

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 9, 2020

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on March 9, 2020, at the GHSA office in Thomaston, 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

Jesse Crews
Michelle Masters
Kandice Mitchell

Dawn Odom
Glenn White
Lisa Moore

APPOINTMENTS:

Motion was made by White, seconded by Jewell, and unanimously approved to add an item to the agenda under New Business to discuss the contract of the Executive Director.

Motion was made by Finch, seconded by Crews, and unanimously approved to adopt the revised agenda.

Motion was made by Crews, seconded by Miller, 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.)

Mt. Vernon School - Did not show up.

Marietta High School - Craig McKinney, Athletic Director, presented an appeal for student Birama Keita, asking for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Finch, second by Crews, to **deny** the appeal.

MOTION Passed 9-3 (Moore, Mitchell & Odom voting "no")

Lake Oconee Academy - Jody Worth, Principal, presented an appeal for student Alex Moore, asking for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

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

MOTION Passed 7-5 (Finch, Lancaster, Crews, Masters & Moore voting "no")

Berrien High School - Bo Yeargan, Soccer Coach, presented an appeal for student Valerio Lopez, asking for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

Motion by Finch, second by Grantham, to **deny** the appeal.

MOTION Passed 9-3 (Moore, Mitchell & Odom voting "no")

Kennesaw Mountain High School - Philip Matthews, Athletic Director, presented an appeal for student Luis Romero Quevedo, asking for a waiver of the eight-semester rule.

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

MOTION Passed (unanimously)

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposal that GHSA By-Law 4.24 (e) (5) shall be amended by adding the following language to the end of that section:

Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, all member schools are notified that at the meeting of the GHSA Executive Committee

(more)

to finally approve reclassification, isolation status, lateral transfers, and assignment to regions, any member school may be assigned or transferred to different classifications or different regions other than to those previously assigned. There shall be no further appeal of such assignment or transfer either by the member school assigned or transferred at such meeting or by any other school which objects to such assignment or transfer. Member schools desiring to be heard on those issues are directed to be in attendance at the meeting of the GHSA Executive Committee as all action taken in connection with reclassification and region assignment will be final and no further appeal will be allowed. (GHSA Office)

Motion by Crews, second by Finch, to **approve** the proposal.

MOTION Passed 7-5 (Miller, Jewell, Odom, Craft & Mitchell voting “no”)

Proposal to expand the State Executive Committee to include one (1) representative from a member private school in Class AA or higher. (Henry County Schools) **NOTE:** This is a Constitutional change and will require two (2) votes. This is the first vote.

Motion by Grantham, second by Craft, to **approve** the proposal.

MOTION Passed 7-5 (Lancaster, Crews, Finch, Moore & Masters voting “no”)

Motion was made by Crews, seconded by Miller, and unanimously approved to go into Executive Session to discuss the contract of the Executive Director (NOTE: The discussion took place while in Executive Session, but the vote was taken after voting to come out of Executive Session.)

Motion by Craft, second by Jewell, to extend the contract of Executive Director Robin Hines for three years.

MOTION Passed (unanimously)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Executive Director Robin Hines addressed the board on the GHSA’s position on the coronavirus, stating that the office would follow the guidance of the health departments but urging schools not to overreact. “I don’t think the GHSA should be the body telling schools to shut down their activities,” said Dr. Hines. “We will deal with it on a case-by-case basis if some school systems do make decisions like that in the coming days.”

Dr. Hines went on to inform the BOT that more than 160 schools had indicated they will field girls Flag Football teams next fall, and then spoke of tentative plans to play the championship games of the three divisions of flag football on Thursday, Dec. 10, in conjunction with the boys state championship football games at Georgia State Stadium on Dec. 11-12. The Class A private school boys football game may be the nightcap of the four-game slate on Thursday, Dec. 10.

Hines alerted the board to the fact the National Association of Sports Officials will be holding their annual convention in Atlanta in 2024, which he said will be a huge event and one the GHSA will actively participate in.

Hines then updated the board on some possible legislation that would allow home-schooled students to play for GHSA schools, and he asked GHSA attorney Alan Connell to briefly update the BOT on a couple of pending lawsuits from the sport of wrestling.

Motion by Crews, second by Moore, to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION Passed (unanimously)