

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES DECEMBER 2004

TIME: **Tuesday, December 7, 2004**
5:00 p.m. Finance Committee

Wednesday, December 8, 2004
8:00 a.m. Policy Committee
9:00 a.m. Full Executive Committee

PLACE: VHSL Offices
1642 State Farm Boulevard
Charlottesville, Virginia

I. **Roll Call:** Lou Tonelson, Pete Koste, Perry Pope, William Clendaniel, David Jeck, George Porterfield, Don Bock, Dale Holt, Mary Whitley, Larry Compton, Steve Reedy, Vanessa Wigand, Charles Harris, David Stuckwisch, Clint Stables, David Baker, John Walker, Bob Grimesey, Oliver McBride, Phil Worrell (alternate for Gwen Edwards), Dan Cross, Bruce Phelps (alternate for Gary Silvey), Mike Davidson, Bryan Gordon, Denise Bowman-Scott (alternate for Lynn Terhar), Karen Whetzel and Ken Tilley.

Members absent: Roger Mello, Bob Tata and Russ Potts.

Also attending were VHSL staff Bob Button, Jim Garman, Tom Zimorski, Bruce Patrick and Lora Bickley; as well as Paul Jansen, Fairfax County Public Schools; Tod Chappell and Bill Curran, Marshall High School; Nate Doughty, VCU; J. D. Davis, Chesterfield Softball Association; Andy Weaver, Richmond Umpires Association; Donald Hitt, Madison County High School; and Michael Irani, Charlottesville High School.

- II. **Agenda Approval:** Perry Pope moved, Larry Compton seconded and the committee voted 24-0 to move Item F from the Action Agenda after the Finance Committee report.
- III. **Minutes:** John Walker moved, Mary Whitley seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the Sept. 22-23, 2004, Executive Committee minutes. John Walker moved, Dan Cross seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the Oct. 12, 2004, Executive Committee minutes.
- IV. **Announcements and Call for New Business:** League Chairman Lou Tonelson noted that items would be voted on as discussed and this policy would apply to one-day meetings. An updated copy of the March meeting hotel arrangements will be emailed to the committee in January.
- V. **Concerns from Public:** None.
- VI. **Legal Report:** Ken Tilley reported information regarding the League's response to claims that the VHSL's wrestling weight control program constitutes a patent infringement.
- VII. **Committee Reports:**

A. **Finance:** Chairman Don Bock reported on the following from the Finance Committee:

1. Approved agreements with groups that offered to provide financial support for VHSL state events and programs.
2. Approved the waiver of the second fee for Heritage TV to do a taped delay broadcast of the Group A football finals since two teams from Region D are involved.
3. Approved a contract with Commonwealth Computer Services to provide the VHSL computer support.
4. Recommended no dues increase for the 2005-06 school year; any dues increases in the future would not become effective until July 1 of the year after the increase is approved (e.g. approval in May 2005 would become effective July 1, 2006).

Bob Grimesey moved, George Porterfield seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the Finance Committee report.

VCU Contract Proposal: Nate Doughty presented to the committee a 10-year contract proposal for the state basketball tournament and the combined volleyball tournaments capping the expenses.

David Stuckwisch moved and John Walker seconded to direct the executive director to enter into negotiations with VCU for a 10-year contract for the state basketball tournament and combined volleyball tournaments, capping the expenses, with final action in March.

Mary Whitley, moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to amend the motion that the League accept a two-year contract with VCU for the state basketball tournament as proposed, and direct the executive director to enter into negotiations with VCU for the basketball and volleyball tournaments for an extended period with a proposal to be considered in March

The motion as amended passed 25-0.

Region representatives were instructed to take this item back to their regions for discussion.

B. **Personnel:** No report.

C. **Appeals:** Assistant Director Tom Zimorski referred the committee to the appeals matrix and gave a brief report on the L. C. Bird appeal of their football game forfeitures. It was noted that the decision of this appeal to reinstate the forfeited games and increase the fine from \$100 to \$2500 should not be considered a precedent for future cases.

John Walker moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to deny a request from New Kent High School to reconsider their previous penalty of forfeiting all games due to the use of an ineligible in football.

Dave Stuckwisch moved, Bruce Phelps seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve a clarification of the Appeals Procedure that the executive director will advise the appellant of his decision regarding the case, and -- if denied -- the appellant has the option of requesting in writing that the appeal advance to the Executive Committee.

D. **Coaches Education:** No report.

E. **Sports Medicine:** No report.

F. **Football Ratings Scale:** No report.

G. **Crisis Management:** Mary Whitley moved, Bob Grimesey seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the committee's recommendation to make this a standing committee to include the three Group Board chairmen, the League chairman, one VIAAA representative and three at-large-members of the Executive Committee.

H. **Debate, Drama and Forensics Advisory:** Refer to Legislation, item #3.

I. **Sportsmanship:** Bill Clendaniel moved, John Walker seconded and the committee voted 16-8-1 (Koste, Jeck, Phelps, Wigand, Tonelson, Stuckwisch, Gordon and Baker voting no; Grimesey abstaining) to approve the revised Wachovia Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award using a self-assessment checklist for implementation this school year (2004-05).

VIII. **Unfinished Business:**

A. **Committee Appointments:** The committee appointments as presented were approved unanimously.

- B. **Future state cheer competition dates:** Bob Grimesey moved, Perry Pope seconded and the committee voted 24-1 (Stuckwisch voting no) to move the state cheer tournament one week prior to Thanksgiving (district and regions dates will be adjusted accordingly).

The 2005-06 and 2006-07 dates are as follows:

2005

District	Nov. 5
Region	Nov. 12
State	Nov. 19

2006

District	Nov. 4
Region	Nov. 11
State	Nov. 18

- C. **Length of volleyball matches:** Bruce Phelps moved, Dave Stuckwisch seconded and the committee voted 24-1 (Stuckwisch voting no) for districts to be allowed to approve two-out-of-three matches in regular season play in volleyball.
- D. **Possible boys and girls lacrosse competitions:** A report will be made in March.
- E. **Possible girls state golf team competition:** No regions reported a strong desire to move ahead with a state tournament for girls team competition.

F. **Redistricting and Reclassification:**

1. **Stone Bridge and Loudoun Valley placement for 2005-06 and 2006-07:** Perry Pope moved, Charles Harris seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to accept the placement of Stone Bridge and Loudoun Valley High School for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 school years as follows:

Stone Bridge will become a full member of the Liberty District. Loudoun Valley will play a football schedule in the National District but will compete during the regular season in all other sports in the AA Dulles District and will participate in district tournament play in the National District. Loudoun Valley will not host district tournament contests but will host region tournament contests if their teams earn the right to do so.

2. **R&R Recommendations to the Executive Committee:**

- No action was taken on the recommendation of the R&R Committee to go to four classes beginning in 2007-08.
 - Perry Pope moved, Pete Koste seconded and the committee voted 2-21-1 (Clendaniel and Tonelson voting yes; Pope abstaining) to reduce Northwest Region's share of region net income to the League from 35 percent to 20 percent.
 - There was no action on the recommendation that all classes (regions) examine travel concerns and bring back to the Finance Committee.
 - Regional representatives were instructed to discuss with their respective regions the recommendation that the Executive Committee should give the Redistrict and Reclassification Committee some direction when reclassifying schools since some members of the R&R Committee take a considerable amount of criticism for making tough decisions. Information on this item should be provided at the March meeting.
3. **Wild Card Issue:** Dave Jeck moved, Don Bock seconded and the committee voted 16-7-2 (Holt, Reedy, Compton, Davidson, McBride, Walker and Stuckwisch voting no; Cross and Tonelson abstaining) for the Group AA Wild Card Committee to meet again prior to the March meeting to finalize the Wild Card Proposal to be presented at the March meeting.

Oliver McBride moved, Mike Davidson seconded and the committee voted 25-0 that the regional imbalance issues be resolved by the next R&R cycle and that the Policy Committee will continue to study other significant aspects of R&R.

- G. **Out-of-Season Practice Rule:** Pete Koste moved, Perry Pope seconded and the committee voted 24-0 (Grimesey absent) to give the Out-of-Season Practice Study Committee approval to continue work on the draft proposal and have a final version for the March Executive Committee.

IX. **Legislation:**

Emergency

117-1-1 **Debate: Introduction**
That the elimination of individual trophies be waived for the 2004-05 school year Failed 0-24
(Cross absent for this vote and all subsequent votes)

First Vote:

54-8-1 **Contest Limitations**
Eliminate restriction from entering invitational tournaments that may involve participation in more than five contests. Rec. 24-0

Section 111 **Forensic Meets**
Permitting double entries in individual events Not rec. 12-12
(Baker, Bock, Clendaniel, Worrell, Jeck, Koste, Pope, Reedy, Phelps, Stuckwisch, Bowman Tonselson voting yes)

Amended to read "with the exception of extemporaneous speaking"

Section 117 **Debate**
To eliminate requirement that schools provide judge for Lincoln-Douglas Debate Not. rec. 0-24

Second Vote:

27-2-1 **Coaches Rule: Exceptions**
To eliminate the requirement of certifying non-faculty coaches annually after an individual has been approved initially Adopted 24-0

27-4-2 **State Sanction Rule**
To provide proper oversight and protect participating schools' interests Adopted 24-0

12-1-1 (7) **Supervisor of athletics/activities Executive Committee membership**
Change the term for supervisors of athletics/activities from two years to three years Adopted 23-1
(Reedy voting no)

27-7-1 **Sports Season Rule:** Team selection cannot occur prior to the start of the season in which contests will take place. Failed 5-19
(Tonelson, Jeck, Gordon, Davidson, Phelps voting yes)

X. **Action Agenda:**

A. **Playoff Sites 2005-06:** Pete Koste moved, Bill Clendaniel seconded and the committee voted 22-1 (Larry Compton voting no; Reedy absent for vote) to approve the following state sites for 2005-06.

- a. Cheer (A, AA, AAA), Siegel Center, Richmond
- b. Winter Basketball (A, AA, AAA) -- Siegel Center, Richmond (Note: Two-year request)
- c. Wrestling (A, AA) -- Salem Civic Center
- d. Cross Country (A, AA, AAA) -- Great Meadows

The site for the State Girls Golf is still tentative. Executive Committee will make a decision at the March meeting once a formal invitation is received.

The following sites are still needed:

Group A

- a. Boys Golf -- Region B (Region A)
- b. Girls Volleyball -- (possibly combined with Group AAA, AA)

Group AA

- a. Field Hockey (A,AA) -- Region I (Region II)
- b. Boys Golf -- Region IV (Region III)
- c. Indoor Track -- Virginia Tech (tentative)
- d. Boys and Girls Swim/Dive -- Region III (Region IV)
- e. Girls Volleyball (possibly combined with Group A, AAA) -- Region III (Region II)

Group AAA

- a. Field Hockey -- Central Region (Northern)
- b. Boys Golf -- Piedmont Club, Haymarket (tentative) (Eastern)
- c. Boys Volleyball -- Eastern Region (possibly combined with Group A, AA) (Central)
- d. Girls Volleyball -- Eastern Region (possibly combined with Group A, AA) (Northwest)
- e. Girls Gymnastics -- Central Region (Eastern)
- f. Indoor Track -- George Mason University (tentative)
- g. Swim/Dive -- Eastern Region (Central)
- h. Wrestling -- Invitations expected from Eastern, Central and Northern regions

B. **State Forensics Site for 2004-05:** Dave Stuckwisch moved, Perry Pope seconded and the committee voted 23-0 (Grimesey absent for vote) to approve Culpeper High School as the state site for 2004-05.

C. **State Debate for 2005 and 2007:** The committee directed the staff to pursue other site options for the 2005 State Debate Tournament to avoid a conflict with Passover -- the location will be finalized at the March meeting -- and approved a change in the 2006-07 Calendar moving the state debate tournament from Apr. 27-28 to Apr. 20-21.

D. **State Competition Rule (27-3-1):** Don Bock moved, Dave Stuckwisch seconded and the committee voted 23-0 (Grimesey absent for vote) to allow member schools to play non-member schools VSDB and Mt. Rogers.

E. **Calendar Date Change for 2005-06:** Perry Pope moved, John Walker seconded and the committee voted 23-0 (Grimesey absent for vote) to change the date for the Group AAA Golf Tournament to Oct. 4-5, 2005, due to course availability at Piedmont Club in Haymarket. This approval was given with the understanding that there would be no practice on Sunday, Oct. 2.

F. **Requests from Richmond Baseball Umpires Association and Chesterfield Softball Association:** Pete Koste moved and Bryan Gordon seconded a motion to lift the suspension for the Richmond Baseball Umpires Association and the Chesterfield Softball Association, which will allow these two groups to be eligible for assignments for state contests in 2005.

Bob Grimesey moved, Dave Stuckwisch seconded and the committee voted 24-1 (Gordon voting no) to amend the motion to require that all four groups in the Chesterfield Sports Officials Association (basketball, volleyball, baseball and softball) provide the Executive Committee in March a detailed plan of the steps they have taken to avoid incidents similar to those that caused the suspension.

The motion as amended passed 24-1 (Porterfield voting no).

- G. **Frank Cox request for early soccer tournament:** Perry Pope moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 13-10-1 (Compton, Davidson, Grimesey, Harris, Holt, Koste, McBride, Reedy, Stuckwisch, Walker voting no; Gordon abstaining) to approve a request by Frank Cox High School for a soccer tournament prior to the first playing date. This request requires a 2/3 favorable vote of the committee for adoption; therefore, the motion failed.

- XI. **Consent Agenda:** Denise Bowman-Scott moved, George Porterfield seconded and the committee voted 23-0 (Grimesey absent for vote) to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the following:

A. **Approval of October 2004 Group Board Minutes**

- B. **Approved of Assignment of New Schools** (opening July, 2005):

Briar Wood and Freedom High Schools -- Dulles District, Region II, Group AA
South County Secondary School (not yet named) -- Patriot District, Northern Region, Group AAA

- C. **Approval for Salem High School (S) to participate in lacrosse matches with "outside" teams.**

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

- A. **Area Eligibility Meetings:** Thirteen schools didn't attend the 2004 Area Meetings and have been fined. Total attendance 465 (1 up from 2003); 70 principals; 21 assistant principals; 190 athletic directors; 10 assistant principal/athletic directors; 48 activity directors; 9 assistant athletic directors; 98 guidance directors; 2 athletic secretaries; 4 coaches; 7 administrative aides and 6 other.
- B. **VSBA Conference Presentation:** This year's appearance in Williamsburg attracted one of the biggest audiences of the past 10 years, with approximately 80 school board members attending.
- C. **VHSL Student Leaders Conference:** A proposed agenda for the ninth annual VHSL Student Leaders Conference and Sportsmanship Summit on Apr. 8-9 at Stone Bridge High School was provided. Another great program is planned, including keynote speakers Larry Bell, Janet Hill and Stephen Bargatze.
- D. **LiveStrong Wristbands:** One of the most controversial situations that arose this fall was the reaction to the NFHS ruling that the LiveStrong wristbands constitute jewelry. Information describing the League's position and a columnist who supported the decision was provided.
- E. **Catastrophic Report:** One catastrophic injury and the death of a basketball player have been reported this year. A JV football player at Hayfield suffered a crippling injury this fall. A JV basketball player at Brunswick collapsed and died at the start of the first day of practice.
- F. **Education Week article:** Bruce Phelps shared with us an article from the Oct. 27 issue of Education Week.
- G. **NFHS Strategic Planning:** Ken Tilley will chair a subcommittee addressing the issue of National Presence as the NFHS Strategic Planning Initiative gets underway with meetings Dec. 13 and Jan. 28-30.
- H. **Staff Reports:** Assistant Director Button reported the Publications Workshop went off smoothly and the only disappointing feature was the decline in attendance and the Group A and AA Theatre Festival had just completed with Appomattox County and Powell Valley being crowned Group AA and Group A champions respectively.

Assistant Director Bruce Patrick noted the State Golf Tournament was successful; there was a slight crowd control issue at the State Cross Country Tournament in regard to fans entering without paying and he will report on the State Football Playoffs at the March meeting.

Assistant Director Joyce Sisson will report on the fall and winter events at the March meeting.

- I. **State PTA Conference:** Thanks to a nomination by Lynn Terhar, Ken Tilley was one of two people to receive the 2004 Child Advocate of the Year recognition, presented at the Virginia PTA Annual Convention Nov. 19. This award belongs to the League staff; the Executive Committee (past and present); and thousands of administrators, coaches and officials who provide valuable services to youth that it seeks to honor.

Among those who participated in the conference were members of the forensics team at Nandua High School, coached by Carla Savage-Wells, and Josh Sundquist, a 2002 graduate of Harrisonburg High School and past recipient of the VHSL's Sledge Scholarship in recognition of the state's high school Student Journalist of the Year. Josh lost a leg to cancer when he was nine years old but competes today at the national level as a snow skier (and is active as a mountain biker, swimmer, runner and motivational speaker while also attending William & Mary). He was featured on the cover of the 2001-02 VHSL Leaguer.

- XIII. **March Meeting Schedule:** The committee approved the following schedule for the March Meetings:

Tuesday, March 8	5:00 p.m.	Executive Committee Subcommittees
Wednesday, March 9	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee
Thursday, March 10	9:00 a.m.	Breakfast/Issue Credentials
	10:00 a.m.	Group Boards
Friday, March 11	8:00 a.m.	Breakfast/Issue Credentials
	9:00 a.m.	Open Forum
	10:00 a.m.	Membership Meeting

- XIV. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the committee adjourned at 3:15 p.m.