

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

DECEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**TIME:** Tuesday, December 4, 2007

12:00 p.m. Foundation Board – **VHSL Office**

5:00 p.m. Sub Committee Meetings – **DoubleTree Hotel**  
Finance – Operations and Personnel – Policy and Programs -- Technology

Wednesday, December 5, 2007 – **VHSL Office**

8:30 a.m. Full Committee

**PLACE:** Virginia High School League Office  
1642 State Farm Boulevard  
Charlottesville, Virginia

I. **Roll Call:** Pete Koste, Jim Stemple, Bill Clendaniel, Cynthia Watson, Mike Lane, Nelson Simpkins, Bill Owen, Rob Arnold, E. G. Bradshaw, Jim Whorley, Lawrence Whiting, Gene Kotulka, Vanessa Wigand, Charles “Mike” Harris, Dave Stuckwisch, Robert Luttrell, Randy Thomas, Dan Lyons, Anthony Brads, Don Stowers, Jim Thornton, Raymond Kohl, Pat Ferguson, Connie Minnick, Clay Moran, John Hall and Ken Tilley.

Members absent: Denise Bowman-Scott and Bob Tata.

Also attending were VHSL staff Tom Zimorski, Jim Garman, Joyce Sisson, Lisa Giles, Tom Dolan, Hannah Catherine Munro, Mike McCall, Lora Bickley and intern Haley Burton; as well as Buck Smith, Warren County Schools; Jerry Gaines, Chesapeake City Public Schools; Bill Curran, Fairfax County Schools; Bruce Phelps, Virginia Beach City Schools; and William Gouldthorpe, Amherst County High School.

II. **Agenda Approval:** Mike Lane moved, Anthony Brads seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to move VIII. Committee Reports after V. Public Comments and approved the remaining agenda as presented.

III. **Minutes:** Dave Stuckwisch moved, Bill Owen seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the September 19, 2007, Executive Committee minutes as presented.

IV. **Announcements and Call for New Business:** League Chairman Pete Koste noted the committee schedule as amended and called for new business items.

Bill Clendaniel moved, Jim Whorley seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to change the dates of the 2007-08 State Gymnastics Meet from February 15-16 to February 22-23 due to facility availability. Tallwood High School will host.

V. **Public Comment:** None.

VI. **Committee Reports:**

A. **Finance:** Chairman Rob Arnold reported on his committee’s findings and recommendations.

1. Reviewed the Income and Expense Report and Balance Sheets for the VHSL as of October 31, noting that \$325,000 was transferred to the Restricted Contingency Fund in September.
2. Reviewed the Foundation Income and Expense Report and Balance Sheets for the VHSL Foundation as of October 31, which reflected a balance of \$756,000.
3. The VHSL received a clean audit.

4. The 2009 Preliminary Budget was reviewed with a notation of a \$40,000 new expense to cover \$12,000 for BoardDocs and \$28,000 for website management.
5. The dues increase for 2008-09 (approved last year) reflects a \$100 increase in the membership fee, a \$5 increase in the activity fee and an insurance increase of \$0.50.
6. Rob Arnold moved, Bill Owen seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to authorize the VHSL to move forward with the proposal from Allstate Insurance Company to be a title sponsor in football and become the new sponsor for the Achievement Awards Program.

Jim Stemple moved, Mike Harris seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the Finance Committee report.

**B. Operations and Personnel:** Chairman Nelson Simpkins reported this committee's findings and recommendations:

Mike Harris moved, Bill Clendaniel seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 2.2.3712 (A) of the code of Virginia for the purpose of discussing the following matters: the privacy of individual and personal matters not related to public business.

Mike Harris moved, Nelson Simpkins seconded and the committee certified 25-0 that such closed session was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law; that the Executive Committee certified, to the best of each members' knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in closed meeting to which this certification applies and (ii) that only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered.

1. The Committee reviewed the three goals of the Executive Director and made the following conclusions:
  - a. **The development of a written budget timeline is in progress and will be available at the February meeting.**
  - b. **The executive director will link staff responsibilities in year one of the strategic plan to their goals for evaluation in 2007-08.**

The following reflects the staff responsibilities specified in the strategic plan. The committee believes the staff has been successful in meeting goals thus far.

- Staffing to meet member and program needs has been accomplished. An Information and Communications Specialist and part-time bookkeeper have been hired, and the Director of Compliance has been promoted to Deputy Director.
- Schedules and formats for Executive Committee and membership meetings have been modified. The October meetings have been enhanced with relevant breakout sessions; Bob Kanaby, NFHS Executive Director, spoke at the Membership Meeting.
- Tournament director kits have been completed and are on line.
- The Sportsmanship Initiative is ongoing. Joyce Sisson initially developed sportsmanship expectations for basketball last year. These expectations were emphasized through the remainder of the 2006-07 school-year and were covered at the October meetings and at the 2007 Football Press Conference.
- The Comprehensive PR Campaign is ongoing and has been successful to date. Banners have been developed and delivered to eight regions for their schools, press conferences will be held in football, and football championships will be telecast. An agreement has been formalized with Standing Partnerships and a new journalism contest was implemented with student written feature stories to be included in the volleyball, basketball and football championship programs.
- The first phase of the five-year technology plan is being processed by the Technology Committee and a proposal will be recommended to the full committee.
- Revenue has increased through membership fees and new sponsorships.

c. **The Executive Director will continue to prioritize for years two and three of the strategic plan.**

This prioritization is being accomplished in each subcommittee.

2. **It was the unanimous opinion of the Operations and Personnel Committee that the Executive Director is meeting or exceeding all goals (noted above) and performance standards for mid-year of the 2007-08 school year.**

3. The Committee discussed Operations and Personnel critical issues for Strategic Planning including Goals #2 and #3, The committee was in unanimous agreement that the #1 Goal for the 2007-08 school year in regard to Strategic Planning should be to **“Ensure that the physical plant meets program and staff needs.”**

With the addition of five staff members since 1989 and the growth of the programs during that period the League has outgrown the current facility and additional space is needed.

The committee discussed the possibility of a CIP Fund and the formation of a Planning Committee. The committee should consist of two superintendents, a principal, an architect, an Albemarle County representative. Several suggestions for this committee were: Nelson Simpkins, Charlie Ostlund, Chuck Bishop, Ernest Worrell, Dennis Witt.

Since the strategic plan is a five-year plan, the remaining Operations and Personnel critical issues can be addressed within the next three years. They include (1) provide orientation, education and mentoring for officials, coaches and activities directors; (2) Inform members of composition, selection and responsibilities of Executive Committee and advisory committees and (3) Educate school personnel to main consistency in interpretations and enforcement of VHSL rules and regulations.

Nelson Simpkins moved, Mike Harris seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to accept the report of the Operations and Personnel Committee as presented.

C. **Policy:** Chairman Mike Lane reported his committee’s findings and recommendations:

1. The committee heard a presentation from Donna King and Jeff Dietze regarding the VHSL Coaches’ Education Program. The presentation included:
  - a. Current Program
  - b. Accreditation-Only state in US w/certified program
  - c. Future Initiatives

The committee recommended a survey be sent to member schools, superintendents and school board members concerning VHSL Coaches Education relative to what the membership would like to see accomplished by Coaches Ed and to set some defined goals and objectives. Results from this survey will be shared with the Executive Committee in February.

2. Recommended approval of legislation concerning golf, wrestling and past chairman.
3. Recommended withdrawing legislation concerning homeschool students’ eligibility.
4. Recommended approval of playoff sites for 2007-08 and 2008-09.
5. Deferred recommendations regarding USA Football until more information is provided.
6. Committee discussed and felt comfortable with progress made concerning Policy and Program Goals in regard to strategic plan.
7. Recommended to support Enrollment and Transfer rules interpretation to be included in the Policy Manual.

- 8. Recommended to support football playoff eligibility for Kettle Run and Eastern View High Schools.
- 9. Recommended to support Eastern Region’s request to extend their basketball deadline in boys and girls finals from Saturday to Monday.

Mike Lane moved, Jim Stemple seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the Policy and Programs Committee report as presented.

**D. Technology:** Chairman Jim Stemple reported his committee’s findings and recommendations:

- 1. Clearwired: Recommended 5-0 to approve Clearwired as the League’s website redesign company for providing timely, complete and consistent information.
- 2. VHSL Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award: Recommended 5-0 to change the name of the VHSL Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award to the Claudia Dodson VHSL Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award.

**NOTE:** See IX Action Agenda, Items G and H.

**E. Redistricting and Reclassification:** Randy Thomas moved, Jim Stemple seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to accept the initial proposed alignment plan and the following timetable submitted by Redistricting and Reclassification Committee:

- Schools will be given until December 14 to submit in writing a request for modification to the initial R&R plan. The request should be submitted in writing to VHSL office with a copy to the regional representative on the R&R Committee and the affected district(s) and region(s). On January 22 R&R Committee meets to consider modification requests and present a revised plan to the Executive Committee in February and the membership in March.
- R&R Committee will meet April 14 (tentative time 9:00 a.m.) to consider final appeals; after acting on appeals, the committee will present its final plan with justification for Executive Committee approval in May. The Executive Committee will hear no appeals.

**VII. Consent Agenda:** Bill Owen moved, Jim Stemple seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the Consent Agenda which included A through C below:

**A. Approval of October 2007 Group Board Minutes.**

**B. Legislation:** Refer to VIII below.

**C. Salem, Patrick Henry (Roanoke) and E. C. Glass request approval of contests with “outside” teams:**  
 In accordance with Handbook Section 27- 3-3 (5) State Competition Rule Interpretations, “Athletic competition with “outside” or “independent” teams must be approved by the Executive Committee and is not recommended when sufficient competition can be scheduled with member schools.” These three schools have requested permission for their boys and girls lacrosse teams to play “outside” lacrosse games because there are a limited number of member schools playing lacrosse in the Roanoke Valley and Lynchburg areas.

**VIII. Legislation:**

**First-vote Legislation**

**Various Sections**

**Homeschool Legislation**

**Taken off table, 25-0**  
 (Owen moved, Thomas seconded)

**Withdrawn 25-0**  
 (Owen moved, Brads seconded)

**70-6-1; 70-7-1;  
70-8-1; 70-8-2**

**Golf:**  
(clean up existing language; remove duplications and align VHSL playing rules with USGA rules)

**Recommended 25-0**  
(Stemple moved,  
Lane seconded)

**12-2-1**

**Executive Committee Membership** -- The Executive Committee shall be composed of 28 voting members including: one principal from each region .... Terms for members of the Executive Committee are limited to a maximum of four consecutive years, except the term of a member shall be extended as necessary for the member to serve a full term on the National Federation of State High School Associations Board of Directors and the term of the chairman may be extended one year if necessary in order to serve as past chairman. ~~The past chairman and the executive director shall serve as a~~ non-voting members of the Executive Committee.

**Recommended 25-0**  
(Clendaniel moved,  
Lane seconded)

**Second—vote Legislation**

**54-8-1**

**Wrestling Contest Limitation – amended to read:**  
In wresting, each individual is limited to 40 ~~60~~ mat appearances prior to the culminating.....

**Adopted 25-0**  
(Owen moved,  
Stemple seconded)

**126-9-2; 126-9-7**

**Scholastic Bowl** – Remove 10-second limit and provide a designated time limit (up to 30 seconds) for difficulty of questions and math computation questions.

**Adopted 25-0**  
(Owen moved,  
Stemple seconded)

**IX. Action Agenda:**

- A. **Culpeper County High School Classification Change Request:** Jim Stemple moved, Dave Stuckwisch seconded and the committee voted 0-25 to approve the request by Culpeper County High School to be assigned to a Group AA district beginning with the 2008-09 school year, in the middle of a two-year cycle, in view of the opening of a new high school in the county. Therefore, the request is denied.
- B. **Eastern View High School** – Gene Kotulka moved, David Stuckwisch seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to assign Eastern View High School to the Battlefield District, Region I, Group AA for the 2008-09 school year.
- C. **Confirmation of 2008-09 State Playoff Sites:** Mike Lane moved, Bill Owen seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the 2007-08 and 2008-09 state playoff sites.

<b>Sport</b>	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2008-09</b>
Cheerleading	Siegel Center, VCU	Siegel Center, VCU
Cross Country	Great Meadows	Great Meadows has expressed interest
Field Hockey	National Training Center, VA Beach	National Training Center, VA Beach
Football -- Division 6	Scott Stadium, UVA	TBD – Scott Stadium, UVA or Lane Stadium, Tech
Football -- Division 5	Scott Stadium, UVA	TBD – Scott Stadium, UVA or Lane Stadium, Tech
Football -- Division 4	Liberty University	Liberty University has expressed interest
Football -- Division 3	Liberty University	Liberty University has expressed interest
Football -- Division 2	Salem Stadium	Salem Stadium
Football -- Division 1	Salem Stadium	Salem Stadium
Golf, AAA		Central Region Hosts
Golf, AA	Fincastle	Region II Hosts
Golf, A	Botetourt Country Club	Clearcreek Golf Course, Bristol
Girls Open Golf		Zone 3 – Regions B, C, II, Central Hosts
Volleyball	Siegel Center, VCU	Siegel Center, VCU
Basketball	Siegel Center, VCU	Siegel Center, VCU
Gymnastics	<b>Tallwood High School</b>	

Indoor Track, AAA	George Mason University	Eastern Region Host – George Mason University has expressed interest
Indoor Track, AA	Liberty University	Liberty University has expressed interest
Swim & Dive, AAA	George Mason University	Northwest Region Hosts
Swim & Dive, A & AA	George Mason University Freedom Ctr.	Region C/Region III Hosts
Wrestling, AAA	Oscar Smith High School	Oscar Smith High School
Wrestling, A & AA	Salem Civic Center	Salem Civic Center
Lacrosse	Westfield High School	Westfield High School
Spring Jubilee, AAA	Westfield High School	Westfield High School
Spring Jubilee, A & AA	Radford University	Radford University
Outdoor Track, AAA	Todd Stadium	Todd Stadium
Outdoor Track, AA	Harrisonburg High School	Harrisonburg High School has expressed interest
Outdoor Track, A	Radford University	Radford University has expressed interest
Theatre, AAA	<b>PVCC</b>	PVCC (?)
Theatre, A & AA	MLK Performing Arts Center, Charlottesville	MLK Performing Arts Center, Charlottesville
Scholastic Bowl	William & Mary	William & Mary
Forensics	Harrisonburg High School	Harrisonburg High School
Debate	Liberty University	Liberty University

- D. **Enrollment and Transfer Rules Policy Clarification:** Bill Clendaniel moved, Randy Thomas seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve the following to be placed in the Policy Manual:

28-3-3 (2) Enrollment Rule Interpretation. Enrollment is defined as official registration and attendance in classes for at least three school days thereafter. Home instruction meets Virginia Code requirements of compulsory education to the extent that a parent/guardian is in compliance with those procedures. It is not technically a "school," but it is a process through which compulsory education requirements may legally be met.

28-6-1 (1) Transfer Rule Interpretation. Enrollment is defined as official registration and attendance in classes for at least three consecutive school days thereafter. Home instruction meets Virginia Code requirements of compulsory education to the extent that a parent/guardian is in compliance with those procedures. It is not technically a "school," but it is a process through which compulsory education requirements may legally be met.

- E. **Kettle Run and Eastern View High Schools request exemption from 68-7-2:** Bill Clendaniel moved, Randy Thomas seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve requests from Kettle Run and Eastern View High Schools, two new schools opening in the fall of 2008, to be exempt from the restriction in 68-7-2 so that they could qualify for the football playoffs as a “wild card” if their rating is high enough to advance. Eastern View’s request is subject to approval by the Battlefield District and Region I.
- F. **Eastern Region Basketball Request:** Bill Clendaniel moved, Randy Thomas seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve a request from Eastern Region to extend the region’s basketball deadline in the boys and girls basketball finals from Saturday to Monday.
- G. **Clearwired:** Dave Stuckwisch moved, Randy Thomas seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to approve Clearwired as the VHSL’s website redesign company.
- H. **Claudia Dodson Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award:** Jim Stemple moved, Raymond Kohl seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to change the name of the VHSL Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award to the Claudia Dodson VHSL Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award.

X. **Discussion and Information Agenda:**

- A. **Area Eligibility Meetings:** 24 schools did not attend the 2007 Area Meetings and have been fined. Total attendance 516; 91 principals; 16 assistant principals; 192 athletic directors; eight (8) assistant principal/athletic directors; 58 activity directors; 25 assistant athletic directors; 105 guidance directors; eight (8) athletic secretaries; and 13 others. Attendance is up considerably from last year.

- B. **VSBA Conference Presentation:** This year's session in Williamsburg attracted another large audience of approximately 60 school board members.
- C. **VHSL Student Leaders Conference:** The proposed agenda for the 12th Annual VHSL Student Leaders Conference and Sportsmanship Summit on Apr. 18-19 at Monticello High School, Charlottesville, was distributed. Another great program is planned, including keynote speakers former Dallas Cowboy Eric Ogbogu ("Big E" in the highly popular Protect This House commercial series for Under Armour Sportswear), space shuttle astronaut Kathryn Thornton, and Magician Stephan Bargatze.
- D. **NFHS National Student Leadership Conference:** This event will be held at the Indianapolis Hilton from July 17-20, 2008. 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. **Appeals:** There have been a total of 57 eligibility appeals cases filed thus far in the 2007-08 school year. Of those cases, 40 have involved the Transfer Rule, nine (9) have involved the Semester Rule, four (4) Scholarship Rule, two (2) Age Rule, and one (1) Emancipated Student; one (1) Use of Ineligible. Three (3) cases have been appealed to the Independent Hearing Officer.
- F. **Region IV** has gone on record in favor of considering division playoffs in all team sports for Group AA. This will be an agenda item for discussion in March.
- G. **Staff Reports:** Staff reported on the fall events held to date.

XI. **Consideration of New Business Items:**

**Northern Neck District:** Legislation in regard to amendments to the Bona Fide Student, Enrollment and Scholarship rules will be included in the February Executive Committee agenda.

XII. **Business from the Floor:**

**March Breakout Sessions:** It was recommended that the VHSL Breakout Sessions be held prior to the Group Boards. Suggestions for breakout sessions include Divisional Play and Redistricting and Reclassification.

XIII. **Adjournment:** There being no further business, Bill Owen moved, Jim Stemple seconded and the committee voted 25-0 to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 p.m.