

Synopsis of ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting February 22-23, 2009

Note: This synopsis is 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:

Minutes: Approved minutes of the December 14-15, 2008 regular meeting and the January 15, 2009 special teleconference meeting. (Consensus)

Adopted Bylaw Amendments: Moved to adopt the following bylaw amendments, effective as stated:

1. This amends the Transfer/Residency Rule to clarify how it applies to homeless students defined under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Article 12, **High School Student Eligibility Requirements**, Section 9, Transfer/Residency Rule, was amended as follows:

“A. The Association has established the following rules to govern the eligibility of students who transfer to Alaska, or from one school to another within Alaska, including member statewide correspondence programs, or who are simultaneously enrolled at more than one school, or who are enrolled in a member school district’s non-member charter school, alternative school or program (including district correspondence), and who wish to transfer interscholastic participation eligibility from one school to another, and who participate in the activities listed under Section 10A of the Article...

(ADD) new 8. Homeless Student: A student who is homeless as defined in the McKinney-Vento Act, 42 U.S.C. 11434 a (2), shall be immediately eligible to participate at the public school in which he or she is enrolled, notwithstanding the Transfer/Residency Rule, as soon as the student becomes enrolled in a school. The public school district in which the student is enrolled shall determine whether or not the student meets the definition of homeless under the Act, and shall provide ASAA with its basis for such determination. Such determination may be reviewed by ASAA.

The definition of homeless students in the Act reads as follows:

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103 (a)(1)) [43 USCS § 11302 (a)(1)]; and

(B) includes-

(i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelter; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;

(ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103 (a)(2)(C) [42 USCS § 11302 (a)(2)(C)];

(iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

(iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 [20 USCS § 6399]) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle [42 USCS §§ 11431 et seq.] because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).”

(Reorder remainder of Section A)

2. This amends the Waiver of Eligibility Rules to add a new section to Article 13, Section 5, 5, which applies to homeless students.

Article 13, **Waiver of Eligibility Rules**, Section 5, 5, **Factors to Be Considered in Determining Whether a Hardship Exists**:, will be amended as follows:

(ADD New - f.) “Whether the student is homeless as defined in the McKinney-Vento Act, 42 USCS 11434 a (2), and whether the student’s homelessness affected the student’s ability to meet eligibility rule requirements.”

(Carried – Unanimous Consent). These amendments go into effect on March 23, 2009.

3. Moved to send out for comment, proposed amendments to Article 4, Appeal Procedure. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

4. Moved to send out for comment, proposed amendments to Article 6, Contest Rules. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Economic Issues: Moved to place maturing CD of approximately \$44,000 into the 2008-09 operating budget and to refinance the Association office condo suite to take the cash equity

which will also be placed in the 2008-09 operating budget. (Carried – 7-0, AASB absent)

Future State Basketball Tournament Format: 2009 is the final year under the current five year bid. The board considered three format options for the future and directed staff to forward two options onto the basketball tournament bid committee. The options are: 1) Keep the current format of a six day tournament with 1A/2A games early in the week and 3A/4A games on the weekend. 2) In 2010, on a one year trial basis, play the 3A/4A games early in the week and the 1A/2A games on the weekend, then assess the change of schedule on attendance and gate income. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Thunder Mountain High School/Juneau Douglas High School Waiver Request: Approved a request from the Juneau School District to grant blanket waivers of Article 12, Section 9, A. 3., Transfer Without a Bona Fide Move of Parents, to all students transferring from Juneau-Douglas High School to Thunder Mountain High School, and from Thunder Mountain to Juneau-Douglas, effective with the 2009-10 school year. Any transfer under this waiver provision must be completed by September 11, 2009. Waiver requests submitted after that date will not be covered by this action. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

4A Football Playoff Proposal: Adopted a proposal by Region 6 and 4A coaches to change the quarter-final football games to cross-bracketing in which schools would play schools from the other conference, beginning in 2009-10. (Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Reports The BOD heard the following reports:

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

Public Comments Heard from a representative of Nenana High School that the school's enrollment and boarding school status affects the school's ability to compete against other 3A schools within its conference (Aurora) in both basketball and volleyball. See discussion item.

Workshop Items The BOD discussed the following items in workshop:

1. Economic Issues Effecting ASAA: Discussed the changes in ASAA's financial position since the December board meeting. The Executive Director proposed a financial plan to balance the 2008-09 operating budget. Following discussion, authorized the ED to cash in the maturing CD in the reserve account and to proceed with refinancing the office condo to extract cash equity. These funds will be used to supplement income for the rest of the budget year.

Discussed the ED's proposal to balance future years' budgets, to rebuild a reserve account, and

to rebuild the Legal Defense Fund, through increasing school dues by raising the per student surcharge from \$5 to \$7, and through the adoption of a state tournament participation fee of \$10 per student, with a maximum of \$150 per team, beginning in 2009-10. The board directed the ED to notify superintendents of this proposal prior to a special teleconference meeting on March 30.

2. Update and Review of “Play for Keeps” Program: Staff and Teresa Johnson, project coordinator, updated the board on the program. This included the number and types of offenses to date, fundraising activities and results, lobbying efforts and public awareness activities. The board reviewed results of a program survey of superintendents, principals and school board presidents. The board also reviewed the activity to date under the Electronic Eligibility Reporting System (EERS). There was some discussion on the policy requirement that each student view the pre-participation video prior to the start of each of activity in which he/she participates. After substantial discussion, the board saw no reason to make any changes to the program for 2009-10.

3. Executive Session – Performance Evaluation of Executive Director: The board moved into executive session to conduct the evaluation. Following the session, the president met with the executive director to present the evaluation.

Tabled Items: None

Discussion Items The BOD discussed the following items:

2009 State Basketball Tournament Schedule: Revisited a discussion that took place during the two previous meetings concerning the rotation of the starting dates for the 2010 1A/2A and 3A/4A state tournaments. Reviewed a staff proposal of three format options for the tournament – Option 1 – maintain current format, Option 2 – rotate large and small games, Option 3 – rotate in 2010 on a one year trial basis and determine effect on attendance and gate income.

State Tournament Venue – Wrestling 2009: Discussed a staff proposal to extend the 2009 1A/2A/3A and the 4A state tournaments to 2 ½ days each, with the 1A/2A/3A tournament to be held at West Anchorage High School, hold the 4A tournament at Chugiak High School. All the wrestling on Saturday would be held at West in a combined format. The board will seek regional input on the proposal.

Football Sportsmanship Issue: Revisited previous discussion on the suitability of teams performing the Haka dance in conjunction with football games. Those witnessing the dance being performed on the field have classified it as taunting. The board also expressed concern with the practice by some students of removing their jerseys on the field prior to performing the dance. The board asked staff to send out a proposed policy prior to the April board meeting.

Bylaw Amendment Proposals: Discussed wording of a proposed amendment to Article 6, Contest Rules, which clarifies that the board will not hear an appeal of a official’s judgement call during a contest in which a student or player was ejected for a rules violation. After reviewing the proposal, the board asked the executive director to revise the wording and send it out for comment prior to possible board action during the April meeting.

Continued to discuss a possible interpretation of Article 8, Section 2, Other Amateurs, as it applies to the amateur status of music students who are paid to play in community performances. A number of music teachers have submitted opinion pieces for board consideration. This will continue to be a discussion item during the April meeting.

Heard from Association attorney Jim Brennan, who recommended amending Article 4, Appeal Procedure, to clarify some provisions specified by the court following the August 2008 student eligibility litigation. Mr. Brennan also commented on the appeal hearing sample format. The board will take action on these items during the April meeting.

Coaching Out-of-Season: Revisited previous board discussion concerning the fairness of high school coaches coaching their high school athletes out-of-season in fall basketball leagues, winter soccer leagues, fall hockey competition teams, and winter volleyball leagues. Staff presented a NFHS survey of other state associations’ rules to see how they deal with this issue. The board decided that no more discussion would be given to this issue.

Conference Policy Proposal: Briefly revisited a policy proposal dealing with conferences. Currently, there are 68 different conferences, 14 of which combine 2 or more regions. There are growing governance concerns within these conferences that require board policy. The board members will discuss the proposed policy at upcoming regional meetings. It will be a discussion item during the April meeting.

Request to Change Conferences: Heard a request from Nikolaevsk School to change from 2A girls volleyball, Borealis Conference, to mixed-six volleyball, Southwest Conference, due to a decrease in the number of girls enrolled in the school.

Enrollment/Classification Review: Heard an update on the October 2008 enrollments and how they effect future classification. Schools involved in potential classification changes include:

Increasing Enrollments

Schools on Step One or Step Two may request forgiveness for enrolled ineligible 5th year seniors.

Step One in 2008-09

1A	Gambell -56 (+) Kwethluk – 56 (+) Nelson Island – 57 (+)
3A	Mt. Edgecumbe – 426 (+)

Step Two in 2008-09

	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>This Year</u>
1A	Alakanuk 53 (+)	54(+)
	St. Mary’s 64 (+)	59 (+)

Decreasing Enrollments

Schools with decreasing enrollments on Step Two will be placed at the next lower classification beginning the following school year unless the schools opt up for a minimum of 2 years.

Step Two in 2008-09		<u>Last Year</u>	<u>This Year</u>
2A	Pilot Station	44 (-)	29 (-)
3A	Craig	99 (-)	90 (-)

2. Kashunamiut School District submitted a letter requesting forgiveness for ineligible 5th year seniors. Since the enrollment at Chevak High School did not exceed the 2A cutoff numbers, the request was not acted upon by the board.

3. Homer High School is concerned about the school's placement at the bottom of the 4A classification and has informally asked the board to consider raising the 3A/4A cutoff number to 450.

4. The board discussed the Susitna Valley High School situation in which the school is not playing any conference basketball games, yet plans to play in the conference championship tournament.

Statewide Scheduling Meeting: Heard a report on the statewide scheduling meeting which was held at the Millennium Hotel on February 18.

Analysis of State Tournament Berths for Individual Sports: Discussed a staff prepared review of state tournament berths in cross-country running, swimming and diving, wrestling, Nordic skiing, tennis, and track and field. Regions 5 and 6 reminded staff that they had previously requested additional berths in cross-country running. Proposals were reviewed to combine the 1A, 2A, 3A Katchemak and Denali wrestling conferences and adjust the number of qualifiers, to revise the number of qualifying divers, and to add tennis to the list of activities for statewide correspondence programs. After discussion, these items will be revisited during the April board meeting.

Eligibility of Eighth Grade Students in Small Schools: Postponed discussion on staff proposal to permit 8th graders in very small schools to play high school basketball. This will be a discussion item during the April meeting.

Budgets: Discussed the current year operating budget and plans for the 2009-10 budget.

Hall of Fame Report: Heard a report on the selection of the Class of 2009 to the Alaska High School Hall of Fame which will be inducted on April 19 at the Anchorage Downtown Marriott Hotel. This year's inductees will be:

<u>Athlete</u>	Myra Harris – Frank A. Degnan - Unalakleet Matt Matson – West Valley – Fairbanks Mara Rabinowitz – West Valley Mao Tosi – East Anchorage
<u>Activity Participant</u>	Peter Hilts – Susan B. English – Seldovia Michael More – West Anchorage
<u>Coach</u>	Dan Eide – Valdez Lynn Roumagoux – Dimond
<u>Official</u>	John Jones (deceased) – Anchorage
<u>Contributor</u>	Stan Smith (deceased) – Spenard Builders Supply – Anchorage
<u>Lifetime Achievement</u>	Richard McCormick – Douglas/Lathrop/Nome/Wrangell

NFHS Citizenship Committee: Region 5 board member Sandi Wagner of Juneau reported on her attendance at the recent meeting of this committee in Indianapolis. Topics included nominations for the “Spirit of Sport Award” and the “Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award of Excellence” certificates which state associations may order. These items will have further discussion during the April board meeting.

Kodiak Island Borough School District Resolution: Read a resolution from the school board asking that ASAA change the starting and ending times of some Fall sports seasons, specifically indoor sports such as wrestling, swimming and or volleyball, to start later and carry over into the winter and/or spring. The board agreed to begin a review of all seasons beginning in the fall of 2009.

Title IX: Discussed DEED’s question concerning whether ASAA is involved with Title IX in Alaska’s schools. The board stated that compliance is an individual district’s responsibility and ASAA can’t monitor compliance.

April Board Meeting in Nome: Discussed the spring meeting which will be held in Nome on April 27-28.

Physical Exam Form: Staff reported that the physical exam form is being updated by representatives of Orthopedic Physicians Anchorage, an ASAA sponsor.

Thunder Mountain High School: Reviewed the request from the school for a blanket waiver of the Transfer Rule for incoming students through September 11, 2009.

Endowment Games: Heard a proposal from the Endowment board of trustees to:

1. Permit a team to play up to two Endowment Games during a season instead of one.
2. Lower the cost from the \$500 per game to \$200 for one, \$350 for two, per team.
3. Permit a school to submit the written application for a game as little as one week prior to playing – can’t be done after the fact.

4. Require that a check for the full amount accompany the application.
5. Permit schools to play Endowment Games during the “dead week” between conference tournaments and their respective state tournaments.

The board may take action on this proposal during the April meeting.

Region 6 Softball Tournament Proposal: Discussed a proposal from the Region 6 to change the way that invitational tournament games count toward the season 22 game limit. This may be an action item during the April meeting.

Region 5 Football Conference Proposal: Heard a proposal from Sitka, Ketchikan and Thunder Mountain high schools to form a small school football conference. This may be an action item during the April board meeting.

Nenana High School Request: Heard a request from Nenana High School to drop out of the Aurora Conference in basketball and volleyball and to become independent in those two sports. If the school decides to do this, it must notify the other schools in the Aurora Conference.

STUDENT HEARING

Although no hearing was held, the board discussed a letter from the parents of a student who had previously been denied eligibility. No action was taken on the matter but the ED was instructed to respond to the letter.

Items for April Meeting

April 27-28, 2009 – Nome - TBD

Workshop

1. TBD

Reports

- 1.

Discussion

1. Enrollment/Classification
2. Region 6 – Invitational Softball Tournament Proposal
3. Hall of Fame Report
4. 2009-10 Draft Budget Presentation
5. Eligibility of Eighth Grade Students in Small Schools
6. Analysis of State Tournament Berths for Individual Sports
7. Haka Dance Sportsmanship Policy
8. NFHS Citizenship Committee
9. Policy on Conferences
10. Bylaw Amendment– Article 6 - Appeal of Game Suspensions

11. Bylaw Clarification– Article 8 – Amateur Status of Music Students Who Get Paid to Perform
12. Updated Physical Exam Form
13. Title IX Compliance
14. Endowment Game Proposal
15. Region 5 Football Conference Proposal
- 16.

Action

1. Gold Lifetime Pass Selections
2. Adoption of State Tournament Bids
 - a. Wrestling
 - b. Basketball
3. Bylaw – Article 4 – Appeal/Hearing Amendment
4. Goals for 2009-10
5. Amendments to “Play for Keeps” Program
- 6.