

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
Thomaston, Georgia 30286

MINUTES

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
February 24, 2010

The called meeting of the State Executive Committee of the Georgia High School Association was convened for a discussion of the GHSA reclassification process in general, and the recent decisions of the Houston County Board of Education specifically.

The meeting was called to order by President Gary Holmes, at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 24, 2010, at the Ramada Inn, Forsyth, Georgia.

Invocation was given by Dr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Director.

Roll Call by Associate Director, Joyce Kay, showed the following:

Absent: (9) Thayer, Bailey, Floyd, Coleman, Oglesby, Campbell, Blenke, Edmunds, Hampton

Present: (41)

Wes Taylor	Robert Davis	Wayne Tootle	Scott Horton	Robert Douberly	Raynette Evans
Fred Price	Jack Webb	Jay Russell	Jesse Crews	Glenn Tidwell	Debbie Ball
Earl Etheridge	Curt Miller	Wade Marchman	Sam Barrs	Mike Carswell	Tony Arasi
Danny Cronic	Mike Davis	Rodney Walker	Carror Wright	Rob Weltz	Terry Rogers
Donnie Griggers	Ron Sebree	Mark Kelly	Dexter Wood	Duane McManus	Lucia Norwood
Gary Long	Charles Wilson	Bobby McAllister	Glenn White	Scott Queen	Walter Wade
Dave Hunter	Tommy Stringer		Jim Hughes	Donnie Drew	Gary Holmes

Guests: Jonthan Heeter, *Macon Telegraph*
Suzanne Lawler, WMAZ-TV

Dr. Swearngin made opening statements and introduced the agenda topic.

Alan Connell, GHSA Attorney, gave his legal interpretation of By-Law 4.21 in regards to reclassification when a new school opens, and Article 4, Section 9, which gives the Executive Director the authority to interpret GHSA rules. Mr. Connell's legal opinion was that the By-Laws do not allow the GHSA to "redo" once reclassification has been finalized, and that the By-Laws can only be amended to avoid this situation in the future.

Dr. Swearngin presented a handout to the Committee with an analysis of schools classified on FTE counts only which showed that 198 schools had a higher enrollment for the fall semester of 2009 than the FTE count by which they were classified.

There was extensive discussion by Committee members with their concerns of the inaccuracy of the projected enrollment figures.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to go into executive session to discuss issues with personnel.

Lengthly discussion followed on how the situation was discovered by the GHSA office staff and how the process evolved to the Called Meeting today.

Motion was made, seconded, passed to come out of executive session.

Motion was made, seconded, passed to go into executive session to discuss possible litigation and reclassification issues that might involve litigation.

There were questions as to whether the GHSA was vulnerable to a lawsuit with regard to its By-Laws on reclassification. There was also discussion concerning legal ramifications of breaking binding contracts that are already in place as well as other problems that would be created by making changes at this time.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed to come out of executive session.

Several Committee members voiced their opinions that they did not think the situation was fair but understood that the By-Laws, as written, would not allow a change at this point and that they would support the Executive Director and GHSA Attorney in the matter.

Dr. Swearngin made closing remarks and commended the Committee members for handling themselves professionally during the discussions.

Motion was made, seconded, and passed, to adjourn.