

# GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES November 14, 2022

---

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 12:13 p.m., on November 14, 2022, 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 - 14; Absent - 0

Nathan Turner	Jeff Battles	Michael Thompson	Michelle Masters	Jim Finch
Steven Craft	Jasper Jewell	Steve Simpson	Don Baker - sub	Curt Miller
Kelli Smith	Brian Montgomery	Jose Fernandez	Kevin Petroski	

---

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

**Motion Passed** (unanimously)

**Motion** was made by Miller, 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:**

**LaGrange High School** - Michael Pauley, AD, presented an appeal for student Cole Garner seeking a waiver of the migratory rule.

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

**MOTION to Approve Passed** (unanimously)

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Proposal** to change the officiating fee at the State Swimming meet from \$185 per **day** to \$125 per **session**. (GHSA Office) **Effective Immediately**.

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

**MOTION to Approve Passed** (unanimously)

2. The Board of Trustees discussed the pros and cons of using full-time school employees as coaches. Several members of the committee mentioned that their districts would not allow this practice. Steven Craft said that he was out of coaches in Fulton County and needed some help to avoid having to cancel some programs. Dr. Hines ended the discussion by saying the office would bring the matter up again at the Spring Meeting if necessary.

3. The board discussed clarifying the term "subsequently" when it came to a student following a coach to a school as outlined in by-law 1.72-d. After some discussion, the board agreed with modifying the existing by-law to make it clear that anytime within a 12-month period would constitute a violation. The board agreed that this was an editorial change since this is the way the rule has been applied in the past, and they directed the office to make the appropriate change in wording.

4. Hines then led a discussion about the fact some homeschool students were enrolling in cyber academies for some classes while also taking a course at their local high school, which resulted in their home school losing FTE money. The board directed Dr. Hines to involve the GHSA counsel in order to come up with a legislative solution.

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

Dr. Hines informed the board that state law gives the individual schools a choice of which non-member Georgia schools they play. He said he and the GHSA counsel will review the GHSA Constitution to make sure all the by-laws are in line with state law. "Based on the law, it is the school's decision as to who they play," said Hines. "There is no mention in the law about eligibility requirements or age. It just says the school must use a pre-participation physical and have a concussion protocol in place."

(more)

Hines then gave the committee a brief review of the last legislative Athletic Transparency Committee meeting, saying the the main items of interest were reclassification, the modifier and the fact the GHSA is not supporting the GISA as an affiliate member of the NFHS.

Hines told the board that the recently-concluded fastpitch softball and volleyball championships were both very successful with attendance up at both. He went on to say that, despite the current economic climate, the GHSA was in good shape financially.

He closed by telling the board that former Assistant Executive Director Jay Russell would be returning to work for the GHSA on February 1, 2023, as current Assistant Executive Director Ernie Yarbrough cuts back to less than full time.

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

**MOTION Passed** (unanimously)