

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES MAY 2005

TIME: Tuesday, May 10, 2005
12:00 p.m. Finance Committee
3:00 p.m. Finance and Personnel Committees Combined

Wednesday, May 11, 2005
8:30 a.m. Full Executive Committee

PLACE: VHSL Offices
1642 State Farm Boulevard
Charlottesville, Virginia

- I. **Roll Call:** Lou Tonelson, Pete Koste, Perry Pope, Bill Clendaniel, David Jeck, George Porterfield, Don Bock, Dale Holt, Mark Dorsey (alternate for Mary Whitley, Region A), Larry Compton, Rob Arnold (new Region B representative), Steve Reedy, Vanessa Wigand, Charles Harris, Clint Stables, Dave Baker, John Walker, Bob Grimesey, Oliver McBride, Gwen Edwards, Gary Silvey, Mike Davidson, Bryan Gordon, Denise Bowman-Scott, Karen Whetzel and Ken Tilley.

Members absent: Dave Stuckwisch, Bob Tata 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 Bruce Phelps, Virginia Beach City Public Schools; Pat Ferguson, Monacan High School; William Gouldthorpe, Amherst County High School; Donald Hitt, Madison County High School; Steve Leaman and Chris Garber, Broadway High School; Vito Perriello and Jon Almquist, Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

- II. **Agenda Approval:** Bob Grimesey moved, Don Bock seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to move the debate sponsorship from the Consent Agenda (XI (F)) to the Action Agenda (X (F)) and approved the remainder of the agenda as presented.
- III. **Minutes:** John Walker moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2005, Executive Committee meeting.
- IV. **Announcements and Call for New Business:** Executive Director Tilley noted the schedule for the May meeting, announced that for the 2005-06 school year the host hotel for committee members will be the DoubleTree Hotel, that Executive Committee meetings will be conducted at the DoubleTree based on space availability and plans will be made to eat dinner at Michie Tavern at the September meeting.

Call for new business:

- A. Western Albemarle High School requests permission to play "club teams" in lacrosse.
- B. In the 2005 and 2006 Football Divisions, two Region D schools are in the upper division and are at least 50 percent smaller than the largest school in that division.

- V. **Concerns from Public:** None.

- VI. **Legal Report:** Executive Director Tilley reported that the NFHS Legal Meeting and Summit included a review of the partnership with the NCAA and discussed the issue of private school membership at the state level.

Ken also noted that the Wrestling Weight Control Program patent issue is ongoing and the League will exceed the legal budget due to extensive legal advice. VHSL has requested that the National Wrestling Coaches Association be directed to help to pay our expenses.

VII. **Committee Reports:**

- A. **Finance:** Finance Chairman Don Bock indicated the financial reports were in good order; the VHSL is in sound shape and we anticipate ending the year in the black.

It was reported that the Foundation has an initial goal of \$1 million and all Foundation payments will be used for League programs and services, not for operations. A golf tournament to benefit the Foundation will be held in September and a Silent Auction will be held at the October Membership Meetings.

The Finance Committee recommended the following:

1. Contribute \$22,133.48 from the 2004-05 Benefit Games income to the VHSL Foundation.
2. Designate no increase in membership or activity fees for the 2006-07 school year. However, the catastrophic insurance rate will be increased from \$4.50 to \$5.50 per student in anticipation of a rate increase by the insurance company. The \$1 increase could be rescinded or reduced if the actual rate increase is less than anticipated. Directed Jim Garman to advise the superintendents of this increase in a special memo.
3. Reimburse team travel for the 2004-05 school year at 100 percent.
4. Approve FY2006 Budget including:
 - a. Allow \$1 rebate on pre-sale tickets to high schools qualifying for the football finals and the basketball semifinals and finals for the 2005-06 school year.
 - b. Increase the mileage reimbursement from 32 cents to 40 cents.
 - c. Project team reimbursements for the 2005-06 school year at 90 percent.
 - d. Authorize four percent across the board raise for VHSL staff, with step increase for qualifying staff.
5. Give executive director, League chairman and Finance Committee chairman authority to proceed in negotiations with a prospective TV contract and corporate partnership.
6. Authorize the executive director to appoint an ad hoc committee to explore capital improvements for the League office.

Pete Koste moved, Gary Silvey seconded and the committee approved by a 24-0 vote (Clint Stables joined the committee for this vote and all subsequent votes) to approve the Finance Committee report.

- B. **Personnel:** Personnel Committee Chairman Porterfield reported that his committee had reviewed the executive director's evaluation and noted that the executive director continues to provide effective leadership for the League, demonstrating acceptable progress toward the successful completion of the goals approved by the Executive Committee for the 2004-05 school year.

The Personnel Committee also authorized the executive director to contract for services that would study staff salaries and benefits as they relate to area compensation and to similar positions.

George Porterfield moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 24-0 to go into executive session under 2.2-3711 A(4) for the purpose of discussing personnel matters not related to public business.

George Porterfield moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 24-0 to reconvene in public session.

George Porterfield moved, Don Bock seconded and the committee certified 24-0 that to the best of each member's knowledge that during executive session only such public business matters as lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were discussed.

Personnel Chairman Porterfield reported that the executive director has been authorized to seek legal counsel on a personnel matter.

George Porterfield moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 24-0 to accept the Personnel Committee report.

- C. **Appeals:** Assistant Director Zimorski noted the summary of appeals to date for 2004-05 and circulated a sheet to sign up for appeals for the 2005-06 school year, noting that retired members are still eligible to serve on the Appeals Committee.
- D. **Policy:** Policy Committee Chairman Larry Compton reviewed the following recommendations made by the March Executive Committee. He noted that after discussion at the region level, recommendations will be made and voted on at the December meeting with second vote in March.
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.

The Executive Committee discussed these recommendations and recommended that the Executive Committee set defined parameters at the September meeting, and it will be important for the Group Boards to discuss these at the October meetings in order for the members to express their recommendations to their representatives prior to the December meeting.

Regions should also discuss how they feel about returning to fixed numbers to determine classifications.

- E. **Redistricting and Reclassification:** Executive Director Tilley reported that the R&R Committee met and made the following recommendations:

That the two four-classification models be updated using the March 31, 2005, ADM figures and that it be posted on the VHSL web site. The R&R representatives would then have three models to discuss with members of their regions:

- A. The Eight Division Football Playoff Model
- B. Four Classification Model (Group AAA divided into three regions and becoming Group AAAA; then divide remaining Group AA and A equally into three classifications with three regions within each classification – determination needs to be made whether to allow schools to play up or have no provisions to play up or down)
- C. Equal Four Classification Model

The R&R Committee will meet again on September 15, 2005. The representatives will discuss the three models with their regions and bring back to the committee which model(s) received the most support.

The committee indicated that if the Executive Committee votes in the four-year R&R cycle, some adjustments might need to be made in regard to contracts and schools that appeal to change classification due to extenuating circumstances (i.e., new schools opening or drastic changes in enrollment figures).

After review of these recommendations, the Executive Committee questioned the overall process of R&R, with some possible suggestions of having the R&R Committee present a tentative plan to the Executive Committee to determine whether the criteria for redistricting and reclassification have been met, reviewing the possibility of the Policy Committee making the determination for redistricting and reclassification, setting parameters for the R&R Committee to make its recommendations and a definite process for exceptions.

- F. **Wrestling Weight Control Program:** Assistant Director Bruce Patrick noted that the NFHS has passed the VHSL Weight Management Program and Bruce requested that we ask NFHS to consider Virginia as a pilot state to conduct on site weigh-ins.

Pete Koste moved, Steve Reedy seconded and the committee voted 24-0 to approve the Wrestling Weight Control report.

G. **Cheer:** George Porterfield moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 24-0 to approve the following:

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. Utilize 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 conducting district/region competitions.

George Porterfield moved, Dale Holt seconded and the committee voted 24-0 keep the State Competition Cheer date in the fall.

H. **Out-of-Season Practice:** Assistant Director Zimorski provided a draft of proposed changes to the Out-of-Season Practice Rule. The committee deferred action on this item and directed principals to take the proposal back to their regions for discussion prior to a first vote in September.

I. **Scholastic Publications Advisory:** Assistant Director Button noted a summary of the minutes from this committee could be found on pages 61-63, which included information on awards, the Publications Evaluation Services, Writing/Photography/Design Competition, Fall Publication Workshop and Josten's submitting a proposal to become an official VHSL sponsor in support of the student publications program.

J. **Debate, Drama and Forensics Advisory:** Assistant Director Button noted a summary of the minutes from this committee could be found on pages 64-69 which included information on returning to Culpeper for the state forensics, double entry, debate trophies sponsorship, Student Congress, rules clinics and additional support/direction for tournament directors.

K. **Equity:** Executive Director Tilley noted a summary of the minutes from this committee could be found on pages 70-76, which includes an equity breakdown by regions.

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

A. **Steroids Policy:** John Walker moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 24-0 to direct the staff to develop a policy to educate coaches and students on steroids for approval at the September meeting.

B. **Hotel for March Meetings:** Noted that the Koger Center will again be the host hotel for the March meetings for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 school years.

IX. **Legislation:**

Second Vote:

28-6-2	Transfer Rule Exceptions	Approved 23-0 (Gordon absent for this and subsequent votes)
27-7-2	Sports Season Rule	Approved 20-3 (Koste, Tonelson, Reedy voting no)
120-2-1	State Area School Media Meeting Attendance	Approved 21-2 (Reedy, Pope voting no)

111-4-2	Forensics: Double Entry	Not approved 15-8-1 (failed to receive 2/3 affirmative votes) (Clendaniel, Compton, Gordon, Koste, Porterfield, Reedy, Silvey, Wigand voting no, Tonelson abstaining)
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Emergency

Region II proposal for double playoff representation	Not approved 2-21-1 (Jeck, Wigand voting yes; Clendaniel abstaining)
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8-1-3	Charter School	Moved to table 22-1 (Davidson voting no)
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88-4-1	Wrestling Weight Control Program	Approved 23-0
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X. **Action Agenda:**

A. **Playoff sites for 2005-06:** Bill Clendaniel moved, Perry Pope seconded and the committee voted 22-0 (Grimesey absent for this vote and subsequent votes), to approve the following 2005-06 playoff dates:

1. **Combined events:**

- a. Girls Volleyball (combined A, AA) – Cave Spring High School
- b. Group A and AA Jubilee – Radford to host in 2005-06 and 2006-07
- c. Group AAA Jubilee – Newport News to host in 2005-06 and 2006-07
- d. Group AA/AAA Boys and Girls Lacrosse – Northern Region sites

2. **Group AA**

- a. Indoor Track – Liberty University
- b. Boys and Girls Swim/Dive – Virginia High School to host at site TBA

3. **Group AAA**

- a. Girls and Boys Volleyball – Cox High School
- b. Girls Gymnastics – Bayside High School
- c. Indoor Track – George Mason University
- d. Swim/Dive – Oakton High School to host at site TBA

Don Bock moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 20-0 (Edwards and Walker absent for this vote and subsequent votes) to move the state cheer competition in 2006-07 to the week after the football championships.

The committee directed staff to prepare the rotation for all sports for the next two years (2006-07 and 2007-08) for adoption at the December meeting.

B. **Group Board Minutes:** Pete Koste moved, Dave Jeck seconded and the committee voted 20-0 to approve the March 2005 Group Board Minutes as presented.

C. **Region I Football Representation:** George Porterfield moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 20-0 to permit the Eastern Shore District, Group AA schools, to advance to the football playoffs solely on the basis of their power rating.

- D. **Special Recognitions:** Don Bock moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 20-0 to approve the following recipients: Bruce Phelps (Torch of Honor); and Bill Pugh, Jerry Walters, Ken Whitley and John Wymer (Lifetime Achievement). Regions were reminded to nominate individuals for the Regional Awards of Merit by the September Executive Committee meeting.
- E. **Debate Sponsorship:** Perry Pope moved, Pete Koste seconded and the committee voted 14-6 (Davidson, Reedy, Bock, Porterfield, Silvey, Wigand voting no) to approve a proposal from Jonathan Wilan, a former debater at Broad Run High School, to sponsor trophies for the top finishers in individual debate events, supplementing the VHSL sweepstakes trophies.

XI. **Consent Agenda:** Denise Bowman-Scott moved, Mike Davidson seconded and the committee voted 20-0 to remove item (e) from the Consent Agenda and approve the following items:

- A. **Savedge Scholarship:** Approved Katherine Hooper, Lake Braddock High School, as the recipient of the Savedge Scholarship.
- B. **Virginia Beach Rock n' Roll Marathon:** Approved the Beach District cheerleaders to participate as support staff and workers in the Annual Rock n' Roll Marathon on Sunday, September 4, 2005.
- C. **Private School Interpretation:** Approved staff's interpretation that students at VHSL schools participating on Virginia private school teams in interscholastic contests against other schools must comply with 54-8-1, Contest Limitations.
- D. **Western Albemarle's request to play "club teams":** Approved a request from Western Albemarle to play "club teams" in lacrosse.

Perry Pope moved, Bill Clendaniel seconded and the committee voted 20-0 to move the 2006 State Debate Tournament to April 21-22 and leave the district and region date as published in the 2005-06 calendar.

XII. **Discussion and Information:**

- A. **Achievement Awards:** Nearly 350 students were nominated for the League's highest individual honor by 162 schools.

Courageous Achievement Award

Lindsay Purcell, Rustburg High School
John Magai Bol, Patrick Henry High School (Ashland)

Female Athlete

Group A -- Britney Lawson, Rye Cove High School
Group AA -- Elizabeth Mahalak, Chancellor High School
Group AAA --Kristen Wolf, Osbourn Park High School

Male Athlete

Group A -- Jacob Colley, Haysi High School
Group AA -- Jonathan Lichtenstein, Stuarts Draft High School
Group AAA -- Richard Andrews, III, Douglas Freeman High School

Academic Activities

Group A -- Bradley Hinshelwood, Eastern Montgomery High School
Group AA -- Nadine Natour, Appomattox County High School
Group AAA -- David Oxley, Stafford High School

Executive Committee members who can attend the May 9 luncheon in Richmond to honor these students were instructed to contact Bob Button.

- B. **VHSL Student Leaders Conference:** More than 700 students and adults representing at least 64 schools registered to attend the ninth annual VHSL Student Leaders Conference and Sportsmanship Summit at Stone Bridge High School on April 8 and 9.

- C. **NFHS Summit Meeting:** Sports Wagering and Gambling was the topic of the annual NFHS Summit held in conjunction with the Legal Meeting. NCAA President Miles Brand addressed the group, and members of his staff gave a presentation on efforts by the NCAA to deal with this growing problem. State associations will be considering ways to deal with the issue at the high school level.
- D. **VIAAA Conference:** VHSL staff was involved in the 33rd annual VIAAA Conference, "Meeting the Challenge of Change, " on April 13-16 in Falls Church. Joyce Sisson represented the League throughout the conference as staff liaison to the VIAAA; Bruce Patrick served on a panel presenting a session on "The Varsity: Don't Reinvent the Wheel"; and Joyce, Bruce and Ken gave a VHSL Q&A Update. An oral report will be given.

The 34th annual VIAAA Conference, "Leaders on Duty," will be held on March 29-April 2, 2006, at the Norfolk Marriott.
- E. **Hall of Fame:** The Class of 2005 (to be honored in October) to the Virginia High School Hall of Fame has been chosen and consists of five athletic coaches, one athlete and two contributors. The formal announcement will take place later this spring and will be included in Weekly Update.
- F. **Project SMASH Update:** A handout was provided.
- G. **NFHS Executive Director Update:** Staff has sent copies of the March and April NFHS Executive Director's Update to Executive Committee members and proposes sending these monthly reports to the entire VHSL membership by email unless the committee thinks they would be of limited value.
- H. **Section 2 Meeting comes to Virginia:** Every eight years, Virginia hosts the NFHS Section 2 meeting for the state associations of Delaware, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, as well as the NFHS executive director and president. We will hold this gathering in Virginia Beach on Sept. 25-27, and we anticipate participation by around 40 people, including Executive Committee members Lou Tonelson, Don Bock and Mary Whitley. It is an excellent opportunity for professional development, and a report will likely be given at the September Executive Committee meeting.
- I. **Catastrophic Insurance claims update:** Unfortunately, we have had reports of two catastrophic injuries since the last meeting, involving a cheerleader at Langley High School and a soccer player at Gloucester. Fortunately, neither injury appears to be permanently disabling, but the expenses thus far in each case have apparently exceeded \$25,000.
- J. **Review March Meetings and preview October Meetings:**

XIII. **2005-06 Meeting Dates:**

September 21-22, 2005
October 12, 2005 – Group Board and Membership meetings
December 7, 2005
March 8, 2006
March 9, 2006 – Group Boards
March 10, 2006 – Membership Meeting
May 3, 2006 (Note: this is a change from date announced in agenda)

XIV. **Recognition of Retiring Executive Committee Members:** The following members were recognized for their years of service on the VHSL Executive Committee:

Dave Baker, Larry Compton, Dave Jeck, George Porterfield, Gary Silvey and Karen Whetzel, whose terms end, and Chairman Lou Tonelson for his service as chairman for 2004-05.

XV. **Adjournment:** There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.