

# GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES November 30, 2020

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A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on November 30, 2020, 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		

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**Motion** by Simpson, second by Petroski, to adopt the agenda.

**Motion Passed** (unanimously)

#### APPOINTMENTS:

**Motion** was made by Jewell, seconded by Finch, 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.)

**First Presbyterian Day School** - Greg Moore, AD, presented an eight-semester appeal for student Noah Johnson.

**Motion** by Simpson, second by Thompson, to waive the requirement for the student to be present, as he was delayed out of state.

**MOTION to Waive the Requirement Passed** (unanimously)

**Motion** by Jewell, second by Craft, to **approve** the appeal.

**MOTION to Approve Passed 10-3** (Miller, Finch & Masters voting "no")

**Telfair County High School** - Eric Cowart, Principal, presented an eight-semester appeal for student Hunter Howton.

**Motion** by Miller, second by Craft, to **approve** the appeal.

**MOTION to Approve Passed** (unanimously)

**Hayes Cook**, football official, presented an appeal of a denial by the GHSA Appeal Board.

**Motion** by Craft, second by Jewell, to **deny** the appeal.

**MOTION to Deny Passed** (unanimously)

**Cook** then made a presentation requesting an official be given a position on the GHSA State Executive Committee.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

**Proposal** that GHSA By-Law 1.64 on page 21 of the Constitution shall be modified to read as follows: "A student who is not eligible at the former school, and then transfers to a new school, cannot regain eligibility by the transfer. Academically ineligible students cannot gain eligibility by being adjudicated to YDC and subsequently returning to their resident school with earned credit. Note: The new school may file a hardship appeal if circumstances warrant." (GHSA Office)

**Motion** by Jewell, second by Miller, to **Approve** the proposal.

**MOTION to Approve Passed** (unanimously)

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Executive Director Robin Hines told the committee to thank all the local school districts they represent for the awesome job they did making fall sports happen. Hines then called upon BOT member Curt Miller, who spoke on the the possibly of adding the penalty of taking a school out of the playoffs for using an ineligible player or falsifying transfer documents. After much discussion, the BOT directed GHSA Counsel Alan Connell to work on the wording for such a proposal to be presented at a future meeting.

Hines then asked several sports coordinators to give updates on their individual sports.

(more)

Ernie Yarbrough told the committee that the Final Four Softball tournament in Columbus was highly successful, but that there were plans to return to an Elite Eight format next fall, if possible. Yarbrough then urged the BOT members to implore their respective schools to follow the GHSA rules modifications for the Basketball season that has just begun.

Don Corr then gave a recap of the recent Volleyball finals, saying how well the new venue was received and stating that he hopes to return to that facility again next year. He then spoke of the COVID-19 rules modifications for the current Wrestling season.

Kevin Giddens then praised the staff at Carrollton High School for the recent state Cross Country finals, and said that certain Covid modifications, like a staggered starting line and photo-friendly awards ceremonies, would likely carry over even after the pandemic.

Penny Pitts Mitchell said that the Cheerleading season was going well with smaller tournaments being the norm, and mentioned that the GameDay finals would be held at Carrollton HS at the indoor football practice facility there.

Tanya Anderson spoke of the Esports virtual finals on December 16-17 and mentioned the excitement surrounding the addition of two sports games for the Spring 2021 season.

Hines then called on BOT member Steven Craft, who spoke about the unfairness of not allowing community coaches in the sport of volleyball to stand or coach during matches.

Motion by Miller, second by Jewell to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION Passed** (unanimously)