

NMAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, June 6, 2007, 9:00 a.m.
NMAA Conference Room



- I. The NMAA Board of Directors met on Wednesday, June 6, 2007 for their regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Mike Phipps, Board President, called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Mr. Phipps announced Mr. Stan Rounds had recently been named as the Superintendent of Las Cruces Public Schools, and would continue to serve on the Board as the Large School District II Representative.

Ms. Becky Mullins, Assistant Director, called roll and the following Board members were present: Dr. R.L. Richards (Small Area B), Mr. Bill Green (Small Area C), Mr. Rick Ferguson (Small Area D), Dr. Elizabeth Everitt (Large School District I), Mr. Dane Kennon (At-Large Member), Ms. Janel Ryan (Large Area A), Mr. Mike Phipps (Large Area B), Mr. Dick Pool (Large Area C), Mr. Stan Rounds (Large School District II), and Mr. Lawrence Johnson (NMAA Commission Representative), Ms. Zita Lopez (Small Area A), Mr. Joe Guillen (NM School Board Association Representative), and Dr. Pete Campos (Large Area D). All Board members were present and Mr. Phipps stated there was a quorum and business before the Board could be conducted.

Present from the NMAA were Gary Tripp, Executive Director, Mr. Mario Martinez, Associate Director, Ms. Sally Marquez, Associate Director, as well as other administrative staff.

Mr. Stan Rounds requested item X on the Agenda be moved up as he would have to depart the meeting at 2:30 p.m. Discussion was had. Dr. R.L. Richards moved to approve the agenda with the friendly amendment of moving item X between items V and VI on the agenda (see pg. B1 of Board packet). Mr. Stan Rounds seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The minutes of the March 7, 2007 Board meeting were presented (see pages B4 – B8 of Board packet). A motion was made by Mr. Green to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Pool seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- II. Directors' Report – Mr. Tripp stated that the Board and NMAA staff had met the previous day at the Board retreat and discussed the staff's goal to work on home, private, cyber and alternative school issues. Additionally discussed was the staff's effort to visit approximately 70 more high schools in New Mexico to present to the Pursuing Victory with Honor workshop. Mr. Tripp presented that the state baseball tournament would be held at the same time as the 3A-5A state

track championships, with the hopes that the Isotopes stadium would be available to serve as the venue for the state baseball event. Discussion was also had regarding foreign student participation and Mr. Tripp stated he would be contacting schools individually regarding this issue. Mr. Tripp also stated that the Board and staff were working on the clarification and definition of those items that should be presented to the membership for a vote versus Board purview items and indicated additional information would be presented to the Board at the next meeting for further consideration. Mr. Tripp reported the NMAA Foundation was up and running and to date had awarded 20 student scholarships, as well as four school awards to help start programs, and aid schools damaged by weather related incidents. Mr. Tripp closed with a brief report on Alignment and Classification and thanked the Board for their attendance at this very important Board meeting and their dedication to the schools of New Mexico.

III. *Financial Report*

Ms. Carol Daniels directed the Board to pages B25-B27 of the Board packet, as well as pages B10-B24 regarding the current NMAA financial reports. Ms. Daniels referred to page B12 stating the total football net income was \$216,871; soccer, \$18,438; volleyball \$21,405; cross country \$22,307, stating that some sponsorship income and t-shirt concessions had not yet been received and were not currently reflected in the fall sport net totals. Ms. Daniels again directed the Board to pages 13 and 14 of their Board packet, stating the winter sport of wrestling had a net income of \$24,236; swimming and diving \$9,023; and basketball \$556,995, indicating the \$100,000 from the legislature had not been reflected in the basketball total. Ms. Daniels stated the fall and winter sport financials were more complete than the spring, however, to date, softball currently reflected a loss of \$12,260; golf a loss of \$18,157; baseball a loss of \$20,645; track and field a loss of \$57,086, and tennis a loss of \$12,597. Ms. Daniels reiterated that golf and tennis do not charge a fee to the spectators, and all of these figures were not yet complete as they did not reflect sponsor monies and t-shirt concession sales. Spirit reflected a net income of \$61,730. Ms. Daniels stated the NMAA projected income from all sports and activities for the 2006-2007 year was \$1,080,000. Ms. Daniels directed the Board to pages B25-B27 regarding the NMAA 2007-2008 budget. Mr. Phipps stated the budget was reviewed in detail at the retreat the previous day. Mr. Rick Ferguson moved to approve the budget as presented. Ms. Janel Ryan seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

IV. *Executive Session*

Mr. Phipps and Mr. Tripp indicated there were no additional legal, financial or personnel issues to be discussed in the Executive Session, therefore this portion of the agenda would be skipped.

V. *Personnel*

Mr. Phipps stated the financial committee had previously met and recommended an increase in NMAA staff salaries by 7% and a 5% increase in most line items. Mr. Joe Guillen moved to approve the Executive Director and Associate Director

contracts with the 7% increase. Mr. Pete Campos seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

X. *Alignment/Classification Appeals by Member Schools*

(Agenda item X moved between items V and VI)

Mr. Phipps stated for the record that no decisions regarding classification and alignment would be made until the October 3rd Board meeting. He further stated appeals would be limited to 5 minutes and all presentations would be taken under advisement by the Board.

Chris Pash, Athletic Director of Farmington High School, passed out a 1-page handout. Mr. Pash stated the move of Farmington to district 5A would decrease instructional time, increase the travel budget by approximately \$38,000, would mean having students on the road at late hours, as well as result in reduced gate receipts from some of their previous rivalries. Thus the school was requesting they remain in Class 4A.

Phil Sategna, Athletic Director of Bloomfield High School, delivered a 2-page handout to Board members. Mr. Sategna stated that although the current proposal for alignment and classification did not affect 95% of the schools in New Mexico, those that were affected were affected drastically. Mr. Sategna stated his student numbers have been decreasing, and another decrease had been projected for the upcoming school year. Mr. Sategna stated their current placement in alignment and classification was the most appropriate based on this information, and not moving to 4A.

Wayne Ferguson, Athletic Director of Tucumcari High School, stated the driving force behind the current proposed alignment and classification was competition, although that was not an official criterion. Mr. Ferguson discussed alternative “natural breaks” in enrollment as well as consideration to geography and increased travel resulting from the current Committee recommendations, requesting alternative ideas be visited.

Becky Almeter, Principal of Del Norte High School and Lee Redding, Athletic Director of Del Norte presented Del Norte was currently experiencing a decline in enrollment and believed it would continue. They presented that although Del Norte does not fit in a “natural break”, Del Norte was better suited for 4A than 5A, having already established rivalries amongst the other 4A schools. Both argued 4A was simply a better fit and a better and competitive atmosphere for their students to participate. They stated the beginning of the year enrollment was 1600, and 1450 at the end of the year, adding that approximately 100 – 150 of their students would be transferring into the new Volcano Vista High School. Mr. Phipps encouraged the Del Norte representatives to submit documentation to the Board members for their review via e-mail or some other appropriate means.

David Naylor, Athletic Director of East Mountain High School, stated East Mountain was started approximately 7 years ago with a focus on a math and science curriculum. The school competes without its own facilities, utilizing the facilities

of local schools around them. Mr. Naylor stated the current recommendation is to move East Mountain to 3A with their enrollment of a little over 300 students. Mr. Naylor stated the school had offered athletics for six years now and no one in the school had yet achieved a four year varsity letter. He further stated they are a charter school affiliated with APS, but have no feeder schools. The school utilizes a lottery system for 90 freshmen each year. The current recommendation would place East Mountain in the position of playing schools that had over 700 students. Mr. Naylor appealed to the Board that East Mountain should remain in class 2A. Mr. Phipps encouraged Mr. Naylor to submit documentation to the Board members for their review via e-mail or other appropriate means.

Mike Ellis, Athletic Director, Deming High School, stated he had already provided his documentation to the Board. He stated the current recommendations would severely affect the tradition of rivalry between Deming and Silver. Mr. Ellis further stated the projections are that Deming will remain approximately the same size community it is now through the next 15 years without significant growth. Mr. Ellis stated Deming wanted to remain in 4A for participation and competition.

Mike Draper, Athletic Director, Estancia High School, stated that his Superintendent and members of their School Board were on their way, and he would prefer to save his presentation for their arrival. Mr. Phipps indicated that as the appeals had been moved up on the agenda, that the Estancia representatives would be allowed to speak upon their arrival.

Mr. Phipps further reiterated that the decision for alignment and classification would be made at the October Board meeting.

Ms. Janel Ryan moved to table any decisions regarding classification and alignment until the October Board meeting. Mr. Dick Pool seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

Ms. Carolyn Allen-Renteria, Superintendent of Estancia schools, stated that recommendations from the Alignment/Classification Committee for Estancia were based upon a one year bubble enrollment. She stated there were 31 schools in the proposed 3A classification with over 300 enrollment, and Estancia had 283 students enrolled, further stating their projections show significant decreases in enrollment as their initially larger classes continue to graduate. Ms. Allen-Renteria stated the solution would be to leave Estancia in their current position for classification and alignment. Mr. Mike Draper, Athletic Director of Estancia stated they were a true bubble school based upon geography and enrollment, stating Estancia was ultimately requesting they remain in district 2A.

Mr. Phipps called a 15 minute break at 10:35 a.m. temporarily suspending the Board meeting.

Mr. Phipps reconvened and called the meeting back to order at 10:50 a.m.

VI. *General Action Items*

Confirmation of Home-School Bylaws as per statute and Bylaws Committee – Ms. Sally Marquez directed the Boards’ attention to pages B38-B40 representing the home school participation language that was developed by the Bylaws Committee in response to recent legislation allowing home school participation. Mr. Stan Rounds moved to approve the bylaws language as presented. Dr. Beth Everitt seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

Consider revising language in the seeding/selection procedures concerning district champions, runnerups, and at-large selections – Ms. Marquez directed the Board to page B41 in their packet regarding adding wording to the seeding/selection process to give the Committee the ability to look at the overall situation to determine the appropriate seed. Mr. Joe Guillen moved to approve the addition of the seeding/selection language. Mr. Rick Ferguson seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

Consider a rotation system for Alignment/Classification Committee, Bylaws Committee and Seeding/Selection Committee – Mr. Gary Tripp directed the Board to pages B42 – B50, recommending a four year term cycle for sports specific committee positions to allow other individuals the ability to serve on these committees if they so desire. Mr. Tripp reported the Hall of Fame Committee was a standing committee by appointment. Mr. Tripp further stated the Bylaws Committee had been readjusted to allow representation from each classification, and the proposed Alignment and Classification Committee of the future would consist of 4 current Board members, 2 private school representatives, and the APS athletic director, as indicated on the proposal. Mr. Tripp stated the recommendation was to rearrange the committees for rotation, etc., as was presented in pages B42-B50. Dr. Beth Everitt made a motion to approve the committee makeup and rotation recommendation. Mr. Stan Rounds seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

X. *Alignment/Classification Appeals by Member Schools (continued)*

Mr. Jerry Sanchez and Mr. Jessie Sedillo, newly elected School Board Members from Estancia, presented on behalf of Estancia Schools. Both stated the current recommendation for alignment/classification was to place Estancia in 3A, stating that Estancia would never reach the enrollment typical in this classification, from 300-730 students. They further stated Estancia was in a bubble enrollment for only the next year or two as their larger classes were now graduating. Their enrollment dropped 32-40 students after the first year, and as a farming community, they did not expect their community to grow, believing that their best and most effective placement remained in class 2A.

VII. *Sport-Specific Action Items*

Baseball – Implement a 16 team format in baseball in all classifications for the 2008 season with a two out of three format in the 1st round held at home sites. Mr. Kenny Barreras of the Sports Specific Committee referred the Board to page B60 of

their packet. Mr. Barreras stated that although the Board had previously voted to remain consistent in sport specific changes for a two year block, changes had been made to soccer this school year, and the state baseball tournament format was changed to 12 teams prior to baseball even experiencing the 16 team format. Discussion was had. Mr. Rounds moved to accept the proposal for the 16 team format with the best two out of three in classes 3A-5A baseball. Ms. Janel Ryan seconded the motion with the amendment of classes 3A-5A. Additional discussion was had. Motion unanimously passed.

X. *Alignment/Classification Appeals by Member Schools (continued)*

Ms. Lacey Daniels, School Board President for Estancia Schools, requested the Board re-consider the proposed move for Estancia to change from class 2A to 3A, stating their school would only be above the 280 cutoff for one year. She stated their current classification was a good opportunity for their students to participate, and allowed them to be competitive within their classification.

VII. *Sport-Specific Action Items*

Baseball – Implement a new procedure for games that are suspended for any reason in the sport of baseball. Mr. Dusty Young stated there was a great deal of confusion with the current procedures for suspended games in the sport of baseball. He referred the Board to pages B61-B62 in the Board packet which clarified the procedures. Discussion was had. Mr. Joe Guillen moved to approve the recommendation for clarification of procedures in suspended baseball games. Mr. Dane Kennon seconded the motion. Additional discussion was had. Motion unanimously passed.

Baseball – Implement a more defined rule regarding 12 innings pitched by an athlete at the state baseball tournament (both in the first round and field of 8). Mr. Dusty Young presented the more defined rule regarding 12 innings pitched found in the Board packet at page B63, citing it as a safety issue for pitchers. Discussion was had. Mr. Lawrence Johnson moved to approve the addition of the pitching restriction language found on page B63 of the Board packet. Mr. Dane Kennon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

Baseball – Consider combining Class A and Class AA baseball into one classification for the 2008 season based on an emergency situation. Mr. Dusty Young referred the Board to page B64 of the Board packet requesting Class A and AA be combined for the 2008 season to allow for more competitive play and to equalize the number of teams in the differing classifications. Discussion was had. Mr. R.L. Richards moved to table this agenda item until a later date. Mr. Dane Kennon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously tabled.

Wrestling – Consider changing the state qualifiers in Class A/AAA wrestling from 10 to 8 based on team participation. Mr. Scott Evans stated that previously 10 qualifiers were chosen from 13. Currently two teams in Class A/AAA have dropped out of participation in wrestling, leaving 11 participating teams with 10 qualifiers. Mr. Evans stated that reducing this number to 8 qualifiers from 11 teams

was more appropriate. Discussion was had. Mr. Rick Ferguson moved to approve the change in qualifiers from 10 to 8 in Class A/AAA. Ms. Zita Lopez seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

Swimming and Diving – Consider mandating that a diving location be available at all schools who host swimming and diving qualifying meets. Mr. Vince Sanchez of the Sports Specific Committee presented that all schools who host a qualifying swimming and diving meet should also make arrangements for a diving location to be held simultaneously with the swim meet, at their location, or make arrangements for another location. Currently, schools will schedule qualifying meets, but make no arrangements for the divers if their school does not have the facilities or have divers who compete. Mr. Sanchez additionally stated that requiring the scheduling of diving also to be considered a qualifying meet would eliminate the gamesmanship by swimming only schools. Discussion was had. Dr. Beth Everitt moved to accept the proposal with the amendment that all facilities must meet NFHS standards. Mr. Dick Pool seconded the motion. Motion with amendment unanimously passed.

Swimming and Diving – Consider developing a defined method for state qualifying marks in swimming and diving based on a three year history. Mr. Sanchez of the Sports Specific Committee presented the recommendation for establishing swimming and diving qualifying marks by dividing the last three years 18th place time at the state championships to allow for consistency and defensible guidelines for the establishment of these qualifying marks. Mr. Sanchez presented there was no real system in place previously for determining these qualifying marks. Discussion was had. Mr. Joe Guillen moved to approve the recommendation. Mr. Bill Green seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

Swimming and Diving – Consider defining that all state qualifying meets in swimming and diving must comply with standard meet format, thus eliminating multiple attempts per event. Mr. Sanchez of the Sports Specific Committee directed the Board to page B69 of their packet. Mr. Sanchez stated adding this language to qualifying meets would standardize the meet format throughout the state and eliminate meet formats wherein athletes are able to compete in a single event multiple times in one meet to establish a qualifying mark. Discussion was had. Dr. R.L. Richards moved to approve the qualifying language to standardize swim meets. Ms. Janel Ryan seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.

Basketball/NMOA – The use of three person officiating crews in the sport of basketball at the varsity level beginning with the 2007-2008 season in all classifications. Ms. Dana Sanchez presented the 3 person officiating crew for varsity basketball games was encouraged by the NFHS and allowed newer officials to work with veteran officials for mentoring purposes, and was a better officiating format for these games. However, it was noted this did have budgetary implications for the schools, thus making it more feasible to institute this change in the 2008-2009 school year. Discussion was had. Mr. Lawrence Johnson moved to table this action item to be reconsidered at a later date. Mr. Dane Kennon seconded the motion to table. Additional discussion was had. Motion to table unanimously passed.

VIII. *General Discussion and Information Items*

Seeding and Selection in all sports (positives and negatives). The future of this issue in all sports. Ms. Sally Marquez directed to Board to page B78 of the packet, indicating basketball had proposed to the Commission a pilot a seeding and selection program to use impartial community members for the seeding selection committee. This was not passed by the Commission. Page B78 of the packet included the newly proposed Selection/Seeding Committee Application which was not approved by the Commission. Mr. Mario Martinez stated that there were some problems within the existing seeding committees as athletic directors are serving as those representatives and bad feelings among committee members and community members could be established. Mr. Martinez stated this proposal would take ownership away from those who have to work closely together, and the purpose of the proposal was to refine the seeding and selection process for 2008-2009. Additional discussion was had. No action taken at this time.

Mr. Phipps presented Mr. Joe Guillen with a recognition plaque, recognizing and congratulating him on his new position as the Executive Director of the New Mexico School Board Association. Mr. Guillen served on the NMAA Board from 2002 to 2007. This would be Mr. Guillen's last NMAA Board meeting.

IX. *Addendum Agenda*

No Addendum Agenda

X. *Next Board Meeting Wednesday, October 3, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMAA*

XI. *Consider Adjournment*

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Janel Ryan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Zita Lopez. Motion unanimously passed and the meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.