

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

**FEBRUARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**TIME: Tuesday, February 26, 2008**

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

**Wednesday, February 27, 2008 – DoubleTree Hotel**

**8:30 a.m. Full Committee**

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

- I. **Roll Call:** Pete Koste, Jim Stemple, Bill Clendaniel, Susan Bechtol (alternate for Cynthia Watson), Dante Lee (alternate for Mike Lane), Nelson Simpkins, Bill Owen, Rob Arnold, E.G. Bradshaw, Jim Whorley, Lawrence Whiting, Gene Kotulka, Vanessa Wigand, Charles “Mike” Harris, Dave Stuckwisch, Randy Thomas, Rusty Fairheart, Dan Lyons, Don Stowers, Pat Ferguson, Connie Minnick, Clay Moran, Denise Bowman-Scott, and Ken Tilley.

Members absent: Anthony Brads, Raymond Kohl, Jim Thornton, Bob Tata, John Hall.

Also attending were VHSL staff Tom Zimorski, Jim Garman, Joyce Sisson, Lisa Giles, Tom Dolan, Hannah Catherine Munro, Mike McCall; as well as Les Cummings, Loudoun County Schools; Chris Garber, Millbrook High School; William Gouldthorpe, Amherst County High School and Susan Fleming, Central High School (W).

- II. **Agenda Approval:** Jim Stemple moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to approve the agenda as presented.
- III. **Minutes:** Dave Stuckwisch moved, Lawrence Whiting seconded and the committee voted 22-0-1 (Bowman-Scott abstaining) to approve the December 5, 2007, Executive Committee minutes as presented.
- IV. **Announcements and Call for New Business:** League Chairman Pete Koste noted committee schedule and procedures and that March meeting hotel reservations had been sent to members for review and updating. There were no other announcements or new business.
- V. **Public Comment:** Heather Hogg addressed the committee to request that her son, a student at Open High School in Richmond be allowed to participate in soccer at Maggie Walker, an out-of-zone area school.

Annette Rollyson and Vicky Wolfe with Herff Jones Yearbooks addressed the committee relative to their concerns with the VHSL/Jostens Regional Journalism Workshop. Rollyson and Wolfe asked the committee to re-examine the perception that Jostens has an exclusive contract with the VHSL to host the workshop and to allow Herff Jones and other companies to participate as a host sponsor.

VI. **Committee Reports:**

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

1. Reviewed the Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Report for the VHSL through January 31, 2008; noted \$240,000 less revenue this year compared to last year at this time due to lower revenue from state football playoffs and greater costs at Group AAA Division 5 and 6 state championship game site.
2. Reviewed the Income and Expense Report and Balance Sheet for the VHSL Foundation through January 31, 2008. Noted Benefit Game income had declined.

3. The 2009 Preliminary Budget was reviewed with a notation of significant increase in technology expenses (Clearwired, BoardDocs). Staff will have budget balanced by the May meeting.
4. Reviewed Strategic Planning and Financial Critical Issues. Acknowledged the importance of finding new revenue streams to help offset rising costs. Directed the formation of a sub-committee to study the pass policy at state events. Directed staff and executive committee to study all ticket prices for state events.

Rob Arnold moved, Jim Stemple seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to approve the Finance Committee report.

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

1. The committee reviewed the three goals of the Executive Director and made the following conclusions:
  - a. The executive director provided a written budget timeline which, if all related materials are presented in a timely fashion, will afford the committees ample opportunity to make sound, informed decisions.
  - b. The executive director successfully linked staff responsibilities in year one of the strategic plan to their goals for evaluation in 2007-08.
  - c. Acknowledged the executive director continues to prioritize for years two and three of the strategic plan.
2. It was the unanimous opinion of the Operations and Personnel Committee that the Executive Director is meeting or exceeding all goals and performance standards from the 2007-08 school year.
3. The committee discussed Operations/Personnel Critical Issues for Strategic Planning. The committee was in unanimous agreement that the most critical issues in year two of the strategic plan continue to address physical plant needs and to continue to provide orientation, education and mentoring for officials, coaches and activities directors.

Nelson Simpkins moved, Jim Stemple seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to accept the report of the Operations and Personnel Committee as presented.

**C. Policy:** Lawrence Whiting served as chairman and reported on his committee's findings and recommendations.

1. The committee reviewed the following carry-over items from the December meeting:
  - a. A survey had been sent to member schools, superintendents, and school board members concerning VHSL Coaches Education relative to what the membership would like to see accomplished. The results will be given out at the March membership meeting. The committee instructed staff to develop and expand VHSL Coaches Education information on web site.
  - b. Recommended for approval the state event sites for 2008-09 except Group AAA Division 5 and 6 state football championships. Directed staff to seek neutral pre-determined sites in each region to host the Division 5 and 6 state football championships. Recommended a date change for the 2009 Group A/AA state wrestling tournament to February 20-21; dates for the subsequent two years will be February 19-20, 2010 and February 18-19, 2011. Recommended date changes for the 2009 Swim and Dive season to February 7 (district deadline), February 14 (region deadline) and February 20-21 (state deadline). Recommended changing the 2008 First Contest Date for Golf (all classes, all schools) to Tuesday, August 5, instead of Saturday, August 9.
  - c. Reviewed information regarding USA Football Under-19 National Team and withheld recommending it to membership.
  - d. Recommended revised Enrollment Rule interpretation as Handbook legislation.

- e. Recommended revised Transfer Rule interpretation as Handbook legislation.
- 2. Recommended not to approve Sports Medicine Advisory Committee recommendation mandating that certified athletic trainers be present at all state championship events.
- 3. Tom Zimorski reported that a sportsmanship guide book was now available on the VHSL web site.
- 4. Lisa Giles gave a historical review of the VHSL/Jostens Journalism Workshop and addressed the concerns from Herff Jones. It was the committee's recommendation that the current three-year partnership was appropriate, ethical and consistent with the League's sponsorship philosophy. The committee further concluded that the Workshop has been beneficial and has made a significant impact on scholastic journalism in Virginia. The committee recommended extending the VHSL/Jostens partnership for another three-year term.

Lawrence Whiting moved, Randy Thomas seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to approve the Policy and Programs Committee report as presented.

**D. Technology:** Chairman Jim Stemple reported his committee did not meet.

Joyce Sisson gave a brief status report on the VHSL website redesign process. Clearwired (the league's website company) continues to be in the discovery process and continues to be in constant discussion with members and VHSL staff. Clearwired will be available to meet with school administrators at the March meetings and state basketball championships.

Ken Tilley gave a brief review of the Communication plan.

**E. Redistricting and Reclassification (R&R):** Ken Tilley reported the findings and recommendation of the committee referencing the R&R minutes from January 22, 2008. September 30 and March 30 enrollment figures were discussed and which numbers should be used in determining future classification. The committee noted that the March 31 enrollment numbers were more accurate than September's figures.

It was the committee recommendation to not approve Culpeper County High School's request to be assigned to Group AA for the 2008-09 school year as a result of a new school opening in the county.

Susan Bechtol moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to approve the R&R committee's report as presented.

**F. Football Ratings:** Tom Dolan reported the findings and recommendation of the committee.

Tom Dolan reported that the comments he had received regarding the current football ratings system had been overwhelmingly positive, and this was confirmed by the football ratings committee which met on February 12. The Committee recommended no changes to the current system.

Susan Bechtol moved, E.G. Bradshaw seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to approve the football ratings committee report as presented.

**VII. Consent Agenda:** Nelson Simpkins moved, Mike Harris seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to approve the Consent Agenda which included A and B below:

**A. Legislation: Second-Vote Items (noted below).**

**B. South County Secondary School Girls Lacrosse Invitational Tournament:** South County has requested that Deep Run High School's girls lacrosse club team be allowed to participate in their lacrosse invitational scheduled for April 11 and 12, 2008. South County has been unable to fill its tournament field with other school teams, and the executive committee has granted similar requests in the past.

VIII. **Legislation:**

**Second-Vote Items**

**70-6-1 through  
70-8-2 and  
Policy Manual  
70-1-1**

**Golf**  
“Cleans up” existing language and aligns  
VHSL with USGA.

**Adopted 23-0**  
(Simpkins moved,  
Harris seconded)

**12-1-1**

**Executive Committee Membership**  
Allows past chairman to serve as  
voting member.

**Adopted 23-0**  
(Simpkins moved,  
Harris seconded)

**Emergency**

**28-6-2(13)**

**Transfer Rule—  
Exception**  
Language becomes consistent  
with current interpretations.

**Adopted 23-0**  
(Kotulka moved,  
Bowman-Scott  
seconded)

**First-Vote Items**

**Section 54**

**Athletic Program**  
The football division playoff format would  
apply for future sports added to divisional  
team play.

**Not rec. 7-15-1**  
(Simpkins moved,  
Bechtol seconded)  
(Kotulka, Ferguson,  
Thomas, Whorley,  
Harris, Stowers,  
Bowman-Scott  
voting yes; Moran  
abstaining)

**28-1-1**

**Bona Fide Student Rule**  
Clarify attendance and passing required  
subjects (including special education).

**Not rec. 1-22**  
(Owen moved,  
Stuckwisch seconded)  
(Owen voting yes)

**28-1-3(1)**

**Bona Fide Student Rule Exception**  
Emphasize that exception includes  
special education students.

**No second made;  
amendment dies**  
(Harris moved)

**28-3-1**

**Enrollment Rule**  
If a student misses 15 straight days of  
school, he/she forfeits eligibility.

**No motion made;  
amendment dies**

**28-4-2(4) (5)**

**Scholarship Rule Exceptions**  
The student must be attending school on  
a regular basis to be eligible for participation  
in VHSL activities. The school system’s  
attendance policy will determine regular  
attendance.

**No motion made;  
amendment dies**

**27-3-3(5)**

**State Competition Rule Interpretation**  
Athletic competition with “outside” or  
“independent” teams to be approved by  
the Executive Director.

**Rec. 23-0**  
(Thomas moved,  
Clendaniel seconded)

<b>27-13-6 30-5-1</b>	<b>Sportsmanship Rule and Specific Penalties</b> Due to the varying number of contests from one sport to another, a percentage penalty (20%) was viewed as a more consistent penalty for fighting.	<b>Not rec. 10-13</b> (Clendaniel moved, Bowman-Scott seconded) (Ferguson, Thomas, Stemple, Bradshaw, Stowers, Clendaniel, Fairheart, Whiting, Wigand, Lee voting yes)
<b>54-8-1</b>	<b>Contest Limitations (Wrestling)</b>	<b>Withdrawn</b>
<b>116-7-1</b>	<b>Duo Interpretation of Literature</b> Each interpreter may present one or more characters and either or both may present narration.	<b>Rec. 23-0</b> (Simpkins moved, Stemple seconded)
<b>116-7-1</b>	<b>Duo Interpretation of Literature</b> Allows more leeway for movement.	<b>Rec. 22-0-1</b> (Bradshaw moved, Ferguson seconded) (Simpkins abstaining)
<b>28-3-3(2)</b>	<b>Enrollment Rule</b> Clarifies home instruction is equivalent of school enrollment for purposes of future eligibility when entering public school.	<b>Rec. 23-0</b> (Whiting moved, Thomas seconded)
<b>28-6-1</b>	<b>Transfer Rule</b> Clarifies home instruction is equivalent of school enrollment for purposes of future eligibility when entering public school.	<b>Rec. 23-0</b> (Whiting moved, Thomas seconded)
<b>30-4-1 (4)</b>	<b>Fines:</b> Remove \$300 fine limit.	<b>Rec. 21-2</b> (Arnold moved, Lyons seconded) (Whorley, Minnick voting no)

IX. **Action Agenda:**

A. **Culpeper County High School** appealed the executive committee's decision in December not to be allowed to be assigned to Group AA for the 2008-09 school year. Randy Thomas moved that the appeal be granted, but the appeal was denied due to a lack of a second.

B. **Calendar changes for 2008-09:**

- Football Practice Date:** Multiple schools requested permission to move the date for football practice from August 1 to July 28 to allow for the full 20 days of practice prior to the first contest date on August 22. E.G. Bradshaw moved, and Denise Bowman-Scott seconded that the requests be approved. The motion failed 7-16 (Bradshaw, Stowers, Simpkins, Moran, Lee, Minnick, Arnold voting yes).
- Golf Matches Start Date:** Jim Stemple moved and Jim Whorley seconded a motion to approve the Commonwealth District's request changing 2008 First Contest Date for Golf (all classes, all schools) to Tuesday, August 5 (instead of Friday, August 8). The motion failed 10-13 (Stemple, Ferguson, Clendaniel, Simpkins, Fairheart, Moran, Wigand, Whorley, Lyons, Koste voting yes)

3. **Group AAA State Golf Championship:** Bill Clendaniel moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 23-0 approving a request to hold the 2008 Group AAA State Golf Championship on Monday and Tuesday, October 20-21, instead of October 13-14; the site will be Independence Golf Club.
4. **A/AA State Wrestling Tournament:** Jim Stemple moved, Dave Stuckwisch seconded and committee voted 23-0 approving a date change for the 2009 Group A/AA State Wrestling Tournament to February 20-21; dates for the subsequent two years will be February 19-20, 2010, and February 18-19, 2011.
5. **Swim and Dive Dates:** Dave Stuckwisch moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 23-0 approving date changes for the 2009 Swim and Dive season to February 7, 2009 (district deadline), February 14, 2009 (region deadline) and February 20-21 (state deadline).

X. **General Assembly Report and Legal Report:**

Ken Tilley reported two bills relevant to VHSL programs were introduced in the 2008 Session of the General Assembly: (a) HB 273, which would have required the exclusive use of wood or wood composite baseball bats in interscholastic baseball or softball activities and (b) HB 375, which would have required participation in public school interscholastic athletics by certain nonpublic school students and by students receiving home instruction.

Both bills did not receive enough support to move out of committee.

XI. **Discussion and Information Agenda:**

- A. **Appeals:** Tom Zimorski reported seven appeals had been conducted by conference call with only one request for a face-to-face meeting. Handling appeals by conference calls has resulted in significant savings and conveniences to the League and appellants.
- B. **NFHS Winter Meeting:** Ken Tilley and Mike Harris attended the annual NFHS Winter Meeting in January. Ken Tilley reported the emphasis at the meeting was on professional development and updates on relevant issues.
- C. **NFHS Student Leaders Conference:** This event will be held at the Indianapolis Hilton from July 17-20, 2008. The NFHS anticipates attendance of 300 student delegates from around the nation. Virginia is allowed to send six students – rising sophomore and junior – with all conference registration, housing and all meals free to registered delegates from a grant by T-Mobile USA, Inc. Ken Tilley reported that six schools would like to send delegates this year, again giving Virginia full representation at the conference.
- D. **VHSL Student Leaders Conference:** Ken Tilley noted student registration is down as compared to last year at this time and encouraged committee members to encourage their schools to please consider sending students to this year's conference to be held April 18-19 at Monticello High School in Charlottesville.
- E. **T-Mobile:** Ken Tilley gave a brief report citing Hampton High School's girls team participation in this year's T-Mobile Invitational National High School Basketball Tournament held December 28-29 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- F. **Staff Reports:** Staff reported on the fall events held to date.

XII. **March Meeting Schedule:**

All schools were encouraged to participate in the Group Board and Membership meetings March 13-14 at the Holiday Inn Select Hotel in Richmond.

XIII. **2008-09 Executive Committee and Membership Meeting Dates:**

Bill Owen moved, Jim Stemple seconded and the committee voted 23-0 approving 2008-09 meeting dates.

2008-09 Dates

September 18, 2008	Executive Committee
October 27, 2008	Hall of Fame
October 28, 2008	Group Boards/Membership
December 3, 2008	Executive Committee
February 25, 2009	Executive Committee
March 12, 2009	Group Boards
March 13, 2009	Membership
May 7, 2009	Executive Committee

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

1. Discussed a parent's request for a high school student at Open High School in Richmond to attend Maggie Walker, an out-of-zone school. No motion was made and the request was denied.
2. In response to a request from Herff Jones the committee directed staff to invite the company to participate in other programs that would benefit member schools and students.
3. Dave Stuckwisch moved, Don Stowers seconded and the committee voted 11-11-1 (vote not recorded) regarding Virginia Tech hosting Group AAA Division 5 and 6 state championship games. Discussion followed relative to the merits of holding the Group AAA state football championships at Virginia Tech. Eastern Region cited travel as a negative to having the games in Blacksburg relative to Eastern Region schools. Jim Whorley moved, Gene Kotulka seconded and the committee voted 14-9 (Koste, Stemple, Bradshaw, Stowers, Moran, Arnold, Simpkins, Harris, Lee voting no) not to have Group AAA championship games played at Virginia Tech. The committee asked staff to seek neutral pre-determined sites in each region and bring a recommendation to the May meeting.
4. Finance Committee recommended allowing fines to exceed the current \$300 limit for violation of rules. Following a brief discussion on its merits, Tom Zimorski noted any fine can always be appealed. Jim Whorley moved, Connie Minnick seconded and the committee voted 21-2 in favor of the finance committee's recommendation.
5. Bill Clendaniel moved, Pat Ferguson seconded and the committee voted 23-0 directing formation of a sub-committee to study the pass list policy at state events.
6. Lawrence Whiting moved, Susan Bechtol seconded and the committee voted 23-0 denying at this time a Sports Medicine Committee recommendation to allow this committee to address executive committee directly instead of the current policy in place.
7. Denise Bowman-Scott moved, Dave Stuckwisch seconded and the committee voted 22-1 denying Sports Medicine request mandating that certified athletic trainers be present at all state championship events.

XV. **Business from the Floor:**

**Group A Division Basketball Play:** Group A school representatives noted Division Play has been very successful, although some modifications regarding district and regional playoff formats will take place for next year.

**Changing First Contest Date for Golf:** Jim Stemple moved, Jim Whorley seconded and the committee voted 23-0 moving the First Contest Date for Golf (all classes, all schools) to Tuesday, August 5, instead of Friday, August 8.

Connie Minnick informed the committee of rule change by the NFHS allowing metal cleats to be worn for softball beginning this spring.

XVI. **Business from the Floor:** There being no further business, Bill Owen moved, Jim Whorley seconded and the committee voted 23-0 to adjourn the meeting at 2:18 p.m.