GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 10, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on February 10, 2021, at the GHSA office in Thomaston by Glenn White, President. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Curt Miller. The invocation was given by Associate Director Carror Wright. Roll call by Media Director Steve Figueroa showed the following: Present - 13; Absent - 0

Nathan Turner	Jasper Jewell	Steve Simpson - sub	Tommy Marshall	Glenn White
Steven Craft	Jim Finch	Kevin Petroski	Kandice Mitchell	Curt Miller
Kevin May	Michael Thompson	Michelle Masters		

Motion by Simpson, second by Jewell, to adopt the agenda.
Motion Passed (unanimously)

APPOINTMENTS:

Motion was made by Miller, seconded by Jewell, and unanimously approved to go into Executive Session to hear the student eligibility appeal. (NOTE: Presentations were made in Executive Session; all votes were taken after voting to come out of Executive Session. For clarity, outcome of vote is given after statement of presentation.)

Marietta High School - Craig McKinney, AD, presented an eight-semester appeal for student Gabriel Koziel do Cormo.
Motion by May, second by Masters, to **approve** the appeal.
MOTION to Approve Passed (unanimously)

Lanier High School - Matt McDonald, AD, presented an eight-semester appeal for student Jhoann Marin Grajales.
Motion by Miller, second by Turner, to **approve** the appeal.
MOTION to Approve Passed (unanimously)

Duluth High School - Orlando Alvarez, Coach, presented an eight-semester appeal for student Carlos Aquiar Linares.
Motion by Miller, second by May, to **approve** the appeal.
MOTION to Approve Passed (unanimously)

Chapel Hill High School - Charles Hight, AD, presented an appeal of forfeitures in boys basketball.
Motion by Finch, second by Masters, to **deny** the appeal.
MOTION to Deny Passed 9-4 (Miller, Masters, Craft & Marshall voting "no")

North Atlanta High School - did not show up.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Proposal** to modify GHSA Constitution (Article IV, Section 13, Violation of Rules on page 13) by adding to existing paragraph "B" the following language: "The Executive Director shall also have the authority to refer allegations of intentional or grossly negligent violations of GHSA by-laws and rules by GHSA member schools or their personnel to the GHSA Trustees for considerations of additional penalties." (GHSA Office)
   Motion by Simpson, second by Turner, to **Approve** the proposal.
   MOTION to Approve Passed (unanimously)

2. **Proposal** to modify GHSA Constitution (Article IV, Section 3, Board of Trustees on page 8) by adding a new paragraph "E" that reads as follows: "Upon receiving a referral from the Executive Director of alleged intentional or grossly negligent violations of GHSA by-laws and rules by GHSA member schools or their personnel, the Board of Trustees by majority vote shall have the authority to assess further and additional penalties for such intentional or grossly negligent violations against the member school, including, but not limited to, an additional fine of not more than $2,500.00 for each such offense, and/or probation for

(more)

a period of up to one calendar year in the sport(s) in which the violation occurred, and/or suspension of the member school from the GHSA for a period of up to one full calendar year. Any additional penalties assessed under this paragraph shall be appealable to the GHSA Executive Committee." (GHSA Office)
Motion by Craft, second by Simpson, to **Approve** the proposal.
MOTION to Approve Passed (unanimously)

Proposals Nos. 1 & 2 are Constitutional changes and will require two (2) votes. This was the **first** vote.

3. **Proposal** to name the GHSA State Baseball Championship series after former Georgia Dugout Club executive director Harvey Cochran (The Harvey Cochran GHSA Baseball Championships). (Region 6, Class 6A)
Motion by White, second by Finch, to **Deny** the proposal.
MOTION to Deny Passed (unanimously)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Executive Director Robin Hines told the group what a great job compliance director Carror Wright was doing with all the Covid-related eligibility issues that have arisen during the past few months.

Hines then asked the board to think about several scheduling scenarios where the regular football season was condensed from 12 weeks to play 10 games to 11 weeks to play 10 games, one of which was starting the season a week later and keeping the state championships on the normal second week in December.

He then reminded the group that it was almost time to start talking about reclassification again. He asked the board if there was any appetite for a return to six classifications, but the majority said they wanted to stay with seven.

Several members of the board expressed an interest in changing the procedure to require at least the Principal and possible the Superintendent to sign off on a school's reported out-of-district numbers for the next reclassification.

Hines mentioned that board member Tommy Marshall was retiring from Marist at the end of the school year and asked the board if they still wanted Marshall to serve out his present term on the BOT through the end of the 2021-22 school year. They all said they did.

Hines led a discussion of a possible eligibility "loophole" in by-law 1.62 and the board directed him to come up with an editorial solution.

Staying with recent history, Hines said that he wanted the Spring meeting of the full State Executive Committee on April 19 to be a one-day, drive-in affair at the Thomaston-Upson County Civic Center. The board agreed.

Hines informed the BOT that the GHSA was in excellent financial shape considering the changes that had to be made because of the pandemic. One of those changes was the last minute switch from the Columbus Civic Center to the Macon Centreplex for the upcoming state cheerleading championships.

Hines concluded his report by discussing three recent pieces of legislation that would impact the GHSA should they become law. Two deal with gender issues while the third would allow home-schooled students to participate in GHSA activities under certain circumstances.

Motion by Simpson, second by Jewell to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION Passed (unanimously)