

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF THE MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
NOVEMBER 22, 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
Greta Buehler, Helena

Delegations:

Addie Fuller, Bozeman (via Zoom)
Student T.V., Bozeman (via Zoom)
Mike Richards, Broadus
Dennis Gerke, Rapelje (via Zoom)
Teresa Bare, Reed Point (via Zoom)
Jason Grebe, Melstone
Dave Perkins, Custer
Brad Hoffman, Custer
Nikki Aiken, Custer
Brandon Gondeiro, Highwood
Ed McNamee, Great Falls
Benji Headswift, Missoula (via Zoom)
John O'Dell, Townsend
Matt Molyneaux, Chinook
Ed Burke, Sheridan
Luke Kloker, Fairview (via Zoom)
Jessica Nagy, Superior (via Zoom)
Nate Parseghian, Livingston
Nick Coate, Livingston
Ryan Rettig, Missoula (via Zoom)
Brian Fortmann, Missoula (via Zoom)
Thom Chisholm, Plains (via Zoom)
Marie Errecart, Plains (via Zoom)
Ryan Noland, Plains (via Zoom)
Cameron Barber, Absarokee (via Zoom)

Bobette Ferris, Twin Bridges (via Zoom)
Jamie Stevens, Great Falls (via Zoom)
Wes Ross, Great Falls, (via Zoom)
Henry Huber, Deer Lodge (via Zoom)
Breanna Vaskey, Geyser (via Zoom)
Verna Jesson, Grass Range (via Zoom)
Scott Sparks, Denton (via Zoom)
Rob Orsini, West Yellowstone (via Zoom)
Kennedy Brown, West Yellowstone (via Zoom)
Jonathan Olson, Harlowton (via Zoom)
Brian Becker, Missoula (via Zoom)
James Cissell, Missoula (via Zoom)
Student S.M., Seeley (via Zoom)
Student G.M., Seeley (via Zoom)
Deidre Lechowski, Seeley (via Zoom)
Dr. Nadine Wisniewski, Missoula (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 a.m. by Mr. Bennett. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REVISIONS/ADOPTIONS OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Beckman updated the Board on agenda revisions with Powell County being added for a football request. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to adopt the agenda with revisions, and Ms. Zentner 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 September 13, 2021, meeting minutes, and Ms. Zentner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES

Mr. Beckman highlighted the bills paid. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the bills paid from Sept 1-October 31, 2021, 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 October 31, 2021, and Mr. Reisig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

GENERAL OFFICE REPORT

Mr. Beckman reported on the AMPHO Zoom meetings in October and November. The next meeting will be in January.

Mr. Beckman discussed the upcoming MOA Regional Director's meeting on December 5-6 that will be moved due to a conflict with the Atlanta Falcons trip. The Annual Meeting and NFHS Winter Meetings were also mentioned.

Mr. Beckman and Mr. Michelotti gave an update on corporate sponsors, highlighting the Montana Farm Bureau and MTARNG sponsorships. The contract with GoFan for mobile ticketing was also discussed.

Mr. Beckman gave a report on social media and the NFHS Title IX campaign featuring the Fort Peck women's basketball team and Nancy Deden.

Mr. Beckman and Mr. Michelotti gave an MOA report, including the fall assignment of officials for football in Dragonfly. This process should work well for volleyball and soccer next year.

Mr. Beckman provided an update on technology, specifically the directory publication.

Mr. Beckman also addressed the unofficial OPI enrollment numbers, cancellation of Colstrip football and volleyball games, and the Class AA softball scheduling complaint. Issues with Broadus, West Yellowstone, and the Billings West/Gallatin soccer championship game were also discussed.

Mr. Wilson addressed several soccer issues with Sentinel, the Hellgate/Helena Game, the Park/Whitefish game and 8 fan ejections, among others. Mr. Beckman sent out a memo regarding behavior during the season.

Positive official reports from Ronan football and the Granite/Drummond football game were also relayed.

BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC RULE APPEAL

Addie Fuller and student T.V. joined the meeting via Zoom to request an academic rule waiver. Mr. Bennett gave the option to have the meeting open or closed; the meeting is closed. After the meeting is reopened, Mr. Hawbaker motioned to deny the academic rule appeal, and Mr. Reisig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SOUTHERN C REALIGNMENT REQUEST FOR BASKETBALL AND TRACK

Mike Richards, Dennis Gerke (Zoom), Teresa Bare (Zoom), Jason Grebe and Dave Perkins joined the meeting to discuss a proposal to return to three districts in the Southern C. Mr. Richards gave a background on 4C and 6C realignment from 12 years ago and recent voting results. A 9-team divisional tournament was approved by the division. Mr. Gerke discussed opposition viewpoints, specifically travel, tournament locations and school board opposition. A document from Ms. Bare was passed out to the Board. After comments from the delegation and questions from the Board, Mr. Goltz motioned to approve the Southern C realignment proposal for the 2022-23 season (with the caveat that a committee be formed to help with game scheduling), and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-2 (Dissenting: Reisig, Zentner).

MHSA AD-HOC BASEBALL COMMITTEE REPORT

Ed McNamee joined the meeting to present the recommendation from the ad-hoc baseball committee to add baseball as a sanctioned sport. Mr. McNamee presented rationale for adding baseball and discussed expenses, season dates, and potential issues such as facilities and conflicts with other sports. Ms. Zentner motioned to present the proposal to add baseball as a sanctioned sport at the Annual Meeting, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-1 (Dissenting: Reisig).

MISSOULA HELLGATE ACADEMIC RULE APPEAL

Benji Headswift joined the meeting via Zoom. Mr. Bennett gave the option for an open or closed meeting: the meeting remained open. Student D.H. was in an ATV accident that affected his mental health, which contributed to his academic struggles last spring. He did credit recovery in the summer and is doing better this semester. After questions from the Board, Mr. Reisig motioned to deny the academic appeal, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CLASS B-C TENNIS REALIGNMENT REQUEST

Mr. John O'Dell joined the meeting to present the realignment request for B-C tennis. He presented the separate boys' and girls' division alignments. Girls would have a 32-person bracket (with wild cards rotating) and boys would have a 16-person bracket for State. Mr. Michelotti weighed in on the proposal. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the request beginning in this 2021-22 season, and Ms. Dean 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 for basketball.

REPORTS

Ms. Dean gave an update on the applications received for the Student Leadership Advisory Committee. Selections will be made after Thanksgiving.

LEGAL

Mr. Beckman gave an update on the legal costs incurred so far this year. The costs will increase because of some recent activity and legal issues that had to be addressed.

RECLASSIFICATION/REALIGNMENT REQUESTS

Ed Burke, Matt Molyneaux, Luke Kloker (Zoom) and Jessica Nagy (Zoom) joined the meeting to present and Eight-Player Football realignment request. Mr. Molyneaux presented the 4-division proposal that moves three teams into the South, but a 5-division proposal is also on the table because of three teams petitioning to move to Six-Player Football. Mr. Molyneaux and Mr. Burke favor the 5-division proposal. After comments from the delegation and questions from the Board, Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the 5-division proposal for the 2022-23 season, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Nate Parseghian and Nick Coate joined the meeting to request that Park High School move from Class A to Class B football. Mr. Parseghian addressed the enrollment and participation numbers as well as rationale for requesting the move. He is proposing a two-year ban on postseason participation and then the issue would be reevaluated after two years. Mr. Beckman shared his concerns and after discussion, recommended that the request not be approved, and the issue could be revisited next year. Mr. Reisig motioned to deny the request (with the caveat that the issue be revisited next November), and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Dean absent).

Dave Perkins, Nikki Aiken and Brad Hoffman joined the meeting to request Custer/Hysham/Melstone remain in 6-player football. The enrollments of the three schools and the roster size for the future were discussed. Brandon Gondeiro presented a chart of enrollments for all 6-player teams. Mr. Beckman recommended approving the request but reevaluating the issue again at the November 2022 meeting. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the request, and Mr. Reisig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Dean absent).

GENERAL

Ryan Rettig and Brian Fortmann joined the meeting via Zoom to give an update on the corrective actions taken by Sentinel High School. A meeting with all coaches was held and all coaches are required to have weekly check-ins with Mr. Fortmann. Disciplinary action was taken with the track coach. All transfers are handled directly by the Assistant Superintendent's office. The Board asked questions of Mr. Rettig and Mr. Fortmann.

RECLASSIFICATION/REALIGNMENT REQUESTS (CONT'D)

Mr. Reisig motioned to keep Poplar, Harlem/Turner, Lodge Grass and St. Labre in 8-player football and move Thompson Falls to 11-player football, and Ms. Zentner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Thom Chisolm, Marie Errecart, and Ryan Noland joined the meeting via Zoom to request that Plains remain in 8-player football. Mr. Chisolm provided information on enrollment and participation numbers, including middle school. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve Plains to remain in 8-player football and the issue reviewed next November, and Ms. Zentner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jessica Nagy joined the meeting via Zoom to request that Superior/Alberton remain in 8-player football. There is a possibility that the co-op will not be renewed for next year. Enrollment and roster numbers were discussed. Mr. Beckman recommended the request be approved and then it will be reevaluated next November. Mr. Reisig motioned to support Mr. Beckman's recommendation to have Superior/Alberton remain in 8-player football for 2022-23 contingent on the co-op being renewed, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cameron Barber joined the meeting via Zoom to request that Absarokee move from 8-player to 6-player football. Enrollment and roster numbers were discussed, including middle school numbers. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the request to move Absarokee from 8-player to 6-player football for 2022-23 and they be placed in the South division, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REQUESTS

Mr. Wilson previewed the 2023-24 calendar. Changes may need to be made to the calendar based on what happens with baseball, girls' flag football, girls' wrestling, etc. Mr. Beckman recommended approval. Mr. Goltz motioned to approve the 2023-24 calendar, and Mr. Reisig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan presented a District 3C basketball tournament bracket request. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the request, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan presented a District 9C basketball tournament bracket request. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the request, and Mr. Reisig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

GENERAL (CONT'D)

There were no two-week notice items on which to take action.

Mr. Ryan discussed MHSAA committee appointments. He suggested that a cross-country committee be formed, and two members added to the soccer committee. Ms. Zentner motioned to create a cross-country committee and add two members, a coach and an administrator, to the soccer committee, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RECLASSIFICATION/REALIGNMENT REQUESTS (CONT'D)

Bobette Ferris joined the meeting via Zoom to request that Twin Bridges move from 8-player to 6-player football. Mr. Beckman recommended approval. Ms. Zentner motioned to approve moving Twin Bridges to 6-player football and placing them in the West division, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jamie Stevens and Wes Ross joined the meeting via Zoom to request that Great Falls Central move from 8-player to 6-player football. The enrollment and roster numbers were discussed. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve moving Great Falls Central to 6-player football, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Beckman recommended that Box Elder, Northern Cheyenne, White Sulphur Springs, Hobson/Moore/Judith Gap remain in 6-player football for 2022-23. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Henry Huber joined the meeting via Zoom to request that Powell County move to 8-player football. Enrollment and roster numbers were discussed. Co-ops with Butte Central and Anaconda were pursued, but the Powell County school board chose to look at 8-man football. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve moving Powell County to 8-player football for 2022-23 and placing them in the South-Central division, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PROPOSED BUDGET

Mr. Beckman previewed the 2022-23 budget. The budget reflects a 1.8% increase after a 0% increase last year. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the budget, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Mr. Michelotti gave a report on ejections for the fall season. These numbers are in line with pre-Covid numbers. No ejection schools for 2020-21 were also highlighted.

Mr. Wilson gave a report on upcoming AIM Higher workshops. There are four tentatively scheduled locations and dates.

RECLASSIFICATION/REALIGNMENT REQUESTS (CONT'D)

Breanna Vaskey, Verna Jessen and Scott Sparks joined the meeting via Zoom to request the Denton/Geyser/Stanford/Grass Range/Winnett/Geyser co-op remain in 6-player football. Mr. Beckman gave an overview of the one-year co-op and discussed enrollment and roster numbers. Mr. Sparks and Ms. Jessen also spoke to the numbers. Mr. Reisig motioned to move the co-op from 6-player to 8-player football for 2022-23 and place them in the North division, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Rob Orsini and Kennedy Brown joined the meeting via Zoom to request West Yellowstone remain in 6-player football. Enrollment and roster numbers were discussed. Mr. Orsini and Mr. Brown spoke to the issues with participation and retention of players. Mr. Reisig motioned to keep West Yellowstone in 6-player football for 2022-23 and review the issue in November, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jonathan Olson joined the meeting via Zoom to request Harlowton/Ryegate remain in 6-player football. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to keep Harlowton/Ryegate in 6-player football for 2022-23 and review the issue in November, and Ms. Zentner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brian Becker and James Cissell joined the meeting via Zoom to request Valley Christian move from 6-player to 8-player football. Ms. Zentner motioned to move Valley Christian to 8-player football for 2022-23. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Goltz motioned to move Great Falls Central to the Northern division of 6-player football, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SEELEY-SWAN TRANSFER RULE APPEAL

Student S.M., his sister, Deidre Lechowski and Dr. Wisniewski joined the meeting via Zoom to request a waiver of the transfer rule. Mr. Bennett gave the option to have an open or closed meeting; the meeting remained open. The original petition was denied in part because Hellgate did not approve the waiver and Mr. Beckman felt that the waiver request did not meet the criteria, thus the appeal to the Board. Student S.M. discussed the situation, indicating the original transfer to Hellgate was necessary due to a hostile environment at Seeley-Swan related to an incident with his brother. Once his brother was not allowed to play at Hellgate, S.M. struggled in that environment so he feels the move back to Seeley-Swan was

necessary because it is his hometown. After questions from the Board to the delegation, Mr. Reisig motioned to deny the transfer rule appeal, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. Discussion ensued and Mr. Bennett requested the meeting be closed. Once the meeting reopened, the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Mr. Beckman reported on the MHSAd-Hoc Reclassification Committee meeting and discussed the rules for reclassification. The recommendations for changes were discussed. Mr. Hawbaker conveyed the new numbers for each of the classifications and the potential number of teams impacted. Discussion ensued. Mr. Beckman also discussed the private school boundary recommendations. Ms. Zentner motioned to accept the committee's recommendations and put the criteria into effect for the identification of schools in April 2022, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan reported on the athletic committee recommendations for swimming, golf, track, volleyball and wrestling (see attached). The bolded statements will go out for two-week notice. Mr. Beckman recommended approval of the athletic committee recommendations. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the athletic committee recommendations, and Mr. Reisig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Section 7/8 meeting will be hosted by Montana in 2024. Mr. Wilson presented a couple potential locations, Whitefish Lake Lodge or Big Sky Resort, that were discussed.

REQUESTS (CONT'D)

Mr. Beckman presented a request from Circle High School to waive the homeschool attendance rule. Mr. Reisig made a motion to waive the rule to allow a homeschool student to attend Circle High School which is significantly geographically closer than the school in their attendance area, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A request to change the rule to allow 8th grade students to play for out-of-district high schools if they have attended schools in that district beginning in 7th grade was presented. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the rule change effective immediately, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0 (Abstaining: Goltz, Zentner; absent: Dean).

ANNUAL MEETING

Mr. Wilson reviewed the schedule of activities for the weekend, the agenda (including time changes), the resolutions committee and parliamentarian, room reservations and caucus items. The awards nominations were also discussed.

Mr. Beckman highlighted the proposals for changes to Rules and Regulations and By-Laws that will likely be submitted for the Annual Meeting.

REPORTS (CONT'D)

Board and staff members gave brief reports about some of the State Tournaments/Meets, including Championship football games and the All-Class State Volleyball Tournament.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Executive Director Mark Beckman

MHSA President Dinny Bennett

Athletic Committee's Recommendations to MHSA Executive Board

The MHSA Athletic Committee requests that the following item be presented to the MHSA Executive Board for their consideration at the 2021 November MHSA Executive Board meeting.

I. The Athletic Committee's items for action concerning swimming are:

The following 5 items will be used as guidelines for the state competition:

- 1. Have a spectator rotation to ensure that seating limited to individual event spectators to watch a single event is provided. The spectators will rotate in and out before and after the event. The other seats will be available for spectators that want to watch all events during the meet.**
 - 2. All event awards will be presented at the end of the finals competition on Saturday in a separate area outside the competitive pool.**
 - 3. The host for the MHSA State Swim Championship Meet will make available a pre-meet warm-up in the pool available on the Thursday prior to the start of the meet.**
 - 4. All events will be marshalled to the pool through a ready room for both preliminaries and finals of the state meet.**
 - 5. Entries for the MHSA State Swim Championship Meet are required to arrive to the host team register by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday (nine days prior to the meet start date) and a final psych sheet will be sent and posted the following Friday by 5:00 p.m. after which no changes to the meet entries will be allowed. Meet scratches can be made but no changes to events or added swimmers will be allowed.**
- 14) AA and A-B Schools shall compete together during the preliminary races with the top 12 swimmers in AA competing for 12 places in the finals and the top six swimmers in Class A-B competing for six places in the finals. Class A-B swimmers will compete separately in the finals for all events. For Class A-B Relay Teams ~~will only swim in the finals and only the top 3 teams will be scored for team points.~~
Made minor edits to the paragraph above

II. The Athletic Committee's items for action concerning golf are:

- **Have each school designate 2 markers for post-season tournaments. Marker can be a relative, administrator or spectator as designated by the school.**
- **Spectators must be 6 years old and above at MHSA post season tournaments.**

IV. The Athletic Committee's items for action concerning track & field are:

- **Set/adjust the starting heights lower on Monday following divisional track meets. The height is to be set based upon approximately the top 12 qualifying heights advancing to state.**
- **Rotating girls going first, then boys going first.** Odd years: girls go first, Even years: boys go first.
 - Right now boys always go first, girls go 2nd. This change will give the girls a chance to showcase their talent. There is some concern with logistics of moving the hurdles. Because of 3 year rotation of state meets, there will be times where a classification will have 2 years in a row with one gender going first.
- **Use of relay cards.** Post season track meets when Hy-Tek Meet Manager is being used to enter your athletes and events and the system is utilized for meet scoring. Hy-Tek allows each relay team entered to list 4 starting runners and 2 alternate runners. The hy-tek entry serves as the first

relay card. If a change needs to be made from that list, the coach need to obtain an alternated relay card and turn it in to the marshal before the start of the race.

- There was some issues with dealing with relay cards at the state meets. Kip reviewed current process. This language makes the process clearer.
- **Motion by Arie to accept recommendation with the following amendment to the last sentence: If a change from the original relay card is made, the coach must obtain an alternate relay card from the meet referee and turn it into the marshal by final call of the event.**
- Use of two pole vault pits at state meet when available: If a state track facility has equipment and crew, can two pole vault competitions be conducted at the same time with two on Thursday and two on Friday.

V. The Athletic Committee's items for action concerning wrestling are:

- **All weigh-ins for regular season tournaments will take place the night prior to competition. For example, a tournament that takes place on a Friday and Saturday will have weigh-ins at the home school on Thursday night and at the tournament site on Friday night. Weigh-ins for the state tournament: weigh-ins would take place Thursday & Friday nights on-site.**
- **Motion was made by Arie: Use the Set A Bracket and eliminate the Set B Bracket for the state tournament. 2nd by Wes. Motion carried.**

VI. The Athletic Committee's items for action concerning volleyball are:

- **Warm-up period reduced to fifteen minutes for sub-varsity matches. Varsity match warm-up periods to remain at 20 minutes**
- **Three minutes between sets to remain the same , however if both teams are on the court and ready to go the new set can start before three minutes expires.**
- **Bench rotation – item for discussion (because of problems administration are having with opposing fans behind visiting serving team).**
- **State Associations may in compliance with the rules allow teams to remain on one designated side of the court occupying the same team bench throughout the match.**