

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES MAY 2008

TIME: Tuesday, May 6, 2008

5:00 p.m. Personnel Committee
5:00 p.m. Finance Committee
5:00 p.m. Technology/Communications Committee
5:00 p.m. Policy Committee
6:00 p.m. Joint Meeting of Personnel and Finance Committees

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

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

PLACE: DoubleTree Hotel
990 Hilton Heights Road
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, Rusty Fairheart, Randy Thomas, Dan Lyons, Anthony Brads, Don Stowers, Raymond Kohl, Pat Ferguson, Connie Minnick, Clay Moran, Denise Bowman-Scott, Bob Tata, and Ken Tilley.

Members absent: Jim Thornton and John Hall.

VHSL Staff: Tom Zimorski, Jim Garman, Joyce Sisson, Lisa Giles, Tom Dolan, Hannah Catherine Munro, Mike McCall and Lora Bickley; as well as William Gouldthorpe, Amherst County High School; John Vasvary, Brookville High School; Buck Smith, Warren County Public Schools; Bill Curran, Fairfax County Public Schools; Dan Checkosky, W. T. Woodson High School; Bill Stewart, Handley High School; Jason Barbe, Sherando High School; Judy Brunnsfield, Jamestown High School, and Dave Melton, Fredericksburg City Public Schools.

- II. **Agenda Approval:** Rob Arnold moved, Randy Thomas seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to move VI. (Redistricting and Reclassification) after IX. (Legislation).

- III. **Minutes:** E. G. Bradshaw moved, Bill Owen seconded and the committee voted to approve the February 27, 2008, Executive Committee Minutes as presented.

- IV. **Announcements and Call for New Business:** Executive Director Tilley reviewed the committee schedule and procedures.

The following new business items were presented:

- A. Football alignment proposal from Region C.
- B. Change start date for basketball from Northwest Region.

- V. **Concerns from the Public:** It was announced that Liberty Christian Academy had requested to appear before the May Executive Committee. However due to a death of one of their students, they requested to reschedule for the September Executive Committee.

Sue Jones, coach of the Peakview Pacers, appeared before the Executive Committee requesting that homeschool associations be included in the back of the VHSL Directory in Appendix B, Virginia Nonpublic Secondary Schools.

- VI. **Redistricting & Reclassification (R&R) Recommended Plan:** The following individuals were present for the R&R Appeals: Margaret Huckaby, Heritage High School (Loudoun); Les Cummings, Loudoun County Public Schools; Dave Hembach, Stone Bridge High School; Kevin Newman, Jeremy Jack and Stephen Swope, Colonial Beach High Schools.

R&R Chairman Dave Melton addressed the committee concerning the R&R's Recommended Plan for 2009-10 and 2010-11. He felt the committee kept on task in considering geography and balance when hearing the appeals presented on April 14.

Dave Stuckwisch moved, Rusty Fairheart seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to deny the request from Colonial Beach High School to remain in the Tidewater District, Region, A, instead of its placement in the Northern Neck District, Region A.

Bill Clendaniel moved, Bill Owen seconded and the committee voted 25-1 (Stemple voting no) to deny the request from Heritage High School (Loudoun County) to be placed in the Liberty District, Northern Region, instead of its placement in the Cedar Run District, Northwest Region.

Dave Stuckwisch moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 25-1 (Stemple voting no) to deny the request from Loudoun Valley High School to be placed in the Concorde District, Northern Region, instead of the Cedar Run District, Northwest Region.

Nelson Simpkins moved, Jim Stemple seconded and the committee voted 25-1 (Clendaniel voting no) to deny the request from Langley High School appealing Stone Bridge High School's placement in the Liberty District, Northern Region.

Bill Owen moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to approve the 2009-10 and 2010-11 Redistricting and Reclassification Plan, postponing final action on Northwest Region, Northern Region and Region C to allow the regions the opportunity to redistrict within their respective regions and present a variance to the R&R Plan for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years for approval by the Executive Committee in September.

VII. 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 March 31, 2008, noting we are currently \$45,000 in the black.
2. Reviewed the Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Report for the VHSL Foundation through March 31, 2008 (noting unrealized losses).
3. Recommended the following items for approval by the Executive Committee:
 1. Team travel for 2007-08 reimbursed at 100%.
 2. A \$1 rebate to competing schools on pre-sale tickets for football and basketball state championships (finals only) in 2008-09.
 3. The \$20,200 income from Benefit Games transferred to the VHSL Foundation.
 4. Adopt the FY09 Budget that included a 3% salary increase for VHSL staff with no step increases (see B. below).
 5. Accept the bid proposal from American Specialties for catastrophic insurance.
 6. Increase all ticket prices to \$10 with the exception of cross-country, indoor and outdoor track.
 7. No dues increase for the 2009-10 school year.
 8. The formation of a committee to study the Pass and Admissions Policy.

Dave Stuckwisch moved, Randy Thomas seconded and the committee voted 25-1 (Watson voting no) to approve the above recommendations.

4. Dan Lyons moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to deny a request from Central Region to change the financial procedures for the district, region and state tournaments.

Rob Arnold moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to approve the Finance Committee report as presented.

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

Bill Clendaniel moved, Don Stowers seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to go into executive session under 2.2.344A (7) to discuss matters pertaining to personnel.

Bill Clendaniel moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded, and the committee voted 26-0 to return to open session.

Bill Clendaniel moved, Dave Stuckwisch seconded and the committee verified 26-0 that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements were discussed.

Nelson Simpkins moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to reappoint the executive director, noting that he had provided effective leadership and had met or exceeded all pre-determined goals.

Nelson Simpkins moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to approve the salary increase for all employees at 3% with no step increases.

The Personnel Committee recommended establishing the #1 goal of the Personnel/Operations Strategic Plan for 2008-09 Ensure that the physical plant meets program and staff needs, enlisting consultants to work with staff and Executive Committee to identify necessary building projects.

The Personnel Committee recommended moving from the 2008-09 Strategic Plan to the 2009-10 Strategic Plan III Goal 2 f: Educate school personnel to maintain consistency in interpretations and enforcement of VHSL rules and regulations.

Nelson Simpkins moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to approve the Personnel Committee report.

C. Policy: Chairman Mike Lane reported on his committee's findings and recommendations.

1. Recommended the format and time schedule for the 2009 VHSL State Basketball Championships.
2. Recommended representatives take back the State Basketball Quarterfinals "Super Sites" concept to their regions for discussion and for staff to bring back a site recommendation to the Executive Committee in September for approval.
3. Recommended approval of the Second and Emergency vote legislative items.
4. Recommended the start date for football practice remain August 1.
5. Recommended moving the date of the Girls Open Golf from October 20-21 to October 27-28 and moving Group AA Swim from February 20-21 to February 27-28 at UVA.
6. Considered a new football proposal from UVA.
7. Recommended the approval of the Group A soccer brackets.
8. Recommended the Wilson Wave Basketball be studied further before considering adoption by the VHSL.
9. Noted that the Strategic Goals for the Policy Committee had been met.
10. Recommended that the Executive Director be given authority to approve participation by Virginia schools in Youth Rowing Championships subject to meeting prescribed conditions.
11. Recommended approval of the state sites for 2008-09.
12. Reviewed the football proposal from Region C.

13. Reviewed Coaches Ed minutes, and items for action will be presented in September.

D. **Technology (and Communications):** Chairman Jim Stemple reported on his committee's findings and recommendations.

1. The website design with Clearwired is progressing and it is anticipated the VHSL will be up and running no later than September.
2. Live telecasts of the State Basketball Finals was successful from the VHSL standpoint and viewer response was positive.
3. The Technology and Communications Committee is on target with their Strategic Plan goals.
4. Recommended the continued use of BoardDocs to conduct the Executive Committee meetings.

E. **SMAC (Sports Medicine Advisory Committee):** Bill Owen moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to table the recommendation to have appropriate medical care at state athletic events, subject to review by legal counsel.

F. **Coaches Education:** Any items needing Executive Committee approval will be presented in September.

VIII. **Consent Agenda:** Dave Stuckwisch moved, Bill Clendaniel seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to approve the Consent Agenda which included A, B and C below:

A. **Legislation: Second-vote Items – see IX below**

B. **Approval of March 2008 Group Board Minutes**

C. **Colonel Charles E. Savedge Scholarship/Virginia Student Journalist of the Year:** This is the only scholarship that is given from specially designated League funds (established in honor of Virginia's legendary yearbook adviser). After reviewing 27 nominations, the scholarship selection committee unanimously recommends that Hallie Colegrove of J.E. B. Stuart High School be the recipient of this \$500 award. Hallie was singled out for writing and reporting ability. She will be interviewed by *Falls Church News-Press* in a 400-word story.

IX. **Legislation:**

Emergency

30-4-1 (4)

Fines (as amended to read):
A fine not to exceed \$1000 may be levied with or without any other penalty that is imposed on the school

Adopted 25-1
(Owen moved, Stuckwisch seconded, Whorley voting no)

58-6-2

58-6-3

58-7-1

Basketball Playoff System
(to include Group AA) To identify criteria for Group AA division playoff policies for basketball.

Adopted 25-1
(Bradshaw moved, Ferguson seconded, Whorley voting no)

Second vote

27-3-3(5)

State Competition Rule Interpretation
Athletic competition with "outside" or "independent" teams must be approved by the Executive Director.

Adopted 26-0
(Stuckwisch moved, Clendaniel seconded)

28-3-3(2)	Enrollment Rule Clarifies home instruction is equivalent of school enrollment for purposes of future eligibility when entering public school.	Adopted 26-0 (Stuckwisch moved, Clendaniel seconded)
28-6-1	Transfer Rule Clarifies home instruction is equivalent of school enrollment for purposes of future eligibility when entering public school.	Adopted 26-0 (Stuckwisch moved, Clendaniel seconded)
116-7-1	Duo Interpretation of Literature Each interpreter may present one or more characters and either or both may present narration.	Adopted 26-0 (Stuckwisch moved, Clendaniel seconded)
116-7-1	Duo Interpretation of Literature Allows more leeway for movement.	Adopted 26-0 (Stuckwisch moved, Clendaniel seconded)

X. **Action Agenda:**

A. **Calendar Dates:**

1. **Request by Rob Arnold to reconsider the first practice date for football for 2008:** E. G. Bradshaw moved, Bill Owen seconded and the committee voted 16-10 (Stuckwisch, Bowman-Scott, Lyons, Owen, Harris, Fairheart, Watson, Brads, Kotulka and Thomas voting no) to move the football practice date from August 1 to July 28.
2. **Swim & Dive:** Mike Lane moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to move the Group AA Swim Meet dates from February 20-21 to February 27-28 in order for UVA to host this event.
3. **Golf Dates:** Mike Lane moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to move the Girls Open Golf date from October 20-21 to October 27-28 to eliminate conflicts with the AAA Golf Championship at Independence Golf Club.
4. **Calendar Adjustments:** Dave Stuckwisch moved, Bill Owen seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to make the following calendar adjustments for 2008-09; 2009-10 and 2010-11:

2008-09

- Girls Open Golf – change dates from Oct. 20-21 to Oct. 27-28, 2008 (necessitated by date change approved for AAA golf)
- Volleyball – change State semifinal dates from Nov. 14 to Nov. 13-14, 2008
- Basketball – quarterfinal dates changed from March 7 to March 6-7; semifinal dates changed from March 11-13 to March 10-13, 2009; Finals March **13-14**
- Lacrosse District Deadline – change from May 26 to May 16, 2009
- Lacrosse State Quarterfinals – change from May 26 to May 30, 2009
- Lacrosse State Semis – change from May 28 to June 2-3, 2009
- Lacrosse State Finals – change from May 30 to June 6, 2009

2009-10

- Volleyball – same as above (corresponding dates) SF Nov. 19-20, 2009
- Basketball – same as above (corresponding dates) – QF March 5-6; SF March 9-12; Finals March 12-13, 2010
- Swim & Dive – move to dates corresponding w/2008-09; District Deadline Feb. 6, 2010; Region Deadline Feb. 13, 2010; State Meet February 19-20, 2010

- Lacrosse – same as above (corresponding dates) – QF *June 5*; SF *June 8-9*; Finals *June 12, 2010*

2010-11

- Volleyball – same as above (corresponding dates) SF Nov. 18-19, 2009
- Basketball – same as above (corresponding dates) – QF March 4-5; SF March 8-11; Finals March 11-12, 2011
- Swim & Dive – same as above (corresponding dates); District Deadline Feb. 5, 2011; Region Deadline Feb. 12, 2011; State Meet February 18-19, 2011
- Lacrosse – same as above (corresponding dates) – QF *June 4*; SF *June 7-8*; Finals *June 11, 2011*

- B. **State Sites:** Jim Stemple moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to approve the state sites as presented with the exception of Division 5 and Division 6 Football.

Jim Stemple moved, Pat Ferguson seconded and the committee voted 22-1-1 (Whiting voting no; Thomas abstaining) to accept the bid from Virginia Tech to host the Division 5 and Division 6 Football.

Group AAA Division 5 and Division 6 Football – Virginia Tech
 Group AA Division 3 and Division 4 Football – Liberty University
 Girls Open Golf – Williamsburg National Golf Club
 Group AAA Indoor Track – Boo Williams Sports Plex, Hampton
 Group AA Indoor Track – Liberty University
 Group AAA Swim and Dive – George Mason University, Freedom Center
 Group A/AA Swim and Dive – University of Virginia

- C. **Wilson “Wave” Basketball:** Wilson has requested that VHSL consider adoption of the Wilson “WAVE” basketball as our official ball (replacing the “Solution” model). Bill Clendaniel moved, Connie Minnick seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to table this item until the regions had an opportunity to discuss.

D. **Legislation:**

30-4-1 (4) Fines – Recommended in February 21-2

30-4-1 (4) A fine ~~not to exceed \$300~~ may be levied with or without any other penalty that is imposed on the school.

Randy Thomas moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 23-3 (Whorley, Tata, Minnick voting no) to make this legislation “emergency” and amend to read:

30-4-1 (4) A fine not to exceed \$1000 may be levied with or without any other penalty that is imposed on the school.

Bill Owen moved, Dave Stuckwisch seconded and the committee voted 25-1 (Whorley voting no) to adopt this as amended.

- E. **Group A Boys and Girls Soccer Pairings:** Dave Stuckwisch moved, E. G. Bradshaw seconded and the committee voted 26-0 to adopt the soccer pairings as noted below to incorporate Region D’s participation in boys and girls soccer this year.

- (1) A#1 vs. B#2
- (2) D#1 vs. C#2
- (3) B#1 vs. A#2
- (4) C#1 vs. D#2
- (5) Winners 1 & 2
- (6) Winners 3 & 4
- (7) Winners 5 & 6

XI. **Legal Report:**

- A. Ken Tilley reported on the Annual NFHS Summit and Legal Meeting which he and Craig Wood attended on April 18-20.

- B. Michigan law suit. A Title IX sports season law suit that began nearly 10 years ago is nearing completion with potentially dire consequences for the Michigan High School Athletic Association. A U.S. District Court judge had ruled against the MHSAA in December 2001, and all appeals of that decision have been exhausted. The federal judge this month ordered the MHSAA to pay more than \$7 million in legal fees plus interest.

XII. **Discussion and Information:**

- A. **Achievement Awards:** 216 students from 98 schools were nominated to receive the League's highest individual honor. Below is a list of the state winners.

Group A Female Athlete – Kelly Montgomery, Chatham High School
 Group A Male Athlete – David Harrison, Rural Retreat High School
 Group A Academic Activity – Savannah Arwood, Powell Valley High School

Group AA Female Athlete - Kristin Berrang, Waynesboro High School
 Group AA Male Athlete – Brett Olinger , Broadway High School
 Group AA Academic Activity - Matthew Lipscomb, Salem High School

Group AAA Female Athlete – Kelly Reinwald, North Stafford High School
 Group AAA Male Athlete – Nathan Richards, E.C. Glass High School
 Group AAA Academic Activity – Jacob Derr, North Stafford High School

Courageous Achievement – Eleanor Mullen, Western Albemarle High School

- B. **VHSL Student Leaders Conference:** Approximately 650 students and more than 100 adults from nearly 60 schools registered to attend the Twelfth Annual VHSL Student Leaders Conference and Sportsmanship Summit at Monticello High School on April 18-19.
- C. **Appeals:** It is worth noting that five Independent Hearing Officer (IHO) cases were heard this year. Of those appeals cases, the Executive Committee's decision was upheld two times. Almost invariably, when the IHO does not uphold the Executive Committee, it is the result of new (additional) information being presented by the appellant.
- D. **VIAAA Conference:** VHSL staff was involved in the 36th Annual VIAAA Conference, "The Shining Stars of the Past, Present and Future," on April 2-6, 2008, in Roanoke. Joyce Sisson is the VHSL liaison to the VIAAA. Tom Dolan completed his term as president of the VIAAA. Joyce, Tom and Ken Tilley gave a VHSL Q&A Update. The 37th Annual VIAAA Conference will be held on March 26-31, 2009, at the Hotel Roanoke.
- E. **Hall of Fame:** The selection committee will meet on April 28 to choose the Class of 2008 (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.
- F. **NFHS News:** At the NFHS Annual Summer Meeting VHSL students will present a debate on Public and Private Schools Interscholastic Competition. Lisa Giles has been instrumental in securing the student debaters from Massaponax High School (tentative). Hannah Catherine Munro will participate on a panel presentation of the topic Boost Your Revenue with Fund-Raising – Panel Discussion of Programs That Work. Virginia is co-hosting this year's conference (with Maryland and the District of Columbia), which will be held in Washington, D.C., on July 3-7.
- G. **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 29- July 2.
- H. **Creative Writing:** Down from 52 in 2007, a total of 48 schools entered the state championship in creative writing this year, representing 13 of 96 Group A schools, 16 of 85 Group AA schools and 19 of 130 Group AAA schools. Eight schools entered for the first time (at least since data has been collected in 1997) and they are: Appomattox County, Appomattox Regional Governor's School, Clarke County, Virginia, Grassfield, Loudoun Valley, Riverbend and George Wythe-Richmond. The folders have been delivered to judges at the University of Virginia and results are anticipated early May.

I. Early Signing Date for Division I Football:

The American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) asked state associations for the opinion of high school football coaches relative to a proposal to set an early signing date for Division I football.

This matter has been discussed by college coaches for the last 15 years. This year, for the first time, there appears to be a strong majority of Division I coaches who would like to have an early signing date. AFCA is asking for the opinion of high school coaches, and we are asking for each Executive Committee region principal representative to provide input from his/her region schools.

- J. FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition:** On Saturday, March 9, Ken Tilley attended the FIRST Robotics Competition NASA/VCU Regional at VCU's Siegel Center. More than 45 VHSL member schools were represented in this exciting event, and the League has been asked to help promote these students' achievements.

- XIII. Recognition of Retiring Committee Members:** Executive Director Ken Tilley and League Chairman Pete Koste recognized the following retiring Executive Committee Members with a VHSL Desk Piece: Bill Clendaniel, Pat Ferguson, John Hall, Bob Luttrell, Connie Minnick, Wes Saxon, Dave Stuckwisch and Delegate Bob Tata. Executive Director Ken Tilley honored retiring League Chairman Pete Koste with the chairman's plaque.

XIV. New Business:

- A. First Game Date for Basketball for 2008-09:** Jim Stemple moved, Bill Clendaniel seconded and the committee voted 24-0 to move the first game date from November 26 to November 25.
- B. Region C Variance (football only):** Dave Stuckwisch moved, Denise Bowman-Scott seconded and the committee voted 3-14-7 (Simpkins, Moran, Kohl voting yes; Clendaniel, Thomas, Lane, Kotulka, Stemple, Koste, Watson abstaining), thus denying the region's request.

NOTE: In view of the denials of the appeals for Heritage, Loudoun Valley and Stone Bridge high schools, the final action on the Northern and Northwest regions will be made in September after the two regions have an opportunity to bring forward a variance to the alignment plan proposed for their district schools. Region C will similarly have an opportunity in September to bring forward its variance to the alignment plan.

- C. Youth Rowing Championships:** Bill Clendaniel moved, Jim Stemple seconded and the committee voted 24-0 to authorize the Executive Director approve participation by Virginia schools in Youth Rowing Championships subject to meeting prescribed conditions.

- XV. Business from the Floor:** Legislation was presented to include "homeschool team participation" in Appendix B of the VHSL Handbook. This legislation died for lack of motion.

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