

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES MARCH 2005

TIME: **Tuesday, March 8, 2005**
5:00 p.m. Finance Committee
6:00 p.m. Personnel Committee

Wednesday, March 9, 2005
9:00 a.m. Full Committee

PLACE: Holiday Inn Select
Koger South Conference Center
1021 Koger Center Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23235

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

Members absent: 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 Billy Haun, Monticello High School; Dave Nelson, Poquoson High School; Donald Hitt, Madison County High School; Mary Donnellan, VHSL Volleyball Interpreter; Rhonda Dumont, Fairfax County Public Schools; William Gouldthorpe, Amherst County High School; John Titus, VHSL lacrosse;interpreter and Brandon Burley, VHSL intern.

- II. **Agenda Approval:** John Walker moved, George Porterfield seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to approve the agenda as presented.
- III. **Minutes:** John Walker moved, Bob Grimesey seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to approve the Dec. 8, 2004, Executive Committee Minutes.
- IV. **Announcements and Call for New Business:** Executive Director Tilley noted the schedule for the March meeting, encouraged the committee to attend the basketball games at the Siegel Center, reminded committee members that they would be responsible for paying all expenses and submitting a voucher for reimbursement, noted that lunch would be in the Court Café, Chesterfield Room, and inquired how many members would be interested in dinner at Michie Tavern the night prior to the Executive Committee meeting on May 11.

Call for new business:

- A. **Region II Football Proposal:** Region II has requested to return to the previous point system.
- B. **E. C. Glass Lacrosse:** E. C. Glass has requested permission to play "club" teams during the 2005 lacrosse season. This item was added to the Consent Agenda.
- C. **Chesterfield Community High School Request:** Chesterfield Community High School has requested to change its classification from Region B, James River District to Region A, Tri-Rivers District. This item was added to the Action Agenda.
- V. **Concerns from Public:** Billy Haun, principal of Monticello High School, addressed the committee concerning the inequity in playoff representation in Group AA due to the imbalance in regions, specifically in Region II. He asked the committee to consider accepting the Wild Card proposal for a two-year cycle until the Redistricting and Reclassification Committee could balance the regions.

VI. Legal Report:

- A. **General Assembly Update:** Ken Tilley reported House Bills 1731 and 2297, that dealt with home school eligibility, were "stricken from the docket" by the House Education Committee.

Tilley also informed the committee of the passage of House Bill 2832 dealing with the ineligibility of any student taking anabolic steroids during the sport season unless the steroid was prescribed by a licensed physician for a medical condition. He further noted that without specifically naming VHSL, the bill requires VHSL to develop, implement and enforce this regulation.

Bob Grimesey moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 26-0-1 (Koste abstaining) for the VHSL to encourage member schools to develop policies in regard to steroid use and directed the executive director to work with VASS and VSBA to get the bill amended to remove the VHSL as the corporation to develop, implement and enforce this regulation, noting the VHSL is concerned with steroid use and our Sports Medicine Advisory Committee has addressed this issue and a statement concerning steroid use is on our website.

- B. **Wrestling Weight Control Patent Infringement:** Executive Director Tilley reported that no decision has been made on this matter and McGuireWoods is handling our case.
- C. **NFHS Legal Counsel Meeting:** Ken Tilley will be attending the annual NFHS Legal Meeting and Summit on Apr. 22-23. An oral report will be given at the May meeting.
- D. **Letter from OCR:** VHSL received a Complaint Closure Letter concerning a November 2002 complaint from a York High School parent regarding boys being prevented from participating on the girls volleyball team. OCR recommended an amendment to the VHSL rules not allowing boys to participate on girls teams to include an exception to allow boys to participate if the boys are the under represented minority.

VII. Committee Reports:

- A. **Finance:** Chairman Don Bock reported his committee's findings and recommendations:

1. Reported that the financial status of the League is in good standing.
2. Approved \$18,000 for eight members of the League administrative staff and two Executive Committee members (League chairman and chairman-elect) to attend the NFHS Summer Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.
3. Will recommend in May the dues, activity and insurance fees for the 2006-07 school year.
4. Will recommend in May the team travel reimbursement percentage for the 2004-05 school year.
5. Reviewed the preliminary 2005-06 budget to be finalized in May.
6. Recommended approval of the Martin Screen Print contract (encouraged regions to take advantage of the proposal concerning sales at regional events).

Hannah Catherine Munro, director of development, encouraged the committee to participate in the Foundation Golf Tournament scheduled for Sept. 19 in Charlottesville.

Larry Compton moved, Pete Koste seconded and the committee voted 27-0 to approve the Finance Committee report.

- B. **Personnel:** Chairman George Porterfield reported that his committee met jointly with the Finance Committee and there was no formal report.
- C. **Appeals:** Assistant Director Zimorski reported on the appeals cases to date.
- D. **Out-of-Season Practice:** Assistant Director Zimorski reported that the committee met in February and this is a slow process. There is strong sentiment to establish a dead period (possibly from the first practice date to the first play date in each sports season) and that the principal needs to monitor the process. Committee member Roger Mello recommended that students be recognized for multiple sports participation in the form of school letter, etc.

- E. **Sports Medicine:** Assistant Director Patrick gave an oral report of the Feb. 23 meeting and directed the committee to the minutes. The following items from the minutes were voted on:

Bob Grimesey moved, Bill Clendaniel seconded and the committee voted 27-0 that all member schools must have an emergency action plan in place by the start of the 2005-06 school year.

Bob Grimesey moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 27-0 that all athletic trainers listed in the VHSL Directory must be licensed-certified athletic trainers as required by the Virginia code.

Bob Grimesey moved, Dave Baker seconded and the committee voted 27-0 to adopt a minor revision of the "Physician Release for Wrestlers to Participate with Skin Lesions" form.

Bob Grimesey moved, John Walker seconded and the committee voted 27-0 to recognize March 2005 as "National Athletic Trainers Month."

- F. **Football Rating:** Several committee members expressed concerns over the composition of the Football Rating Committee and requested that region chairmen be sent notification of all committee meetings involving region representation.

John Walker moved, Perry Pope seconded and the committee voted 23-3-1 (Silvey, Jeck, Baker voting no; Davidson abstaining) to keep the current football rating system for the 2005 and 2006 school years.

- G. **Policy:** Larry Compton reported that this committee met and developed an Eight Division Football Playoff Model that was shared with the Executive Committee. This would be a solution for football only. Since the model would eliminate region play, a cost analysis needs to be done in order to make sure regions and the VHSL do not lose money.

The following three recommendations from the Policy Committee were noted:

1. The Policy Committee voted unanimously to recommend retaining the current three-classification format for governance of schools and playoffs with the exception of the Football Playoff design. The committee recommended that the Executive Committee consider an Eight Division Football System.
2. The Policy Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Executive Committee that redistricting and reclassification go to a four-year cycle for classification purposes, with appeals at the end of the second year.
3. The Policy Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Executive Committee direct the R&R Committee to develop a plan to move districts in order to balance the regions to satisfy the disparity in all groups in order to provide a more equitable solution to playoff representation and travel concerns.

Mike Davidson moved, Gary Silvey seconded and the committee voted 27-0 to accept, without endorsement, the Policy Committee Minutes and the Eight Division Football Playoff Model, to be taken back to the regions for information purposes and feedback. These items will appear on the December 2005 Executive Committee agenda with a final vote in March 2006.

- H. **Cheerleading:** Assistant Director Sisson reported on the following recommendations by the Cheer Committee:

1. Change the State Competition cheer format to allow Group A schools to compete first, followed by Group AA schools, and then Group AAA schools.
2. Change the State Competition date to the Saturday after the VHSL State Basketball tournament.
3. Request an exception to the Sports Season Rule that would permit cheerleaders to participate in competitions through the established Region Deadline.
4. Request approval of a new routine score sheet and require districts and regions to use the score sheets and tie-breaking methods used at the VHSL State Competition in the conduct of their district/region competitions.

George Porterfield moved, Gary Silvey seconded and the committee voted 27-0 to accept the Cheer Committee Minutes as information to be referred back to the regions for discussion with action to be taken at the May 2005 meeting.

- I. **Group AA Region Wild Card:** Executive Director Tilley and Committeeman Davidson reported on the findings of this committee.

Mike Davidson moved, Gary Silvey seconded and the committee voted 4-18-4 (Davidson, Silvey, Bock, Holt voting yes; Tata, Pope, Tonelson, Cross abstaining) to table the recommendations of the Wild Card Committee and present them to the AA Group Board for review and discussion and bring them back to the May meeting for final action. Thus the motion failed.

Dave Jeck moved, Dave Baker seconded and the committee voted 7-16-3 (Clendaniel, Jeck, Porterfield, Whitley, Gordon, Baker, Bowman-Scott voting yes; Pope, Tonelson, Cross abstaining) to approve the recommendations of the Wild Card Committee for a two-year cycle and to develop the specific Handbook changes necessary to accomplish the expanded playoffs. Thus the motion failed.

VIII. **Unfinished Business and action since December:**

- A. **Mountain View's Classification Status:** Bob Grimesey moved, Dave Stuckwisch seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to assigned Mountain View High School to the Commonwealth District, Northwest Region, Group AAA.
- B. **Region II Basketball Season Extension:** Noted as a matter of information that Region II had requested permission to extend its region basketball tournament deadline date from Saturday, Feb. 26 to Monday, Feb. 28, in order to play the tournament at JMU. The executive director conferred with the League Chairman and the Group AA Committee (Executive Committee representatives) and all agreed that this request should be approved.
- C. **Chesterfield Sports Officials Association Update:** The four Chesterfield Sports Officials Associations filed with the League the steps their associations had taken to address a problem area with their associations. Accordingly, the previous ban that had been placed on the baseball and softball associations has been lifted and their officials will be eligible for consideration to work games this spring (the volleyball and basketball associations will also be eligible next season for playoff consideration).
- D. **VCU State Basketball and Volleyball Bid:** Bob Grimesey moved, Bill Clendaniel seconded and the committee voted 24-0 (Harris, Pope, Walker absent for vote) to accept an offer from VCU to host the State Basketball and Volleyball tournaments for a five-year period with the option to renew another five years. (**Note:** Subject to availability of the facility, the 2005-06 volleyball tournament may remain split.)

IX. **Legislation:**

Emergency:

- | | | | |
|--|---------|--|---|
| 1. | 12-1-1 | Executive Committee
Membership (VIAAA) | Adopted 26-0 |
| <u>First Vote:</u> | | | |
| 2. | 28-6-2 | Transfer Rule | Recommended 25-1
(Walker voting no) |
| 3. | 27-7-2 | Sports Season Rule
Exceptions | Recommended 25-1
(Koste voting no) |
| 4. | 30-5-1 | Specific Penalties | Withdrawn |
| 5. | 120-2-1 | State Area School Media
Meetings Attendance | Recommended 24-2
(Pope, Reedy voting no) |
| (as amended: Fine only
applies to schools entering
Publications Evaluations) | | | |

6. 111-4-2 Forensics Double Entry Recommended 22-4
(Clendaniel, Holt, Porterfield,
Silvey voting no)

Second-vote

7. 54-8-1 Contest Limitations Adopted 26-0

X. **Action Agenda:**A. **Playoff Sites for 2005-06**1. **Combined events**

- a. Cheer (A, AA, AAA), Siegel Center, Richmond
- b. Winter Basketball (A, AA, AAA) -- Siegel Center, Richmond (Note: Multi-year request)
- c. Wrestling (A, AA) -- Salem Civic Center
- d. Cross Country (A, AA, AAA) -- Great Meadow
- e. Girls Golf: Independence Golf Club in Midlothian has offered to host the VHSL Girls Open Golf State Championship on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 19-20, 2005.

George Porterfield moved, Pete Koste seconded and the committee voted 22-0 (Mello, Grimesey absent for vote) to approve Independence Golf Club in Midlothian as the site of the VHSL Girls Open Golf State Championship on Oct. 19-20, 2005.

Mike Davidson moved, Larry Compton seconded and the committee voted 22-0 (Mello, Grimesey absent for vote) to approve the following golf sites and dates:

Group AAA	Piedmont Club (Battlefield HS host)	Oct. 11-12
Group AA	Fincastle Golf Club, Bluefield (Graham HS host)	Oct. 10-11
Group A	Front Royal Country Club (Strasburg HS host)	Oct. 10-11

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 (**Not available**)
- 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) (Northern)
- h. Wrestling -- Roger Mello moved, Pete Koste seconded and the committee voted 23-2 (Silvey, Tonelson voting no) to approve Robinson Secondary School as the site for the 2006 State Wrestling Tournament.

- B. **Volleyball "Libero" player:** John Walker moved, Dave Baker seconded and the committee voted 24-0 (Edwards absent for vote) to approve the Libero Player in volleyball.

- C. **Football Jamboree Proposal:** John Walker moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 22-0 (Stuckwisch and Baker absent for this and all subsequent votes) to deny a request from Legacy Sports & Entertainment to stage a pre-season football jamboree.
- D. **Lacrosse:** Bill Clendaniel moved, Perry Pope seconded and the committee voted 20-2 (Silvey, Tonelson voting no) to host a State Lacrosse Tournament beginning with the 2005-06 school year.
- E. **Cheer Safety:** The Douglas Freeman principal and AD asked the League to establish a committee to study cheer safety guidelines and cheer coach safety instruction certification. No action was taken on this item.
- F. **Chesterfield Community High School:** Mary Whitley moved, Charles Harris seconded and the committee voted 20-0 (Reedy absent for vote; Stables absent for this vote and all subsequent votes), to deny the request from Chesterfield Community High School to move from the James River District, Region B, Group A to Tri-Rivers District, Region A, Group A beginning with the 2005-06 school year, however, approved the request for the second year of the classification cycle (effective with the 2006-07 school year) according to VHSL By-Law 10-3-1.
- XI. **Consent Agenda:** Bill Clendaniel moved, John Walker seconded and the committee voted 20-0 (Reedy absent for vote) to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the following.
- A. **Approval for West Potomac, Thomas Jefferson Science and Tech and E. C. Glass High Schools to participate in contests with “outside” teams.**
- B. **Approval of Attendance at Cheer Clinics** be required of all schools that field competitive or sideline cheer teams, since both squads engage in stunts and routines.
- C. **Approval of Coaches Exception Rule Interpretation** that coaches approved in 2004-05 remain approved in 2005-06.
- D. **Charter School:** The Executive Committee directed the executive director to present legislation in May for student eligibility when Charter Schools do not offer athletic/academic activity programs. The counting of students at their home schools needs to be clarified.
- XII. **Discussion and Information Agenda:**
- A. **Make the Point Special Olympics Update:** Several schools have found this to be a worthwhile program, and region representatives are asked to encourage their club sponsors to consider this as a spring activity.
- B. **Student Leaders Conference and Sportsmanship Summit:** Ken Tilley presented an oral report. Committee members are asked to encourage attendance at their local meetings.
- C. **Project SMASH:** Project SMASH is being underwritten by a grant from Federal funds. Twelve schools are participating in this mentoring project.
- D. **Journalism Summit:** This summit was held in January to work on the direction the League wants to pursue for future VHSL Publications Workshops.
- E. **Larry Johnson to receive NFHS Award:** Former VHSL Assistant Director Larry Johnson will be among a distinguished group who will receive NFHS Citations for their contributions to high school activity programs at the state and national levels.
- F. **Staff Reports:** It was reported that all winter tournaments to date had been successful and for the most part very well attended, with the exception of girls gymnastics.
- XIII. **Review March Group Boards and Membership Meeting:** The agenda was provided members, and Ken Tilley and Lora Bickley met with the group board officers to go over details of the meetings.

XIV. **2005-06 Meeting Dates:****2004-05 Meeting Dates**

September 22-23, 2004

Oct. Group Boards/Membership -- Oct. 13, 2004

December 8, 2004

March 9, 2005

March Group Boards -- Mar. 10, 2005

March Membership -- Mar. 11 2005

May 11, 2005

Proposed 2005-06 Meeting Dates

September 21-22, 2005

Oct. Group Boards/Membership -- Oct. 12, 2005

December 7, 2005

March 8, 2006

March Group Boards -- March 9, 2006

March Membership -- March 10, 2006

May 10, 2006

XV. **New Business:**

A. **Region II Football Playoff System Recommendation:** The previous 23-3-1 vote to keep the current Football Rating System for the 2005 and 2006 school years (VII, (F)) represented the committee's response to the region's request.

XVI. **Business from the Floor:** None.

XVII. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.