

NMAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Wednesday, September 30, 2009
9:30 a.m., NMAA



- I. The NMAA Board of Directors met on Wednesday, September 30, 2009. Mr. Mike Phipps, NMAA Board President, called the meeting to order at 9:23 a.m.

Mr. Gary Tripp, NMAA Executive Director, called roll and the following Board members were present: Dr. R.L. Richards (Small Area B); Mr. Bill Green (Small Area C); and Mr. Stan Rounds (Large School District II), Mr. Dane Kennon (At-Large Member); Mr. Rick Ferguson (Small Area D); Ms. Zita Lopez (Small Area A); Ms. Janel Ryan (Large Area A); Mr. Michael Harris (Large Area C); Mr. Lawrence Johnson (NMAA Commission Representative); Mr. Winston Brooks (Large School District I); Mr. Mike Phipps (Large Area B); Mr. Dion Sandoval (New Mexico Board Association Representative); and Dr. James Abreu (Large Area D).

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

A motion was made by Dr. Richards and seconded by Mr. Ferguson to move Executive Session right after the Approval of Minutes, as well as moving the discussion item, Status of New Mexico State Budgets, directly after the Director's Report. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously to approve the agenda with the recommended changes.

The minutes from the September 9, 2009 NMAA Board of Directors Meeting were presented. A motion was made by Mr. Ferguson to approve the minutes. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

- II. *Executive Session* – A motion was made by Mr. Rounds and seconded by Mr. Ferguson to enter Executive Session at 9:30 a.m. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Dr. Abreu and seconded by Mr. Rounds to reconvene into regular session at 9:40 a.m. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Phipps stated that there was no action taken during Executive Session.

III. Director's Report – Mr. Tripp officially welcomed the Board of Directors to the 2009-2010 School year. He stated we have had a great start to the school year. The kids keep impressing us both in the class and on the field. Mr. Tripp reported on four issues.

The first issue Mr. Tripp brought up was the Corporate Sponsorship Program Opportunity. The NMAA feels that it is a great opportunity to be involved and give back to high school athletics. He stated there are two former New Mexican Athletes that will be honored this year. Tommy McDonald and Nancy Lopez have been asked if we may honor them this year for their high achievements. Ms. Lopez was a former golfer in the state of New Mexico who sued the NMAA in 1973 over Title IX. He stated we are hoping she will come back as a pioneer in New Mexico.

The second issue is that there will be two Board of Directors positions open. Mr. Phipps and Dr. R.L. Richards' positions will be up for re-election. Also, Mr. Salazar's and Mr. Stacy's NMAA Commission positions will be up for re-election. Lastly, an at-large member will need to be appointed.

The third issue deals with homeschoolers being allowed to participate. An issue that has come to our attention is homeschoolers being able to get private lessons in Golf and Tennis while other students are in school.

Lastly, there are still Athletic Directors that have not turned in their school's membership contract. The NMAA needs to receive this form from every member school in order to avoid suspension from post season play.

This concluded the directors' report and Mr. Tripp thanked everyone for being in attendance for the Board Meeting.

IV. The Board of Directors discussed the state of New Mexico's financial status. Dr. Richards started the discussion by stating all public schools in the state of New Mexico are going to take a cut in their budgets. There are two Senators that are pushing for a 10% budget cut for public schools in the state of New Mexico. Dr. Richards went on to say that if this budget cut does take effect, schools might be faced with having to cut extracurricular activities and athletics. Of course this will be pending the actions of the senators and legislators. If the cuts take place this year, schools will possibly have to eliminate all regular season play, except district and post season play. For the 2010-2011 school year, schools would be forced to eliminate all extracurricular activities and athletics.

Mr. Green stated superintendents cannot maintain a school with athletics and activities with a 10% cut.

Dr. Richards stated if this passes through the legislature this year school year, we will be forced to make a 10% cut.

Mr. Phipps stated there is certainly a shortfall when these cuts come in to action. We have senators saying we will need to cut 10% of our schools budget. In Albuquerque it would mean \$56 million dollars being cut from schools. We want

to work with legislators to make sure we are able to offer our kids valuable programs. 4,000 people would lose their jobs because of this budget deficit.

Mr. Ryan stated what concerns her more than anything is that this is a short fix. We are trying to fix 2009 and when we work on 2010 you take away one program from a student and that is why they stay in school. This has ramifications on communities that we cannot even think of. This is just a short fix.

Mr. Phipps agreed with Dr. Richards' proposal to have a special board meeting after the superintendents meeting in October.

Mr. Rounds stated we have already given up 12% and now we are going to have to give up another 10%. This is a crisis in the state of New Mexico. The money from the Federal Government does not replace itself. I think education has already done its job and given up enough funds. Now we are up to a 22% cut in one year. It puts everything at risk. It is finally time we put everything aside and do what is best for education and the students of New Mexico. I hope at the end of the day the focus is still on the children of New Mexico.

Mr. Harris stated \$500 million is a big cut for the state of New Mexico. I know we are here for athletics and activities. Even if I cut all athletics and activities I still have to make it up somewhere. If this cut happens we will not be worried about district play and state. We will not be going. It is going to be a whole lot worse than we thought.

Mr. Phipps stated he knows the legislatures are willing to talk about this.

Mr. Brooks stated he thought everyone needed to start making a list of things they will need to cut. He stated he did not mind sharing his list with everyone. He felt that this should be a local decision and not a state issue. Then wherever the line falls that is what will be cut.

Mr. Rudy Aragon stated when it comes to cutting athletics and activities we need to look at the big picture. Club sports will be what we really need to look at because they are going to be ready to jump on this and be in control of athletics.

Mr. Phipps thanked everyone for their concern on this issue. He stated we need to find ways to persevere in times like this.

- V. *Finance Report* – Ms. Daniels started by asking the board members to turn to pages 8 and 9 of their board packets. She let the board members know if they had any questions to not hesitate to ask her.

Mr. Tripp stated we had a great meeting at Section 6. When things are really hard people tend to put more energy into their kids. Our parents really value what their kids do.

Mr. Robinson from Hinkle and Landers gave his audit report of the NMAA. He stated the NMAA runs a good operation. It is up \$243 thousand dollars. The

2008-2009 school year was very successful. Tournament revenue was up about \$100,000 dollars. Expenses went up \$68,000 dollars in salary range and depreciation rates.

Mr. Phipps stated everything is in shape and in order.

Mr. Robinson stated the only thing he saw as a potential problem was that the NMAA doesn't have a set procurement code.

Mr. Tripp stated the NMAA is looking at establishing a code in the near future. We hope to have a process in place for accepting bids on things such as the roof of the building. He stated the more documentation the NMAA has the better.

Finance Report – Consider the establishment of a Finance Committee to evaluate the NMAA investment procedures. - Ms. Daniels stated the NMAA currently has three CD's. What we are recommending is the establishment of a finance committee to help evaluate the NMAA's investments.

Mr. Tripp stated he recommended a look at outside consultants that can come in and look at the NMAA's investments.

Mr. Phipps stated any board member wanting to be on the committee please let him know. If no one is interested Mr. Phipps will appoint members to the committee.

VI. *General Action Item – Consider making cheer and dance/drill a sport versus an activity beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. (referenda item)* – Ms. Marquez stated, as you know we are with the state and Title IX Equity Act. Schools are doing a good job trying to stay in compliance with Title IX. There are a lot of males participating and not enough females. Mr. Pool has asked us to make cheer a sport to help us give females an equal opportunity to participate. There would be a season and two competitions for Spirit. Coaches would be required to have a coaching license. If Spirit is made a sport, schools would have to set aside a coaching stipend for this sport. This stipend will have to be matched with other sports. Eligibility, booster clubs, and travel will all have to be changed. All the changes that would take place would help with the opportunities available for female athletes.

Mr. Pool stated because of football we have large numbers for male participation. Under the Title IX three prong test, a school must fall in compliance with equal participation by females and males, you must survey your underrepresented population and find out what sports they would like to participate in, lastly you must accommodate the underrepresented sex in their needs.

Dr. Richards asked if this included Junior High.

Mr. Marquez responded by saying, yes, because it does include grades seven through twelve.

Mr. Rounds stated he supported the idea, however, at this point of time we might want to table this issue.

Mr. Johnson stated this was something the Commission has supported and we need to look at and review. It is going on nationwide. I think it is long overdue.

Mr. Tripp stated we have a person coming in from Colorado to talk about this.

Ms. Marquez stated we would allow the schools to decide this.

Mr. Rounds what are the implications of us tabling this until October.

Mr. Green stated he did not see a problem with this going out to referenda.

Mr. Rounds stated he would not have a decision made because he needs to wait until October to find out what is going to happen with school budgets.

Dr. Richards made a motion to table the issue, consider making cheer and dance/drill a sport versus an activity beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. Mr. Rounds seconded the motion. A vote was taken and there were 10 votes for tabling the issue, and 3 against. Motion carried and the action item was tabled.

General Action Item – Consider approval of the following rule in boys and girls tournament games: Boys and girls district tournament basketball games must be held separately thus having separate admission prices. (i.e. different dates or times where gyms can be cleared if games are held on the same date.) – Ms. Marquez asked the Board members to turn to page 47 of their board packets. She stated this was what we are currently sending out for basketball. We have not been specific with Athletic Directors when speaking. We are looking at putting this in writing in our handbook.

Dr. Richards made a motion to consider the approval of boys and girls district tournament basketball games being held separately thus having separate admission prices. Mr. Kennon seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

General Action Item – Consider the approval of the seeding/selection process timelines for the future as the NMAA prepares to enter the 2010-2014 four-year block. – Mr. Martinez asked the Board members to turn to page 48 of their board packets. This gives you a timeline of the seeding and selection. There are four options on page 50 of the board packet. The first option is to leave things as they are. The second option is to have the NMAA staff do the seeding and selection. The third option is the use of a power rating system. The fourth option is the use of predetermined matchups. This allows for a finish time in June after receiving feedback from the membership schools, coaches, fans, and interested parties.

Mr. Ferguson made a recommendation to approve the seeding/selection process timelines for the future as the NMAA prepares to enter the 2010-2014 four-year

block. Dr. Abreu seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

General Action Item – Consider mandating that each student-athlete in New Mexico complete the online Life of An Athlete curriculum beginning with the Fall of 2010. (referenda item) – Mr. Zayas stated in 2007 we had 177 people killed in alcohol related incidents in the state of New Mexico. In the United States, every thirty minutes someone is killed in an alcohol related accident. Every two minutes someone is injured because of alcohol. This will be a 40 minute computer program that student athletes can take. This would be required for all student athletes and would be paid for and funded by the Department of Transportation.

Dr. Richards asked how we would accommodate students with special needs.

Mr. Zayas stated there will be accommodations made for students with special needs.

Mr. Ferguson asked if students would have to take this yearly.

Mr. Zayas stated, yes, this would be a yearly program.

Mr. Ferguson asked if the wording of this action item could be changed from mandating to strongly recommended.

Ms. Ryan stated she would like to recommend a collection of data and how well this is working.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to approve the action item strongly recommending each student-athlete in New Mexico to complete the online Life of An Athlete curriculum beginning with the Fall of 2010. Dr. Richards seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

General Action Item – Consider clarifying eligibility for Cyber School (Virtual School) students beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. (referenda item) – Ms. Marquez asked the board members to turn to page 58 of their board packets. She stated we have some cyber schools taking place where kids are getting diplomas online. We don't have any language in our handbooks where cyber school students would be allowed to participate like home school students. The NMAA wants to make it so that the kids have to compete with the school of which district they live in.

Mr. Ferguson stated they should be competing for the school they attend. If they attend Dora, they should compete for Dora, not the school who's district they live in but do not attend.

Ms. Marquez stated this is not happening with students participating in athletics this is happening with students participating in activities such as Rodeo.

Mr. Rounds stated we are looking at the 51% criteria. We have a lot of students that are home schooled competing. We need to define what these rules of engagements are.

Mr. Tripp stated the NMAA just wants to allow for a level playing field.

Mr. Rounds stated the state statute does not mandate where the student should be able to play.

Dr. Richards made a motion to table the issue and allow for Mr. Tripp and Ms. Marquez to look at this with a study committee and bring it back when we have more information. Mr. Rounds seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

General Action Item – Consider adding to the NMAA Bylaw 8.2.3 whereas Spirit coaches will be required to complete the NFHS/AACCA online safety education program beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. – Ms. Derr stated this action item would go to referenda. Spirit has a lot of injuries. This would require coaches to complete the test. Coaches really need to know the rules for the sake of the students.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve adding to the NMAA Bylaw 8.2.3 whereas Spirit coaches will be required to complete the NFHS/AACCA online safety education program beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. Dr. Richards seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Sports Specific Action Item – Tennis: Consider restructuring the qualifying procedures in tennis which will reduce state qualifiers in individual and doubles play. – Ms. Marquez asked the board to turn to page 61 of their board packets. We asked our students when they made it to the semifinals and finals to play four matches in one day. The only solution I have is to eliminate the first round. This would eliminate 78 kids in order to keep this tournament in a three day window. If we could allow for the kids to start play at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday this would allow us to get one round in.

Mr. Kennon made a motion to approve the reconstruction of the qualifying procedures in tennis with play beginning on Wednesday afternoon as to not eliminate kids. Ms. Ryan seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Sports Specific Action Item – Volleyball: Consider allowing pool play on Thursday of the 2009 State Volleyball Championships as per the Volleyball Coaches of New Mexico. – Ms. Marquez asked the Board members to turn to page 62 of their board packets. The Volleyball Coaches came before the Commission and asked that they be allowed to participate in pool play on the Wednesday of the Volleyball State Championships.

Mr. Harris asked if this would increase the number of games and matches.

Ms. Marquez replied by saying, yes, it would increase the amount of games. Classes 3A through 5A would start in the morning and Class A through AA would start in the evening.

Dr. Richards made a motion to approve allowing pool play on Thursday morning of the 2009 State Volleyball Championships. Mr. Green seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Sports Specific Action Item – Softball: By state adoption and NFHS rules, move the pitching distance from 40' to 43' for this Spring (2010). This is one year early, as it is mandated for the Spring of 2011. (referenda item) – Ms. Johnson, the Volcano Vista Athletic Director, stated the softball coaches are requesting that we do this a year earlier.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the recommendation of adopting the NFHS rule of moving the pitching distance from 40' to 43' starting with the Spring of 2010. Mr. Kennon seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Sports Specific Action Item – Track and Field: Consider amending the current Bylaw concerning the reporting time after District Track and Field meets for A and AA schools. – Mr. Martinez stated we are going to have the Class A through AA State Track and Field Meet on Wednesday and Thursday and the Class 3A through 5A meet on Friday and Saturday. This means that our timelines are going to be very short. This would only give the Class A and AA schools until Monday 11:00 a.m. to report times. This would only be for one year since the State Schedule will return to its original schedule the following year. This change will also allow us to have more time to get everything out to the printers for the programs.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to approve amending the current Bylaw concerning the reporting time after District Track and Field meets for A and AA schools. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Sports Specific Action Item – Track and Field: Consider adding to the NMAA Bylaw 7.21.1 F that once pole vault certification has been achieved, it is valid for a period of four years. This will be in effect as of Spring 2010. – Mr. Martinez stated currently a coach can get certified for two years. We recommend that a coach is certified for four years once completing the pole vault certification course.

Dr. Richards made a motion to approve that once a coach has achieved their pole vault certification it will be valid for a period of four years. Dr. Abreu seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Sports Specific Action Item – Basketball: Consider seeding Class A and AA Basketball 1-16 versus the current system as per the Basketball Sport Specific Committee. – Ms. Marquez stated that Class A through AA would like to be seeded 1-16. The process would be like Classes 3A-5A.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to not approve the seeding of Class A and AA as presented for 2009-2010. Mr. Rounds seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion not to approve this proposal passed unanimously.

- VII. *General Discussion and Information Items – Consider allowing the NMAA Executive Director to determine that a site or venue is unacceptable for post-season play and allow him to adjust the site in a fair and consistent manner, effective 2009-2010. (i.e. gym size, safety, or situations that do not adhere to NFHS minimum standards) – Mr. Phipps state we have been getting remarks and phone calls about this issue.*

Mr. Tripp stated this would mean that if a gym does not have the capacity to hold both teams' communities he would be able to decide where the contest should be held. He stated the NMAA has had to deal with this situation in the past. An example of this is Clovis Christian has had to move play to a different site. He stated the NMAA has also had to move Escalante to a different site in order to have a game.

Mr. Casados from Escalante High School stated that he met with Mr. Tripp and Mr. Martinez about this matter. He stated he also met with the District 2-AA Athletic Director's about this incident that occurred. In the event that Escalante is to host post season play every school in their district will have to move their games to Dulce. This eliminates our home court advantage. He stated he would like for the board members to consider the following alternatives in the event Escalante is going to host post season play. The first option is to leave everything as it is. The second option is to host the tournament at an alternative site. The third option is to utilize the technology that the NMAA has in place and video stream the game. The fourth option is to make everyone in their district play at a different site.

Mr. Harris asked if there are any problems during regular season play.

Mr. Tripp stated the financial issue, travel for fans not being able to get in, students scalping tickets.

Mr. Green asked if this was something that could be solved within the district.

Mr. Casados stated he felt this was a problem the NMAA could help them with.

Mr. Tripp stated in respect to the districts handling it, he feels that this issue falls under the NMAA.

Mr. Martinez stated the problem that comes about is when Escalante and Dulce have students and fans that want to get into games.

Mr. Kennon stated he felt that we should let Gary come up with the alternative.

General Discussion and Information Items – Playing Alumni games/scrimmages and potential problems. – Mr. Tripp stated we had a couple of schools ask us when they play the alumni does that count as a scrimmage. We feel this is a violation because the kids are not a member school and are over the proper age to play kids at our member schools. They might not have insurance as well. I just wanted to get some direction before bringing this to the board as an action item.

Mr. Phipps stated this needs to be a local decision.

Mr. Green stated we used to be able to use the alumni game as a fundraiser but stopped because kids get hurt.

Ms. Marquez stated it currently counts as a scrimmage. This came to my desk because if they could play alumni and they were not a member school, why are they not allowed to play a club team.

General Discussion and Information Items – Title IX and the Equities Act (the impact on schools in the future) – Mr. Phipps stated we have been asked to delay this for one year because there is no money for the software and to pay people to work this.

Ms. Marquez stated we are right on looking at the educational component.

General Discussion and Information Items – Eligibility requirements for students participating in extracurricular activities. – Ms. Derr stated Rodeo, Bowling, and Lacrosse are activities that are competition based. For example, if a student were to transfer from Rio Rancho to Cleveland High School they would be eligible to play that weekend in a Bowling tournament for Cleveland High School. She stated this does not apply to academic activities only the competitive activities.

Mr. Phipps stated this would be a transfer issue.

General Discussion and Information Items – True Champions Program – Mr. Tripp stated that he and Rudy have done a couple of workshops around the state. It includes criteria on how to do our jobs as Athletic Directors and Coaches in a four hour in depth Pursuing Victory With Honor that we will continue to push in our schools.

General Discussion and Information Items – Fall sports venues, schedules, and information. – Mr. Tripp stated in the board packet there is a sheet with all of this information, It is just a reminder to let everyone know where the Championships will be held this year.

General Discussion and Information Items – The NMAA's use of Ticket Leap starting with the sports of soccer and volleyball. – Mr. Tripp stated Ticket Leap is like Ticketmaster. It is used for online ticket purchases.

Mr. Ferguson asked if there is a surcharge for the online ticket purchase.

Mr. Tripp stated the surcharge is 0.97¢ per ticket.

General Discussion and Information Items – Activities Update – Ms. Derr stated the fall activities all met on September 1, 2009. One issue that came up was home school eligibility.

The Spirit Summit took place a couple of weeks ago. The big topics at the summit were Spirit being considered a sport and Title IX.

Throughout the state of New Mexico there has been \$200,000 in scholarships awarded to students participating in activities.

VIII. *Addendum Agenda: The possibility of developing a policy concerning the Alignment and Classification of schools that have an extraordinary loss of enrollment prior to the beginning of the four-year block.* – Mr. Phipps stated this item would be something the NMAA staff would have to bring to the board. We would need a defined a percentage in order to consider the amount of students a school can lose before being reclassified.

Mr. Martinez stated this is something that is very hard to define. A school presently one year before the block had a certain attendance and then lost students. The idea is that in order for them to be allowed to move from one classification to another the school would have to lose enrollment to the point that even when moving to the smaller classification a minimum of 25% of that classification's schools would have to be larger than the school being moved.

Mr. Kennon stated he feels the four-year block would give us some problems.

Mr. Tripp stated the old bylaws followed a 33% loss of student enrollment and this would restructure the system used in the past.

Mr. Phipps stated he thought the recommendation was a good start but refine it and make it an action item for the next meeting.

Addendum Agenda: Consider request from Clovis High School to allow Roswell High School to play one game over the maximum games allowed in the sport of boy's basketball. – Mr. Phipps stated that Artesia has offered Clovis an extra game.

Mr. Tripp stated the NMAA asked Roswell to play in a tournament in preparation for the centennial.

Mr. Green made a motion to deny Clovis High Schools request to allow Roswell High School to play one game over the maximum games allowed in the sport of boy's basketball. Mr. Kennon seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

IX. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 3, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMAA.

X. Consider Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Johnson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ferguson. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.