

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES DECEMBER 2005

TIME: Tuesday, December 6, 2005

5:00 p.m. Finance Committee
6:00 p.m. Personnel Committee

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

8:00 a.m. -- Full Executive Committee convenes

PLACE: Rotunda A
DoubleTree Hotel
990 Hinton Heights Road
Charlottesville, Virginia

- I. **Roll Call:** Don Bock, Dale Holt, Billy Haun, John Hall, Steve Reedy, Rob Arnold, Mike Lane, Mary Whitley, Perry Pope, Bill Clendaniel, Paul Vecchione, Lou Tonelson, Vanessa Wigand, Charles "Mike" Harris, Dave Stuckwisch, Randy Thomas, John Walker, Bob Grimesey, Oliver McBride, Gwen Edwards, Wes Saxon, Pat Ferguson, Mike Davidson, Bryan Gordon, Denise Bowman-Scott, and Ken Tilley.

Members absent: Clint Stables, Bob Tata and Russ Potts.

Also attending were VHSL staff Jim Garman, Tom Zimorski, Joyce Sisson, Bruce Patrick, Lisa Giles, Hannah Catherine Munro and Lora Bickley, as well as Bruce Phelps, Virginia Beach City Schools; Paul Jansen, Fairfax County Public Schools; Wayne Martin, Chesapeake City Schools; William Gouldthorpe, Amherst County High School; Susan Fleming, Central High School (Woodstock); Buck Smith, William Cupp, Jim Grooms, Warren County High School; and Lowell Lemons, Waynesboro City Schools.

- II. **Agenda Approval:** John Walker moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 24-0 to move R&R before Finance under IX and approve the remainder of the agenda as presented.
- III. **Minutes:** Wes Saxon moved, Lou Tonelson seconded and the committee voted 23-0-1 (Bowman-Scott abstaining) to approve the September 21-22, 2005, minutes as presented.
- IV. **Announcements and call for new business:** League Chairman Don Bock reviewed the schedule for the meeting and noted the accommodations listing for the March meetings.
- V. **Concerns from Public:** None.
- VI. **Legislation:**

Emergency -- effective immediately

(1) Section 10: CLASSIFICATION.

To incorporate new parameters and R&R process as was determined at the September 2005 Executive Committee meeting.

Adopted 22-3 as amended
(Walker, Whitley, Gordon voting no)

10-1-1 Classification-To equalize opportunities in competitive activities sponsored by the League, schools shall be classified into groups according to the following procedures: a Redistricting and Reclassification Committee, made up of one representative appointed by each region and a superintendent chairman appointed by the League Chairman, shall develop a plan assigning all schools for a two-year period to a district, region and group classification. For classification purposes, the membership of a school shall be the September 30 membership figures submitted by school divisions to the State Department of Education average daily membership (ADM) ~~determined by dividing the total aggregate days membership by the number of day in which school is in session, from the first day of the school term through the last school day in March for grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 plus ungraded~~

students. The Redistricting and Reclassification Committee shall use ~~ADM~~ September 30 membership figures from an odd-numbered school year (e.g., ~~1997-98~~ 2005-06). and shall present its plan to the Executive Committee for approval at the ~~first~~ last meeting of an ~~odd~~ even-numbered school year to go into effect in the next odd-numbered school year following year. A school may appeal ~~their~~ its assignment to the ~~Executive Committee~~ Redistricting and Reclassification Committee. The Redistricting and Reclassification Committee shall conduct a hearing to evaluate each appeal during which one representative of the school shall be permitted to present evidence in support of the appeal. The Redistricting and Reclassification Committee shall render its decision in response to the appeal and shall inform the appellant school within 30 days. The Redistricting and Reclassification Committee also shall publish a summary report of all appeals, and its justification in each case, as an appendix to its final formal recommended RRC plan when it is submitted to the Executive Committee.

A school may then appeal the Redistricting and Reclassification Committee's decision to the Executive Committee. No hearing shall be conducted by the Executive Committee in response to the appeal. Instead, the Executive Committee's review of the appeal shall be limited to an evaluation of the written record of the original appeal as published in the appendix of the Redistricting and Reclassification plan. The Executive Committee shall then issue its decision in response to all such appeals as amendments to its final motion to approve the formal RRC plan. The VHSL's Executive Director shall inform each appellant school of the Executive Committee's decision. Such appeal shall be filed with Redistricting and Reclassification Committee, which shall hear the appeal and which shall publish but ~~the~~ The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final.

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| (2) 21-6-1 Membership Review | To delete member school review to reverse action of the Executive Committee. | Not Adopted 2-21-1
(Clendaniel, Walker voting yes; Edwards abstaining) |
| (3) 27-11-1 Contest Limitation Rules and 54-8-1 Contest Limitations | Reducing number of events by 20% for varsity competition and 40% for junior varsity competition. | Not Adopted; A substitute motion was adopted 19-5-1 to refer the proposal to Policy Committee for further study
(Reedy, Lane, Tonelson, Pope, Stuckwisch voting no; Grimesey abstaining -- Grimesey joined the committee for this and all subsequent votes) |
| (4) 27-11-1 Contest Limitation Rule | To schedule VHSL activities on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. | Not Adopted 1-24
(Walker voting yes) |
| (5) SECTION 117: DEBATE 117-9-1 | To establish Student Congress procedures not currently addressed | Adopted 25-0 |
| (6) SECTION 117: DEBATE 117-9-3 | To establish Student Congress procedures not currently addressed | Adopted 25-0 |
| (7) SECTION 117: DEBATE 117-9-4 | To establish Student Congress procedures not currently addressed | Adopted 25-0 |
| (8) SECTION 117: DEBATE 117-9-5 | To establish Student Congress procedures not currently addressed | Adopted 25-0 |
| (9) SECTION 117: DEBATE 117-9-7 | To establish Student Congress procedures not currently addressed | Adopted 25-0 |

(10) **30-5-1 Specific Penalties** Failure to provide required Student Congress judge at state debate competition **Adopted 25-0**

Fines \$50 for failure to provide required Student Congress judge at state debate competition

(11) **28-6-2(1) Transfer Rule** **Adopted 24-0-1 (Saxon abstaining)**

28-6-1 Transfer Rule-The student shall not have enrolled in one high school and subsequently transferred to and enrolled in another high school without a corresponding change in the residence of his/her parents, parent, or guardian.

28-6-2 Exceptions:

(1) A student shall become eligible for interscholastic competition after he/she has been enrolled in the school for 365 consecutive calendar days. This exception does not apply to a student if the student or his/her parent(s) or guardian gives false information, written or verbal, relating to his/her residence.

First-vote Legislation:

(12) **SECTION 18: Region Councils 18-2-1 Membership** Align regional voting procedures **Recommended 23-2** (Stuckwisch, Tonelson voting no)

(13) **SECTION 18: Region Councils 18-2-2 Membership** Allows regions to continue using three delegates per district to vote on legislative and regional issues. **Recommended 25-0**

(14) **SECTION 19: District Councils 19-3-5** **Withdrawn**

(15) **28-6-2 (7) Transfer Rule Exception** Granting transfer waivers between school divisions **Not rec. 6-19** (Pope, Clendaniel, Grimesey, Walker, McBride, Wigand voting yes)

By a vote of 25-0 this legislation is referred to the VHSL Policy Committee with a recommendation to seek input of the Virginia School Boards Association.

(16) **54-2-1 Participation Limits** To comply with a recommendation from OCR. **Recommended 25-0**

(17) **70-6-1 (d) Golf Determining State Championship** Second day pairings would be based on scores from the first day. **Recommended 25-0**

(18) **70-6-1 (5) Golf Determining State Championship** Limit coach's contact with his/her golfer **Recommended 25-0**

(19) **68-8-1 Football Playoff System** To allow regions flexibility in establishing football divisions by other means.

Recommended 17-6-2
(McBride, Stuckwisch, Edwards, Harris, Walker, Wigand voting no; Davidson, Haun abstaining)

68-8-1 Football Playoff System-The VHSL football playoff system separates schools by regions at the 50 percent point of the total number of schools that sponsor football teams, and that are eligible for the playoffs, forming two divisions within each region and group....

68-8-2 Football championships are classified as follows: (as is)

68-8-3 When dividing schools into respective divisions:

(1) If there are an odd-number of schools in a region, the break point will be established at a point to include the greater number in the small-school division.

(2) If the break point causes schools with the same membership to fall into separate divisions, all schools so affected shall be placed in the small-school division.

(3) If, due to consolidation, a school's membership changes to place it in a higher division within its group, that school would be moved into the higher division but all other schools will remain where originally assigned.

(4) Effective with the 2005-06 school year, if a school is placed in a football division and its enrollment is at least 50% smaller than that of the largest school in that division, the school could appeal its placement to the Executive Committee for assignment to the smaller division.

(5) When at least three-fourths of the schools in a region agree to separate themselves into divisions using a system other than that described herein, they may submit their alternate plan to the VHSL Executive Committee for approval.

Second Vote Legislation

(20) **8-1-3 Charter Schools** Clarify eligibility for students when the charter school they attend does not offer any athletic/activity programs.

Adopted 25-0

(21) **27-8-1 Out of Season** Modify rule to allow for more contact between high school coaches and players, while also adding "dead period" of no contact.

Not adopted 13-12
(Edwards, Saxon, Lane, Reedy, Pope, Vecchione, Haun, Hall, Arnold, Davidson, Ferguson, Gordon voting no)

Staff was directed to continue study of this issue. Regions are asked to email Tom Zimorski (tzimorski@vhs.org) with specific areas of concern.

(22) **28-6-2 (4) Transfer Rule Exception** To ensure that enrollment at a non-member school was legitimate and not done to violate the spirit of the exception.

Adopted 25-0

(23) **28-9-1 AP/PC/PE Rule** The Code of Virginia allows physicians assistants to give pre-enrollment physicals under the supervision and direction of a licensed physician the same as LPNs, and the same could be applied to sports physicals.

Adopted 25-0

- (24) **68-8-3 (4) Football Ratings** To place a deadline for schools to appeal their placement prior to the first Executive Committee meeting. **Adopted 25-0**

VII. **Action Agenda:**

A. **Playoff Sites:** The following playoff sites were noted along with sites needed for 2006-07.

Group AAA

Field Hockey -- Bids will be considered in March from Northern Region, VCU and Virginia Beach
Boys Golf -- Bide-a-wee Golf Course, Portsmouth -- Heritage High School hosts
Girls Open Golf -- any region
Girls Gymnastics -- Oscar Smith High School
Lacrosse -- To be determined in March
Swim/Dive -- Freedom Center
Wrestling -- Bids will be considered in March

Group AA

Field Hockey -- Region I (Region II) -- to be determined in March
Boys Golf -- Region III -- Roanoke Country Club -- Salem High School hosts
Girls Open Golf -- any region
Indoor Track -- To be determined in March
Lacrosse -- To be determined in March
Outdoor Track -- To be determined in March
Swim/Dive -- UVA
Wrestling -- Salem Civic Center

Group A

Boys Golf -- Region A -- Lancaster working on site
Girls Open Golf -- any region
Outdoor Track -- Radford University
Wrestling -- Salem Civic Center

B. **Possible addition to published criteria for eligibility waivers:** Oliver McBride moved, Bryan Gordon seconded and the committee voted 8-17 (Vecchione, Wigand, Walker, Clendaniel, Holt, Whitley, Gordon, Davidson voting yes) to approve the following addition to the published criteria for eligibility waivers (thus the proposal failed):

Waiver will be considered:

When school personnel (e.g. Principal, Athletic Director, Guidance Director), in good faith, incorrectly advise a student/parent regarding eligibility. Specific documentation regarding the misinformation from the school personnel must be submitted with the waiver application.

Thus the proposal failed.

VIII. **Consent Agenda:** John Walker moved, Lou Tonelson seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the consent agenda which included approval of the October 2005 Group Board Minutes and a request from Salem High School (S) to schedule lacrosse games with "outside" teams.

IX. **Committee Reports:**

A. **Finance:** Finance Committee Chairman Mary Whitley reported on the following:

1. A review of the Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Statements indicated the League is in good shape financially.
2. The main revenue sources of the League are the membership fees, football and basketball income.
3. The Foundation is progressing well and to date there are 13 members of the 2006 Century Club.
4. The Benefit Games income to date is approximately \$19,000.

5. Recommended denial of a request for a waiver of the late fee for membership dues from Norfolk City Schools.
6. Recommended approval of a request from Mount Rogers High School to pay only one-half of the membership fee (from \$600 to \$300) and then pay \$25 for each activity for the 2005-06 school year. Mount Rogers High School has only 22 students in grades 9-12.
7. Authorized staff to work with VASS to conduct salary and facilities studies.
8. Approved transfer of funds from the Operating Fund to the Contingency Fund.
9. Katrina Financial Assistance: Made no recommendations pending later assessment of League's financial status.

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

B. Personnel: Personnel Committee Chairman John Hall reported on the following:

1. Reviewed the following items:
 - a. Orientation of the Personnel Committee;
 - b. The goals of the executive director;
 - c. The executive director's contract and last year's evaluation;
 - d. Staff evaluations and salaries.
 - e. The NFHS Code of Ethics, Conflict of Interest and Whistle Blowers. Ken will check with Craig Wood to determine if these items should be included in the VHSL Employee Handbook.
2. A report on the Salary Study will be made at the March meeting.
3. VHSL employees, other than the executive director, do not have contracts. The executive director will contact Craig Wood on this item.
4. The executive director added to his goals for 2005-06 to insure staff evaluations will be completed by May.

Wes Saxon moved, Bob Grimesey seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to accept the Personnel Committee report.

- C. **Appeals:** A summary of cases heard to date was presented. Bob Grimesey moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to accept the report.
- D. **Wrestling Advisory:** Region representatives were asked to discuss a Dual Team State Wrestling Tournament and report back to the March Executive Committee.
- E. **Sports Medicine:** Refer the following statement to the Sports Medicine Committee to determine if the statement should be the VHSL's position on steroid use: "The VHSL discourages the use of steroids and will work to educate students on the dangers of steroid use."
- F. **Football Rating Scale:** This committee will meet in February and report to the March Executive Committee.
- G. **Redistricting and Reclassification:** R&R Chairman Lowell Lemons addressed the committee on the Nov. 22 R&R meeting and expressed appreciation for the Executive Committee providing specific parameters in order to move forward with the 2007-08 and 2008-09 R&R Plan. The R&R Committee felt that the issue of the expanded division playoffs in other sports was not the responsibility of this committee.

The Executive Committee determined that the R&R Committee should meet again prior to the March VHSL meetings to consider possible revisions to its initial plan. Regional representative on the Executive Committee were asked to send specific concerns to the R&R Chairman, Lowell Lemons, who will address the membership in March.

John Walker moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 23-2 (Pope, Lane voting no) to endorse the R&R Committee's 2007-08 and 2008-09 Initial Plan with the understanding that additional recommendations will be made in the spring.

- H. **Swim and Dive Advisory:** A report will be provided at the March Executive Committee meeting.
- I. **Equity:** The committee directed the executive director to check on other states' guidelines in regard to the make up of their boards and committees and bring back a specific recommendation. An Open Form on Equity will be held at the March meetings.
- J. **Golf Advisory:** Bob Grimesey moved, Paul Vecchione seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the following guidelines to establish a stand-alone girls golf program:
1. In 2006-07, 18-hole (two 9-hole stipulated rounds) zone qualifiers will be used to determine entrants into the VHSL State Girls Open.
 2. Qualifying will remain on an individual basis, with the possibility of team competition and/or championships at the zone level within zones where an adequate number of golfers from the same schools participate.
 3. Suggested "zones" (as determined by past participation in the girls open) are as follows:
 - a. Zone 1 -- Regions D, III, IV and NW
 - b. Zone 2 -- Northern Region
 - c. Zone 3 -- Regions B, C, II and Central
 - d. Zone 4 -- Regions A, I and Eastern
 4. The zone qualifiers will be run between 10/2/06 and 10/12/06, and will not conflict with boys golf tournament dates.
 5. The number of golfers advancing from each zone qualifier will be based on the number of golfers entered; 40% of the field in each qualifier will advance.
 6. Exemptions will be offered to any girl who
 - a. participates in her Region golf tournament as one of the top six players on her boys team; or
 - b. qualifies as an individual to the Region golf tournament
 7. William Gouldthorpe, Mark Martino, Drew Bright and Tom Dolan volunteered to be responsible for qualifiers in Zones 1-4, respectively for 2006.
 8. The expense of the Zone qualifiers will be borne by the host regions.
 9. Girls should be permitted to play on their boys golf teams until such time as a viable stand-alone program for girls exists.
- K. **Coaches Education:** VHSL has been accredited by NCACE (National Council for Accreditation of Coaching Education) at level 3 -- the first-ever high school program to receive such a rating for the quality of its coaching program. Reviews are based on a program's compliance with Guidelines for Coaching Education and the National Standards for Athletic Coaches. Thanks to Larry Johnson, Jeff Dietze, Donna King and Bruce Patrick for their efforts in securing this recognition for the League's coaches education program.
- X. **Legal Report:** No report.
- XI. **Unfinished Business:**
- Criteria for State Events:** The committee directed the League staff to develop a matrix identifying the state playoff criteria for hosting state events in each sport and send to each region. Regions will then advise the League which schools in their region meet the criteria.
- XII. **Discussion and Information:**
- A. **Area Meeting Attendance:** The number of schools not attending this year's Area Eligibility Meeting was the highest it had been in recent years. There was discussion on whether to list the schools that didn't attend or list schools that did attend these meetings.
- B. **VSBA Conference Presentation:** This year's session in Williamsburg attracted one of the biggest audiences of the past 10 years, with approximately 75 school board members attending.
- C. **VHSL Student Leaders Conference:** The proposed agenda for the 10th Annual VHSL Student Leaders Conference and Sportsmanship Summit on Apr. 28-29 at Riverbend High School, Fredericksburg was presented. Another great program is planned, including keynote speakers Harvey Alston and Mark Scharenbroich.

D. Publications Update:

- 1. **Area Media Meetings:** New this year, VHSL has instituted a one-time mandatory meeting for yearbook, magazine, and newspaper advisers, which is geared toward keeping advisers aware of all that VHSL has to offer. A total of 41 magazine, 80 newspaper, and 92 yearbook advisers attended these meetings offered at 13 different sites for a total of 213 journalism advisers served.
- 2. **VHSL/JOSTENS Regional Workshops:** Seeing the need to re-evaluate VHSL's role in its media offerings, a journalism summit was held in the spring of 2005, bringing together advisers, advisory committees, state journalism associations, and publishers. As a direct result of this summit, Jostens proposed to subsidize four consecutive days of regional workshops designed to teach four specific areas of scholastic journalism (organization and staff management, leadership for editors, writing, and technology) by nationally renowned journalists. These regional workshops served advisers and students who were previously unable to attend the state workshop most commonly due to hardships posed by geographic location.

The specific sites and the numbers attending each are as follows: Roanoke (18 schools, 97 people), Charlottesville (20 schools, 146 people), Williamsburg (21 schools, 101 people), Leesburg (23 schools, 146 people) for a four-day total of 82 schools and 490 people served.

- 3. **State Championship Journalism Workshop:** Many changes were made to the format of the State Championship Journalism Workshop after ideas were exchanged at the spring summit. The promise of a new and improved experience brought 52 schools and 457 students and advisers to VCU in Richmond on the weekend of October 22. Newspaper staffs represented the largest group in attendance, with yearbook being a close second.

It was a true championship experience, with the awards luncheon being held at the historic Jefferson Hotel banquet room. Forty-six schools received the highest honors for producing superior publications and were recognized with trophy class distinctions and plaques.

- E. **Proposed change in format for Group AAA State Tennis Individual Championships:** Coaches and the director of tennis believe the two-day Group AAA Individual Championships pose a safety risk to participants and propose that the competition be extended to a three-day format. Staff submitted this to each AAA region for reaction. In accordance with By-Laws 17-7-1, the officers of the Group AAA Board "may act for the group board subject to review and change at the next meeting of the group board."

John Walker moved, Bob Grimesey seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to report at the March AAA Group Board meeting that the above new format for State Tennis Individual Championship will be in effect for the 2005-06 school year.

- F. **Staff Reports:** Assistant Director Zimorski reported that he is working on legislation to present in regard to instituting timing adjustments in high scoring football games.
- G. **Principals of Excellence:** Congratulations were extended to Perry Pope, who was recently recognized by The Washington Post as one of 18 winners of the paper's Distinguished Education Leadership Awards.
- H. **NFHS Citation:** Congratulations were extended to Poquoson Athletic Director and past VHSL Executive Committee member Dave Nelson, one of eight high school athletic directors who will receive an NFHS Citation at the 36th annual National Conference of High School Directors of Athletics in Orlando.

XIII. **Review of October Group Boards and Membership Meetings and Preview of March meetings:** Ken Tilley and Lora Bickley met with region representatives and made the following adjustments in the March meeting schedules.

Wednesday, March 8	8:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 9	8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Coffee/Danish & Issue Credentials
	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Group Board Meetings
Friday, March 10	8:00-10:00 a.m.	Coffee/Danish & Issue Credentials
	9:00-10:00 a.m.	Open Forum
	10:00-12:00 p.m.	Membership Meeting

XIV. **New Business:**

- A. **Policy Manual Change:** Dave Stuckwisch moved, John Walker seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to make the following change in the Policy Manual in regard to individuals making presentations before the Executive Committee under Concerns from Public:

Individuals speakers and/or groups will be limited to three minutes. There will be no discussion by the Executive Committee during this time. Individuals and/or groups will provide the VHSL with information regarding their presentation in advance in writing. Presentations will be included in the agenda.

- B. John Walker thanked Ken and the staff for streamlining the agenda.

XV. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.