

**VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE
1642 STATE FARM BOULEVARD
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22911**

MARCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

TIME: **Tuesday, March 9, 2004**
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee
6:30 p.m. Personnel Committee

Wednesday, March 10, 2004
9:00 a.m. Full Committee

PLACE: Holiday Inn Select
Koger South Conference Center
1021 Koger Center Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia

- I. **Roll Call:** Karen Whetzel, Larry Compton, Mary Whitley, Rob Carpenter, Lou Tonelson, Charlie Ostlund, Pete Koste, Perry Pope, George Porterfield, Paul Custis, Dave Jeck, Tom Fitzgibbons, Vanessa Wigand, Charles Turner, John Walker, Bob Grimesey, Oliver McBride, Mike Willis, Gary Silvey, Gerald Thompson, Bryan Gordon, Lynn Terhar, Dan Cross, Bob Tata, Delmer Botkin and Ken Tilley.

Members absent: Lee Wise, Dave Baker, Clint Stables, and Russ Potts.

Also attending were VHSL staff Bob Button, Jim Garman, Tom Zimorski, Joyce Sisson, Bruce Patrick, Hannah Catherine Munro and Lora Bickley, as well as Evelyn Kane, VHSL parliamentarian; Bruce Phelps, Virginia Beach City Public Schools; Wayne Martin, Chesapeake City Public Schools; Paul Jansen, Fairfax County Public Schools; Mark Gammons and E. G. Bradshaw, Patrick County High School; Bo Catron and Sam Blevins, Abingdon High School; Mike Davidson, Marion High School; Elizabeth Halley, Loudoun County; Bob Slaven and Donald Hitt, Madison County High School; Gary Chilcoat and Chris Robinson, Varina High School and Rod Griffith and Richard Stapleton, Lee High School.

- II. **Agenda Approval:** Gerald Thompson moved, Bob Grimesey seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to move the Tennis Season Alignment from XII (C) Discussion and Information Agenda to VIII (E) Unfinished Business and action since December.
- III. **Minutes:** Paul Custis moved, John Walker seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2003, Executive Committee meeting.
- IV. **Announcements and Call for New Business:** Executive Director Ken Tilley reviewed the schedule of the meeting; hotel accommodations and expenses; and that the Fellowship of Christian Athletes is underwriting the lunch and will give a brief presentation during lunch.

New Business:

- A. Lee High School requests to play down in classification.

V. **Concerns from Public:**

- A. **Tennis Season Alignment:** Mike Davidson, Marion High School and Elizabeth Halley, Loudoun County, addressed the committee concerning the tennis season alignment, speaking against moving the girls season to the fall.
- B. **Football Regional Representation:** Gary Chilcoat and Chris Robinson, Varina High School, addressed the committee opposing the legislation that district champions and "wild card" teams would be seeded solely upon the final power ratings.
- C. **Forensics:** Donald Hitt, Madison County High School, addressed the committee seeking support for the forensic legislation allowing double entries.

VI. **Legal Report:** Executive Director Tilley will attend the Annual NFHS Legal Meeting and Summit on April 16-17 and will give an oral report at the May meeting.

VII. **Committee Reports:**

A. **Finance:** Finance Chairman Lou Tonelson reported the following items discussed by the Finance Committee:

A review of balance sheets and income and expense reports through January 31, 2004, indicated the League finances are sound, the fall season was successful and the Foundation has \$312,000 in assets.

The Finance Committee reviewed and made recommendations on the following topics:

- a. Develop a six-year vision for the League (long range plans) with input from staff.
- b. Consider developing an RFP for professional services to conduct a study of area compensation, including salaries and benefits, comparing VHSL staff and comparable organizations.
- c. Reviewed procedures for travel reimbursement and not replace VHSL vehicles.
- d. Develop procedures for allocation of professional development funds.
- e. Continue practice of providing cost analysis before acting on new programs, legislation or modifications to present programs.
- f. Develop capital improvement plan; conduct assessment of future facility needs to include a feasibility/cost analysis for expansion of current site as well as possible relocation of VHSL office.
- g. Conduct a feasibility study for electronic submissions of forms and out-going information.
- h. Review new sources of generating of revenue.

Tom Fitzgibbons moved, Perry Pope seconded and the committee voted 22-0 to approve the Finance Committee report.

B. **Personnel:** Personnel Chairman George Porterfield reported his committee reviewed the results of survey to provide feedback to Executive Director; discussed the length of the Executive Director's contract; recommended renewal for two years of Executive Director's contract at the conclusion of the 2005 school year; discussed the NFHS Summer Conference in San Diego and recommended to the Finance Committee the possibility of sending up to six delegates (to include some Executive Committee members) and discussed salary considerations.

George Porterfield moved, Mike Willis seconded and the committee voted 22-0 to approve the Personnel Committee report.

C. **Appeals:** Assistant Director Zimorski called attention to the guidelines that the League uses in granting emancipated student eligibility and noted that appellants appearing before the VHSL Appeals Committee will be notified in writing 24-48 hours after the appeal has been heard.

D. **Sportsmanship:** Assistant Director Zimorski advised of plans to put the Resource Guide for Sportsmanship on the VHSL web site and has asked districts and regions to submit to the VHSL office any good sportsmanship practices or positives. He will in turn place them on the VHSL web site.

E. **Out-of-Season Practice:** Assistant Director Zimorski reported his committee met and will need to meet again as out-of-season practice is an on-going effort.

F. **Sports Medicine:** Assistant Director Patrick reported the committee is working on a final review of the physical form in Spanish; provided information on the use of supplements; noted 100% compliance with the Wrestling Weight Control program; requested another coach be added to the committee and reminded the committee of the Larry Johnson SMAC Award honoring individuals making significant contributions in this field.

John Walker moved, Larry Compton seconded and the committee voted 22-0 to accept the Sports Medicine Committee report which included the use of eyewear in lacrosse practices as well as games; adding a privacy statement on the physical form and endorsing a Healthy Lifestyles program.

- G. **Football Rating:** Assistant Director Patrick reported the committee made several recommendations resulting in legislation to be voted on as a first-vote item at this meeting. It was reported that while there were some complaints regarding the new rating system, the complaints were not above the usual number received each year.
- H. **Redistricting and Reclassification:** Executive Director Tilley noted that ADM figures would be requested on March 31 and the R&R Committee would meet immediately following the Membership Meeting on Thursday. In response to a request by Group AA at the October meetings, models were posted on the web site and these models have resulted in discussions on the size of each of the Group AA regions.
- I. **Calendar:** Assistant Director Sisson noted that the 2005-06 and 2006-07 calendars were provided in the pre-mailing to the Executive Committee. The calendars will be voted on at the May meeting. It was noted that the dates for the Group AA Swim and Dive were incorrect on the 2004-05 calendar. The date was changed from February 11-12 to February 18-19 due to conflicts with UVA swim facility.
- J. **Coaches Education:** Assistant Director Patrick noted that the first of four Instructor Recertification Seminars had been successfully completed in the Williamsburg area. The remaining three seminars would be offered in the Roanoke, Charlottesville and Fairfax areas. Upon completion of this recertification process it is expected that 100 instructors will be available for the VHSL Coaches Education Program.

VIII. **Unfinished Business:**

- A. **Riverbend's Classification Status:** At the December meeting, the Committee approved the placement of Riverbend High School to Group AA, Region I, Battlefield District's contingent on approval by the region and district; said approval was reported at this March meeting.
- B. **No Child Left Behind:** Perry Pope moved, Vanessa Wigand seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to approve the following criteria to be added to the Transfer Rule Appeals: Waiver WILL be considered: D. For a student who transfers under the school choice provision of No Child Left Behind.
- C. **All-girls Golf Competitions:** See legislation.
- D. **Amended Sunday Rule:** Staff was directed to develop guidelines to consider in deciding requests for exceptions to the Sunday Rule. Some of the suggested guidelines were national events; superintendent and school board approval and mileage restrictions. This item will be considered at the May meeting.
- E. **Tennis Season Alignment:** Paul Custis moved, Larry Compton seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to go into executive session under 2.1.-344A9(7) in consultation with legal counsel (briefings by staff or consultants) pertaining to actual or probable litigation.

John Walker moved, Dan Cross seconded and the committee voted 22-0 (Pope absent for vote) to convene back into public session.

Dan Cross moved, John Walker seconded and the committee certified 22-0 (Pope absent for vote) by roll call vote that to the best of each member's knowledge that during the executive session only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were discussed; and only such public business matters were identified in the executive session motion were heard, discussed or considered.

Tom Fitzgibbons moved that we amend the December 2003 motion regarding the tennis playoff alignment. Vanessa Wigand seconded.

Oliver McBride moved, John Walker seconded and the committee voted 22-0 (Pope absent for vote) that the amendment of previous action regarding the alignment of the tennis season be postponed until the May meeting or a special called meeting of the Executive Committee in order to receive the advice of legal counsel.

IX. **Legislation:** Action noted below was taken regarding legislative amendment proposals.

Emergency Item

(1) 68-4-2 Exception	Football: To avoid forcing certain districts/regions to begin practicing earlier than they prefer if proposal #11 is adopted.	Adopted 20-0 (Grimesey absent for this and remaining votes; McBride and Walker absent for vote)
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First-vote items

(2) SECTION 10:	Classification: Redistricting and reclassification would occur every four years as opposed to the current two-year cycle.	Not Rec. 3-19 (Fitzgibbons, Porterfield and Whetzel voting yes)
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(3) 30-5-3	Specific Penalty for Giving False Information This proposal would eliminate a potential loophole that exists in the present language.	Rec. 22-0
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(4) 68-8-1	Football Playoff System: To base the determination of football divisions on the same ADM grade count used for classification purposes.	Rec. 22-0
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(5) 68-8-4	Football Regional Representation: This change will shift importance to the wins that teams achieve rather than their losses when employing tie-breaking steps. (c) The team with the highest.....opponents <u>they defeated</u>	Rec. 22-0 as amended
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(6) 68-8-4 (3)	Football Regional Representation: This change will help to ensure the most competitive match ups during post-season playoffs by not automatically seeding district champions higher than non-champions.	Rec. 17-3-2 (Pope, Silvey and Thompson voting no; Wigand and Willis abstaining)
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(7) 68-8-5 (1)	Football Regional Championships: Consistent with the proposed change in 68-8-4 (3).	Rec. 22-0
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(8) Section 111	Forensic Meets: Permitting double entries would allow schools with smaller programs to utilize the students to fill more of the available entry slots.	Tabled 18-4 (Carpenter, Custis, Cross, Turner voting no) until the Speech Advisory Comm. takes under consideration
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(9) 54-8-2 Contest Limitation Exception	Golf: Permit female participants on boys teams to participate in no more than three additional all-female events.	
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Re-codify 54-8-2 Interpretations: becomes 54-8-3

AND

70-2-1 Golf		Rec. 21-1 (Pope voting no)
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Second-Vote Items

- (10) **8-1-1** **(Member School) Eligibility:** To address the issue of non-accreditation status due to SOL requirements. Adopted 22-0
- (11) **68-8-3** **Football:** To address significant enrollment discrepancies between schools within a division, beginning in 2005-06. Adopted 22-0
- (12) **68-4-1** **(Football) Schedules and Practices:** To address inequities in practice schedules when teams have a bye on the first contest date. Adopted 22-0
- (13) **101-2-1** **Rules and Regulations -- Theatre Festival**
Clarifies that live music is part of the performance and requires the use of eligible students, rather than an adult musician or accompanist. Recorded music does not require student eligibility. Adopted 22-0
- (14) **116-7-1** **Duo Interpretation of Literature:** The legislation makes three changes, first to clarify limits on rewriting or adapting a selection; second to eliminate language that does not apply; and third to permit students to eliminate the book/binder if they have memorized the selection. Adopted 22-0
- (15) **116-2-1** **(Oral Interpretation) Purpose:** The legislation is designed to ensure that a participant in oral interpretation events is not sharing his/her own work or experiences. Adopted 22-0

X. **Action Agenda:**

- A. **Playoff sites for 2004-05:** Perry Pope moved, Larry Compton seconded and the committee voted 22-0 to remove girls gymnastics from the list and approve the following sites.
 - 1. **Combined events**
 - a. Cheer (A, AA, AAA) – Siegel Center, Richmond
 - b. Winter Basketball (A, AA, AAA) – Siegel Center, Richmond
 - c. Wrestling (A, AA) – Salem Civic Center
 - d. Cross Country (A, AA, AAA) – Great Meadows
 - e. Girls Golf – Open (invitations received from Region I and Region II)
 - f. Debate (A, AA, AAA) -- Liberty University
 - g. Forensics (A, AA, AAA)
 - h. Scholastic Bowl (A, AA, AAA)
 - i. Theatre Festival (A, AA)
 - 2. **Group A**
 - a. Girls Volleyball -- Carroll County High School
 - b. Boys Golf – Lonesome Pine Country Club -- tentative
 - c. Girls Tennis -- Radford HS
 - 3. **Group AA**
 - a. Field Hockey – Region I -- Charlottesville High School
 - b. Boys Golf – Warren County High School hosts
 - c. Swim & Dive – UVA
 - d. Girls Volleyball – Carroll County High School
 - e. Indoor Track (AA) – Virginia Tech, tentative
 - f. Girls Tennis -- Jamestown High School

4. **Group AAA**

- a. Field Hockey – National Training Center, Virginia Beach, Frank Cox High School hosts
- b. Boys Golf – Hanover High School hosts -- **TBA**
- c. Girls Tennis – Site TBA (Falls Church and Wakefield host)
- d. Boys Volleyball – Hanover High School
- e. Girls Volleyball – Hanover High School
- f. Girls Gymnastics – **TBA**
- g. Indoor Track – George Mason University (tentative)
- h. Swim/Dive – Northwest Region (Freedom Center tentative)
- i. Wrestling – Oscar Smith HS
- j. Theatre Festival --

- B. **Douglas Freeman High School calendar change:** Pete Koste moved, John Walker seconded and the committee voted 14-1-6 (Whetzel voting no; Carpenter, Cross, McBride, Pope, Turner and Willis abstaining; Whitley absent for vote) to permit their basketball tournament in 2004 to start on Wednesday, December 1.
- C. **Beach District Cheer:** Tom Fitzgibbons moved, Larry Compton seconded and the committee voted 21-0 (Whitley absent for vote) to allow the Beach District cheerleaders to wear their school uniforms while participating only as support staff and workers in the annual Rock N Roll Half Marathon on Sunday, September 5, 2004. There will be no cheerleading competition.

XI. **Consent Agenda:**

- A. **Liberty High School "outside" lacrosse teams:** Rob Carpenter moved, Larry Compton seconded and the committee voted 20-1-1 (Cross voting no; Porterfield abstaining) to approve Liberty's (Bealeton) request to include outside teams in their regular season junior varsity lacrosse schedule.
- B. **Region A contests with "club" teams representing Colonial Beach High School:** Perry Pope moved, Pete Koste seconded and the committee voted 20-0-1 (Whitley absent for vote), to permit schools in the Northern Neck District and Region A to play "independent" or club teams from Colonial Beach in the sports of boys and girls basketball, football, baseball, softball and volleyball effective until further changes are requested by the schools involved.

XII. **Discussion and Information Agenda:** Ken Tilley reviewed the following items for the committee's information.

- A. **League Notes:** Several years ago the Finance Committee recommended that staff begin consolidating League Notes as a cost-cutting matter. We have eliminated the printing of League Notes, thereby saving considerable expense. Weekly Update will now be our regular form of disseminating information
- B. **Make the Point Special Olympics Update:** Nearly 50 schools had initially indicated they might take part in this campaign to support Special Olympics. Because of Hurricane Isabel, many of those were unable to conduct an event, but at least 17 schools did stage a fundraiser, and more than \$13,300 was raised. Preliminary indications are that Virginia accounted for approximately 8-10% of schools participating and revenue generated nationwide. Congratulations (and thanks) to those who were involved in this worthwhile endeavor.
- C. **Student Leaders Conference and Sportsmanship Summit:** Ken Tilley presented an oral report, noting that registration information and the tentative schedule are available at <http://www.vhsl.org/specprog.htm>, and workshop sessions will be posted when they are confirmed. Committee members were asked to encourage attendance at their local meetings.
- D. **Ball Contracts:** Wilson has made an offer to be designated the official tournament ball in the sports of football, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, tennis and volleyball. Staff is requesting proposals from present and prospective suppliers. A final report will be presented to the Oversight Committee if approval is necessary prior to the May meeting.
- E. **School Sponsorship:** From article in The Washington Post (February 4): "George Mason High School's football stadium soon may have a new name: Moore Cadillac Stadium. The 600-student public school in the city of Falls Church and the Tysons Corner car dealership have struck a five-year, \$50,000 naming rights

deal.... Selling naming rights to a high school stadium is rare -- there have been few reported instances of schools doing so in other areas around the country. Several local athletic directors said they had never heard of it being done, but at a time when scholastic athletic budgets are strapped, they all agree they wished their schools could strike such deals..."

- XIII. **Review March Group Boards and Membership Meeting**: Executive Director Tilley and Lora Bickley met with the group board officers at the conclusion of the Executive Committee meeting to review procedures for the March meetings.
- XIV. **2004-05 Meeting Dates**: 2004-05 Executive Committee meeting dates will be voted on at the May meeting. It was noted that there is a recommendation to move the December 1 date to December 8.
- XV. **New Business**:
 - A. **Lee High School**: No action was taken on a request from Lee High School to move down in classification. The committee recommended Lee High School work with Region IV and Region D representatives to try to solve their travel concerns and suggested the possibility of a combined A/AA district.
- XVI. **Business from the Floor**: The League Chairman will select the members of the Oversight Committee.
- XVII. **Adjournment**: There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 4:10 p.m.