

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES October 16, 2017

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on October 16, 2017, at the GHSA office in Thomaston, Georgia, by Glenn White, President. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Lisa Moore Williams. The invocation was given by Carror Wright, Associate Director. Roll call by Steve Figueroa, Media Director, showed the following: Present - 10; Absent - 0

Gary Long
Steven Craft

Tommy Stringer
Jim Finch

Joe Lancaster
Jasper Jewell

Jesse Crews
Michelle Masters

Glenn White
Lisa Moore Williams

Motion was made by Masters, seconded by Crews and unanimously approved to adopt the agenda for the meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion was made by Crews, seconded by Finch, and unanimously approved to go into Executive Session to hear student eligibility appeals. (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.)

Lowndes High School - Appeal for student Kassandra Hertzog, requesting a waiver of the eight semester rule, was not heard because the student was not present, as required by GHSA by-laws.

Centennial High School - Kibbey Crumbley, Principal, presented the appeal for student Antonio Buckley, requesting a waiver of the eight semester rule.

Motion by Stringer, second by Finch, to **Deny** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Cass High School - Michael Nelson, Principal, presented the appeal to reduce penalty for unsporting conduct at game.

Motion by Finch, second by Stringer, to **Deny** the appeal.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposal to amend Article IV, Section 5, Paragraph C-2 of the GHSA Constitution as follows:

C. 2. The Executive Director shall have the authority to grant or deny an application for hardship status.

(**Note:** This is a constitutional change and will require two votes. This is the **second** vote.)

Motion by Long, second by Craft, to **Approve** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Motion by Crews, second by Lancaster, for the above constitutional change to go into effect **January 1, 2018**.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

SUBMITTED PROPOSALS:

Proposal to reduce the number of teams automatically qualifying for the state playoffs from Region 1-7A in the sport of Soccer from four (4) to two (2). The other two state playoff berths would be filled by the highest power rated teams not already making the playoffs from any of the eight regions. (Norcross HS)

Motion by Crews, second by Williams, to **Deny** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to reduce the number of teams automatically qualifying for the state playoffs from Region 1-7A in the sport of Soccer from four (4) to three (3). The other state playoff berth would be filled by the highest power rated teams not already making the

(more)

playoffs from any of the eight regions. (Region 4-7A)

Motion by Crews, second by Williams, to **Deny** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to restructure the Football calendar, moving the start of practice and the season one week later in 2018 and two weeks later in 2019 to help with heat issues. (Veterans HS)

Motion by Craft, second by Jewell, to **Deny** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to split Class A Soccer into Public and Private divisions for state championship consideration. (Atkinson County HS).

Motion by Finch, second by Craft, to **Approve** the proposal

MOTION FAILED 6-5 (Roll Call vote #1: **Yes** - Craft, Finch, Crews, Masters, White; **No** - Long, Stringer, Lancaster, Jewell, Williams, Hines)

Proposal to increase the number of Class A Soccer teams qualifying for the state playoffs from 32 to 48 (24 each in Public and Private divisions). (Atkinson County HS)

Proposal automatically withdrawn because of the failure of Class A Public/Private split in previous proposal.

Proposal to use power ratings to determine the 48 teams (24 each in Public and Private divisions) qualifying for the state playoffs in Class A Soccer. (Atkinson County HS)

Proposal automatically withdrawn because of the failure of Class A Public/Private split in previous proposal.

Proposal to increase the number of Class A Cross Country teams qualifying for the state meet from 32 to 48 (24 each in Public and Private divisions). (Athens Academy)

Motion by Stringer, second by Finch, to **Deny** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to add an item "g" to by-law 2.92 on Page 44 as follows: "Judgement calls by contest officials are not reviewable or reversible." (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Stringer, second by Masters, to **Approve** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to add the word "student" to the definition of a "booster" in by-law 1.73 on Page 22. (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Williams, second by Finch, to **Approve** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to standardize academic eligibility requirements for the sports of cheerleading, softball and volleyball by doing the following: Eliminate 1.51-c, Exception #2; Add to Section 2: Cheerleading item H-5-c "Students must meet academic eligibility requirements in order to try out for cheerleading" and Add to Section 15 - Volleyball item E-7 :Students participating must be academically eligible and ... " (GHSA office)

Motion by Masters, second by Finch, to **Approve** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to reword by-law 2.16 on page 32 as follows (new wording in italic): "Playing a Non-Region Schedule: A school may choose to play a non-region schedule in football, basketball and/or baseball, and this choice is in effect for *the two-year scheduling period.*" (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Stringer, second by Finch, to **Approve** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to reword by-law 4.24 on page 51 as follows (new wording in italic): "A school that transfers to a higher classification must remain in the higher classification until schools are next reclassified on a state- wide basis, *but may appeal to the Reclassification Committee to come back down to its proper classification when adjustments are made after two years of the four-year reclassification cycle.*" (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Stringer, second by Crews, to **Approve** the proposal

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

(more)

Proposal to reword by-law 2.62-e-7 on page 36 as follows (new wording in italic): "Drones shall not be permitted to fly during any GHSA sanctioned event (*Note: This prohibition begins when the gates or doors open and extends until the last spectator has left the field or arena.*)" (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Finch, second by Jewell, to **Approve** the proposal
MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to add new item "4" to by-law 2.71-d on page 41 as follows: "The GHSA office may review film to determine participants in a fight situation at a GHSA event, or to determine athletes leaving their bench to go to a fight situation. Note: Penalties may be levied, modified or changed based on this film review." (GHSA office) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Masters, second by Finch, to **Approve** the proposal
MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to reword item 2. (e) on page 58 under the Baseball Pitching Restrictions to eliminate the requirement for a registered umpire to be paid to monitor the pitch counts. Instead, the home team will be responsible for providing an adult (21 or over) Pitch Count Monitor who will monitor the pitch counts for both teams, notify the umpire when a pitcher is nearing a threshold and later record the pitch counts on the GHSA MIS web site. (Baseball ad-hoc committee) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Crews, second by Jewell, to **Deny** the proposal
MOTION PASSED 8-2 (Craft and Stringer voting "no")

Proposal to add wording to item 2. (e) on page 58 under the Baseball Pitching Restrictions to the effect that once a coach is warned that the pitcher is approaching a pitch count threshold, that pitcher shall be allowed to finish the batter. But, upon completion of that batter, the Days of Rest restrictions will only be based on the number of pitches that were thrown PRIOR to reaching the threshold. (Baseball ad-hoc committee) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Craft, second by Stringer, to **Deny** the proposal
MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to add wording to item 2. (e) on page 58 under the Baseball Pitching Restrictions to the effect that any pitches that were thrown during a game that was suspended or rained out shall be counted for that pitcher towards any pitching restriction thresholds. (Baseball ad-hoc committee) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Stringer, second by Craft, to **Approve** the proposal
MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

Proposal to reword item 2. (h) on page 58 under the Baseball Pitching Restrictions to add the following under penalties for violating the pitch count restrictions (new wording in italic): "... the offending school shall be fined \$250, the head coach at that level assessed a two-game suspension, *and the game forfeited.*" (Baseball ad-hoc committee) **Effective Immediately**

Motion by Craft, second by Stringer, to **Approve** the proposal
MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Robin Hines addressed the committee on several issues, including the latest audit, the GHSA budget, the Board of Trustees expansion, the latest on the Mercedes-Benz Stadium contract, an update on Macon Centreplex renovations, additions to the GHSA Form B and playoff sites for state baseball tournaments. Dr. Hines also asked the committee to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Stringer, second by Finch, to direct the GHSA office to remove financial information concerning state playoff events from the GHSA Constitution and to allow Executive Director Robin Hines to negotiate and set the prices of state playoff events depending on the sites being used.

MOTION PASSED (unanimously)

There being no further business, a motion was made and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.