

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES January 30, 2020

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 11:20 a.m., on January 30, 2020, in room 201 of the Agriculture Building in Atlanta, Georgia, by Glenn White, President.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice President Lisa Moore. The invocation was given by Executive Director Robin Hines. Roll call by Media Director Steve Figueroa showed the following: Present - 12; Absent - 0

Scarlett Grantham - sub
Steven Craft
Curt Miller

Jim Finch
Joe Lancaster
Jasper Jewell

Glenn Tidwell - sub
Michelle Masters
Kandice Mitchell

Dawn Odom
Glenn White
Lisa Moore

APPOINTMENTS:

Motion was made by Lancaster, seconded by Craft, and unanimously approved to go into Executive Session to hear the 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.)

North Springs High School - Vince Strine, Athletic Director, presented an appeal for student Daniel Castro, asking for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

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

MOTION Passed (unanimously)

Dacula High School - Canceled

Dunwoody High School - Ben Braaten, Athletic Liaison, presented an appeal for student Gabriel Hernandez, asking for a waiver of the eight-semester rule through the 2020-21 school year.

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

MOTION Passed (unanimously)

Stone Mountain High School - Alexander Holmes, Soccer Coach, presented an appeal for student Alexander Kalombe, asking for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

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

MOTION Passed (unanimously)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Executive Director Robin Hines gave an update on the NFHS Network streaming platform where the GHSA leads the nation in student content produced, digital ticketing (with GoFan) and Esports participation, and is second nationally in revenue. He said he expects this to be an excellent revenue stream for the GHSA for some time to come.

Hines went on to update the BOT on the status of GHSA financial investments, saying that the long-desired goal of having one full year's operating capital in reserve has finally been reached. Because of this, Hines announced that the GHSA would be waiving all member schools' dues for the 2020-21 school year and hopes to continue this practice in the future.

Hines also announced that the online listing of school fines is now live on the GHSA web site. He and several members of the committee commented that this public listing of transgressions should help with the growing sportsmanship problems. Hines mentioned that the GHSA office collected \$355,000 in fines last year and he said he would like to see that revenue stream reduced to zero one day.

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Hines went on to mention that the annual Spring meeting on April 20 will be the last for the outgoing members of the State Executive Committee. He said that the election of President and Vice President will be done at that April meeting and then the new President will preside over a meeting in May of the incoming new State Executive Committee. That May meeting, on a date to be announced, will also be where the new Board of Trustees and At-Large members are chosen.

Hines then reminded the BOT that the sports of girls Flag Football and coed Bass Fishing will launch in the 2020-21 school year. Also that same year, the sports of Dance and GameDay Cheerleading, which have been invitational events, will become full state championship events.

Hines gave the committee a review of last December's state championship football games, saying that the move to Georgia State Stadium went very smoothly and that the payouts to the participating schools would be more this year than last year without the GHSA having to supplement the money pool by \$250,000, as happened a year ago.

He also informed the BOT of his plan to promote longtime administrative assistant, Tanya Anderson, to Associate Director beginning officially on June 1. The board members indicated their approval of this move.

The meeting was held in Atlanta so that members of the State Legislature could attend. Several members of the Legislative Oversight Committee were present and addressed the committee, including Rep. Randy Nix - R, Rep. Demetrius Douglas - D, Rep. Sam Watson - R, Sen. P.K. Martin - R, Sen. Tyler Harper - R, Sen. Ed Harbison - D, and Sen. Ellis Black - R.

"I think you are doing a great job," said Douglas. "We're ahead of a lot of states and I think the GHSA sets the bar for the whole Southeast."

Harper, who is from Ocilla, spoke of the recent death of Irwin County football coach Buddy Nobles and how much it meant for him to win the state championship in December, just weeks before his death. He also thanked the BOT members for coming to Atlanta for this meeting, as did all the legislators who spoke.

"Half the people are going to be mad with every decision you make," said Black. "All you can do is keep people informed that everything is above board and people at the GHSA are trying to do the right thing."

Motion by White, second by Lancaster, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION Passed (unanimously)