

# GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES January 11, 2023

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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 January 11, 2023, at the GHSA office in Thomaston by Jim Finch, 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 - 1

Kirk Barton - sub	Jeff Battles	Michael Thompson	Michelle Masters	Jim Finch
Steven Craft	Jasper Jewell	Steve Simpson - A	Regina Montgomery	Curt Miller
Kelli Smith	Brian Montgomery	Jose Fernandez	Kevin Petroski	

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**Motion** by Craft second by Lewell, to adopt the agenda.

**Motion Passed** (unanimously)

**Motion** was made by Thompson, seconded by Craft, and unanimously approved to go into executive session to hear student appeals (Note: the appeal was heard in executive session, but the vote was taken after coming out of executive session).

#### APPOINTMENTS:

**Camden County High School** - Steve Loden, Principal, presented an appeal for student Alindria Dudley seeking a waiver of penalties assessed for violation of by-law 1.72.

**Motion** by B. Montgomery, second by Thompson, to **Deny** the appeal.

**MOTION to Deny Passed** (unanimously)

#### NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Proposal** to do away with the minimum seating requirements for schools to host **semifinal** round football playoff games. (Fulton County Schools).

**Motion** by Finch, second by Miller, to **Table** the proposal.

**MOTION to Table Passed** (unanimously)

2. **Proposal** to allow five (5) days anytime after May 1 and prior to the final day of school attendance to allow for a tryout period for girls Flag Football with the following restrictions.

- The five (5) days are not required to be consecutive and schools may use a non-school facility for the tryouts.
- Limited to current enrolled students maintaining athletics eligibility for the subsequent school year (grades 9-11), and current year 8th graders (rising 9th graders).
- The 5th and final day of the tryout period may be used as an official jamboree event with a minimum of three (3) schools participating. **Effective Immediately** (GHSA office)

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

**MOTION to Approve Passed** (unanimously)

3. The Board of Trustees held a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of using full-time school employees as head coaches. Several members pointed out a real shortage of qualified head coaches that could possibly result in some sports being discontinued, but others presented concerns they and their school districts had about using school employees instead of certified teachers in those positions.

4. The board discussed the use of Video Review in state championship football games. Dr. Hines called on football coordinator Kevin Giddens to address the committee. Giddens pointed out that several things will have to be decided, namely determining what plays would be eligible for review, what personnel would be required for the reviews, and what the additional cost for personnel and equipment would be. He summed up by saying the GHSA office would determine all those issues and present a proposal to the full State Executive Committee at the Spring meeting next April.

(more)

5. Hines then led a discussion about Name, Image and Likeness issues in future GHSA events. He told the committee that more than 20 states have already approved rules concerning NIL on the high school level and said he felt Georgia should be prepared to do the same in the very near future. To that end, he informed the board that the GHSA office would prepare a proposal to be presented to the SEC at the April meeting.

6. Petroski then led a discussion about beginning and ending dates for future GHSA events. He pointed out that the overlap from winter sports to spring sports was a growing problem. Other board members agreed, but the consensus was that there was not much that could be done unless the length of sports seasons was cut back significantly.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Dr. Hines called on Cross Country coordinator Tanya Anderson, who gave the board some ideas on changing the qualifying process to reduce the number of teams and runners at the state meet.

Hines then informed the board that the final details were being worked out for the move of the state championship football games to Mercedes-Benz Stadium in 2023.

He then mentioned a change necessary in the language of the Lifetime Pass requirements, whereby any person holding a Lifetime Pass would return that pass to the GHSA office if that person returned to a member school in a capacity that made them eligible for a different pass, such as a coach's pass.

A general discussion of Lifetime Passes ensued and Finch said he had been asked why School Board members with 30 years service did not qualify.

Finch then made a **Motion** to make the change in the Lifetime Pass language that Hines spoke of as well as adding 30-year serving School Board members to the list of those persons qualifying for a GHSA Lifetime Pass. Jewell seconded the motion and it **passed unanimously**.

Craft then requested that the date of the Spring State Executive Committee meeting be changed to April 17 to avoid Spring Breaks in many school systems around the state. Other board members agreed and Hines said the meeting would be moved to Monday, April 17, 2023.

**Motion** by Jewell, second by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting.

**MOTION Passed** (unanimously)