

Synopsis of ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting November 30-December 1, 2007

Note: This synopsis will be available on the ASAA web site at www.asaa.org. More information on agenda items may be obtained from an ASAA Board member (listed on web site) or from the ASAA office (907) 563-3723.

Action Items The Board of Directors (BOD) took the following action:

State Tournament Bids: The Board accepted bids for the following state tournaments:

Tennis-South Anchorage High School – Alaska Club – 2008, '09, '10 - (Carried 8-0)

All-State Music – Anchorage School District – 2008, '09, '10 – (Carried 8-0)

Nordic Skiing – Fairbanks – West Valley High School – Birch Hill – 2009, '10, '11, – (Carried 5-2)

Debate, Drama, Forensics – Sitka High School – 2009 only - (Carried 6-2)

Baseball – Palmer – Colony High School – Hermon Bros. Field -2009, '10, '11 – (Carried 8-0)

Softball – Anchorage – Cartee Complex – 2009, '10,'11 – (Carried 7-1)

1A-3A Wrestling – 2008 – No bid was submitted – Will be rebid with February 15, 2008 deadline

Conference Change Placement: Approved the following conference placements:

Lumen Christi High School - effective this school year: –Spring Soccer – Northern Lights (North) Conference - (Carried 8-0)

Cordova High School – effective 2008-09 – basketball and volleyball – Southcentral Conference (Carried 8-0)

Minutes: Approved minutes of the September 30–October 1, 2007 regular meeting. (Consensus)

2008-09 Calendar and Three Year Projection: Adopted the calendar for 2008-09 and the three year projection through 2010-11. – (Carried 6-2)

3A-West Volleyball Conference and Season Change: Adopted a change to the current 3A-West volleyball season, beginning in 2009-10, that will move those 3A schools into the same season as the other 3A schools throughout the state. – (Carried 6-1)

Basketball: Defeated a Region 5 proposal that would have moved 1A/2A basketball into a later season, January-April. – (Failed 2-6)

Defeated a Region 5 proposal that would create two at-large berths to the 4A state tournament by converting the automatic third place berths from Regions 3 and 4 to at-large berths, and comparing them to the second place teams from Regions 5 and 6, with the top two teams determined by the WPI. – (Failed 3-5)

Realignment of Small School Softball State Tournament Berths: Adopted a revision to the six team state tournament format which allocates the bids as follows:

- Northern Lights Conference – 2 Berths
- Mid-Alaska Conference – 2 Berths
- Southeast Conference – 2 Berths - (Carried 8-0)

Classification Requests: Approved a request from Sitka High School for retroactive placement on Step One for 2006-07, based on a revised enrollment report from the DEED. – (Carried 8-0)

Approved a request from Susan B. English High School (Seldovia) to opt up to the 2A classification and remain there for at least 2008-09 and 2009-10. – (Carried 8-0)

Election of Officers: Elected the following officers to one year terms:

- President – Matt Clark, Region 2, Principal – Susitna Valley High School
- Vice President – Allan Howard, Region 3, Assistant Principal, Soldotna High School
(Carried 8-0)

Check Signer: Reappointed Peggy Robinson of Anchorage, former board member, as an additional signer on ASAA accounts. Account policy requires two signatures on checks of \$1000 or more and only one board member resides in Anchorage. - (Carried 8-0)

Reclassification – 10% Factor: Eliminated the 10% factor as it applies to reclassification, effective this school year. The board determined that the two step system of classification renders the 10% factor obsolete. – (Carried 8-0)

4A Girls Hockey Cooperative Program Waiver: Approved a request to extend the coop program for all girls hockey teams through the 2012-11 school year. – (Carried 8-0)

Reports The BOD heard the following reports:

- Board Members
- State Tournament
- Finance Committee
- Student Government
- Officials/Coaches
- Marketing
- Executive Director

Workshop Items

Policy Development: The Board conducted a work session on the educational component of the pending Controlled Substance, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy with project coordinator, Teresa Johnson. The updated policy which goes into effect in 2008-09, will be sent out to districts prior to the Christmas break.

Discussion Items The BOD discussed the following items:

Review of 2008-09 Draft Calendar: Reviewed and discussed the final draft of the calendar, as well as the three year projection. There was considerable discussion on the format of the wrestling season.

Cheer Coaches Association State Competition: Board was updated on the coaches association state tournament and how it affects the eligibility of high school cheer squads. ASAA will work closely with the Association to head off future problems.

State Tournament Code of Conduct: Discussed the period of applicability of the state tournament “Code of Conduct” to the football championships. Unlike other state tournaments, the football championships extend over two weekends and have no coaches meeting prior to the games.

The board also discussed whether the “Code of Conduct” should apply retroactively when a violation is discovered “ after the fact.”

The board asked for recommendations to clarify the policy which will be addressed during the February meeting.

Bylaw/Policy Clarification/Revision: Board has requested that revised wording be developed for the February meeting to clarify that the 18 week period of ineligibility may also be counted as 90 school days, including state approved in-services. The question on how school weeks are counted has prompted this clarification following some altercations with parents who are trying to “play the system.”

Discussed the need to revise the Amateurism Rule, Article 8, to provide clarity. This follows the problem created by student participation in the Alaska Basketball Federation tournaments. This will be an item on the February agenda.

Discussed reports that some schools are permitting their wrestlers to travel and compete in individual tournaments without the coach being present. The executive director will send a letter to schools on this matter.

Adding Drill and Dance to State Cheerleading Competition: Since no proposal was brought forth from the regions, this will not be a future agenda item.

Examination of Teams in Conferences and State Tournament Berths: Discussed a staff report that layed out the present allotment of state tournament berths in all team sports. Criteria for determination of berth allocations was suggested –

1. number of schools in a conference
2. number of schools in a classification
3. strength of teams in a conference
4. use of at-large berths

Sports Officials – Independent Contractors or Employees: Continued to monitor the situation concerning a recent state Department of Labor determination that hockey officials working for the Anchorage Hockey Officials Association are employees of the association, not independent contractors. This decision has been appealed without a clear resolution at this time. The official's association may approach the legislature for a solution that will clarify officials as contractors. An adverse decision could be detrimental to other officials associations and school districts throughout the state.

Staff Salary Schedule Format: Reviewed a proposed format for a staff salary schedule.

Unauthorized State Dual Team Wrestling Championship: Discussed the unauthorized tournament which was held at South Anchorage High School on November 9-10. A letter will be sent to the school.

Insurance Issue: Heard from Mike Dennis of CHI, ASAA's insurance broker, that districts should be aware that when they decline the catastrophic coverage offered by ASAA, that ASAA's liability insurance will not indemnify the district if a claim is filed. A letter will be sent to superintendents on this matter.

Wrestling Coaches Proposals: Revisited a proposal by Norm Davis, president of the state 4A wrestling coaches association, who made the following two proposals:

1. Due to the overlap between football and wrestling, there is not enough time for football-playing wrestlers to get to their minimum wrestling weight under the current rules which prohibit weighing in more than one weight class above minimum weight without recertifying at a higher weight. This request will provide a 35 day grace period from the beginning of the season before that part of the weigh-in rule goes into effect.
2. The coaches propose to give the state tournament seeding committee the option of seeding the top seven or eight wrestlers, instead of six, because the top six finishers earn team points and there are frequently ties in the seeding for sixth place.

The Board decided that more discussion was needed prior to any action being taken since many small school coaches had not had the opportunity to have input into the recommendations. The board asked that the proposal be discussed at both state wrestling coaches' meetings with further discussion to occur at the February board meeting.

Rifle Issues: The Board heard a report on progress to date on the Rifle Steering Committee. This will be a discussion item on the February meeting agenda.

Football: The board decided to take no further action on a proposal to rename "small schools" and "large schools" football.

In February, the board will revisit a proposal to restructure the small school football playoffs if

consensus can be reached among the schools.

Executive Director's Evaluation Process: Discussed the process for conducting the annual evaluation.

Gold Lifetime Passes: Reviewed the process for the selection of ASAA Gold Lifetime Pass recipients.

Resolution from AASB: Discussed a resolution from the Alaska Association of School Boards that requests school districts and ASAA to schedule major school-sanctioned activities on days that do not conflict with major religious holidays. In particular this resolution mentions Jewish, Muslim and other community faith organizations.

STUDENT HEARING

Three student eligibility hearings were conducted by teleconference.

Items for February Meeting:

Workshop

Continue development of the Controlled Substance, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

Action

1. Auditor's Report
2. E.D.'s Evaluation
3. 1A, 2A, 3A State Wrestling Tournament Bid

Discussion

1. 2008-09 Budget – First Draft
2. Wrestling Coaches Proposals
3. Rifle Steering Committee Progress
4. Bylaw Revisions
5. Basketball Tournament Site Bid Process
6. Small School Football Playoff Structure
7. Code of Conduct Clarification
8. Officials Issue – Contractor / Employee
9. 4A Basketball at Large Berths
10. Reclassification – Step One and Step Two Schools
11. IMPACT – Concussion Testing Program

Next Scheduled Meeting:

February 24-25, 2008 – Anchorage – Millennium Hotel