

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF THE MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

ATTENDANCE

Dinny Bennett, Forsyth
Jim Hawbaker, Billings
Doug Reisig, Missoula
Hannah Dean-Helena
Krystal Zentner, Bridger
Steve Thennis, Helena
Jim Goltz, Bridger
Mark Beckman, Helena
Brian Michelotti, Helena
Kip Ryan, Helena
Scott Wilson, Helena
Amy Bartels, Helena
Greta Buehler, Helena

Delegations:

*Ryan Rettig, Missoula
Brian Fortmann, Missoula
Nick Laatsch, Missoula
Jay Anderson, Missoula
Natalie Hiller-Claridge, Missoula
Alex Ator, Roberts
Sarah Shoopman, Roberts
Shane Shoopman, Ten Sleep, WY
Student E.S., Roberts
Rob Pedersen, Plentywood
Dylan MacLean, Westby
Blake Lampert, Grenora, ND
Mark Orem, Wolf Creek
Lindsey Orem, Wolf Creek
Student S.O., Wolf Creek
Student G.O., Wolf Creek
Kim Ramorini, Augusta
Nichole Pieper, Cascade
Rick Miller, Cascade*

CALL TO ORDER

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Mr. Bennett. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REVISIONS/ADOPTIONS OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Beckman updated the Board on agenda revisions sent out Friday. Ms. Dean motioned to adopt the agenda with revisions, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT STATEMENT

Mr. Bennett read the public input statement.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the April 19-20, 2021, meeting minutes, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the June 24, 2021, meeting minutes, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Zentner motioned to approve the August 25, 2021, meeting minutes, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Zentner motioned to approve the September 9, 2021, meeting minutes, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES

Mr. Beckman highlighted the bills paid. Ms. Dean motioned to approve the bills paid from April 1-August 31, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Beckman discussed the financial statement. Mr. Goltz motioned to approve the financial statement as of August 31, 2021, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OFFICE ACTION

Mr. Beckman gave an update on waivers of the transfer rule, waivers of the age rule, and violations/penalties imposed.

Mr. Ryan gave a report on the eighth-grade participation petitions.

REPORTS

Board and staff members gave reports on the following spring events: A-B Track, AA-B Track, AA Softball, A Softball, B-C Softball, AA Tennis, A Tennis, B-C Tennis, B Golf, and C Golf.

MISSOULA SENTINEL VIOLATIONS

Ryan Rettig and Brian Fortmann from Missoula Sentinel joined the meeting to discuss recent violations. Mr. Beckman gave an overview of the issues precipitating the representatives from Missoula Sentinel attending the meeting, including a recent violation in soccer. Mr. Bennett addressed the delegation. Mr. Rettig discussed the plan in place because of the recruiting violation and the track and field violation. Mr. Fortmann and Mr. Rettig answered questions from the Board. Mr. Beckman discussed the penalties the Board could impose, and several Board members provided their thoughts on action.

Mr. Reisig motioned to place Missoula Sentinel on probation for one school year (2021-22) with required reporting and, if further infractions occur, then the school would face more severe penalties; Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REQUESTS

Nick Laatsch, Jay Anderson, and Natalie Hiller-Claridge from Missoula Hellgate joined the meeting to discuss wearable technology in soccer. Mr. Laatsch gave an overview of the technology. Mr. Anderson and Ms. Hiller-Claridge provided further details of the uses and advantages of the technology. Mr. Beckman and Mr. Wilson discussed issues including safety, equity, opportunity, HIPAA, NFHS policy and the MHSA jewelry rule. This question of wearable technology will be given to the National Rules Committee for discussion at their meeting. Mr. Beckman also discussed next steps for approving the technology. The issue will be revisited at the April Board meeting.

TRANSFER RULE APPEAL—ROBERTS HIGH SCHOOL

Alex Ator, Shane Shoopman, Sarah Shoopman, and student E.S. joined the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Bennett gave the option to have an open or closed meeting; the meeting remained open. Mr. Bennett gave an overview of the information. E.S. transferred from Ten Sleep, Wyoming to live with her stepmother and Mr. Shoopman is hoping to move to Roberts soon. The transfer was turned in as a parent-to-parent move but doesn't apply in this case. The Board asked several questions. Mr. Goltz motioned to deny the appeal, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Roberts also asked to appeal the violation fine and forfeiture of the games related to playing an ineligible transfer, but the request was not valid because the transfer rule appeal was denied.

PLENTYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING CO-OP REQUEST

Blake Lampert, Rob Pedersen, and Dylan McLean joined the meeting via Zoom to request approval for Plentywood to join the Westby-Grenora co-op for boys' and girls' wrestling in North Dakota. Mr. Pederson explained the reason why Plentywood is requesting to co-op. Mr. Beckman recommended that the co-op deadline be waived, and the co-op approved pending approval by the NDHSAA. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the recommendation, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TRANSFER RULE APPEAL--AUGUSTA HIGH SCHOOL

Mark Orem, Lindsey Orem, student S.O., student G.O., Kim Ramorini, Nichole Pieper and Rick Miller joined the meeting. Mr. Bennett gave the option to have an open or closed meeting; the meeting was closed.

After the meeting reopened, Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the waivers of transfer, and Ms. Zentner seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-5. (Dissenting: Bennett, Thennis, Goltz, Dean, Hawbaker).

GENERAL OFFICE OVERVIEW

Mr. Beckman gave an overview of the insurance packages and premiums.

Ms. Bartels gave an update on the NFHS Center for Officials Services (Dragonfly), and Mr. Michelotti gave an update on the Dragonfly school platform, including the directory.

Ms. Bartels gave a social media platform update and highlighted the NFHS Title IX Campaign.

Mr. Wilson gave an update on the NFHS Network and a new process for approving schedules.

Mr. Beckman and Ms. Buehler gave a progress report on the audit.

Mr. Ryan gave an update on Academic Excellence winners.

Mr. Beckman reported on a radio broadcaster violation in Great Falls.

FINANCES (CONT'D)

Mr. Michelotti gave an update on corporate sponsors.

Mr. Beckman highlighted the Stockman Bank billboard and radio ad campaign.

REPORTS

Board and staff members gave reports on the National Federation Summer Meeting in Orlando, the MCA Clinic, Spirit and MHSA Committee Meetings, and the upcoming Section 7-8 meeting.

Mr. Michelotti reported on the three ejections to date.

Mr. Michelotti reported on the online clinic reports for football, cross country, golf, soccer, volleyball, and speech.

Ms. Dean and Ms. Bartels gave an update on the Student Advisory Committee.

LEGAL

Mr. Beckman gave an update on legal costs and proceedings.

COVID UPDATE

Mr. Beckman discussed cancellations in fall sports, which are not as high as he expected.

Mr. Wilson reported on COVID considerations for speech, debate, drama, and music. He also discussed the Music committee meeting, noting that Dusty Molyneaux replaced Eric Engebretson as chair. All-State band, choir, and orchestra are coming up and recommendations are being considered.

Mr. Wilson also highlighted changes to the handbook because of home school and nonpublic school participants. One of the forms was changed to remove male/female/mixed group designation. Ms. Zentner made a motion to approve the new language for the music handbook, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REQUESTS

Mr. Michelotti presented a request from Class AA to award a traveling trophy in golf (like other sports already approved). Mr. Reisig motioned to approve a traveling trophy for golf, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan presented a request from District 1C to approve the play-in and bracket. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the tournament play-in and bracket pending clarification of seeding of the #8/#13 play-in game, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan presented a request from Eastern C to approve the basketball bracket and play-in games. Ms. Dean motioned to approve the bracket and play-in games, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF MHSA BOARD PRIORITIES

Mr. Beckman gave a short review of the current priorities to get the Board thinking about priorities for next September.

GENERAL

Mr. Ryan gave an update on committee appointments and replacements for retired members. Mr. Goltz motioned to approve the replacements on MHSA committees, and Ms. Zentner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Beckman highlighted discussion issues for the November meeting. The reclassification and baseball ad-hoc committees will be appointed. The realignment and reclassification schedule and process were discussed. The athletic committee recommendations will be presented in November. Possible Annual Meeting proposals were also identified.

Ms. Zentner discussed adding a Native American representative to the Board, including possible qualifications and the selection process. This topic may be a proposal for the Annual Meeting.

FALL AND EARLY WINTER ACTIVITY ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Bennett assigned Board members to various fall and early winter events.

MHSA ANNUAL MEETING

Butte is the host site and is prepared to host. Questions have been asked about meeting in-person or via Zoom. The Board prefers to meet in person.

No sportsmanship items to report.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:19 pm.

Executive Director Mark Beckman

MHSA President Dinny Bennett