

NMAA EMERGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Tuesday, November 10, 2009
1:30 p.m., NMAA



- I. The NMAA Board of Directors met on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 via teleconference. Mr. Mike Phipps, NMAA Board President, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Ms. Jacquelyne Gallegos, NMAA Administrative Assistant, called roll and the following Board Members were present via teleconference: Dr. R.L. Richards (Small Area B); Mr. Bill Green (Small Area C); 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. Mike Phipps (Large Area B); and Mr. Dion Sandoval (New Mexico Board Association Representative). Mr. Winston Brooks (Large School District I); and Dr. James Abreu (Large Area D) 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 was made by Mr. Ferguson and seconded by Mr. Rounds to approve the agenda as presented. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

The minutes from the September 30, 2009 NMAA Board of Directors Meeting were presented. A motion was made by Ms. Ryan to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Kennon seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion to approve the minutes from the September 30, 2009 Board Meeting carried unanimously.

- II. *Director's Report* – Mr. Tripp thanked the Board Members for giving up their time to attend the meeting. He stated the NMAA has had some of the most successful State Championships thus far. In Cross Country and Soccer the attendance was up this year. He thanked Dr. Cleveland, Mr. Barreras, and Mr. Brooks for their support in putting on these State Championships. He stated he received overwhelming support from around New Mexico concerning the State Soccer Championships. He stated the question he has been asked the most was whether or not the NMAA was going to enter into a long term agreement with APS concerning the State Soccer Championships. He stated this was something the NMAA was considering. He stated Ms. Marquez will be leading the NMAA into

the State Volleyball Championships this week. The NMAA will also be crowning the first 2009 Football State Champions. The game will feature Lake Arthur and Hondo, which Mr. Martinez will be leading the way. This concluded Mr. Tripp's report.

III. Executive Session – Mr. Phipps stated there was no need to go into Executive Session, it was no necessary at this time. The Board continued on in regular session.

IV. General Action Item – *Consider the reduction of games beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.*

Mr. Phipps stated this would be a good time to talk about the possibility of game reductions. He stated he understood everyone had budgets and there were many concerns as to how to meet them.

Dr. Richards stated that even Athletic Directors are concerned about the budget cuts. He stated he liked the information that Mr. Tripp and the NMAA staff sent on possible game reductions, but there are some Athletic Directors that would like to see a bigger reduction in games.

Mr. Kennon stated he liked the NMAA recommendations as well, but he feels the recommendations need to come from the NMAA so as to not create an unfair playing field. He stated that in the sport of football at the varsity level the amount of games played could be left the same and there could be a reduction in the amount of junior varsity games played. He stated that from a money standpoint, if you take away varsity football games you will start taking away resources that help keep other sports alive.

Mr. Phipps stated he wanted to draw a comparison that if the state put into law that prevented workers from drilling for resources, that would cut all revenue streams for a community. He stated his comparison was that if we cut our kids revenue stream, such as the sports of football and basketball, we are going to hurt the kids even more. We may even be taking away valuable revenue streams from the school.

Ms. Ryan stated that she agreed with Mr. Phipps 100%. Football and basketball are a schools biggest events and we will be taking away money if we make cuts.

Mr. Tripp stated that what the NMAA was hoping was that we could continue this discussion from the last board meeting. He stated what the NMAA did send out was a sample of possible ways for game reductions. The NMAA also sent out Mr. Butler's, from Moriarty, sample of possible game reductions. Hopefully this information leads you to make a decision in the best interest of the kids of the state of New Mexico.

Dr. Richards stated some communities may support athletics more than others. If the budget cuts come in January and February, we should have a good faith effort showing that we are willing to make some cuts.

Ms. Ryan asked if we should wait until we find out what type of budget cuts we need to make. Are we a little premature on this? She stated she had a lot of questions and she did not know if she was ready to make a decision on this issue.

Dr. Richards stated when you do a study it creates issues we did not know we had. He stated it creates issues for school districts. He stated this is why he feels the NMAA needs to take the lead on the game reduction issue.

Mr. Harris stated the issue that comes up in game reductions in football and other sports is do you give up a home game or an away game. He stated you will also have to consider the concessions and the booster clubs. He stated that when we start cutting our revenue streams are we really doing what is right for the kids. He stated he would really like to have a better idea of what it is going to cost if we reduce games.

Mr. Sandoval stated in basketball schools are allowed to play up to 26 games. He stated in Grants they only play 24 basketball games.

Ms. Lopez stated that her local district is playing 26 games. She stated most Superintendents have said they would like to lower the costs and go down in games. She stated that the question of why would one community lower their games played and another would not, might come up.

Mr. Rounds stated we do not know what our legislatures are going to do yet. What if we need to plan ahead in order to be ready for the possible cuts we may incur? We need to direct our staff and have them bring in a contingent plan of what a 10, 11, or 12 % budget cut means. He stated he supported reducing games. He stated we need to level the playing field and he supported moving forward with this.

Mr. Kennon stated he agreed with Mr. Rounds.

Mr. Green stated he would like to make a motion to postpone any decisions we make on this issue until the December 3, 2009 Board Meeting. He stated this will give us more time to think about it. He stated he was putting this in a form to table the issue on possible game reductions for the 2010-2011 school year. Ms. Ryan seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion to table the issue concerning possible game reductions for the 2010-2011 school year carried unanimously.

Mr. Tripp stated his consideration is that the NMAA staff prepares a proposal to present to the Commission. The NMAA will present a proposal and if we can have two or three proposals for consideration we can put this to a final vote at the December 3, 2009 Board Meeting. Our border schools are having a hard time with this because they cannot sign contracts for the following schools year. If we can get a proposal from the NMAA, the NMADA, and possibly one more this will allow for extra consideration in the reduction of games.

Mr. Phipps stated he was not opposed to making cuts, he is all for a level playing field. Hopefully the governor takes some action on this issue. Education will be blamed for whatever budget cuts in order to tax and fill in the lines. We want to be very careful with this issue. If they are talking about a 10% educational budget cut, I do not know how we would not cut from athletics. I want to make sure they know what they will be taking away from the kids. It is hard for Superintendents because it is not their fault. It is hard for me to sit back and hurt the kids when it is not what we want.

- V. *Addendum Agenda* – No addendum agenda was needed at this time.
- VI. *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. Kennon. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.