

**MINUTES OF THE 101<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
JANUARY 17, 2022**

The 101st Annual Meeting of the Montana High School Association was held Monday, January 17, 2022 at the Copper King Inn in Butte, Montana. President Dinny Bennett welcomed the attendees and called the first general session to order at 8:30 am. The national anthem was performed by the Jefferson High School Choir, under the direction of Mr. Bowman.

**FIRST GENERAL SESSION**

**INTRODUCTIONS**

President Bennett introduced the head table which included MHSA Executive Board members and MHSA Staff. He also introduced the Resolutions Committee (Paula Molyneaux, Les Meyer, Jim Browning and Michele Paine) and the Parliamentarian Mark Brajcich, who joined by phone. The public input statement was then given.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

A motion to approve the agenda for the 2022 MHSA Annual Meeting as presented was made by Scott Marsh of Florence High School and seconded by Tony Wagner of Browning High School. The motion passed.

**APPROVAL OF 2021 MINUTES**

A motion to approve the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes was made by Alison Evertz of Joliet High School and seconded by Ken Larson of Roundup High School. The motion passed.

**ELECTION OF CLASS B BOARD REPRESENTATIVE**

A motion to nominate John Fitzgerald of Red Lodge High School as the Class B representative to the MHSA Executive Board was made by Tim Bastian of Huntley Project High School and seconded by Dan Sturdevant of Jefferson High School. The motion passed. Mr. Fitzgerald joined the Executive Board on stage.

**MHSA OFFICE REPORT**

Executive Director Mark Beckman welcomed those in attendance and spoke to the membership, presenting his MHSA Office Report. Amy Bartels and Hannah Dean were introduced by Mr. Beckman to give a report on the Student Leadership Advisory Council.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Bennett presented his report to the membership.

**CAUCUS BREAK**

The membership broke for the classifications' caucus meetings.

**SECOND GENERAL SESSION**

**CREDENTIALS REPORT**

President Bennett reported there were a total of 222 registered delegates present with 159 schools represented by voting delegates and 62 by non-voting delegates and 1 other.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Mark Wahl of Billings Public Schools presented the MHSAA Athletic Committee's report.

### **AWARDS PRESENTATIONS**

The MIAAA Gold Card Award was not presented this year.

Kim Lorango of Anaconda High School was presented the NFHS Music Award.

Janet Swanson of Forsyth was presented the Mildred Adams Award.

Larry Cady of St. Labre High School, Larry Crowder of Culbertson Public Schools and Dan Sturdevant of Jefferson High School were presented with Service Citation Awards.

Pat Lynch of Manhattan High School and Dinny Bennett of Forsyth Public Schools were presented the James C. Haugen Meritorious Service Award.

### **ACTION ON PROPOSALS**

President Bennett read the Open Meeting Law to the membership.

## **1. PROPOSAL TO AMEND DUES BY-LAW**

A motion was made by Mike Ryan of Billings Central Catholic High School, and seconded by Mike Erickson of Lockwood High School, to approve the following amendment to By-Law, Article I, Section (2) Dues on page 7 of the current MHSAA Handbook.

### *2.3 Distribution of Net Profit of Athletic Playoffs:*

*All Other Athletic Playoffs (Except Track and Field):*

*District — All profits to be divided equally among those schools participating in the district tournament.*

*Divisional — All profits to be divided equally among those schools participating in the division*

*State — All profits to be divided equally among all schools in their particular class (AA, A, B, C) participating in that activity. (except for Class A state basketball – in the event that profits are great enough that all team travel expenses are covered for the state tournaments, any remaining profits will be equally divided among the 16 Class A schools whose teams qualify for the state tournament).*

*Track and Field:*

*The MHSAA office shall retain all profits from state meets.*

A motion was then made by Mike Ryan of Billings Central Catholic High School, and seconded by Mike Erickson of Lockwood High School, to make the following amendment to the proposal:

*State — All profits to be divided equally among all schools in their particular class (AA, A, B, C) participating in that activity. (except for Class A state basketball – in the event that profits are great enough that all team travel expenses are*

**covered for the state tournaments, any remaining profits will be equally divided among all the 16 Class A schools whose teams qualify for the state tournament).**

The amendment passed.

A motion was made by Mark Thompson of Fairview High School, and seconded by Shawn Holmes of Seeley-Swan High School, to make the following amendment to the proposal:

*State — All profits to be divided equally among all schools in their particular class (AA, A, B, C) participating in that activity. (except for Class A and C state basketball – in the event that profits are great enough that all team travel expenses are covered for the state tournaments, any remaining profits will be equally divided among ~~all the 16 Class A~~ schools whose teams qualify for the state tournament).*

The amendment passed.

A motion was made by Tim Bastian of Huntley Project High School, and seconded by Matt Porrovecchio of Big Fork High School, to make the following amendment to the proposal:

*State — All profits to be divided equally among all schools in their particular class (AA, A, B, C) participating in that activity. (except for Class A, B and C state basketball – in the event that profits are great enough that all team travel expenses are covered for the state tournaments, any remaining profits will be equally divided among ~~all the 16 Class A~~ schools whose teams qualify for the state tournament).*

The amendment passed.

The amended motion passed.

## **2. PROPOSAL TO AMEND STUDENTS BELOW NINTH GRADE/TRANSFER RULE BY-LAW**

A motion was made by Mike Richards of Powder River County High School, and seconded by Brenner Flaten of Glasgow High School, to approve the following amendments to By-Laws, Article II, Section (5) Students Below Ninth Grade on page 12 and to Section (10) Transfer Rule on page 12 of the current MHSA Handbook and to add the word concurrently to item F:

### **Section (5) STUDENTS BELOW NINTH GRADE**

~~5.1 No student who is enrolled in a grade below the ninth shall be eligible to participate in an Association Contest, except as noted in 5.3 or eighth grade students meeting the following requirements:~~

**5.1 A student who is enrolled in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade shall be eligible to participate in an Association contest, but must meet the following requirements and parameters:**

~~a. Eighth grade students may play on a high school volleyball, track relay and/or basketball teams.~~

**a. The eighth-grade student is participating in a contest other than football**

~~b. Permission for eighth grade participation must be requested by the school and authorization granted by the Executive Director of the MHSA. Once granted approval, those eighth-grade~~

~~participants are eligible to participate in varsity and JV competition.~~ **(There is no restriction in place for participation of this 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at his/her middle school and/or high school of which he/she will be participating).**

~~c. Any eighth-grade student allowed to participate will have eight semesters of high school eligibility remaining.~~

~~d. All eighth-grade students participating must meet the academic requirements. The official MHSWA waiver form must be used.~~

**e. All eighth-grade students participating must meet the transfer requirements. The official MHSWA transfer form must be used.**

**f. All eighth-grade students participating in a high school contest must adhere to all other MHSWA rules and guidelines. Committed to a contest at the high school level, the eighth grader may not also participate in that same sport at a level under high school concurrently.**

5.2 A ninth grade student may not play on a 7th and/or an 8th grade team.

5.3 Any student who is at least fifteen (15) years old on or before midnight August 31 may be declared eligible for participation in Montana High School Association contests by the Executive Director. The Montana high school for which the student will participate must file a request with the Executive Director for consideration. Any student who is declared eligible under this section must participate in athletics at the high school level (grades 9-12) only.

### **Section (10) TRANSFER RULE**

10.1 Any student **(including eighth grade students allowed high school participation)** who transfers from one member high school, home school, or non-member school to a member school is ineligible to participate in a varsity association contest for half the number of P.I. days in the current school year of the school to which he/she transfers from the date of enrollment (first day he/she attends classes) in the school to which he/she transfers. A student and his/her parents or legal guardians must reside in the attendance area of the school in which he/she is enrolled except for a student enrolling in ninth grade for the first time (see Section (12) Record of Transfer.) This rule applies to a student who transfers after twenty (20) days of enrollment or after he/she participates in an athletic contest while enrolled in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12, **EXCEPT** the following students may be declared eligible: ...

A motion was made by Mike Richards of Powder River County High School, and seconded by Brenner Flaten of Glasgow High School, to approve the proposal as amended. The motion passed.

Kipp Lewis of Frenchtown High School called for a division of the house. After tallying the votes and conducting a recount, it was determined the motion failed.

President Bennett called for a roll call vote. The vote was 109 for and 49 against. The amended motion passed.

### **3. PROPOSAL TO AMEND STUDENTS BELOW NINTH GRADE BY-LAW**

The proposal to amend Students Below Ninth Grade By-Law, Article II, Section (5) was withdrawn by Mike Erickson of Lockwood High School. There were no objections.

### **Section (5) STUDENTS BELOW NINTH GRADE**

5.1.a. Eighth grade students may play on a high school **soccer, softball**, volleyball, track relay and/or basketball teams.

#### 4. PROPOSAL TO AMEND TRANSFER RULE BY-LAW

The proposal to amend Transfer Rule By-Law, Article II, Section (10) was withdrawn Thom Peck of Lewistown High School. There were no objections.

##### **Section (10) TRANSFER RULE**

*To be eligible to participate in an Association Contest, a student shall meet all the following criteria:*

*Any student who transfers from one member high school, home school or non-member school to a member high school is ineligible to participate in a varsity Association Contest for **365 calendar days from date of enrollment**. ~~half the number of P.I. days in the current school year of the school to which he/she transfers from the date of enrollment (first day he/she attends classes in the school to which he/she transfers.~~ A student and his/her parents or legal guardians must reside in the attendance area of the school in which he/she is enrolled except for a student enrolling in ninth grade for the first time (see Section (12) Record of Transfer.) This rule applies to a student who transfers after twenty (20) days of enrollment or after he/she participates in an athletic contest while enrolled in grades 9,10,11,12 EXCEPT the following students may be declared eligible.*

#### 5. PROPOSAL TO AMEND TRANSFER RULE BY-LAW

The proposal to amend Transfer Rule By-Law, Article II, Section (10) was withdrawn by Thom Peck of Lewistown High School. There were no objections.

##### **Section (10) TRANSFER RULE**

*10.1.b Students transferring from one high school to another under any bona fide foreign exchange program will ~~be~~ **not be eligible for participation in varsity competition prior to the completion of 365 calendar days** ~~eligibility for participation in activities under the administration of any NFHS member association.~~ **after and** the principal properly certifies that they meet all eligibility requirements. **Cheerleading is not a MHSAA sanctioned activity. This by-law applies to Class AA and A only.***

#### 6. PROPOSAL TO AMEND TRANSFER RULE BY-LAW

The proposal to amend Transfer Rule By-Law, Article II, Section (10) was withdrawn by Thom Peck of Lewistown High School. There were no objections.

##### **Section (10) TRANSFER RULE**

*10.2 Transfers from one school system to another within the same city or town: In the cities or towns which have more than one high school system (e.g. both a public high school and a private high school), a student must complete **365 calendar days** ~~half the number of P.I.~~*

~~days in the current school year of attendance before being eligible when transferring from one high school system to another within such a city or town, even though the parent or legal guardian with whom the student has been living during the period of his/her last high school enrollment moved into the immediate vicinity of the new school.~~

## **7. PROPOSAL TO AMEND RECRUITING PROHIBITED BY-LAW**

A motion was made by Kyle Dunfee of Custer County High School, and seconded by Paul Bartos of Fergus High School, to approve the following amendments to By-Laws, Article II, Section (17) Recruiting Prohibited on page 15 of the current MHSAA Handbook:

### **Section (17) RECRUITING PROHIBITED**

~~17.3 Violations of this rule may subject~~ **will result in** the student involved to be declared ~~ineligible from the date of the infraction~~ **for 25% of their regularly scheduled competitions** and if the school is found guilty, the head coach of the sport/activity that the violation occurred shall be suspended for ~~a minimum of two (2) regularly scheduled varsity competitions~~ **25% of the regularly scheduled varsity competitions** following the Executive Board hearing along with other penalties the Board deems appropriate as set forth in Article VIII, section (2).

**If the same school and head coach is found guilty a second time, 50% of the regularly scheduled varsity competitions shall be missed by the head coach of the activity, following the Executive Board hearing along with other penalties the Board deems appropriate as set forth in Article VIII, section (2).**

**If the same school and head coach is found guilty a third time, 100% of the regularly scheduled varsity competitions shall be missed along with an additional one calendar year suspension of the head coach of the activity, following the Executive Board hearing along with other penalties the Board deems appropriate as set forth in Article VIII, section (2).**

**If the violation occurs at any point in the season where there are not enough regularly scheduled games left, the penalty shall include any post season contests, and if necessary, contests that take place in the next calendar year season.**

The motion passed.

## **8. PROPOSAL TO ADD SHOT CLOCK FOR BOYS' AND GIRLS' BASKETBALL**

A motion was made by Nate Auchenbach of Great Falls CMR High School, and seconded by Jeff Graham of Belt High School, to approve adding a thirty-five second shot clock rule in the General Rules and Regulations for Basketball subsection (20) on page 52 of the current MHSAA Handbook:

**(20) By state association adoption, a 35-second shot clock will be used in all varsity and sub-varsity basketball games by all MHSAA member schools.**

The motion passed.

## **9. PROPOSAL TO ADD BOYS' BASEBALL AS A MHSAA SANCTIONED SPORT**

A motion was made by Krystal Zentner of the Executive Board, and seconded by Steve Thennis of the Executive Board, to approve the following amendment to By-Law, Article I, Section (2) Dues on page 7 of the current MHSA Handbook.

**Section (2) DUES**

***Add Boys' Baseball to the list of sanctioned sports offered by MHSA.***

The motion passed.

**BUDGET APPROVAL**

A motion was made by Hannah Dean of the MHSA Executive Board, and seconded by Ms. Zentner of the MHSA Executive Board, to adopt the 2022-23 budget as presented.

The motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 1:15 pm, there being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.