of practice. It is refreshing to see the results of the labors of NDHSAA member schools, administrators and coaches from a parent view. So far it has been a great experience! Keep doing what you are doing!

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 9:13 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Schell
NDHSAA Assistant Director