

**NMAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 27, 2010**  
**9:00 a.m., NMAA**



- I. The NMAA Board of Directors met on Wednesday, January 27, 2010. Mr. Mike Phipps, NMAA Board President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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

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 to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Green. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

The minutes from the January 14, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting were presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Benoit. Ms. Lopez seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

- II. *Directors Report* – Mr. Tripp stated he had a couple of issues to report on and that he would be brief. The first issue was the Executive Director’s Meeting he attended in San Francisco. He stated the NCAA did a study of all Division I and Division II athletes over a span of twenty years. He stated twenty years ago students defined themselves as student athletes. Over time the students started defining themselves as athlete students. Presently they have found that students are defining themselves as athletes only. The NCAA is currently changing their eligibility rules and making them tougher, and cracking down on students. There is now tougher eligibility rules for student athletes to follow which the NCAA hopes will help boost graduation rates. The NCAA is also going to start publishing coaches report cards and making them available to the general public. This means that a coach will be graded on their student athlete’s performance in the classroom. The report card will include the coach’s graduation rate of his players, GPA average, and drop out percentage. The NCAA is also putting in place a new rule

for any person associated with a student that is being recruited out of high school. The person associated with a student who is being recruited will not be able to become a college coach for two years after the student has been recruited by a college or university. This is just another measure to bring back the student athlete. Mr. Tripp stated he would have a report on how the NCAA is trying to work with the NFHS instead of against us in March. The NCAA is also working on trying to define a recruiting age.

Mr. Tripp stated more than anything, schools across the nation are facing financial struggles.

Mr. Tripp stated that he included a copy of his performance evaluation in all board members packets.

Mr. Tripp stated the NMAA staff is going to try and get around the state of New Mexico even more this year. NMAA staff members will be attending the CES regional meetings. This will include at least 6-7 meetings in order to gather feedback from the membership. The meetings will be in Clovis, Roswell, Albuquerque, Tularosa, Farmington, Espanola, and Silver City.

Mr. Tripp stated that Mr. Martinez, NMAA Associate Director, had an announcement that he needed to make. Mr. Martinez stated he will be retiring at the end of June. He stated he is leaving the NMAA on a real positive note. He stated he has enjoyed 28 years of working in the schools and 6 years working at the NMAA.

- III. Executive Session* – A motion was made by Mr. Ferguson and seconded by Mr. Green to enter executive session at 9:16 a.m. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

#### CLOSED DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Mr. Green and seconded by Ms. Lopez to reconvene into regular session at 9:45 a.m. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Phipps stated that there were no actions taken during executive session.

- IV. Financial Report* – Ms. Daniels stated there is a financial report in every board members packet. The only thing we do not have listed in the report is the money that the NMAA will be receiving from Kukulski Brothers. We will receive that money by June and it will then be shown on the financial report. We are also missing some money from our sponsors which will be paid to us by the end of June as well. We are anticipating \$77,000 more from Kukulski Brothers and current NMAA Sponsors.

Mr. Tripp stated we have a financial meeting set up during the time of the school board meetings. If any board member would like to be part of that committee please contact Mr. Phipps.

- V. *General Action Item: Consider Carrizozo's request to remain in Class B in the sports of Basketball and Volleyball thus rescinding their request to play Class A.* – Mr. Cobos, Carrizozo Superintendent, stated he went to his community for feedback on this issue. He stated his community is strong about sticking with tradition. He stated the school's enrollment has dropped quite a bit; they are now the size of the other schools in Class B.

Mr. Green stated there was a meeting with all Class B schools and they were in favor of Carrizozo playing in Class B with them.

Mr. Green made a motion to approve Carrizozo's request to remain in Class B in the sports of Basketball and Volleyball thus rescinding their prior request to play in Class A. Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

*General Action Item: Consider sending out an advisory referendum on the seeding/selection process and qualifying series for the 2010-2011 school year.* – Mr. Martinez stated there are two options as to who will conduct the actual seeding. Proposal A will allow every district to select a committee member to represent their individual district. Proposal B will allow the NMAA staff to conduct the actual seeding. There are also potential changes in the criteria of the seeding and selection process. Proposal A would be to leave as is with no changes. Proposal B would be to use the present criteria with the following additions; Performance against other teams including district champions or runner-ups from other districts regardless of classification. Second, use the most recent coaches' poll conducted by the New Mexico High School Coaches Association prior to the seeding and selection meeting as part of the overall criteria.

Mr. Martinez stated this would give the coaches some true ownership. He stated we are asking the board for permission to send this out to referenda for feedback.

Mr. Green made a motion to approve sending out an advisory referendum on the seeding and selection process and qualifying series for the 2010-2011 school year. Mr. Benoit seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

- VI. *General Discussion and Information Items: Activities Update* – Ms. Derr stated we have had an activities council meeting. The biggest concern was the future of activities. All activities are finding that their attendance is increasing. There will be an activities booth set up at the legislature on February 4, 2010.

Ms. Derr stated members from the skiing and rugby groups have contacted her about trying to get them to become an official NMAA Activity.

All-State music took place in January and was very successful.

*General Discussion and Information Items: National Leadership Conference.* – Ms. Derr reminded everyone that the National Leadership Conference is held every summer by the NFHS. We are currently accepting nominations for students for this upcoming summer. It is an all expense paid trip for the students to attend this conference.

*General Discussion and Information Items – Referenda results on game/match limitations and cheer and drill becoming a sport.* – Mr. Phipps stated the results were in all board members packets. The item to consider making spirit a sport had 72% of voters in favor and 28% of voters not in favor. The item on game limitations had 45% of voters in favor of Proposal 1, 33% of voters in favor of Proposal 2, and 22% of voters in favor of Proposal 3.

*General Discussion and Information Items: Spirit becoming a sport during the Fall of 2010 and progress in this area.* – Ms. Derr stated the NMAA has laid out the format for Spirit becoming a sport. We would like to see the Spirit State Championship held on week 39 of the school calendar. The classification would remain the same. One big change is that Spirit teams would need to compete in two sanctioned competitions in order to become eligible for state competition. We did the math, and half time is ten minutes long. We can have three competitions during half time, as well as the judges in the stands. In addition we are offering the schools the options to facilitate their own competitions. There is a limit of five competitions in a given school year.

Mr. Phipps asked if we have two games on the same night can the Spirit teams compete between games?

Ms. Derr stated we do have the requirements listed for becoming a judge. State will remain the same. Judges will be selected from out of state. Squads must qualify for state by competing in two competitions before competing at state.

Ms. Marquez stated the purpose of this discussion was just to get some information out. It is not the final decision, this is only meant for discussion. In the rulebook there is nothing stating the time between games so competitions could possible happen between two games.

*General Discussion and Information Items: NMAA DVD used at all pre-season meetings and the future of this for the member schools.* – Mr. Tripp stated two years ago the board approved to put together a curriculum where schools would have meetings to conduct. We are looking at another two years, or permanently putting it into our bylaws. Right now we would like for the board to look at it and see what direction we should go with this.

Mr. Evans stated there doesn't seem to be any bad responses on this program. Some Athletic Directors have talked about flexibility for their meetings and deciding on how to run them.

*General Discussion and Information Items: NCAA regulations for potential college bound students and how NMAA can help with this initiative.* – Mr. Tripp stated this discussion was being brought back from the winter meeting. He stated if you go to the NMAA website you will see tabs for coaches, officials, and member school. What we plan on doing is adding a tab for parents so that way if they have any questions about eligibility for a student about to enter college they can find the information on our website. This would be another push towards academic excellence.

*General Discussion and Information Items: Life of An Athlete* – Mr. Zayas state we are continuing to use Creative Street for the Life of An Athlete on-line curriculum. We are also using Zia Community Services to assist with the completion of the NMAA quarterly and final reports for the Department of Transportation. Christopher Productions was contracted to tape an interview with Gabe Gurule, at Los Lunas Correctional Facility, on January 21, 2010. He also stated the NMAA will continue to go around the state and make Life of An Athlete presentations.

*General Discussion and Information Items: Concussion legislation and other possible legislation that affect NMAA.* – Mr. Tripp stated we do support the bill, but here are some things we would like to recommend. We would like to provide more training and information to coaches involved with a contact sport. APS has a pretty good policy on how they handle concussions. We passed that on to the PED.

Mr. Phipps stated it is very typical to get unfunded mandates passed along to us.

Mr. Tripp stated the information going to parents should be on the physical or parent permission form.

*General Discussion and Information Items: Review the current NMAA bylaws that may need some revision as well as a review of current appeals process.* – Mr. Tripp stated he included some of the issues that our staff deals with in the board packet. The possibility of changes to section 6, 7, and 13 is where we would like to begin.

*General Discussion and Information Items: Potential problems with the current mercy rule in football and feedback on possible changes.* – Mr. Martinez stated we feel there are some problems with our current mercy rule. Administratively, we feel nothing comes out of a game when the score is 92 to 6. We feel the mercy rule should mean game over. We probably have about half the football schools responding to us on this issue. We would like to gather more feedback on this issue before we make it an action item.

Mr. Phipps stated we should bring back the survey results as an action item for the March board meeting.

*General Discussion and Information Items: NMAA Scholarship deadlines.* – Mr. Martinez stated we basically changed the format of our scholarships. We combined all the scholarship money and moved it over to the NMAA Foundation. We give sixteen scholarships out, with all the money to be given out through the NMAA Foundation. The deadline is February 12, 2010. We have a total of eleven members who sit on our scholarship committee.

*General Discussion and Information Items: NMAA Foundation report* – Mr. Tripp stated we have 21 teams registered for the Bowl-A –Thon. We will be hitting up all board members for support next year when we make the event two days and include 42 teams.

*General Discussion and Information Items: Information on State Basketball, Wrestling, and Swimming.* – Ms. Marquez stated that State basketball is going well. There will not be a hospitality room this year; due to the Pit renovations there is no place to host the hospitality room. For the basketball tournament it doesn't matter how many people are at a basketball game at any given time, we will need to employ sixty people for fire safety at every single event. This is so we stay in compliance with the Pit rules while it is undergoing renovations.

Mr. Evans stated State Wrestling is all set to roll at Santa Ana Star Center. The event will take place on February 19 & 20, 2010.

Mr. Cleland stated State Swimming and Diving Championships will be on the same weekend as State Wrestling. Diving will take place on Friday at West Mesa and all finals will be on Saturday at Albuquerque Academy.

*VII. Addendum Agenda: Consider approval of the At-Large Representative on the Board of Directors for a three year term as per 2.2.1 C of the NMAA handbook.*

*Consider affirming the New Mexico State School Boards Association representative on the Board of Directors for a Three year term as per 2.2.1 C of the NMAA handbook.*

*Consider affirming the NMAA Commission Chairperson as a member of the Board of Directors as per the 2.2.1 C of the NMAA handbook.*

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to approve all three of these positions for the Board of Directors. Mr. Green seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously

*VIII. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2010.*

*IX. Consider Adjournment*

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ferguson. The motion was seconded by Dr. Abreu. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.