

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES MAY 2007

TIME: Tuesday, May 1, 2007

2:30 p.m. Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee

4:00 p.m. Personnel Committee

5:00 p.m. Finance Committee

5:00 p.m. Technology/Communications Committee

6:00 p.m. Policy Committee

6:00 p.m. Joint Meeting of Personnel and Finance Committees

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

TIME: 8:30 a.m. -- Full Executive Committee convenes

PLACE: Promenade Ballroom -- Lower Level
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, Vanessa Wigand, Charles "Mike" Harris, Dave Stuckwisch, Clint Stables, Randy Thomas, John Walker, Bob Grimesey, Oliver McBride, Larry Massie for Gwen Edwards, Wes Saxon, Pat Ferguson, Connie Minnick, Art Lawrence, Denise Bowman-Scott, Bob Tata, and Ken Tilley.

Member absent: Russ Potts

Also attending were VHSL staff Jim Garman, Tom Zimorski, Joyce Sisson, Lisa Giles, Tom Dolan, Hannah Catherine Munro, and Lora Bickley; as well as Haley Burton, VHSL intern; Paul Jansen, Fairfax County Public Schools; Jason Barbe, Sherando High School; Bill Stewart, Millbrook High School; Michael Bailey, parent; and Craig Wood, VHSL legal counsel.

- II. **Agenda Approval:** John Walker moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 27-0 to reorder VIII. Committee Reports to move F. Ad Hoc Strategic Planning to B., move Personnel to C. and Finance to D.
- III. **Minutes:** Wes Saxon moved, Bill Owen seconded and the committee voted 27-0 to approve the March 7, 2007, Executive Committee Minutes as presented.
- IV. **Announcements and Call for New Business:** No new business items were presented.
- V. **Concerns from Public:** Michael Bailey, parent from Fairfax County, addressed the committee concerning the VHSL appeals procedure and the Transfer Rule.
- VI. **Consent Agenda:** Wes Saxon moved, Larry Massie seconded and the committee voted 27-0 to move item D. Criteria for Eligibility Waivers from Consent Agenda to Action Agenda. Denise Bowman-Scott moved, Larry Massie seconded and the committee approved the following:
- A. Approved Alvera Parrish as the NFHS Board of Directors-at-Large Representative.
 - B. Approved the March Group Board Minutes.

- C. Approved Camila Domonoske, Harrisonburg High School, as the recipient of the Colonel Charles E. Savedge Scholarship/Virginia Student Journalist of the Year.
- D. Approved the VHSL calendars for 2009-10 and 2010-11.
- E. Approved amending the PURPOSE statement on Criteria for VHSL Transfer Rule Appeals to read:

PURPOSE: The intent of the Transfer Rule is to discourage recruiting and transfers for athletic/ activity reasons and to encourage students to live with their parents and be enrolled in school continuously in their home school district.
- F. Approved Group A representatives developing new VHSL Group A Girls State Soccer playoff brackets for the 2008 season.

VII. **Legislation**

Legislation

Emergency:

58-6-2 58-6-3 58-6-4	Basketball Playoff System (Group A only) To identify criteria for Group A division playoff policies for basketball	Motion to adopt by Simpkins, seconded by Lane Adopted 26-1 (Stemple voting no)
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Second-vote:

54-2-3	Fall Practice Policy To address safety issues involving early practices in fall sport	Motion to adopt by Bowman-Scott, seconded by Haun Not adopted 1-26 (Haun voting yes)
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Wes Saxon moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 26-1 (Stemple voting no) to approve the Fall Practice Guidelines to be included as an Appendix to the Policy Manual.

Wes Saxon moved, Mike Lane seconded and the committee voted 27-0 to amend 28-2-2(4) Grade Rules Exception as follows for clarification:

This rule applies to students who are in the eighth grade for the first time for the 2007-08 school year.

VIII. **Committee Reports:**

- A. **Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC):** Billy Haun moved, John Walker seconded and the committee voted 1-26 (Haun voting yes) to mandate eyewear for field hockey. Thus the motion failed.
- B. **Ad Hoc Strategic Planning:** Wes Saxon moved, Bob Grimesey seconded and the committee voted 26-1 (Walker voting no) to approve the first phase of the Strategic Plan.
- C. **Personnel Committee:** Committee chair Simpkins reported the recommendations of his committee:

The committee reviewed the process for the evaluation of the executive director and evaluated all essential performance standards and expectations. The committee noted that Mr. Tilley had provided effective leadership and met or exceeded all of the predetermined performance goals and was therefore eligible to be recommended for reappointment as Executive Director of the League for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years.

The committee reviewed the Executive Director's Organizational Chart and suggested the following modifications:

- Director of Development to be Development Specialist
- Director of Finance to be Chief Financial Officer
- Deputy Director to elevate to a higher position on the organizational stem moving toward the Executive Director
- Remove the three Co-Assistant Directors and make titles Assistant Directors
- Add Part-time to both Bookkeeper slots

The committee acknowledged the need for the Executive Director to have flexibility in the placement of his staff on the organizational chart as well as identifying corresponding job titles within the chart. There should be an alignment of the chart and appropriate salary scale bands.

The Personnel Committee recommended a 3% salary increase to all existing salaries with the exception of the Deputy Director. The Deputy Director would be placed at Step 5 of the appropriate salary position. Adjusted salaries would then convert to the new VASS Salary Pay Bands for the VHSL fiscal year 2008 to the closest salary step with no employee receiving less than a 3% pay increase.

The Personnel Committee recommended the following new and/or revised staff positions for the 2007-08 year:

- Convert the existing Compliance Officer to Deputy Director
- Information and Communications Specialist
- Part-time Bookkeeper

The committee reviewed the strategic planning operations/personnel critical issues for the 2007-08 year and supports the three identified goal areas. It was noted that strategy/action plans should include specific measurable information in all relevant categories. Measurements for new staff positions should include job descriptions, goals and performance indicators.

Pete Koste moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 27-0 to go into executive session under 2.2.344A (7) to discuss matters pertaining to personnel.

Nelson Simpkins moved, Mike Harris seconded, and the committee voted 27-0 to return to open session.

Pete Koste moved, Larry Massie seconded and the committee verified 27-0 that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were discussed.

- The committee voted 26-1 (Walker voting no) to convert to the VASS salary bands.
- The committee voted 25-2 (Stemple, Walker voting no), if funds are available, to convert the Director of Compliance position to that of Deputy Director with appropriate salary adjustments.
- The committee voted 23-3 (Haun, Stemple, Walker voting no), if funds are available, to employ a full time information specialist.
- The committee voted 25-2 (Stemple, Walker voting no), if funds are available, to hire an additional part-time bookkeeper.

The Personnel Committee report was accepted.

D. **Finance Committee:** Committee chair Koste reported the following action by his committee:

1. Reviewed the balance sheets and expense reports for the VHSL and the Foundation through March 31, 2007.
2. Reviewed the first year recommendation for Strategic Plan.
3. Recommended a \$0.25 increase in the insurance assessment for 2007-08 (a reduction from the previously announced \$0.50 increase). The committee approved this by a vote of 27-0.

4. Recommended consideration in **2008-09** a dues increase as follows: membership fee from \$600 to \$700; activity fee from \$25 to \$30; insurance increase of \$0.50. The committee voted 27-0 to consider this increase in 2008-09.
5. Recommend 100% reimbursement for team travel for 2006-07. The committee approved this by a vote of 27-0.
6. Recommended that the League absorb costs of temporary bleachers for the Group AAA, Division 6 football final game. The committee approved this by a vote of 21-6 (Bowman-Scott, Noe, Hall, Thomas, Lawrence, Owen voting no).
7. Recommended a \$1 rebate on pre-sale tickets for football and basketball state championships in 2007-08. The committee approved this by a vote of 26-1 (Walker voting no).
8. Recommended 100% of the income from 2006-07 Benefit Games to be contributed to the Foundation. The committee approved this by a vote of 27-0.
9. Recommended that National Federation Sanction requests sent to the VHSL office for processing will also be assessed an additional \$25 processing fee to VHSL and a \$75 late fee to VHSL if the event is received in the League office less than 15 day prior to the meet. The committee approved this by a vote of 27-0.
10. Recommended approval of the FY2008 budget. The committee approved this by a vote of 26-1 (Walker voting no).

E. **Policy:** Committee chair Lane reported the following:

1. Recommended approval of the Group A basketball legislation.
2. Recommended voting down Fall Practice as Handbook legislation and bring back as Fall Practice Guidelines to be included as an Appendix in the Policy Manual.
3. Recommended approval of the Eighth Grade Rule Legislation.
4. Recommended not mandating eyewear for field hockey.
5. Supported the Strategic Plan.
6. Recommended the state tournament sites for 2007-08 and if multi-year bids, the sites would roll over. Recommended a change in the calendar for lacrosse in order for lacrosse to be included in the Spring Jubilee. The committee approved this by a vote of 26-0-1 (Stemple abstaining).

Cheerleading	Siegel Center, VCU
Cross Country	Great Meadows
Field Hockey	National Training Center, Virginia Beach
Football -- Division 6	Scott Stadium, UVA
Football -- Division 5	Scott Stadium, UVA
Football -- Division 4	Liberty University
Football -- Division 3	Liberty University
Football -- Division 2	Salem Stadium
Football -- Division 1	Salem Stadium
Golf, AAA	Northern Region
Golf, AA	Fincastle
Golf, A	Botetourt Country Club
Girls Open Golf	Northern Region
Volleyball	Siegel Center, VCU
Basketball	Siegel Center, VCU
Gymnastics	Central Region
Indoor Track, AAA	George Mason University
Indoor Track, AA	Liberty University
Swim & Dive, AAA	George Mason University
Swim & Dive, A & AA	George Mason University Freedom Center
Wrestling, AAA	Oscar Smith High School
Wrestling, A & AA	Salem Civic Center
Lacrosse	Westfield High School
Spring Jubilee, AAA	Westfield High School
Spring Jubilee, A & AA	Radford University
Outdoor Track, AAA	Todd Stadium
Outdoor Track, AA	Harrisonburg High School

Outdoor Track, A	Radford University
Theatre, AAA	Need Site
Theatre, A & AA	MLK Performing Arts Center, Charlottesville
Scholastic Bowl	William & Mary
Forensics	Harrisonburg High School
Debate	Liberty University

7. Recommended formulating a tournament format for Group A basketball to be determined at the September Executive Committee meeting.

F. Technology and Communications: Committee chair Bock reported the findings of his committee as follows:

1. Reviewed Strategic Plan relative to Technology/Communication and Presence/Advocacy Critical issues with changes and approved by a 6-0 vote with a recommendation for Executive Committee adoption.
2. Approved Cox Communications and Sinclair Broadcasting proposals by a 6-0 vote with a recommendation for Executive Committee approval. The committee approved this by a vote of 27-0.
3. Approved Standing Partnership proposal by a 6-0 vote with a recommendation for Executive Committee approval. The committee approved this by a vote of 27-0.
4. Approved adoption of BoardDocs and the purchase of laptops for the VHSL staff by a 6-0 vote contingent on technical support with a recommendation for Executive Committee approval. The committee approved this by a vote of 24-0 (Clendaniel, Grimesey, Simpkins absent for this and all subsequent votes).

G. SPAC (Scholastic Publications Advisory Committee): The committee met on Wednesday, April 25. Among the items discussed was the recommendation to better compensate publications evaluations judges, which could be offset with an increase in entry fees from \$40 to \$45 and \$45 to \$50. We currently pay judges \$30 or \$35 per publication.

The committee also discussed plans for the two fall workshops. The regional workshop will replace stops in Charlottesville and Williamsburg with Richmond and Virginia Beach. The state workshop will once again be in Richmond at VCU. Recommended keynote speakers, given the timeliness of events at Virginia Tech, were Virginia Tech Media Adviser Kelly Furnas and/or Virginia Tech professor and Poet Laureate Nikki Giovanni.

H. DDFAC (Debate, Drama, Forensics Advisory Committee): The committee met on Tuesday, April 24. Among its recommendations were (1) to nominate Faye Cunningham of Albemarle HS as the NFHS Speech Educator of the Year and (2) to nominate Forensics Tournament Director Charlene Tiller to the Virginia High School Hall of Fame as a contributor.

In forensics, 80% of coaches support combining the two extemporaneous speaking events into one with the purpose of increasing the level of competition in the event. Doing this would present an opportunity to add an event, and coaches are almost evenly divided on that replacement event being a split of duo interpretation into serious and humorous duo interpretation and Radio Announcing, which is another speaking category. Radio Announcing is the virtual unknown, as it is practiced sparingly in Virginia. Its support comes from it being another speaking event, like extemporaneous, and not an interpretive event. While interpretation events are more popular, they also currently outweigh speech 6-4.

In debate, there is continued interest in a move to expand competition for Group AAA, despite the much smaller numbers of competitors in Group A and AA. Because of this disparity, one rule does not fit all groups. Other state association models with the same concerns will be researched. There is also interest in adding a fifth event, Public Forum debate. A committee of coaches is working on a proposal to include rules, procedures, a cost analysis, judging requirements, additional space requirements and rationale with the intent to submit this to Executive Committee in March 2008.

For both forensics and debate, the committee recommended several handbook changes to be submitted in September, mostly editorial, but also to further refine the rules for the newest debate event, Student Congress.

- I. **SBAC (Scholastic Bowl Advisory Committee):** The committee met on Thursday, April 26. There were two issues that took the forefront of this meeting; the first was establishing content for the rules clinic that was mandated for this fall. It was recommended that Commissioner Shawn Pickrell assist with these clinics where possible.

The second item dealt with a legislative proposal that would lengthen the amount of prep time for computation questions to 30 seconds, thus making the math portion of this event more challenging than 10 seconds allow. The committee supports this proposal and legislation will be submitted in September.

IX. **Action Agenda:**

A. **Calendar Dates:**

- 1. **Request by Region D to move the practice date for football from Wednesday, August 1, to Monday, July 30.** Wes Saxon moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 13-9 (Hall, Noe, Arnold, Lane, Stables, McBride, Saxon, Minnick, Lawrence voting no; Thomas and Tata absent for this and all subsequent votes) to deny the request for statewide adoption.

Dave Stuckwisch moved and Connie Minnick seconded that this item be reconsidered for Region D schools only. The committee voted 15-6-1 (Harris, Owen, Stemple, Bock, Ferguson, Stuckwisch voting no; Hall abstaining) to approve the request to move the practice date for football from Wednesday, August 1, to Monday, July 30, for **Region D schools only.**

- 2. **Request by Seminole District for JV football to begin on August 23 in 2007 and August 22 in 2008:** Connie Minnick moved, Clint Stables seconded and the committee voted 22-0 to amend the request to change the dates to **August 22 in 2007 and August 21 in 2008.** Wes Saxon moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 22-0 to approve this request as amended.
- 3. **Requests from Southwest and Three Rivers Districts to begin competitive golf play on August 1 instead of August 8.** Wes Saxon moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 15-7 (Owen, Stemple, Bock, Harris, Walker, Stuckwisch, Koste voting no) to approve moving the beginning date of competitive play in golf to August 1 for **Southwest and Three Rivers Districts only.**
- 4. **Changes to March meeting schedule:** Wes Saxon moved, Bill Owen seconded and the committee voted 22-0 to modify the 2007-08 League meetings schedule as follows:

- September 19 -- Executive Committee
- October 10 -- Group Boards and Membership
- December 5 -- Executive Committee
- February -- TBD
- March 14 -- Group Boards and Membership
- May 7 -- Executive Committee

- 5. **Criteria for Eligibility Waivers:** Denise Bowman-Scott moved, Clint Stables seconded and the committee voted 26-1 (Simpkins voting no) to add the following to the criteria for waiver of the Scholarship, Semester and Transfer Rules.

For those specifically documented cases in which the sole reason for ineligibility is that the school principal, assistant principal, or guidance personnel incorrectly advised the student and/or his/her parents regarding eligibility requirements, resulting in the ineligibility.

Staff was also directed to bring to the committee a specific fine proposal for penalizing schools in such cases.

X. **Legal Report:** Craig Wood and Ken Tilley reported on the annual NFHS Submit and Legal Meeting.

XI. **Discussion and Information:**

- A. **R&R Schedule for 2007-08:** Staff recommends that the R&R Committee meet in mid-September, mid-November, mid-February and early April. This would be comparable to the most recent cycle's schedule and allows for timely reports prior to each Executive Committee meeting, with the final plan being adopted in May.

The Redistricting and Reclassification Committee shall use September 30 membership figures from an odd-numbered school year (e.g., 2005-06) and shall present its plan to the Executive Committee for approval at the last meeting of an odd-numbered school year to go into effect in the next odd-numbered school year. A school may appeal its assignment to the 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. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be final. The Executive Committee is authorized to approve combination districts that include schools of more than one classification and to approve schools playing out-of-classification (above or below the group to which their ADM would place them).

- B. **Achievement Awards:** 438 students from 197 schools were nominated to receive the League's highest individual honor. Below is a list of the regional and state winners. Any Executive Committee member who can attend the May 14 luncheon in Richmond to honor these students should contact Lisa Giles.

Courageous Achievement – Crystal Hazelwood, Lee-Davis High School
Runner Up – Katherine Anne Butters, Madison County High School
Runner Up – Amy Nicole Clinger, Warren County High School

State Academic Achievement – Single A: James Thomas Rogers, Radford High School
Runner Up, Region A: Jordan Mellington, Arcadia High School
Runner Up, Region B: Alfred Anderson "Corbin" Puryear, Jr., Madison County High School
Runner Up, Region D: Matthew Owens, Twin Springs High School

State Male Athlete – Single A: Cleon N. Rice, Lancaster High School
Runner Up, Region B: Justin William Brake, Riverheads High School
Runner Up, Region C: Joseph Daniel Leech, Eastern Montgomery High School
Runner Up, Region D: Justin E. Lawson, Twin Springs High School

State Female Athlete – Single A: Cara Leigh Delp, Rural retreat High School
Runner Up, Region A: Katelyn Tignor, Essex High School
Runner Up, Region B: Amanda C. Caporelli, Buffalo Gap High School
Runner Up, Region D: Nakeshia LaRay Boggs, Twin Springs High School

State Academic Achievement – Double A: Robert Carl DeMuth, Appomattox County High School
Runner Up, Region I: Michael T. Lin, York High School
Runner Up, Region II: Amelia Thomson-Deveaux, Charlottesville High School
Runner Up, Region IV: Morgan Elaine Hamilton, Patrick County High School

State Male Athlete – Double A: Benjamin Biber, Potomac Falls High School
Runner Up, Region I: Horace Fenton Smith III (Twon), Greenville County High School
Runner Up, Region III: Jamey Lee Smith, Alleghany High School
Runner Up, Region IV: Dustin R. Echols, Tunstall High School

State Female Athlete – Double A: Allison Rolston Hunter, Tazewell High School
Runner Up, Region I: Jenna Cinalli, Chancellor High School
Runner Up, Region II: Jillian M. Pollack, Millbrook High School
Runner Up, Region III: Jennifer Harvey, Cave Spring High School

State Academic Achievement – Triple A: Cara McMenamin, Douglas S. Freeman High School
Runner Up, Eastern Region: Ian Lumaban Marpari, Princess Anne High School
Runner Up, Northern Region: Nadia Khatouri, West Springfield High School
Runner Up, Northwest Region: Brian Kitta, Colonial Forge High School

State Male Athlete – Triple A: Andrew Zohorsky, Hickory High School
Runner Up, Central Region: Richard Thomas Reese, Midlothian High School
Runner Up, Northern Region: Patrick Edmund Campbell, Fairfax High School
Runner Up, Northwest Region: Elliott Robert Brennan, E.C. Glass High School

State Female Athlete – Triple A: Mary C. Miller (M.C.), Midlothian High School
Runner Up, Eastern Region: Ashleigh L. Joseph, Oscar F. Smith High School
Runner Up, Northern Region: Emily Barry, Lake Braddock Secondary School
Runner Up, Northwest Region: Kathleen Wade, Colonial Forge High School

- C. **VHSL Student Leaders Conference:** Approximately 600 students and more than 100 adults from nearly 60 schools registered to attend the Eleventh Annual VHSL Student Leaders Conference and Sportsmanship Summit at Matoaca High School on April 27-28.
- D. **Appeals:** The committee reviewed the matrix of appeals for 2006-07 hears to date. It is worth noting that seven Independent Hearing Officer cases were heard this year, an unusually high number. Of those appeals cases, the Executive Committee's decision was upheld five times and was reversed just twice -- largely as a result of additional information being provided. Over the years, the IHO has sustained Executive Committee decisions in approximately two-thirds of the cases heard; when decisions are reversed it is usually because new information is provided.
- E. **VIAAA Conference:** VHSL staff was involved in the 35th Annual VIAAA Conference, "Leadership: Passport to Success", on March 28-31 in Norfolk. Joyce Sisson is the VHSL liaison to the VIAAA. Tom Dolan entered the conference as VIAAA President-elect, and he leaves as president for a one-year term. Joyce, Tom and Ken Tilley gave a VHSL Q&A Update. Hannah Catherine Munro also attended and met with exhibitors and broadcast representatives. The 36th Annual VIAAA Conference will be held on April 2-6, 2008 at the Hotel Roanoke.
- F. **Hall of Fame:** The selection committee will meet on May 7 to choose the Class of 2007 (to be honored in October) to the Virginia High School Hall of Fame. The formal announcement will take place later this spring and will be included in Weekly Update.
- G. **NFHS News:** Ken Tilley has been chosen as one of two NFHS representatives to serve on a National Steroid/HGH Working Group that will meet on May 7 to discuss ways that the sports and federal law enforcement communities can better deal with the issues of performance enhancing substances.

At the NFHS Annual Summer Meeting, Lisa Giles will present a workshop session on Use of Computers in Speech and Debate, and Ken Tilley will serve on the Public/Private School Panel Discussion.
- H. **VASSP Summer Conference:** VHSL has submitted a proposal to present a concurrent session "What Every Principal Should Know About the VHSL" at the VASSP Summer Conference on June 26-29.

- XII. **Recognition of Retiring Committee Members:** Executive Director Tilley recognized retiring Executive Committee members for their service to the League: Don Bock, Gwen Edwards, Bob Grimesey, Billy Haun, Oliver McBride, Jeff Noe, Russ Potts, Clint Stables, John Walker and Chairman John Hall.

- XIII. **New Business**: Billy Haun announced that Monticello High School will host the 2008 Student Leaders Conference and there is an icon on the Monticello High School website for students to send in their suggestions for workshops and individuals to volunteer to be a workshop speaker.
- XIV. **Adjournment**: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.