

Minnesota State High School League
Board of Directors Meeting
October 2, 2014

Meeting Synopsis

Action Items

- In a concerted effort to “get it right,” as several Board members implored, action on a proposal for determining eligibility of transgender students was tabled until the next Board meeting on Dec. 4. More than 90 minutes of testimony on a draft proposal was taken during a public workshop session on Oct. 1. Another 30 minutes of public comments were heard at today’s Board meeting. Overnight, the League’s executive director worked with legal counsel in drafting a significantly condensed draft proposal that most Board members saw for the first time today and generally endorsed. However, many Board members were reluctant to take action on the new draft proposal without first sharing it with their constituents and soliciting additional comment. It was suggested that a special committee be appointed to study the new draft proposal. Participation in the committee should be solicited from activities administrators, principals, superintendents, and school board members. Ultimately, the new draft proposal was tabled, with the understanding that the committee will study it and offer comment, and that general comments will be solicited on the League website on several specific aspects pertinent to the issue, such as religious school exemption, and others. Board members were conscientious about an expedited time frame, so the committee and commentary will be limited to a Nov. 1 deadline. League staff will then consolidate the information and share it with the Board by mid-November in advance of its Dec. 4 meeting.
- The Board approved the addition of an additional staff position to oversee the support, training development, education and recruitment of officials for League-sponsored activities. The position may also be assigned some activity management responsibilities and develop editorial content for the League website.
- The Board approved a trial period during the winter activity season during which 80-100 member schools will institute pre-participation physical examinations using a secure electronic system developed and managed by a company named PrivIT. The system will not cost the League or member schools anything. The backbone of the system is the health history questionnaire that identifies risk factors associated with sports participation. The database can then be shared with school administrators, athletic trainers, and the League Sports Medicine Advisory Committee to assist in developing safety policy recommendations. Additional features advantageous to activities administrators will also be explored.
- The Board approved expansion of the baseball section and state tournaments from three to four classes. The action is effective with the 2016 season, the same year that girls’ softball is also expanding from three to four classes. League staff said the additional baseball class should not impact net revenue very significantly.
- The addition of team awards for the state speech tournament was also approved by the Board. Currently, only individual awards are made, but beginning with the 2016 state tournament points awarded to individuals will be tallied to determine team champions, just as is done now in swimming and diving and in track and field.

- An amended overtime process for post-regular season hockey was approved by the Board. When games are tied, before the first overtime period the goaltenders will trade ends on the rink and continue doing so until the game-winning goal is scored. The intent is to allow greater scoring opportunities by putting goaltenders in their own end, where their team bench is located. The new overtime process is effective with the current 2014-15 season.
- The Board gave staff approval to request from the National Federation of State High School Associations an experimental rule for baseball that will allow pitchers to also be designated hitters so that if they are pulled off the mound, they can remain in the game as an offensive player as the DH.
- At the recommendation of staff, new pricing for state football games was approved. Quarterfinal tickets will be increased one dollar to \$9 for adults and \$6 for students. Semifinal tickets will be reduced from \$12 to \$10 for adults and from \$10 to \$7 for students. Prep Bowl tickets will be increased one dollar to \$13 for adults and \$9 for students.

Discussion Items

- League staff will explore options for renewing background checks on contest officials. It has been six years since officials have had to undergo background checks.

Board Committee Reports

- *Executive Committee*
The Board approved the recommendation to accept the low bid of \$24,000 from the League's current awards vendor to produce commemorative medallions for the League's centennial celebration. The medallions will be shared with all member schools and also presented to state tournament participants beginning with the Spring 2015 tournaments and extending through the Winter 2016 tournaments.
- *Eligibility Committee*
The Board approved the recommendations to accept corrective action plans from six member schools for various bylaw violations and the censure of three activities directors for bylaw violations.
- *Audit/Finance Committee*
The Board approved the committee's recommendation to accept the financial statements for the months of July and August. The committee reported that the annual financial audit is underway.
- *Technology/Coaches and Officials Education Committee*
Staff briefed the committee on continuing education of coaches and development of education curriculum for activities directors and contest officials.
- *Communications and Marketing Committee*
Staff briefed the committee about contract extensions with several corporate partners and continuing talks with several others. The Board approved the committee's recommendation to allow staff to execute a three-year contract with Carlson Print Group of Eden Prairie for the production, printing and delivery of state tournament souvenir programs.

Extra Points

- The Board learned that the League's Facebook page has 16,007 Likes, second only to the Michigan high school association's 18,528 Likes.
- Media Specialist John Millea's Twitter followers number 7,447, eighth best among state high school associations. You can follow him @MSHSLjohn.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the League Board of Directors is Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014.