

**MINUTES OF THE 102nd ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
JANUARY 16, 2023**

The 102nd Annual Meeting of the Montana High School Association was held Monday, January 16, 2023, at the Holiday Inn Downtown in Missoula, Montana. President Jim Hawbaker welcomed the attendees and called the first general session to order at 8:32 am. The national anthem was performed by Killian Kroenke, a Hellgate High School choir student under the direction of Ellen McKenzie.

FIRST GENERAL SESSION

INTRODUCTIONS

President Hawbaker introduced the head table which included MHSA Executive Board members and MHSA Staff. He also introduced the Resolutions Committee (Paula Molyneaux, Chinook; Jim Browning, Columbus; Les Meyer, Frenchtown; Michele Paine, Kalispell) and the Parliamentarian, Dennis Murphy. The public input statement was then read.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda for the 2023 MHSA Annual Meeting as presented was made by Jim Baldwin of Choteau Public Schools and seconded by Greg Sager of Shields Valley High School. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF 2022 MINUTES

A motion to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes was made by Ron Osborne of Columbus High School and seconded by Adam White of Red Lodge High School. The motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF CLASS A BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

A motion to nominate Aric Harris of Whitefish High School as the Class A representative to the MHSA Executive Board was made by Nik Rewerts of Libby High School and seconded by Chris Lee of Sidney High School. The motion passed. Mr. Harris joined the Executive Board on stage.

APPOINTMENT OF CLASS C BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

The Board appointed Kara Triplett to replace Luke Kloker as the new Class C Executive Board Representative. Ms. Triplett will serve the remainder of the term (one year) and an election will be held in 2024. Ms. Triplett joined the Executive Board on stage.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF MONTANA (SOMT) PRESENTATION

Jeanette Gray and Maddi Marcellino discussed Unified Track which includes the following events: 4x100m relay, 100m, Long Jump and Shot Put. The presentation concluded with a video.

GOFAN PRESENTATION

Greg Vandermade of GoFan discussed the benefits of digital ticketing for schools.

GIRLS FLAG FOOTBALL PRESENTATION

Amanda Dinkel from the Atlanta Falcons organization discussed the girls' flag football pilot program, including the grant to cover costs. Three schools participated in the inaugural year: Glacier High School, Flathead High School and Butte High School.

MHSA OFFICE REPORT

Executive Director Brian Michelotti welcomed those in attendance and spoke to the membership, presenting his MHSA Office Report.

MHSA LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT

Mr. Michelotti introduced MHSA Legal Counsel, Elizabeth Kaleva. Ms. Kaleva discussed legal hot topics including hazing, accommodations in activities, the first amendment and social media, and transgender athletes.

PRESIDENTS'S REPORT

President Hawbaker presented his report to the membership.

CAUCUS BREAK

The membership broke for the classifications' caucus meetings.

SECOND GENERAL SESSION

CREDENTIALS REPORT

President Hawbaker reported there were a total of 197 delegates present with 146 voting delegates and 51 non-voting delegates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dusty Molyneaux of Great Falls Public Schools presented the Music Committee's report.

Mike Perry of Arlee Public Schools presented the MHSA Athletic Committee's report.

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

The MIAAA Gold Card Award was not presented this year.

Mark Ator, of Bozeman Public Schools, presented MIAAA awards to Vance Von Bergen of Stanford High School (Class C), Adam White of Red Lodge High School (Class B), Nate Parseghian of Park High School (Class A), and Tim McMahon of Helena Public Schools (Class AA). The overall winner was Brenner Flaten of Glasgow High School.

Patrick Ryan of Great Falls High School was presented the NFHS Music Award. Dusty Molyneaux accepted the award on his behalf.

Glacier High School was presented the AIM Higher Award.

Sally Haas and Margi Corey, both from Choteau, were presented the Mildred Adams Award.

Kara Bartlett of Destination Missoula, Travis Blome of Hamilton High School and Bryce Wilson of Flathead High School were presented with Service Citation Awards.

Dave Edington of Ronan, the past MHSWA Wrestling Rules Interpreter and Doug Reisig of Missoula, an MHSWA Executive Board Member, were presented the James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award.

ACTION ON PROPOSALS

President Hawbaker read the Open Meeting Law to the membership.

1. PROPOSAL TO ADD A PRIVATE SCHOOL MULTIPLIER BY-LAW, ARTICLE X, ATHLETIC CLASSIFICATION AND DISTRICTING

The proposal to add a private school multiplier to By-Law, Article X, Athletic Classification and Districting was withdrawn by Brian Rayburn of Lima Public Schools. There were no objections.

Lima High School proposes to add a private school multiplier to By-Law, Article X, Athletic Classification and Districting. Member schools that are considered private under OPI's definition of non-public schools shall use a 1.5 multiplier of enrollment when determining enrollment numbers for classification and districting.

2. PROPOSAL TO AMEND COOPERATIVE SPONSORSHIP OF ACTIVITIES

A motion was made by Jeff Nix of Sunburst High School, and seconded by Reid Michel of Dutton/Brady High School to amend the following proposal:

Proposal to amend Section (35) COOPERATIVE SPONSORSHIP OF ACTIVITIES on page 31 of the current MHSWA Handbook.

Add D

~~D. Cooperative sponsorship of any activity by two or more member schools are permitted in one of the following categories:~~

~~1. Combined Cooperative Program: Students from more than one school combine to compete as one team. The combined teams' classification is determined by combined enrollments of the member schools involved. This program applies to football, volleyball, soccer, basketball, softball and baseball.~~

If the combined enrollments of the schools involved in a combined cooperative program exceeds the minimum number of the next higher classification the combined cooperative team will compete at that higher classification in that activity.

~~2. Collective Cooperative Program: Students from more than one school share resources, but must compete as representatives of their home school at district, divisional and state competition. School classification remains the same for the individual students. This program applies to cross country, wrestling, swimming, golf, tennis, track, debate and speech.~~

The following sections the language remains the same, but has been relettered.

E. To be eligible to participate in MHSWA sanctioned activities schools must have an enrollment at or below the maximum classification enrollment. New applications must be filed with MHSWA

by February 1st of each year. The enrollment count will meet or exceed this number for two consecutive years in order to be mandated that the cooperative contract will no longer be allowed.

Reletter from here down because of additions:

F. *To be eligible to participate in six-player football, schools must be Class C and have a high school enrollment at or below 65 students. No football cooperative contracts may exceed an enrollment of 65 students when two or more participating member schools are combined (Exception – See Article X Section (2) 2.2). New applications must be filed with MHSAs by November 15th of each year. The enrollment count will meet or exceed this number for two consecutive years in order to be mandated to switch to eight-player football.*

G. *Application forms and a list of details that describe district to district issues affecting cooperative sponsorship will be made available by the MHSAs to school districts upon request. The activity fees payment as outlined in Article I Section (2) 2.1 must be paid upon approval of the co-op.*

H. *Refunds will be made, upon request, up to the date of the first allowable contest of the activity.*

I. *Cooperative implementation of an activity by two or more member schools will be considered under the following conditions:*

1. Schools are to be located in the same geographic area and combined enrollments will be used as a guideline.

2. Making activities available for students that would not be available in their home school if cooperative contracting did not occur.

3. The school board of the participating member schools must jointly make the application to the MHSAs Executive Board.

4. A resolution from each school board stating the purpose for sponsoring a joint activity must be submitted to the MHSAs office in a timely manner.

5. Decisions on all applications will be determined by the Executive Director subject to appeal to the MHSAs Executive Board.

6. A school may not enter into any cooperative sponsorship whereby students are sent to two or more schools in the same activity.

7. When schools from two different classifications co-op, they will compete in the higher classification of that activity.

8. When the intent is not to improve a particular school's win-loss record.

9. All other related procedures not specifically controlled or directed by the MHSAs will be the responsibility of the schools named on the cooperative contract.

10. Both schools must be in compliance with the Ridgeway Settlement Agreement, specifically in terms of the number of sports offerings for each gender.

11. *The co-op may be terminated by the MHSА Executive Board.*

The amendment passed.

The amended proposal passed.

3. PROPOSAL TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO STUDY BOYS AND GIRLS LACROSSE

A motion was made by Nick Laatsch of Missoula Hellgate High School, and seconded by Dan Mills of Bozeman High School, to approve the following proposal:

Missoula County Public Schools proposes the following in accordance with the Rules and Regulations, Section (24) Policy, page 25 of the current MHSА Handbook:

That the MHSА authorize the Executive Board to appoint a special committee to study Boys and Girls Lacrosse as a MHSА sanctioned sport. Recommendations will be presented at the 2024 MHSА Annual Meeting.

The motion failed.

4. PROPOSAL TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO STUDY ESPORTS AS A MHSА ACTIVITY

A motion was made by Nick Laatsch of Missoula Hellgate High School, and seconded by Mike Moodry of Jefferson High School, to approve the following proposal:

Missoula County Public Schools proposes the following in accordance with the Rules and Regulations, Section (24) Policy, page 25 of the current MHSА Handbook:

That the MHSА authorize the Executive Board to appoint a special committee to study eSports as a MHSА sanctioned sport. Recommendations will be presented at the 2024 MHSА Annual Meeting.

The motion failed.

BUDGET APPROVAL

A motion was made by Doug Reisig of the MHSА Executive Board, and seconded by Mr. Kloker of the MHSА Executive Board, to adopt the 2023-24 budget as presented.

The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.