

**NORTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES
JUNE 10, 2026 - VALLEY CITY - NDHSAA OFFICE**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Aanenson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am CDT.

Members present: Aanenson, Bakke, Berger, Berseth, Christensen, Hanson, Jung, Lunde, Martin, Simpfenderfer, Tescher

Members absent: Derr

Audience members:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Aanenson called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion by Bakke to approve the agenda as presented.

Seconded by Martin.

Motion approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. March 31, 2026
 - b. April 23, 2026
 - c. May 6, 2026
2. Financial Reports
 - a. Balance sheets
 - i. March 2026
 - ii. April 2026
 - iii. May 2026
 - b. Budget
 - i. March 2026
 - ii. April 2026
 - iii. May 2026
 - c. Savings/Investments
 - i. March 2026
 - ii. April 2026

iii. May 2026

3. Coop Dissolutions

- a. Beulah and Glen Ullin in football, 7-8, 2026-27
- b. Beulah and Glen Ullin in football, 9-12, 2027-28
- c. Shanley and Oak Grove in boys cross country, 7-12, 2026-27
- d. Shanley and Oak Grove in girls cross country, 7-12, 2026-27
- e. Wahpeton, Breckenridge (MN), Richland, and Breckenridge St. Mary's (MN) in girls swimming & diving, 7-12, 2026-27
- f. Grand Forks Valley Middle School and Riverside Christian in football, 7-8, 2026-27
- g. Grand Forks Valley Middle School and Riverside Christian in boys soccer, 7-8, 2026-27
- h. Grand Forks Valley Middle School and Riverside Christian in girls soccer, 7-8, 2026-27
- i. Grand Forks Valley Middle School and Riverside Christian in boys track and field, 7-8, 2026-27
- j. Grand Forks Valley Middle School and Riverside Christian in girls track and field, 7-8, 2026-27
- k. Grand Forks Valley Middle School and Riverside Christian in softball, 7-8, 2026-27
- l. Beach and Dickinson in baseball, 7-12, 2026-27

4. Coop Applications

- a. Surrey and Nedrose in baseball, 7-12, 2026-27, no fee
- b. New Salem-Almont and Glen Ullin in football, 7-8, 2026-27, late fee
- c. New Salem-Almont and Glen Ullin in boys basketball, 7-12, 2027-28, late fee
- d. New Salem-Almont and Glen Ullin in girls basketball, 7-12, 2027-28, no fee
- e. New Salem-Almont and Glen Ullin in speech, 7-12, 2027-28, no fee
- f. New Salem-Almont and Glen Ullin in football 9-12, 2027-28, no fee
- g. Lewis & Clark-Berthold and Lewis & Clark-North Shore Plaza in girls basketball, 7-12, 2026-27, late fee
- h. Jamestown and Pingree-Buchanan in boys swimming & diving, 7-12, 2026-27, no fee
- i. Jamestown and Pingree-Buchanan in girls swimming & diving, 7-12, 2026-27, no fee
- j. Belfield and Beach in baseball, 7-12, 2026-27, no fee
- k. Belfield and Beach in softball, 7-12, 2026-27, no fee
- l. Bismarck St. Mary's and Shiloh Christian in girls golf, 7-12, 2026-27, no fee
- m. Minot Public Schools and South Prairie in boys soccer, 7-12, 2026-27, no fee
- n. Minot Public Schools and South Prairie in girls soccer, 7-12, 2026-27, no fee
- o. Mandan and Mandan Classical Academy in boys soccer, 7-12, 2026-27, no fee
- p. Mandan and Mandan Classical Academy in boys cross country, 7-12, 2026-27, no fee
- q. Mandan and Mandan Classical Academy in girls cross country, 7-12, 2026-27, no fee
- r. Mandan and Mandan Classical Academy in boys tennis, 7-12, 2026-27, no fee
- s. Mandan and Mandan Classical Academy in girls swimming & diving, 7-12, 2026-27, no fee

Aanenson called for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion by Simpfinderfer to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Seconded by Hanson.

Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Zeeland High School and Dakota Adventist have announced closures. Students from either school are immediately eligible at their new school due to the closures.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

The Executive Board ruled on three school self-reports.

Harvey speech used an ineligible participant in a contest. The Executive Board issued the prescribed penalty of forfeiture and a letter of reprimand.

Capstone Classical Academy junior high track used a 6th grader in a high school meet. Executive Board issued the prescribed penalty of forfeiture and student was ineligible for next junior high meet.

Capstone Classical Academy boys golfer participated in a non-school golf tournament. Executive Board issued a suspension from the next six events and issued a letter of reprimand.

The Executive Board reviewed wrestling seeding regulations. Regulation will be added to ensure any byes in postseason events will be randomly drawn in rather than pushed to highest seeds. Dual teams in the state girls and boys Class B state wrestling dual tournament will be seeded one through eight, adjusting the fifth and sixth seeds to avoid inter-region matchups.

The Executive Board granted a request from Grand Forks Public Schools for a one-time a coop re-format due to district boundary lines being adjusted.

Motion by Jung to approve the Executive Board report.

Seconded by Christensen.

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE

Tescher presented the Finance Committee report.

The Committee reviewed the 2026-27 budget and the 2025-26 Team Payments. Both will be finalized at a special meeting later in June.

Tescher requested a motion to move into executive session pursuant to NDCC 44-04-19.1(2)(5) for attorney consultation, NDCC 44-04-19.1(9) for negotiation strategy, and/or NDCC 44-04-19.2 to consider or discuss closed or confidential records under NDCC 44-04-18.4.

Motion by Bakke to enter executive session.

Seconded by Tescher.

Motion approved unanimously.

The Board of Directors entered executive session at 12:08 pm CDT.

A motion occurred during the executive session.

The Board of Directors exited executive session at 12:50 pm CDT.

Motion by Bakke to give Fetsch the authority to sign the proposed TPG contract extension on behalf of the Association.

Seconded by Tescher.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Hanson to approve the Finance Committee report.

Seconded by Jung.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

Christensen presented the Constitution & By-Laws Committee report.

The Committee met at 9:00 am CDT on May 4, 2026.

The Committee discussed the new out-of-season coaching “dead period,” and recommended eliminating it and approving the “Out of Season Coaching Draft #5 5.4.26.” This was approved by the Board of Directors during a special meeting on May 6, 2026.

The Committee discussed a uniform prescribed penalty for any member school who has a team exceed their season contest limit. The Committee recommended a \$2,500 fine for a first offense and any additional penalties issued by the NDHSAA Executive Board for any subsequent offenses.

Motion by Bakke to approve a \$2,500 fine for a first offense and any additional penalties issued by the NDHSAA Executive Board for any subsequent offenses for any member school that has a team exceed their regular season contest limit in any sport or activity.

Seconded by Martin.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee recommended additional Q and As for the new “re-transfer” by-law that was approved in March.

Motion by Simpfenderfer to approve the additional Q and As for the new “re-transfer” by-law as presented.

Seconded by Jung.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee continued discussion on the current coop by-law, particularly the sports that are currently exempt from moving to Class A when coops push total enrollment over 325. The Committee also discussed potential caps on total enrollments of coops. The Committee plans to continue studying the current by-law language in the future.

Motion by Simpfenderfer to approve the Constitution & By-Laws Committee report.

Seconded by Tescher.

Motion carried unanimously.

REALIGNMENT

Lunde presented the Realignment Committee report.

The Committee met at 2:30 pm CDT on May 20, 2026.

The Committee reviewed the basketball and volleyball classification procedure and drafted language to allow teams to “opt down” a division and not be eligible to participate in the postseason. Further, the Committee recommended the two volleyball programs (Dunseith and Standing Rock) who were placed in Division B by the volleyball classification committee be allowed to participate in the Division B postseason in 2026 and then would follow the recommended procedure moving forward.

Motion by Berseth to approve the Realignment Committee report.

Seconded by Martin.

Aanenson yes.

Berger yes.

Berseth yes.

Christensen yes

Hanson yes.

Jung yes.

Lunde yes.

Martin yes.

Simpfenderfer yes.

Tescher yes.

Bakke no.

Motion carried 10-1.

TOURNAMENT

Berger presented the Tournament Committee report.

The Committee reviewed the spring region sites for the 2026-27 school year. The Committee recommended approving as presented.

Motion by Tescher to approve the 2026-27 spring region tournament sites as presented.

Seconded by Jung.

Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAMMING

Berger presented the Programming Committee report.

The Committee met at 1:30 pm CDT, May 6, 2026, and again at 8:30 am CDT, May 19, 2026.

The Committee finalized a draft for the full Board to consider with amended Presenting Partner application language. Notable changes from the current application include the following clarifications:

- All participants must be varsity eligible and follow all other NDHSAA eligibility requirements
- A potential activity has at least twenty (20) or more teams participating for at least two years prior to application
- "For profit" organizations must provide audited annual budget information as part of their application
- Participating schools may only be involved in one coop

- NDHSAA will present a one-day state championship event at the varsity level only
- NDHSAA has final say on state championship format, number of competitors, events, etc.
- Governing organization is responsible for securing any special royalties, licensing fees, etc. for the state championship event.

The Committee recommended approving the policy as presented. The Committee believes any application received after policy approval would be considered for implementation no sooner than 2027-28.

Motion by Martin to approve the amended policy as presented.

Seconded by Hanson.

Motion carried unanimously.

FINE ARTS

Hanson presented the Fine Arts Committee report.

The Committee met at 1:00 pm CDT on May 20, 2026.

The Committee recommended passing Fine Arts Review Grid items 1, 4, 5 and 2-3 with regulation strikethrough.

Motion by Lunde to approve the Fine Arts Review grid as presented.

Seconded by Tescher.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee recommended approving 3-round speech tournaments as the regular season state-qualifying tournament format. The Committee further recommended approving 3-round tournaments as the post season format with an runoff round held at state tournaments for competitors who are tied for 1st place after three rounds of competition.

Motion by Bakke to approve the recommended tournament formats as presented.

Seconded by Simpfenderfer.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee recommended 3-round speech tournament tie-breaking be changed to the following for regular and postseason speech tournaments:

1. Lowest Rank (1 = best)
2. Reciprocals (combined strength of ranks)

3. Judge Preference (head-to-head)
4. Judge Rating Points (with rank/rating being limited to 1/30, 2/29, 3/28, 4/27, 5/26, 5/25, 5/24, 5/23, 5/23)
5. Drop Lowest Rating Points
6. If still tied, remains a tie

Motion by Lunde to approve the recommended speech tie-breaking procedure.

Seconded by Tescher.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee recommended discontinuing regular season power ranking and minimum number of rounds required for State Debate qualification and making the State Debate Play-In Tournament the sole postseason qualifier for State Debate with schools/coops being allowed 4 entries per division.

Motion by Simpfenderfer to discontinue regular season power ranking and minimum number of rounds required for State Debate qualification and make the State Debate Play-In Tournament the sole postseason qualifier for State Debate with schools/coops being allowed 4 entries per division.

Seconded by Jung.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee recommended changing the Music Outstanding Performer Award regulation to the following:

Schools to purchase all state star medals under festival format. Association to provide 1 plaque per judge site for each Outstanding Performer at State or Region/State Festival. Schools may purchase additional plaques.

Motion by Christensen to approve the proposed changes to the Music Outstanding Performer Award regulation as presented.

Seconded by Bakke.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee recommended denying a request from West Fargo Horace to host a non-sanctioned speech tournament within the 2026-27 defined season. Further, the Committee instructed staff to provide supporting information for future review of defined season maximum allowable contests and rules application for in-season, non-sanctioned speech and other fine arts opportunities.

Motion by Lunde to deny the West Fargo Horace request.

Seconded by Bakke.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee anticipates legal opinion regarding draft copyright regulations regarding music, tech sounds, and images in sanctioned one act plays. Staff notified play directors of potential changes January 26 and again with draft regulation on May 5 to allow schools time to prepare for a 2026-27 regulation approval late summer or early fall.

The Committee also discussed a late, late window. No action is required at this time.

Motion by Simpfinderfer to approve the Fine Arts Committee report.

Seconded by Bakke.

Motion carried unanimously.

AWARDS & CANVASSING

Martin presented the Awards & Canvassing Committee report.

The Committee met at 10:00 am CDT on May 18, 2026.

The Awards & Canvassing Committee met and reviewed the online ballots submitted for recent NDHSAA Board of Directors elections. There were exactly 100 eligible ballots received with the following results:

Class B Northeast

Randy Loing – Rolla – 55 votes

Aaron Schramm – Park River Area – 35 votes

Kevin Beaudoin – Hatton – 9 votes

Blank ballots – 1

Class A East

Dr. Kris Arason – Grand Forks Red River – 51 votes

Dr. David Woods – Wahpeton – 48 votes

Blank ballots – 1

Terms for both successful candidates will run July 1, 2026-June 30, 2030.

There was also an election to determine an eligible individual to complete the final two years of the Native American At-Large Board position:

Native American At-Large

Kent Dennis – Minnewaukan – 53 votes

Rick Smith – Four Winds – 45 votes

Blank ballots – 2

Kent's term will run July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028 and he would be eligible to run for a 4-year term in May 2028.

Motion by Jung to approve the Awards & Canvassing Committee report.

Seconded by Simpfenderfer.

Motion carried unanimously.

MEDIA

Simpfenderfer presented the Media Committee report.

The Committee met at 10:30 am CDT on May 18, 2026.

The Committee reviewed the postseason declaration process for football playoff games in 2026. Based on discussion at last fall's "media summit" and previous committee discussion, the Committee recommended the elimination of the exclusive bid process for football playoff games and allowing multiple stations to televise or video stream games that are declined events prior to the Dakota Bowl.

Motion by Tescher to approve eliminating the bid process for football playoff games and allowing multiple stations to televise or video stream games that are declined events prior to the Dakota Bowl.

Seconded by Christensen.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee reviewed the 2026-27 rate card and recommended that if the football playoff declaration process is adjusted, to adjust the rate card for semifinal games from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for a live broadcast and \$500 to \$1,000 for a delayed broadcast. This recommendation also includes adding language where a member school may broadcast a declined event for 50% of the rate card, provided they do not do any advertising or pay-per-view model.

Motion by Hanson to approve changes to the Rate Card as presented.

Seconded by Berger.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Committee also reviewed the 2026-27 radio broadcast fees, which was also a result of the media summit held this fall. The Committee recommended allowing radio stations to pay \$1,000 by September 1st annually and be allowed to broadcast any postseason game they desire with no post-tournament billing. Currently most postseason games have a fee of \$15-30. In 2024-25, 26 different radio stations broadcast a total of \$15,445 worth of games. Per-station total payments ranged from \$15 to \$3,225. This recommendation also includes any station who pays the \$1,000 having the option to hang their banner at any sub-state tournament, provided no other commercial sponsors are included.

Motion by Simpfenderfer to approve the recommended changes to radio broadcast fees as presented.

Seconded by Tescher.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Jung to approve the Media Committee report.

Seconded by Bakke.

Motion carried unanimously.

HARVEY HIGH SCHOOL APPEAL

Harvey High School submitted an appeal requesting the reversal of a \$1,000 fine imposed on the school for a self-reported infraction.

Motion by Berseth to deny Harvey High School's appeal.

Seconded by Bakke.

Motion carried unanimously.

ATHLETIC REVIEW

Recommendations	Board vote
Basketball & Volleyball - rotate state qualifier game times between A & B	7-4
Eliminate the team total for competition limitation and make it an individual athlete limit.	11-0
Allow Class A and B girls to keep one entry per weight class plus four alternates with no more than two in a weight class.	11-0
Increase the boys qualifying standard for diving to 275.	11-0

NEW BUSINESS

MEMBER SCHOOL APPLICATION

Mandan Classical Academy submitted an application to become a NDHSAA member school.

Motion by Hanson to approve Mandan Classical Academy's member school application.

Seconded by Bakke.

Motion carried unanimously.

DETERMINE 2026-27 PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

Motion by Berseth to nominate Lunde to be 2026-27 President.

Second by Simpfenderfer.

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Christensen to nominate Berger for 2026-27 Vice President.

Seconded by Tescher.

Motion carried unanimously.

ROOMING LISTS

Fetsch discussed rooming lists and potential dates for a special Board meeting.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

The Board of Directors and staff recognized Aanenson and Bakke for their service on the Board.

NEXT MEETINGS - LOCATION, DATE, AND TIME

1. New Board Member Orientation - July 14, 2026 - Valley City - NDHSAA Office
2. Board of Directors Retreat - August 11, 2026 - Devils Lake - Spirit Lake Casino & Resort
3. Board of Directors Meeting - September 17, 2026 - Valley City - NDHSAA Office

Motion by Hanson to adjourn.

Seconded by Simpfenderfer.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm CDT.

SIGNATURE

Respectfully submitted,
Nickolas Walton
Assistant Director

Signed:

Date: