



ALASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

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Synopsis of ASAA Board of Directors' Meeting Anchorage, Alaska October 6-7, 2013

Note: This synopsis is available on the ASAA web site at <http://asaa.org/wp-content/uploads/board/BOD-October-2013-Synopsis/pdf>. 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 actions:

➤ 2013-14 Budget: Approved amendments to the 2013-14 budget based on affirmation from the State that a new DHSS Tobacco Grant has been awarded to continue develop and maintenance of the “Play for Keeps” program.

(Carried - Unanimous Consent)

➤ Conferences and State Tournament Berths – Individual Sports: Postponed action on proposed changes until the December board meeting on proposals for cross-country running, tennis, and Nordic skiing. Voted to keep the status quo in wrestling for 2013-14. Voted to keep the status quo in diving and track and field indefinitely, although Unified Track may continue to evolve.

(Carried)

➤ Application for Membership: Approved the membership application from True Vine Christian School in Anchorage. It has a 9-12 enrollment of 7 students and was assigned to Region 2

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Approved a proposal from Holy Family Academy in Anchorage to change its classification from home school to private school.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ Allocation of NFHS Donation: The NFHS recently donated \$10,000 to each member state high school associaton. The board directed that the donation be placed into the reserve account.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ Media Rights Agreements: Endorsed a 7 year agreement granting state championship television rights to GCI.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

Approved and supported ongoing staff negotiations with a potential state championship internet streaming rights holder.

(Carried – Unanimous Consent)

➤ Basketball Cheerleading: Approved a request to start the basketball cheerleading season on November 11 for only those schools whose basketball cheerleading squads will be cheering at the Great Alaska Shootout during the week of Thanksgiving.

(Carried)

➤ Election of Vice-President: Due to the recent resignation of Mike Graham, former Region 4 representative and vice-president of the board, Region 3 representative Mike Boyd was elected vice-president.

(Carried)

➤ Sand Point School Request: Approved a request from Sand Point School to be placed in the Region 3 swimming and diving conference beginning with the current season.

(Carried)

➤ State Tournament Basketball Officiating - 3 Person Crews: After considerable discussion on the availability of adequately trained officials and increased state tournament costs, adopted a Region 1 proposal to use 3 person crews for all opening day 1A games and subsequent games played at the Sullivan Arena and 2 person crews for all other 1A games.

Approved use of 3 person crews for all 2A state basketball tournament games.

(Carried)

➤ 4A Wrestling Season: Approved a Region 1 request to begin the 2013-14 4A wrestling season on October 30, instead of November 4, to provide more overlap with the 1A-3A wrestling season.

(Carried)

Reports The BOD heard the following reports:

- Board Members
- State Tournaments
- Finance Committee
- Student Government
- Officials/Coaches
- Marketing
- Play for Keeps, Win for Life
- Technology
- Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)
- Executive Director

Public Comments There were no public comments.

Executive Session Discussed Executive Director succession process.

Student Eligibility Hearing Acting as the Appeal Board, heard an appeal of the Executive Director's denial of eligibility to a South Anchorage High School student. Upheld the ED's decision.

Tabled Items None

Discussion Items The BOD discussed the following items:

➤ **Football Proposal**: Discussed a staff proposal to revise the playoff structure in Small, Medium and Large School classifications. Also, discussed a staff proposal that small school football be changed from 11-player to either 9- or 8-player. Under this scenario, it was recommended that Small Schools which choose to continue to play 11-player football, be required to opt up to the Medium School classification. Staff also proposed that cutoff number between Small and Medium classifications be increased from 326 to 350 students. Staff also proposed that the calendar dates of Large School football be weeks 4-15, and that the Medium School season be weeks 5-15, and that the Small School season be weeks 5-13. These items will receive further discussion during the December board meeting.

➤ **Long Range Media Plan**: Staff proposed a comprehensive 5 year media plan as envisioned in the Strategic Plan which included a report on the completed television rights agreement with GCI, details of which are confidential.

Heard a proposal from the NFHS Network which is interested in purchasing internet streaming rights to ASAA state championships.

➤ **Wrestling**: Heard a proposal from Region 5 to sanction girls wrestling as a separate sport. Two regions thought that there are insufficient numbers of girl wrestlers in the state to separate them from boys wrestling unless the two wrestling seasons are combined. The board directed staff to develop a proposal for discussion during the December board meeting.

➤ **Softball**: Heard and discussed a proposal from Region 3 to do away with the 1 ½ hour game time limit in effect during the state tournaments. The board was asked to get regional input and asked that this be revisited during the December board meeting.

➤ **Student Transfers**: This was originally scheduled to be a discussion on private school classification/recruiting, but it morphed into a discussion on student transfers. Some board members thought that revisions might be needed to Bylaw, Article 12, Section 9 – **Transfer/Residency Rule**. The Executive Director gave his perspective on the number of waiver requests he rules on each year (about 700), and the process he uses to make his decisions. It was suggested that increasing the period of ineligibility following a student transfer without a corresponding move of parent from 90 days to 180 days might be effective (current Anchorage

School District policy). It was suggested that a transfer task force be appointed to study the situation and make recommendations to the board. Task force members will be Dr. Lance Bowie – AASA, Andrew Friske – Region 5, Dan Gallego – Region 4, Carlton Kuhns – Region 1, and staff members Rus Schreckenghost and Gary Matthews. The task force report will be the topic of a December board workshop.

➤ Basketball: Region 6 proposed that ASAA seed the 3A state basketball tournament teams using a panel comprised of regional representation – a separate panel for girls and boys teams. Board members were asked to discuss the proposal at the regional level prior to further discussion during the December board meeting.

Region 1 proposed that ASAA seed the top 4 teams (boys and girls) in the 1A state basketball tournament, possibly using a similar panel of experts. Board members were asked to discuss the proposal at the regional level prior to further discussion during the December board meeting.

➤ Unified Track and Field: Heard an update from Sarah Arts and Jim Balamaci, Special Olympics Alaska, on how Unified Sports athletes were included into the 2013 state track and field meet. They hope to expand school participation in the future. They also presented a supportive letter from the parent of a Unified track and field athlete.

They also discussed the potential for a statewide Unified 3 on 3 basketball program that would run concurrent with the high school 5 on 5 program.

➤ Calendar: Reviewed the first draft of the 2014-15 statewide calendar and 3 year projection. This includes adding an additional week to the end of the track and field season and moving the first day of practice for 4A wrestling to the previous Wednesday.

The board also discussed the possibility of recombining the 4A and 1A-2A-3A wrestling seasons. Region 4 stated its opposition to this possibility.

➤ Future State Tournament Bids: Heard that the following state tournament bids expire at the end of the 2013-14 school year – All-State Music, 4A Wrestling, Nordic Skiing, Softball and Baseball. Information and a timeline for submitting bids is posted at <http://asaa.org/calendar/state-championship-bids/>. This will be a discussion/action item during the December board meeting.

➤ Conferences and State Tournament Berths – Team Sports: ASAA reviews team sports during school years which begin with an odd number. This year's review include baseball, basketball, football, hockey, soccer, softball, 3A/4A volleyball and 2A/mixed/six volleyball. Staff recommended changes in football (covered earlier in this document) and Greatland hockey and softball.

Greatland hockey – due to a decrease in the number of schools sponsoring teams, decrease the teams in the state tournament from 4 to 2.

Softball – due to a decrease in the number of Large School teams, decrease the teams in the state tournament from 8 to 6.

Softball - due to changes in the number of teams in the Small School conferences, reallocate berths from 2-2-2 to 3-2-1.

These items will receive further discussion during the December board meeting.

➤ Alternative Education Program Update: Heard a staff update on the implementation of the new eligibility rules applying to alternative education program students throughout the state under recently passed legislation.

➤ Boarding School Transfer Rule: Heard that the revisions to the transfer form and process are in place but have not been utilized to date this early in the school year.

➤ Foreign Exchange Student Hosted by a Coach: Heard that one school has utilized the amendment which permits foreign exchange students to be hosted by a member of a school's coaching staff if the school can prove that recruiting was not involved by either the coach or the school.

➤ ASAA Board Composition: Region 1 requested that the composition of the board be analyzed in light of a concern expressed by a citizen on the makeup of the board; that it lacks representation by various constituencies. This will receive further discussion during the December board meeting.

➤ Game Ejections/Suspensions: Heard a staff concern about the high number of coach/player game ejections in 2012-13 (120). Reviewed a staff proposal to increase the penalties for repetitive ejections during a season. This will receive further discussion during the December board meeting.

➤ Girls Hockey: The board revisited girls hockey since the Anchorage School District has reversed its decision to drop the sport and has instead agreed to keep its sponsorship while outsourcing direct day-to-day operation to the Scotty Gomez Foundation. There was some discussion on bolstering participation numbers by including private school students and 8th graders but the board did not address these possibilities.

➤ Mixed-Six Volleyball State Tournament: Heard some opposition to the new 9 team format because one team will be eliminated after the first day of the tournament. The board asked staff to revise the format so the first day's loser-out will have an opportunity to play again, possibly during Saturday at another venue if it can't be worked into the existing game schedule.

➤ Basketball - 3 Person Officiating Crews : Discussed a Region 1 proposal to increase the number of state tournament officials from 2 to 3 during the opening round of 1A games and all 1A and 2A games played at the Sullivan Arena. There was discussion on the financial impact of making this change and whether there is a critical mass of qualified officials to make this work.

It was moved to an action item.

Items for Next Regular Meeting – December 15-17, 2013
University Lake Springhill Suites, Anchorage

Action Items

1. 2014-15 Calendar Adoption
2. Election of Officers

Tabled Items

- 1.

Discussion Items

- 1.