

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF THE MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
April 11 & 12, 2022**

ATTENDANCE

Dinny Bennett, Forsyth
Jim Hawbaker, Billings
Doug Reisig, Missoula (via Zoom)
Krystal Zentner, Bridger
Hannah Dean, Helena
Jim Goltz, Bridger
Steve Thennis, Helena
John Fitzgerald, Red Lodge
Mark Beckman, Helena
Brian Michelotti, Helena
Kip Ryan, Helena
Scott Wilson, Helena
Amy Bartels, Helena
Greta Buehler, Helena

Delegations:

*Stacy Dale, Twin Bridges
Kitt Dale, Twin Bridges
Student K.D., Twin Bridges
Hannah Konen, Twin Bridges
Gary Konen, Twin Bridges
Thad Kaiser, Twin Bridges
Jeff Bellach, Manhattan Christian (via Zoom)
Jason Slater, Manhattan (via Zoom)
Pat Lynch, Manhattan (via Zoom)
Jessica Nagy, Superior
JP McCrossin, Darby
Rob Pedersen, Plentywood (via Zoom)
Sara Marsh, Plentywood (via Zoom)
Jeremy MacDonald, Box Elder (via Zoom)
Curt Leeds, Box Elder (via Zoom)
Neal Rosette, Box Elder (via Zoom)
Dan Grabowska, Park City (via Zoom)
Bob Hogemark (via Zoom)
David Marzolf, Simms
Luke McKinley, Simms
Jim Vinson, CJI
Jordan Miller, CJI
Chuck Merrifield, Butte*

Mark Wahl, Billings
Tim McMahon, Helena
Mark Dennehy, Kalispell
Duane Cunningham, Helena
Jason Sargent, St. Ignatius
Mike Perry, Arlee
Steve Love, Charlo
Bill Wood, Sheridan
Jaime Wood, Twin Bridges
Mike Wetherbee, Sheridan
Brett Nordahl, Twin Bridges
Clay Pierson, Sheridan
Ed Burke, Sheridan
Shawdee Dillon, Two Eagle River (via Zoom)
Rodney Bird, Two Eagle River (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Bennett called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mr. Bennett read the public input statement.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Beckman gave an overview of the meeting schedule and revisions to the agenda. Ms. Dean motioned to approve the revised agenda and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Reisig, and seconded by Mr. Thennis, to approve the January 15th & 17th meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Goltz, and seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the January 17th Annual Meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Hawbaker, and seconded by Mr. Thennis, to approve the February 23rd Zoom meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Zentner, and seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the April 6th Zoom meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES

A motion was made by Ms. Zentner, and seconded by Mr. Goltz, to approve the bills paid from January 1, 2022 to March 31, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Hawbaker, and seconded by Ms. Dean, to approve the financial statement as of March 31, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

The basketball, wrestling, swimming and Annual Meeting financial reports were reviewed.

TWIN BRIDGES SEMESTER RULE APPEAL

Kitt and Stacy Dale, student K.D., Gary Konen, Hannah Konen and Thad Kaiser joined the meeting to address the Board. The option to have an open or closed meeting was given; the meeting was closed. After the meeting was reopened, Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the MHSA Semester Rule appeal, and Ms. Zentner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COOPERATIVE SPONSORSHIP ENROLLMENT WAIVER REQUEST

Jeff Bellach, Jason Slater and Pat Lynch joined the meeting via Zoom to request a cooperative sponsorship enrollment waiver for football. The co-op was approved in November, but due to changing numbers the waiver request was on the agenda. Mr. Bellach discussed the numbers of participants coming up. Mr. Beckman recommended approving the co-op with a review after one year. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the waiver, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RECLASSIFICATION APPEALS

JP McCrossin joined the meeting to appeal Darby High School's reclassification from Class C to Class B. Mr. Beckman discussed the factors that are used for reclassification. Projected enrollment numbers were discussed. Mr. McCrossin relayed the concerns with going to class B, including disproportionate numbers of boys versus girls, competitive history, enrollment spike, mileage, etc. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to deny the appeal, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1 (Dissenting: Zentner).

Rob Pedersen and Sara Marsh joined the meeting via Zoom to appeal Plentywood's reclassification from Class C to Class B. Enrollment numbers and roster size were discussed. The success of the boys' and girls' programs was also discussed. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the appeal, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-3 (Dissenting: Zentner, Thennis, Bennett).

Jeremy MacDonald, Curt Leads and Neal Rosette (via Zoom) joined the meeting to appeal Box Elder's reclassification from Class C to Class B. Enrollment numbers and roster numbers were discussed. Mr. MacDonald mentioned additional relevant information, including the number of students on the school roster versus the number of students actively participating in school. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the appeal to allow Box Elder to remain in Class C, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-3 (Dissenting: Bennett, Goltz, Hawbaker).

Dan Grabowska and Bob Hogemark joined the meeting via Zoom to appeal Park City's reclassification from Class C to Class B. Enrollment and roster numbers were discussed. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to deny the appeal, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1 (Dissenting: Reisig).

After Mr. Beckman recommended approval, Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve Billings Central, Butte Central and St. Labre to remain in their current classifications, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jessica Nagy joined the meeting to appeal Superior's reclassification from Class C to Class B. Enrollment and roster sizes were discussed. Mr. Reisig motioned to deny the appeal, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SOFTBALL BOARD DECISION APPEAL

Chuck Merrifield, Mark Dennehy, Mark Wahl and Tim McMahon joined the meeting to appeal the Board's decision on softball scheduling for Class AA. Mr. Dennehy presented a PowerPoint presentation with input from the other athletic directors. The Board did not take any action.

COOPERATIVE SPONSORSHIP DENIAL APPEAL—SHERIDAN/TWIN BRIDGES

A large contingent joined the meeting to appeal the denial of the Sheridan/Twin Bridges football co-op. Mr. Beckman discussed reasons for the denial, specifically the large combined enrollment and the fact that both schools have large enough rosters to field stand-alone teams. Enrollment, roster sizes and other concerns were also addressed. Mr. Kaiser spoke to the desire to maintain an 8-player team with declining enrollment numbers. Twin Bridges will struggle to field a stand-alone 8-player team. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to deny the appeal, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RECLASSIFICATION APPEAL

Luke McKinley and Dave Marzolf joined the meeting to appeal Simms' reclassification from Class C to Class B. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the appeal for Simms to remain in Class C, and Ms. Zentner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CJI 6-PLAYER FOOTBALL REQUEST

Jim Vinson and Jordan Miller joined the meeting to request to play 6-player football. Mr. Beckman expressed concern about the timeliness of the request and the precedent being set. CJI exhausted every avenue to stay 8-player, but it did not work out. After questions from the Board, Mr. Goltz motioned to approve the request, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COOPERATIVE SPONSORSHIP ENROLLMENT WAIVER

Mr. Beckman recommended approval of the enrollment waiver for the Culbertson-Bainville boys' and girls' cross-country co-ops based on participation numbers. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the waiver, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MOA REPORT

Duane Cunningham joined the meeting to give a report on proposals from past MOA Regional Directors Meetings. From the June 2021 meeting, the regional directors proposed cleaning up the language in the handbook so officials get paid for games that are canceled after they have traveled to the site. From March 2022, regional directors proposed the following:

- The soccer official AR receive the same pay as the center;
- All soccer officials get postseason pay in line with football playoffs;
- Postseason officials must be paid at the beginning of a postseason tournament/event;
- Increase stipend to \$300/year for two Regional Director meetings;
- MOA fees increase by \$10 (to \$75) for a subscription to the NFHS Network;
- Volleyball invitational fees: \$15/set (max of \$30 even if match goes to 3 sets), subvarsity will be \$12/\$14;
- Instituting a fine for coaches that do not vote for postseason officials;
- A \$10 per diem if home site officials work more than 2 contests.

Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the MOA recommendations, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CO-OP ENROLLMENT WAIVER

Jason Sargent, Mike Perry and Steve Love joined the meeting to request a coop enrollment waiver for St. Ignatius-Charlo-Arlee softball. Enrollment and roster numbers were discussed. Charlo and Arlee do not have facilities to host a softball team. Mr. Beckman recommended approval. Mr. Goltz motioned to approve the enrollment waiver, and Ms. Zentner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RECLASSIFICATION APPEAL

Scobey requested to delay their possible classification placement until the June meeting.

GENERAL OFFICE OVERVIEW

Mr. Beckman gave a report on various insurance packages and rates.

Mr. Beckman discussed adding necessary language about the Health Retirement Account to the MHSAA Employee Handbook, contingent upon Ms. Kaleva's review and approval. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the addition, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Beckman gave official notification of his retirement.

Mr. Beckman requested approval for the following withdrawals from reserve accounts: \$96,247 from the severance reserve and \$60,500 from the health and wellness reserve. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the withdrawals, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Beckman gave a report on a meeting in Bozeman with representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, MSU and the Gallatin Tournament Committee to address the price of hotel rooms.

Mr. Wilson gave an update on soccer wearable technology. The NFHS Soccer Rules Committee did not make a decision. Neighboring states are allowing it as long as it doesn't become a safety issue.

Mr. Beckman gave an update on reserve fund balances.

LEGAL

Mr. Beckman will be attending the NFHS Legal Meeting in Indianapolis on April 21st-22nd. He also gave an update on legal costs to date.

OFFICE ACTION

The Board reviewed waivers of the transfer rule, petitions for participation by eighth-grade students, and waivers of the age rule (15- and 19-year-old). Penalties imposed to date were also reviewed.

REPORTS

Board and staff reported on the following events: State AA, A and B/C Speech and Drama Meets, the State All-Class Wrestling Tournament, the State Swim Meet and State AA, A, B and C Basketball Tournaments.

Mr. Michelotti gave a report on the Wrestling Ad-hoc committee's recommendations for girls' wrestling. Mr. Michelotti recommended approving the recommendations with the changes discussed. Ms. Zentner

motioned to approve the recommendations, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Michelotti reported on ejections for the year.

REQUESTS

Westby requested to co-op with Grenora for boys' cross country and compete in Montana. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the co-op (contingent on Mark's approval) and waive the co-op deadline, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Class B-C Tennis requested to extend their season one week to correspond with AA and A to alleviate the difficulty of finding a site for the State Class B-C Tournament. Ms. Dean motioned to approve the request, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Beckman proposed that no walk-up music be allowed for MHSa softball games. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve not allowing walk-up music during MHSa softball contests, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan presented a proposed volleyball tournament format for District 1C. Ms. Zentner motioned to approve the tournament format, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Michelotti presented a proposal from Class C Golf for divisional tournament awards to align with Class B. Ms. Zentner motioned to approve the proposal, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Dean motioned, and Ms. Zentner seconded, to dissolve the cooperative sponsorship between Florence and Missoula Big Sky for cross-country. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Scott reported on the Speech Committee's recommendations. A proposal to include 8th graders for speech will be brought to the Annual Meeting. Class A's proposal to add an event (Action #2) will go to the summer meeting. The proposal to add language to the Speech and Drama handbook requiring B-C schools host an event at least once every 3 years (Action #8) will be discussed at the summer meetings. The proposal to remove the cap of 42 competitors for Class AA (Action #9) will also go to the summer meeting. The recommendations regarding ballot wording, changing duo to theatre and changing divisional and state procedures, tabbing and scoring across all classifications will be sent to the Speech Committee. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was recessed at 4:37 pm and reconvened at 8:58 am on Tuesday, April 12th.

RECLASSIFICATION APPEAL

Shawdee Dillon and Rodney Bird joined the meeting via Zoom to appeal Two Eagle River's reclassification. Mr. Beckman apprised the delegation of factors that can be used in an appeal. Mr. Bird discussed the unique demographic served by Two Eagle River. Mr. Goltz motioned to approve the appeal and have Two Eagle remain in Class C, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

Mr. Wilson discussed the Music Committee report. Shelby High School requested to change the date for the District Festival due to a scheduling conflict. Ms. Zentner motioned to approve the date change for the District Festival to April 21-22, 2022, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Michelotti reported on the spring sports rules clinics for golf, tennis, softball and track and field.

Mr. Wilson discussed the open bid events for 2022-23. Three of the four events have received bids: Manhattan for the State B-C Speech and Drama meet, Broadwater High School (hosted in Great Falls) for State B-C Tennis on May 25-27, and Polson High School for State A Tennis. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the bids, and Ms. Zentner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bids and recommendations for 2023-24 state events were discussed. Ms. Zentner motioned to accept the Bid Committee's recommendations, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hawbaker motioned to remove powerlifting as a sanctioned sport, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bids for the 2024 Annual Meeting were discussed. Mr. Goltz motioned to award the 2024 Annual Meeting to Bozeman, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The final draft of the 2020-21 audit report was presented. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the audit report, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

Sportsmanship items from winter sports were discussed.

REQUESTS

Ms. Bartels gave an update on the NFHS Center for Officials Services (NFHS COS), Mr. Michelotti gave an update on Dragonfly for schools, and Mr. Beckman gave an update on the NFHS Experience.

Eighth-grade rule criteria clarifications were discussed. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the new eighth-grade language clarifications with the modifications discussed, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wilson provided details on baseball and options for scheduling. Mr. Beckman and Mr. Willson recommended forming an ad-hoc baseball master scheduling committee after schools take board action on adding baseball. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the recommendation to form a baseball scheduling committee, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan previewed shot clock rules that will be sent out to schools, officials, etc. to aid with training shot clock operators.

Mr. Ryan discussed the recommendations for the Cross-Country Committee members as well as a replacement on the Track Committee. Ms. Zentner motioned to establish a Cross-Country Committee and approve the committee member recommendations, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RECLASSIFICATION

Mr. Michelotti discussed the fall and spring OPI enrollment numbers. The schools that will be moving and their potential district/divisional placements were discussed. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the reclassifications of Bigfork, Fairview, Chinook, Lone Peak, Ennis and Forsyth according to their enrollment numbers, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SALARY NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Beckman presented his recommendations for salary and benefits for 2022-23. He also presented an idea for a health insurance contractual benefit moving forward. After Board discussion, Mr. Reisig motioned to approve a 3% raise, \$1500 for HSA, \$3000 to 403b/HSA, and additional compensation for Mr. Ryan and Mr. Michelotti, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board went to closed session for Mr. Beckman's evaluation.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Mr. Reisig nominated Mr. Hawbaker, as President of the MHSA Executive Board. Mr. Hawbaker was elected by acclamation.

Ms. Zentner nominated Mr. Goltz for Vice President of the MHSA Executive Board. Mr. Goltz was elected by acclamation.

SEATING OF NEW PRESIDENT

Mr. Hawbaker was seated as President and he welcomed Mr. Fitzgerald to a 4-year term as Class B representative.

ASSIGNMENT TO SPRING ACTIVITIES

Board members were assigned to postseason spring events.

NATIONAL FEDERATION MEETINGS

The NFHS Summer Meeting will be held in San Antonio from June 28-July 2, 2022.

The Section 7-8 meeting will be held in Hawaii in September, 2022.

2022-23 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING DATES

The Board agreed to the following dates for 2022-23 Board meetings: September 12, November 21-22, January 14 (January 16 for Annual Meeting) and April 17-18. Mr. Fitzgerald motioned to approve the Board meeting dates, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Mr. Hawbaker adjourned the meeting at 12:03 pm.

Executive Director Mark Beckman

MHSA President Jim Hawbaker