

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES July 29, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on July 29, 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 and a moment of silence was held for the tragic death of a Southwest Macon football player earlier in the week. Roll call by Media Director Steve Figueroa showed the following: Present - 12; Absent - 0

Nathan Turner
Steven Craft
Kelli Smith - substitute

Jasper Jewell
Jim Finch
Michael Thompson

Jesse Crews
Kevin Petroski
Michelle Masters

Tommy Marshall
Glenn White
Curt Miller

Motion by Crews, second by Thompson to adopt the agenda.

Motion Passed (unanimously)

Motion was made by Crews, seconded by Thompson, 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 each statement of presentation.)

APPOINTMENTS:

Vidalia High School - John Sharpe, Principal, presented an appeal for student Conley Brown, asking for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Masters, second by White to **Deny** the appeal.

MOTION to Deny Failed 3-9 (Roll Call Vote #1 - **Yes:** Turner, Masters & White; **No:** Craft, Smith, Jewell, Finch, Thompson, Crews, Petroski, Marshall & Miller) **Note:** Motion to deny failed, therefore the appeal is approved.

Osborne High School - Ron Boggs, AD, presented an appeal for student Cristian Carroll, asking for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Turner, second by Miller to **Approve** the appeal.

MOTION to Approve Passed (unanimously)

Lambert High School - Did not show up.

Lakeview Academy - John Simpson, Assistant Head of School, presented an appeal for student Jordan Thomas, asking for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Miller, second by Masters to **Approve** the appeal.

MOTION to Approve Passed (unanimously)

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Proposal** to amend by-law 1.71(a) on page 22 of the GHSA Constitution by adding to the last sentence the following: "provided however, that such period of ineligibility may be assessed from the date that recruitment/undue influence violation was finally determined to have occurred with regard to the student rather than from the date of enrollment." Also add a temporary note that says "NOTE: The GHSA has historically construed periods of declared student ineligibility to begin upon a final determination of violation of an eligibility rule and this change is made to clarify that when violations are discovered after enrollment of the student, any ineligibility assessed will begin upon final determination of the violation rather than upon enrollment." (GHSA Office)

Motion by Finch second by Crews, to **Approve** the proposal.

MOTION to Approve Passed (unanimously)

2. **Proposal** to amend by-law 1.71(b)(1) on page 22 of the GHSA Constitution by deleting the word "initiated." (GHSA Office)

Motion by Craft, second by Thompson, to **Approve** the proposal.

MOTION to Approve Passed (unanimously)

(more)

3. **Proposal** to have all member private schools have a designated service area that is the same as the member public school service area in which the private school is located. (Floyd County Schools)
Motion by Finch, second by Thompson, to **Approve** the proposal.
MOTION to Approve Passed 10-2 (Marshall and Petroski voting “no”)
4. The BOT made nominations for an at-large position on the Board of Trustees, to complete the term of Kandice Mitchell, who has taken a new position outside the Atlanta Public School System. Craft nominated McEachern’s Regina Montgomery, while Petroski nominated Wesleyan’s Lacey Gilbert. Montgomery was then elected 10-2 (Petroski and Marshall voting for Gilbert).
5. The BOT discussed the possibility of having representatives of the GHSA verify all out-of-district students at each member school and to verify enrollment figures at all member private schools. After much discussion pro and con, it was agreed upon that the GHSA office would look at some strategies to deal with the issue.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Executive Director Robin Hines talked about the competitive imbalance with private schools last year, particularly in Class AA. He called upon Jewell and Marshall to speak on the issue also. Other board members joined in and a spirited discussion ensued. It was finally agreed that, with no easy answer in sight, the conversations would be resumed when the next reclassification process begins in the very near future.

Dr. Hines then gave the BOT an update on the GHSA finances, saying that the organization was in excellent shape and informing them that the GHSA office will very soon be sending each member school a check for two years dues and the school’s portion of catastrophic insurance premium.

Hines then called upon Assistant Executive Director Ernie Yarbrough, who spoke to the board about the new NFHS Center for Officials Services and all the benefits it will bring to the GHSA’s contest officials.

Hines told the BOT that the GHSA was now a 100% state with the NFHS, which has paid off with representation on several of the NFHS committees. He also encouraged all member schools to join the NFHS School Broadcast program as it is currently free to get the Pixellot devices and free to have them installed.

Hines spoke to the board about the GHSA expanding its marketing program, and also informed them of an upcoming lawsuit involving a player recently ruled ineligible.

Craft addressed the board, opening a discussion about possibly changing the rules to allow paraprofessionals to become head coaches because of difficulties in hiring within the school systems at this time. He said he did not wish to make a proposal, but just wanted to promote thought on the issue.

Several board members wished to discuss the changes in the dates for the 2022 soccer season and Dr. Hines called upon soccer coordinator Kevin Giddens to clarify the decisions. Giddens told the board that moving the season one week earlier in 2022 was done mainly to avoid conflicts with graduation activities and other spring sports championships in May.

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