

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

DECEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**TIME: Tuesday, December 5, 2006
6:00 p.m. Policy Committee**

**Wednesday, December 6, 2006
8:30 a.m. Full Executive Committee**

**PLACE: DoubleTree Hotel
990 Hinton Heights Road
Charlottesville, Virginia**

- I. **Roll Call:** John Hall, Billy Haun, Jeff Noe, Don Bock, Rob Arnold, Mike Lane, Nelson Simpkins, Bill Owen, Bill Clendaniel, Mike Evans, Pete Koste, Jim Stemple, Charles "Mike" Harris, Dave Stuckwisch, Clint Stables, Randy Thomas, John Walker, Bob Grimesey, Oliver McBride, Gwen Edwards, Wes Saxon, Pat Ferguson, Mike Davidson, Art Lawrence, Denise Bowman-Scott, and Ken Tilley.

Members absent: Vanessa Wigand, Russ Potts and Bob Tata.

Also attending were VHSL staff Jim Garman, Tom Zimorski, Joyce Sisson, Lisa Giles, Tom Dolan, Hannah Catherine Munro, and Lora Bickley; as well as Bruce Phelps, Virginia Beach Public Schools; Wayne Martin and Jason Ottley, Chesapeake City Schools; William Gouldthorpe, Amherst County High School; Les Cummins, Loudoun County Schools; Jim Grooms and Buck Smith, Warren County High School; Susan Fleming, Central High School (Woodstock); Paul Jansen, Fairfax County Public Schools; Bill Curran and Joe Swarm, George Marshall High School and Mike Grasso, Fairness in School Sports.

- II. **Agenda Approval:** Wes Saxon moved, John Walker seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the agenda as presented.
- III. **Minutes:** Wes Saxon moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the September 21, 2006, minutes as presented.
- IV. **Announcements and Call for New Business:** Executive Director Tilley reviewed the committee schedule and procedures and the March meeting hotel accommodations.

Call for new business:

- A. **Calendar:** Beach District has requested moving the first contest date for swim in 2007-08 from Monday, Dec. 3 to Friday, Nov. 30. This item has been deferred until March in order to advise the membership.
- B. **New School Assignments:** The assignment of Warhill High School in Williamsburg to Bay Rivers District, Region I, Group AA in 2007, with an estimated enrollment of 958, has been deferred until the March meeting.
- C. **Sinclair Broadcast Group** has requested to televise all six state final basketball games on March 10.
- D. **Division 6 Football Playoffs:** Randy Thomas reported that Osbourn High School had been left out of the football program. He requested that a letter of apology be sent to Osbourn High School with a copy to the Manassas Journal Messenger.
- V. **Concerns from the Public:** Mike Grasso from Fairness in School Sports spoke in opposition to the Out-of-Season Practice Rule legislation.
- VI. **Subcommittee Reports:**
- A. **Finance:** Committee Chairman Pete Koste reported on the following from his committee:

1. Reviewed the VHSL Financial Balance Sheets and Income and Expense reports and Foundation Balance Sheets and Income and Expense reports through October 31.
2. Reviewed the Audit Report indicating the auditors issued an unqualified (clean) audit and expressed that the financial statements represented a fair statement of the financial position of the League.
3. The Finance Committee will address recommendations brought forth by Strategic Planning Action Teams and the Ad Hoc Committee relative to financial critical issues.
4. League staff continues to work with districts and regions in regard to payment of tournament workers.
5. Denise Bowman-Scott moved, Bob Grimesey seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve entering into an agreement with Championship Marketing to assist the League in securing corporate sponsors for 30% of the amount received with no other fees paid and designating Sinclair Broadcast Group as the broadcast rights holder of the six VHSL State Basketball Championship Games in 2007, with all games to be aired live.

B. Personnel: Committee Chairman Nelson Simpkins reported on the following from his committee:

1. Members expressed their pleasure with the appointment of Tom Dolan as the new co-assistant director of athletics.
2. A review of the executive director's progress on the following goals was conducted:
 - a. Coordinate the League's Strategic Plan Initiative
 - b. Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the executive committee meetings
 - c. Implement changes to the Staff Evaluation Instrument and Schedule.

The committee noted that target dates for all goals are being met.

3. A mid-year evaluation review was held with the Executive Director. It was noted that he is on target with his three goals and is meeting or exceeding specific evaluation standards in the following areas:
 - a. Program development, supervision, and administration
 - b. League office and staff supervision
 - c. Finance
 - d. Public relations

It was noted the evaluation process would continue at the March Executive Committee meeting with a preliminary evaluation review with the Executive Committee prior to a final evaluation being provided at the May meeting.

This revised process will add transparency and additional opportunities for input into the evaluation process.

4. The committee requested the Executive Committee be surveyed at the conclusion of the meeting to receive feedback on the effectiveness and efficiency of our meetings.
5. The Executive Director will provide the committee instruments he is developing to evaluate League staff at the March meeting.
6. A review of the VASS Study and the Strategic Planning documents relevant to personnel/operation was completed.

Study recommendations from both processes should be incorporated into the final plans.

7. The committee reviewed information relevant to job descriptions, compensation scales, and how to retain a high quality and diverse staff. A discussion was held recognizing the need to assess our own effectiveness as an Executive Committee.

8. A discussion was held addressing the process of league staff providing recommendations on legislative issues versus only providing an impact statement without a specific recommendation.

C. Policy: Committee Chairman Mike Lane reported on the following from his committee:

1. Eligibility rules that might need to be considered:
 - a. Language in Handbook with regard to appeals process being dismissed without grounds.
 - b. Is there a need for a standing committee?
 - c. Mistake on part of school personnel and its effect on a student's eligibility.
 - d. Student in good standing -- completely up to home school.
 - e. Out-of-season practice and contact.
2. Enhancement of state playoffs and state championships:
 - a. More endorsement in the local area of the state event.
 - b. Continue to look at more central locations.
3. Division Playoffs:
 - a. Football is a different sport because of necessary numbers.
 - b. Definite concerns on how ratings/power points could be handled regarding other sports.
 - c. In regions with a great deal of disparity, division play among other sports may be a positive.
4. New sport or academic activities;
 - a. Expansion of field hockey in A and AA.
 - b. Flag football -- could help with issues regarding equity.
5. Sportsmanship:
 - a. League currently doing good job promoting.
 - b. More emphasis during regular season in regard to VHSL sportsmanship creed.
 - c. Consider fines for all ejections involving fighting.

Recommendation to Executive Committee: All action regarding sports medicine be delayed until the March meeting to allow for Field Hockey Rules Committee, NFHS, and VIAAA to conclude meetings in January where discussions and outcomes may be relevant to our recommendations.

- D. Technology and Communications:** The subcommittee discussed the strategic planning critical issues as they pertain to technology and communication. Both Don Bock and Wes Saxon recommended that, in designing a technology plan for the future, VHSL should shoot for the "cutting edge." There was discussion as to what exactly "cutting edge" meant, and recommended that VHSL hire a consultant to design a plan based on the needs of the association and membership since there was no person on the subcommittee or within VHSL who was trained or qualified to do so.

F. Ad Hoc Strategic Planning: Chairman John Hall reported on the following:

1. The process is on schedule with the timeline calling for a final report in May.
2. A consultant has been secured, and a survey document developed to determine issues and interests on the part of the membership.
3. Strategic Planning Action Teams in four regions of the state will meet in January to review critical issues and make preliminary recommendations.

- 4. Ultimately, the Strategic Plan product will be designed along a specific, widely accepted format. The Strategic Plan is designed for the long term. It can help us focus on producing effective decisions and actions that further the organization's mission, meets its mandates, and satisfy key stakeholders. It will not sit on the shelf, but rather will be a living document that receives regular evaluation and attention throughout the next five-year period.

VII. **Consent Agenda:**

Jim Stemple moved, Pete Koste seconded and the committee voted 23-1 (Grimesey voting no; Clendaniel absent for vote) to move 54-8-1, Contest Limitations Wrestling, from the Consent Agenda to the Action Agenda.

John Walker moved, per staff recommendation, Bob Grimesey seconded and the committee voted 24-0 (Clendaniel absent for vote) to take the following action:

- A. Action on second-vote items can be found under **VIII, Legislation**, all proposals except 54-8-1 through Scholastic Bowl amendments.
- B. Approved the October 2006 Group Board Minutes.
- C. Approved Salem High School's (Salem) request to play "outside" team in boys and girls lacrosse for the 2006-07 school year.
- D. Denied a request from Holston High School to waive the fine for late submission of their football schedule.
- E. Approved the current Wachovia Citizenship Awards, the Farm Bureau Achievement Awards and the Savedge Scholarship procedures.
- F. Assigned the two new schools opening in 2007 to their respective district, region and classification: Grassfield High School in Chesapeake to Southeastern District, Eastern Region, Group AAA and Skyline High School in Warren County to Northwestern District, Region II, Group AA.
- G. Approved a request by Potomac Falls High School to allow a competitor with a disability to start a race in the water provided this accommodation does not fundamentally alter the sport and/or no advantage is gained (this is permitted by state association adoption under NFHS Swimming Rule 3-3-3).

VIII. **Legislation:** Items in red reflect amendment language or new amendment.

Emergency

Section 117

Debate – Determining Winners (Student Congress) – Clarifies the intent of the rule and does not mandate the number of times a senator can or should speak and clearly breaks down the totaling of the scores.

Adopted 25-0
(as amended)

If scores are still tied, drop the preliminary round parliamentarian score.

First-vote Legislation

27-8-1

Out-of-Season Practice Rule --
Allows greater flexibility in the out-of-season practice rule

Rec. 18-6-1
(as amended)
(Haun, Arnold, Simpkins, Lane, Owen, Stemple voting no; Hall abstained)

~~Specific sport related contact between any member(s) of a sport coaching staff, including volunteer coaches, and athletes during any off season of a specific sport, may not occur or be scheduled from the first practice date of any off season(s) until the first competition date of the same sport season(s) as specified by the VHSL Sports Season Calendar. An out-of-season sport/activity or specific sport-related contact between any members of a coaching staff, including volunteer coaches, and athletes of a specific sport may not occur or be scheduled from the first practice date of a season until the first competition date of the same sport season(s) as specified by the VHSL Sports Season Calendar.~~ Example: Winter Season participants may not engage in any sport-specific activities or contact from the first practice date to the first competition date of the Fall and Spring Seasons. After the first competition date, out of season participation may resume and include conditioning, specific sport-related contact between coaches and athletes, instructional camps, etc. ~~The VHSL Sports Season Calendar shall identify a two-week period during the summer months in which there shall be no contact between members of a coaching staff, including volunteer coaches, and athletes for any VHSL sports. (It is recommended that this summer dead period correspond with the Independence Day holiday and the VHSCA coaching clinic/all-star games.)~~ These periods of no contact shall be termed “no-contact periods” or “dead periods.”

Notes:

- The school principal is responsible for ensuring that out-of-season activities are appropriate and within the guidelines set forth in this rule and any local regulations.
- Member school students ~~should~~ shall not be pressured/influenced to specialize in any single activity or be penalized for participation in other activities during other sports seasons.
- Out-of-season activities must be optional.
- A student who is a member of any athletic team during a specific sports season is “off limits” to any out-of-season sport programs or out-of-season coaches.
- Students participating in any out-of-season activity may be issued necessary safety equipment with the exception of football which shall be limited to head gear and mouthpieces.
- “No-contact periods” or “dead periods” (open gyms, weight training, conditioning) shall be defined so as to include any contact related to a specific sport including conditioning activities. Conditioning activities shall only be deemed acceptable if it is a part of the high school’s curriculum.

Districts/regions/group boards/local school divisions may impose more restrictive regulations.

28-2-2 (4) GRADE RULE EXCEPTIONS:

Rec. 25-0

(1) Student may compete on the subvarsity.....

~~(4) A student may participate in VHSL sub-varsity sports for one year only prior to entering the ninth grade.~~

28-4-2 (2) SCHOLARSHIP RULE EXCEPTIONS:

(1) Any student who is enrolled....

~~Note: A student who is repeating the eighth grade after having successfully completed the eighth grade (held back), must be enrolled in five new courses in order to be eligible for a second year as an eighth grader.~~

68-4-1 (6)

Football -- Schedules and Practices
To shorten the length of the football season.

Not. rec. 9-14-2
(Bowman-Scott, Arnold, Edwards, Harris, Lane, Lawrence, Bock, Saxon, Owen voting yes)

68-8-5

Football -- Regional Championships
Give regions the option to determine format (seeding) of region football playoffs

Rec. 24-1
(Stuckwisch voting no)

Second-vote Legislation

27-13-12	Sportsmanship -- Statement of Policy – Include scholastic bowl where academic sportsmanship is concerned.	Adopted 24-0
30-5-1 (27-2-4 & 126-5-1)	Specific Penalties – Failure of Scholastic Bowl coach to attend clinic the first or second year will result in a fine and coach required to take written rules examination.	Adopted 24-0
54-8-1	Contest Limitations: No member school may permit its athletes or teams to compete in more than the total number of regular season interscholastic contests, meets or tournaments specified below for each sport either on the varsity or sub-varsity level. In the sport of tennis participants would be limited to three matches per day; in wrestling, the limit is five matches per individual per day over no more than two days. <u>Wrestling Duals would count each day of competition as one contest date.</u> Baseball -- 20.... Wrestling – 12	Adopted 23-2
117 – 117-7-2	Debate -- Allow fourth-place team to advance to regional and state if one of the other three teams is unable to advance.	Adopted 24-0
126 – 126-7-1	Scholastic Bowl Participation – A team must start with four players; for extenuating circumstances a team may finish with fewer than four.	Adopted 24-0
126 - 126-9-2	Scholastic Bowl -- Toss-up Rounds -- Specifies penalty if teammates confer.	Adopted 24-0
126 - 126-9-7	Scholastic Bowl – Questions Directed to Teams -- Establishes only one way questions will be presented.	Adopted 24-0
126 – 126-10-1	Scholastic Bowl – Declaring the Winner Each team’s coach must sign the score sheet at conclusion of the match to certify acceptance of final score and forfeit right to make further appeals.	Adopted 24-0
101 – 101-1-1; 101-6-2; 101-8-1	Theatre -- Adopt 45-minute rule for setting and striking props and for performance of one-act plays.	Not adopted 0-25
111 – 111-4-2; 111-8-4	Forensics – Student may enter two forensics events at the district, region and state level constituting a double entry with the exception of domestic and foreign extemporaneous speaking.	Not adopted 0-25

IX. Action Agenda:

A. **Calendar date change:** Removed from agenda and referred to the VIAAA for recommendation.

- B. **Early Football Request:** Removed from agenda and referred to Region D for action prior to Executive Committee approval.
- C. **March 2008 and 2009 Meetings:** John Walker moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to move the March meetings as follows:

March 2008 and 2009:	Thursday	Executive Committee
	Friday	Group Boards and Executive Committee

- X. **Legal Report:** Ken Tilley reported on his meeting with a group of school administrators and individuals representing public schools, private schools and homeschools.
- XI. **Unfinished Business:**
 - A. **2006-07 Committee Appointments** were noted.
 - B. **Sites for 2007-08:** No action taken. Region representatives were reminded that sites need to be set no later than the May meeting.
 - C. **Criteria for Hosting State Tournaments:** The form for providing this information is on the website and committee members were asked to share feedback relative to the criteria.
- XII. **Discussion and Information:** The following items were noted:
 - A. **Area Eligibility Meetings:** Ten schools did not attend the 2006 Area Meetings and have been fined. Total attendance 537; 98 principals; 15 assistant principals; 205 athletic directors; 13 assistant principal/athletic directors; 39 activity directors; 28 assistant athletic directors; 123 guidance directors; 5 athletic secretaries; and nine other. Attendance is up considerably from last year.
 - B. **VSBA Conference Presentation:** This year's VHSL session in Williamsburg attracted another large audience of approximately 75 school board members.
 - C. **VHSL Student Leaders Conference:** The 11th Annual VHSL Student Leaders Conference and Sportsmanship Summit will be held on Apr. 27-28 at Matoaca High School, Chesterfield. Another great program is planned, including keynote speakers Dr. Billy Cannaday, Virginia State Superintendent of Public Instruction; popular hypnotist Tom DeLuca and nationally recognized humorist/motivational speaker Kevin Wanzer.
 - D. **NFHS National Student Leadership Conference:** This event will be held at the Indianapolis Hilton from Thursday, July 19, through Sunday, July 22, 2007. The conference will provide a forum for high school students and adult leaders to discuss contemporary issues and promote leadership skills learned through participation in education-based activities. Student leaders, through large and small interactive group discussions and activities taught by college student facilitators, will learn to promote respect, sportsmanship, perspective, positive values, and teamwork, as well as develop and maintain healthy lifestyles. As always, the conference will include everyone's participation in a local community service project.

The NFHS is targeting 300 rising sophomores and juniors as student delegates from each state. Funding will be provided for up to six student delegates (the NFHS will pay for all student delegate costs including housing/accommodations, all meals, registration fees, conference materials, activity fees and activity transportation. State associations are asked to cover all expenses for two adult delegates per six students.
 - E. **State Championship Journalism Workshop:** The following was emailed to Lisa Giles concerning the VHSL Championship Journalism Workshop:

"I wanted to tell you how great it was to be a part of the VHSL Championship Journalism Workshop luncheon last week. I was that enthusiastic AV guy who did all the switching of laptops, etc. I wanted to tell you that it was a truly inspiring experience, and I am so glad you do what you do for all those talented young students. This program you organize is such a powerful and positive thing - Definitely, one of the most important things you could be doing to help encourage creativity and awareness in these young

people's lives. I am seriously thinking of changing career paths to do something even *more* meaningful such as the work you do, and I also now dream of doing something as important as the work Melanie Burford does.

I wanted to let you know that I blogged (though purposely leaving out all the details given my professional confidentiality) some of my perceptions of this wonderful event ([HERE](#)) on my [website](#) (where I post all of my radio podcasts from my weekly show on WRIR- 97.3 FM Richmond Independent Radio)

THANKS AGAIN and best of luck with all that you do to helping youth discover the power of expression.
Regards, Carl Hamm"

F. **Appeals:** There have been a total of 54 eligibility appeals cases filed thus far in the 2006-07 school year. Of those cases, 25 have involved the Transfer Rule, 13 have involved the Semester Rule, 13 Scholarship Rule, two Age Rule, and one Penalty (of forfeiture and fine). Two cases have been appealed to the Independent Hearing Officer.

G. **Staff Reports:** The events held to date had gone well and there were all indications of excellent pairings for the upcoming state football playoffs.

XIII. **Review October Group Boards and membership meeting and Preview of March meetings:** A preliminary agenda was presented.

XIV. **New Business:**

A. **Award:** Hannah Catherine Munro was cited with a plaque for her ten years of service with the VHSL.

XV. **Business from the Floor:**

A. **State Cross Country Admission Prices:** Jim Stemple noted that the price of admission has increased for the State Cross Country Meet and the public did not react well to this increase.

XVI. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.