

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

July 18, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 1:00 p.m., on July 18, 2019, at the GHSA office in Thomaston, Georgia, by Glenn White, President.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Lisa Moore Williams. The invocation was given by Associate Director Carror Wright. Roll call by Media Director Steve Figueroa showed the following: Present - 10; Absent - 2 (indicated by "A" below)

Gary Long - A
Steven Craft
Curt Miller

Jim Finch - A
Joe Lancaster
Jasper Jewell

Jesse Crews
Michelle Masters
Kandice Mitchell

Dawn Odom
Glenn White
Lisa Moore Williams

Motion by Crews, second by Jewell, to adopt the agenda.

Motion Passed (unanimously)

APPOINTMENTS:

Motion was made by Crews, second by Craft, and unanimously approved to go into Executive Session to hear the student eligibility appeal. (NOTE: Presentations were made in Executive Session; all votes were taken after voting to come out of Executive Session. For clarity, outcome of vote is given after each statement of presentation.)

Chattahoochee County High School - Josh Kemp, Athletic Director, presented an eight-semester appeal for William Autagavaia.

Motion by Masters, second by Crews, to **Approve** the appeal.

MOTION Passed (unanimously)

Kevin Petroski, Athletic Director, Athens Academy and a group representing several other Class A schools then spoke of their belief that Class A schools face unique challenges that other GHSA member schools do not. He stated that the goal of his group was for the GHSA to acknowledge the unique experience of playing in Class A and to allow the formation of a new "Class A sub-committee" when the next reclassification is completed.

This sub-committee would be comprised of the eight Executive Committee members representing Class A private school regions and the eight Executive Committee members representing the Class A public school regions that will be formed with the new reclassification for the 2020-2021 school year, and any proposals affecting Class A would go through this sub-committee first before being presented to the full Executive Committee for approval.

Dr. Hines said he would be happy to select such a sub-committee once the reclassification process is done, and Jesse Crews, who represents Class A on the BOT, said he would support the formation of such a sub-committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposal to reword By-Law 4.21 on page 39 and Section 2, Item B of the Constitution, which says member schools will be realigned every four (4) years. New wording in both sections would be "every two (2) years." (GHSA Office) NOTE: This is a Constitutional change and requires two votes. **This is the second vote.** The proposal was passed unanimously by the full State Executive Committee at the April 15, 2019 meeting.

Motion by Craft, second by Crews, to **Approve**

MOTION Passed (unanimously)

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposal to reword By-Law 2.54 on page 27 to add Cross Country to the sports that require coaches to take an online rules clinic. (GHSA office)

(more)

Motion by Williams, second by Crews, to **Approve**
MOTION Passed (unanimously)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Executive Director Robin Hines discussed several editorial changes that would be made to the 2019-20 Constitution for clarification and received support from the BOT for these changes.

Hines then introduced three members of the state legislature - Ellis Black (R-Valdosta), Ed Harbison (D-Columbus) and Jeff Mullis (R-Chickamauga) - and thanked them for attending the meeting. Hines also announced that Jimmy Stokes would be the new GHSA liaison to the state legislature.

Hines then called on Associate Director Kevin Giddens, who spoke of widespread support among coaches for adding a second "Dead Week" to the GHSA calendar. Giddens mentioned the first week in June as a possibility, adding that almost all coaches he spoke to agree that "we are doing too much in the summer."

Hines then called on Assistant Executive Director Ernie Yarbrough, who gave a report on the tremendous success of the recent NCAA basketball showcase events. He stated that 150 teams took part in the first-week team camp, while 238 college coaches (including 173 from Division 1 schools) attended the second-week individual camp.

Hines announced that the contract has been executed for the football championship games to be played at Georgia State University this December, adding that the cost to the GHSA has been capped at \$100,000. That could mean as much as a \$500,000 increase in the amount of revenue the participating teams will split, according to Hines. The GHSA will not make any more money from this contract, but the participating schools will.

Hines said that the GHSA is going to make a push for better sportsmanship this upcoming school year. He cited the ejection figures from the past year and said that the GHSA would begin publishing the names of the schools that are fined in an effort to curb the rise in unsporting acts.

Hines mentioned how well the GHSA schools are doing nationally in the NFHS Network production figures, finishing either first or second in the nation in all categories. He also mentioned that the GHSA will be working with DragonFly in the future to eliminate the need to physically print coaches passes, instead going to a digital app format.

Hines reminded the board that the GHSA plans to add Girls Flag Football and Bass Fishing as sports in two years, and he announced that the GHSA will be hosting the NFHS Section III meeting in Savannah on Sept. 10-14, 2020.

Hines closed his report by asking the visiting legislators if they had anything to say. Mullis thanks the board for inviting him and Harbison expressed his appreciation for what the GHSA does and "for responsible men and women like you."

Black told the board that they "need to get the message out about what you do here and the extent to which you try to be fair."

Board member Curt Miller then asked for some clarification on the new Sudden Cardiac Arrest requirements and Associate Director Don Corr, who handles Sports Medicine, answered some questions and said their would be more clarification published on the GHSA web site in the near future.

Motion by Crews, second by Williams to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION Passed (unanimously)