

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF THE MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
JANUARY 15 & 17, 2022**

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
John Fitzgerald, Red Lodge

Delegations:

Jessica Nagy, Superior
Jon Wrzensinski, Hardin
Peggy White Well Known Buffalo, Hardin (via Zoom)
Student J.A., Hardin (viz Zoom)
Luke Kloker, Fairview
Sara Marsh, Plentywood
Matt Molyneaux, Chinook
Shaun Murgel, East Helena
Brian Kessler, Ennis
Kayla Feistner, Harrison
Tracy Fisher, Lima
Jason Sutton, Lima
Barbara Arrowtop, Heart Butte
Jody Aimsback, Heart Butte
Mike Tatsey, Heart Butte
Ross Drishinski, Heart Butte
Levi Lowery, Fromberg
Nate Oren, Fromberg
Jeff King, Northern Cheyenne
Larry Cady, St. Labre
Jeffrey Nix, Sunburst
Tyler Bucklin, Sunburst
Shawdee Dillon, Two Eagle River
Milt Apple, Brockton

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Mr. Bennett.

REVISIONS/ADOPTIONS OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Beckman updated the Board on agenda revisions. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to adopt the agenda with revisions, and Mr. Thennis 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 November 22, 2021, meeting minutes, and Ms. Zentner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

REALIGNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Reisig to finalize the Whitehall football realignment approved in November, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Class B-C Tennis realignment passed in November was contested. Mr. Michelotti came up with an alternative plan to alternate amongst five teams to send one to the Western Division each year. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the alternative and take final action on the realignment, and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STATE MEET SITES

Mr. Michelotti proposed the State B-C Tennis Meet be placed in Bozeman for this year. Ms. Zentner made a motion to approve Bozeman as the tournament site for 2021-22 State B-C Tennis, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Wilson previewed a proposal for Missoula to host the 2022-23 State Cross Country meet. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve Missoula as the host site, and Ms. Zentner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCES

Mr. Beckman highlighted the bills paid. Ms. Dean motioned to approve the bills paid from November 1-December 31, 2021, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Beckman gave a general office, insurance and financial overview of the Association to the Board. Various staff members provided reports as well.

The Board reviewed the following financial reports and summaries: football financial summary, volleyball financial summary, state volleyball financial report, and soccer financial report.

OFFICE ACTION

The Board reviewed office action taken on waivers of the transfer rule, waivers of the age rule, and petitions for participation of 8th grade students. They also reviewed the penalties imposed to date.

LEGAL

Mr. Beckman gave an update on the legal costs incurred so far this year.

REQUESTS/MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Michelotti gave a report on the winter rules clinic reports and ejections.

Mr. Beckman reported on the upcoming meeting with pediatricians and AMPHO. The return-to-play form has been updated to reflect current CDC guidelines and current Pediatric Association recommendations. An issue with parents that refuse to sign the return-to-play form was raised; those parents should sign a statement that they refuse to sign the form. Mr. Goltz motioned to approve the changes to the COVID return-to-play form, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Beckman provided a report on the National Federation Winter Meeting in San Diego.

Mr. Beckman discussed a possible dissolution of the Superior/Alberton co-op. Ms. Jessica Nagy joined the meeting to report that Superior and Alberton have decided not to renew the football co-op that expires this year. All other co-ops between the two schools expire this year and will not be renewed. She asked permission to dissolve the current co-op for basketball. A letter from Mr. Jeffrey Crews, Alberton superintendent, was presented to the Board. Mr. Beckman recommended dissolution. Mr. Reisig motioned to approve the dissolution of the basketball co-op (for the final two years), and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Bartels and Ms. Dean gave an update on the MHSA Student Advisory Committee. Eight students have been selected and the first meeting will be held via Zoom.

TWO-WEEK NOTICE ITEMS

A motion was made by Ms. Dean, and seconded by Mr. Thennis, to take final action on the following two-week notice items that received no comments: six-player football placement and alignment, including new placements (Absarokee, Twin Bridges and Great Falls Central) and teams approved to remain; eight-player football placement and alignment, including new placements (Valley Christian, Powell County, Denton/Stanford/Geyser/Winnett/Grass Range co-op) and teams approved to remain; Class B football realignment, including new placements (Thompson Falls). See below.

| 2022-23 MHS Class C - 6 Player Football Alignment | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| | <u>East</u> | <u>Central</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>South</u> | <u>West</u> |
| 1 | Bainville | Centerville | Big Sandy | Absarokee | Gardiner |
| 2 | Froid / Medicine Lake | Geraldine / Highwood | Box Elder | Bridger | Hot Springs |
| 3 | Garfield Co. (Jordan) | Hobson/Moore/Judith Gap | Great Falls Central | Broadview / Lavina | Lincoln (JV) |
| 4 | Lambert / Richey | Roy / Winifred | Heart Butte | Custer / Hysham / Melstone | Noxon |
| 5 | Savage | Harlowton-Ryegate | North Star (Rudyard) | Fromberg | Twin Bridges |
| 6 | Wibaux Co. | | Power / Dutton-Brady | Northern Cheyenne (JV) | West Yellowstone |
| 7 | | | Sunburst (No. Toole Co.) | Plenty Coups (JV) | White Sulphur Springs |
| 8 | | | Valier | Reed Point / Rapelje | |
| 9 | | | | Shields Valley | |

| 2022-23 MHS 8 Player Football Alignment - New 5 Divisions | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | <u>East</u> | <u>Southeast</u> | <u>South Central</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>West</u> |
| 1 | Carter Co. (Ekalaka) | Forsyth | Cascade | Belt | Arlee |
| 2 | Circle | Joliet | Choteau | Chester-Joplin-Inverness | Charlo |
| 3 | Culbertson | Lame Deer | Drummond / Granite | Chinook | Darby |
| 4 | Fairview | Lodge Grass | Ennis | Denton/Stanford/Geyser /Grass Range/Winnett | Plains |
| 5 | Plentywood | Park City | Lone Peak (Big Sky) | Fort Benton | Saint Ignatius |
| 6 | Poplar | Powder River Co. (Broadus) | Powell Co. (Deer Lodge) | Harlem / Turner | Superior/Alberton |
| 7 | Scobey / Opheim | St Labre | Seeley-Swan | Hays-Lodgepole | Troy |
| 8 | Westby / Grenora | | Sheridan | Rocky Boy | Valley Christian |
| 9 | | | Simms | Shelby | Victor |
| 10 | | | | | |

| 2022-23 MHS Class B Football Alignment | | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | <u>East</u> | <u>North</u> | <u>South</u> | <u>West</u> |
| 1 | Baker / Plevna | Conrad | Broadwater (Townsend) | Anaconda |
| 2 | Colstrip | Cut Bank | Columbus | Bigfork |
| 3 | Huntley Project (Worden) | Fairfield / Augusta | Jefferson (Boulder) | Florence-Carlton |
| 4 | Red Lodge / Roberts / Belfry | Glasgow / Hinsdale / Nashua | Manhattan / Manhattan Christian | Lincoln Co. (Eureka) |
| 5 | Roundup | Malta / Whitewater / Saco / Dodson | Sweet Grass Co. (Big Timber) | Loyola Sacred Heart (Missoula) |
| 6 | Shepherd | Wolf Point / Frazer / Lustre Christian | Three Forks / Willow Creek | Thompson Falls |
| 7 | | | | Whitehall / Harrison |

Mr. Beckman recommended taking final action on the Class C Southern Division realignment as only a minority of schools were against the realignment. A motion was made by Mr. Hawbaker, and seconded by Mr. Reisig, to approve the following Class C Southern Division realignment:

Southern C Realignment - Proposal

| <u>4C</u> | <u>5C</u> | <u>6C</u> |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Broadus | Melstone | Absarokee |
| Ekalaka | Custer / Hysham | Bridger |
| Jordan | Harlowton / Ryegate | Fromberg / Belfry |
| Terry | Reed Point / Rapelje | Park City |
| Wibaux | Broadview / Lavina | Plenty Coup |
| Plevna | Northern Cheyenne | Roberts |

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Reisig, and seconded by Ms. Zentner, to take final action on the following two-week notice items that received no comments: having wrestling weigh-ins the night before regular season tournaments, wrestling bracket switch, swimming guidelines for State Meet, schools providing two markers for golf postseason events, limiting spectators to ages six years old and above at golf postseason events, starting heights for State Track Meets adjusted the Monday after divisionals, and relay cards for track and field.

After discussion of comments from the Northern C on bench rotation, Mr. Reisig motioned to take final action and approve the volleyball bench rotation (not switching sides) and the subvarsity 15-minute warmup (3-4-4-2-2) with the potential to revisit, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD ASSIGNMENTS TO SPRING ACTIVITIES

Board members were assigned to upcoming spring events.

NEXT BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED

The next Executive Board meeting will be April 11-12, 2022.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held January 14-16 in Missoula at the Holiday Inn-Downtown.

ANNUAL MEETING

Mr. Wilson highlighted the schedule and discussed the logistics for the Annual Meeting. A summary of each classification's caucus items was presented and the proposals were reviewed.

HARDIN HIGH SCHOOL TRANSFER EXCEPTION REQUEST

Ms. Peggy White Well Known Buffalo and student J.A. joined the meeting via Zoom and Mr. Jon Wrzesinski, Hardin AD, joined the meeting in person to ask for a transfer exception. J.A. started 9th grade at Hardin High School and then transferred to Lodge Grass High School in November of his freshman year when he began living with a family in Lodge Grass. His legal guardian since 2017 has been Ms. White Well Known Buffalo, J.A.'s grandmother. J.A. returned to live with his grandmother in Hardin and enrolled at Hardin High School in December 2021 because she is unable to get him to school in Lodge Grass.

Mr. Reisig motioned to consider the transfer a valid return to legal guardian and allow J.A. to play varsity basketball immediately, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

RECESS

The meeting was recessed at 1:36 p.m. and will reconvene after conclusion of Annual Meeting business on Monday.

MEETING RECONVENES

At 1:35 on January 17th, the meeting reconvened and John Fitzgerald of Red Lodge High School, the newly-elected Class B representative to the Board, joined the meeting as an observer.

RECLASSIFICATION CONCERNS

Mr. Luke Kloker of Fairview joined the meeting to share concerns with changes to the reclassification criteria. He would like the Board to wait until after April to get the new enrollment numbers. He also wanted to know who was on the Reclassification Committee because it seemed that affected schools were not represented.

Ms. Sara Marsh of Plentywood joined the meeting to discuss financial concerns with Plentywood moving to class B. Mileage is a concern and she projects travel costs will increase \$23,000. She also feels that changing the Class B minimum enrollment number to 100 and removing the 10% Rule was a double whammy.

Mr. Matt Molyneaux of Chinook joined the meeting to discuss his concerns with the mileage if Chinook moved to Class B. He also didn't understand why the 10% Rule would be in effect for football, but not for reclassification.

Mr. Beckman addressed some of the concerns. The timing is necessary because of the 2-year reclassification cycle. Geography can't be considered because it would set a bad precedent. Any schools affected could appeal to the Board.

Mr. Bennett commented on the committee formation and the recommendations from the committee and Mr. Michelotti provided some enrollment number trends.

FORFEITURE RULE REQUESTS

Mr. Milt Apple, Brockton High School AD, addressed the Board to request to play varsity volleyball for the 2022-23 season. The projected numbers of participants for the next two years were reviewed. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve Brockton to play varsity volleyball in 2022-23 and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Shawdee Dillon of Two Eagle River High School spoke to the Board to request to play varsity volleyball in 2022-23. After reviewing participation numbers, Ms. Zentner motioned to approve the request and Ms. Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jeff Nix, Sunburst High School AD, addressed the Board to request to play varsity volleyball in 2022-23. He discussed participation numbers and the level of competitiveness. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve Sunburst High School to play varsity volleyball next year, and Ms. Zentner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jeff King, AD, of Northern Cheyenne High School spoke to the Board to request to play a varsity schedule in boys' and girls' basketball (they have decided to play jv volleyball and football). The projected participation numbers for both sports were reviewed. Mr. Beckman recommended approval. A motion was made by Ms. Zentner, and seconded by Mr. Goltz, to accept Mr. Beckman's recommendation and approve Northern Cheyenne to play varsity boys' and girls' basketball in 2022-23. The motion passed unanimously.

Hays-Lodgepole High School requested to play varsity football, but no one was in attendance to speak to the Board. Ms. Zentner motioned to approve Hays-Lodge Pole to play varsity football contingent on information being sent to the MHSAA for approval, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Larry Cady of St. Labre High School addressed the Board to request to play varsity football next year. Participation numbers were discussed. Ms. Dean motioned to approve the request, and Mr. Hawbaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Plenty Coups High School will play jv football next season.

Levi Lowery and Nate Oren of Fromberg High School joined the meeting to request for Fromberg to play varsity football. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve, and Jim Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Barb Arrowtop, Jody Aimsback, Mike Tatsey and Ross Drishinski of Heart Butte High School met with the Board to request to play varsity football in 2022-23. After participation numbers were discussed, Ms. Zentner motioned to approve the request, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tracy Fisher, superintendent, and Jason Sutton, AD, of Lima High School addressed the Board to request to varsity football and boys' basketball next year. Participation numbers were discussed for both sports. Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve Lima to play varsity football in 2022-23, and Mr. Goltz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Dean motioned to approve Lima to play varsity boys' basketball next year, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Kayla Feistner, Harrison High School AD, met with the Board to request playing varsity girls' basketball in 2022-23. After discussion, Ms. Feistner agreed that Harrison High School would play jv girls' basketball next year.

Shaun Murgel, AD, and Brian Kessler, Principal, of East Helena High School addressed the Board to request to play varsity boys' and girls' soccer next year. After brief discussion, Mr. Hawbaker motioned to approve the request, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cameron McCormick, Lame Deer High School AD, joined the meeting via telephone to request to play varsity volleyball in 2022-23. Ms. Zentner motioned to approve the request, and Mr. Thennis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 2:54 pm.

Executive Director Mark Beckman

MHSA President Dinny Bennett