



### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

President Eric McCurdy (Region A), Vice President Lori Wyborney (District 8), Harlan Kredit (District 1), Pat McCarthy (District 2), Tim Thomsen (District 3), Mick Hoffman (District 4), Rich Rouleau (District 5), Miles Caples (District 6), Greg Whitmore (District 7), Ken Lindgren (District 9), Wendy Malich (Region B), and John Wallwork (At Large).

### **HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS**

T.J. Greene (Tribal Schools), Lois Gorne (Fine Arts), Joel Aune (WASA), Ross Hjelseth (WFIS), Lori Oviatt (WSSDA), Eric Anderson (AWSP), Dave Tikker (WSSAAA), and Kent Andersen (District Directors).

### **WIAA STAFF**

Mike Colbrese, Executive Director; Cindy Adsit, Andy Barnes, John Miller and Brian Smith, Assistant Executive Directors; Leah Francis, Director of Finance and Operations; Andy Knapp, Director of Marketing, Promotions and Corporate Partners; Alli Krous, Project Coordinator; and Casey Johnson, Sports and Activities Information Director.

### **GUESTS**

Scott Nordi, athletic director at Lakes High School and WSSAAA President, and Joe Keller, former athletic director at Lakes and Fife High Schools and District 3 Director

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD WORK SESSION**

On Sunday, January 29, the Board held a work session regarding the process to waive Association rules and two bills (House Bill 1023 and Senate Bill 5117) currently under consideration by the State Legislature.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

WIAA Executive Board President Eric McCurdy convened the Executive Board meeting at 12:25 PM on Sunday, January 29, 2017. Vice President Lori Wyborney led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting resumed at 8:30 AM on Monday, January 30, 2017.

### **CONSENSUS ISSUES**

Eric McCurdy presented the agenda, minutes from November 13-14, 2016 meeting; minutes from the February 3 and February 11, 2017, conference calls; and consensus items.

- **Malich/Lindgren** moved to approve the agenda, the November minutes, February conference call minutes, and the consensus items. MOTION PASSED.

### **AUDIENCE**

Bruce Gutgesell – WMEA request

Bruce Gutgesell shared that the Regional Solo and Ensemble Contests began recently and will continue through the month of March. The State Solo and Ensemble Contests will be held the fourth weekend in April. He added that proposed rule changes are accepted by WMEA throughout the year and into

September, that music teachers then provide feedback regarding the proposals through November, and those supported by the WMEA Board are presented to the WIAA Executive Board for final approval. The first proposal removes reference to gender in the vocal ensemble categories and lists them only by vocal category. The second request focuses on process, not a proposed change in any current rules, where a student must declare by the declaration date and compete at state in only one category, even though he/she may have qualified in more than one category during a regional qualifying event. The third request adds a new category for Mariachi Ensemble, without breakouts for small and large ensembles, of just one category of two to 16 participants.

- **McCarthy/Thomsen** moved to approve the proposed changes that will go into effect with the 2018 State Solo and Ensemble Contests. MOTION PASSED.

### AUDIENCE

Hermiston High School representatives requesting membership into the WIAA beginning in 2018-19 due to challenges with the upcoming Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) reclassification of schools - Dr. Fred Maiocco, Superintendent; Tom Spoo, Principal; and Larry Usher, Athletic Director

Dr. Maiocco explained that Hermiston is located 35 miles south of the Tri Cities while its closest opponent in the Mt Hood conference in Oregon would be 180 miles. He added that many community members cross the state line for work (both ways), that the school regularly competes in non-conference games with schools in the Tri Cities, and has been accepted for full membership into the Mid Columbia Conference (MCC.) He shared that requesting membership into the WIAA, due to extreme travel in Oregon, is not uncommon in California and Nevada. He added that he believes it is possible to set parameters around such a decision as a precedent for future requests.

Larry Usher added that the Hermiston student population is growing rapidly, while smaller districts surrounding Hermiston are getting smaller. The OSAA classification process is quite different than that in Washington, and Hermiston would be grouped with the Portland schools. Conference play would be greater than 3000 miles per season;, would involve 13 to 40 missed school days per sport. Of the 70 high school coaches, 53 are in-district employees which would also increase loss of class time for non-athletes when the coaches are out of school. While some sports are currently offered during different seasons in Oregon, with advance notice, the seasons would be brought into align with Washington seasons. Hermiston youth are involved in youth sports programs with Washington students, while the opponents change at high school. The OSAA classification committee is currently meeting to review numbers and to determine if it will recommend eliminating a classification (from six to five) which could also impact Hermiston High School.

- **Thomsen/McCarthy** moved to have staff continue to research issues with a report provided during the March meeting. MOTION PASSED.

### AUDIENCE

Nalin Sood, WIBCA President – participation in national events

Nalin Sood reported that he was speaking on behalf of the Washington Interscholastic Boys Basketball Coaches Association (WIBCA.) He added since the WIBCA general membership meeting will be held in February, the full membership has not been polled on this issue, but it has been discussed with and is supported by the WIBCA executive board provided parameters set by the WIAA Executive Board are implemented. Those parameters could include a limit on the number of authorized practices, a roster limit, and a potential for participation during two years out of any four-year period. He believed those stipulations would not encourage students to transfer into that school. Previously teams that were

invited to a national event were high in the national ranking and won the state championship in its classification, so the potential number of involved schools would be small. He added that while the Representative Assembly approved the coaches of individual sports to coach in a national event, it has denied the proposal regarding team sports, even though three teams were allowed to participate in national events prior to that time. Eastside Catholic and Bothell football teams, the Rainier Beach boys basketball and Gonzaga Prep girls basketball teams participated, yet none of schools noticed an accumulation of talent following their involvement. He believes the local communities should be allowed to make the decision regarding the involvement of its teams. He also requested that WIBCA's support for this proposal would allow for coaches to coach in the Northwest Shootout, which involves the top players from Washington playing the top players in Oregon.

Pat McCarthy thanked Nalin for a recent meeting held with board members and representatives of the boys and girls basketball coaches association to work on issues of mutual concern.

- **Rouleau/McCarthy** moved to allow teams of WIAA member schools invited to participate in a national event provided specific criteria regarding team roster, number of allowed practices, etc. be followed. MOTION APPROVED.

### LEAP COMMITTEE

The LEAP committee was also meeting on January 29 at the WIAA office. Andy Knapp, Alli Krous and Casey Johnson brought in the committee and they introduced themselves to the Board. Members will also become members of the WIAA Diversity Committee.

### SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### CALENDAR AND CULMINATING EVENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Wendy Malich summarized the following topics:

1. **2017-18 ASSOCIATION CALENDAR**  
The 2017-18 Association calendar was presented for second reading. Discussion followed regarding the timing of the November and April board meetings.
  - **Malich/McCarthy** moved to approve on second reading (Attachment #1.) MOTION PASSED.
2. An Ocosta school director requested that teams who are eliminated during basketball regionals be allowed to enter the state site at no charge and be recognized during a halftime or quarter break so they can feel a part of the state experience. The current practice for all sports where the first and possibly second rounds are held at local sites is to allow only the participating schools to enter the state site at no charge. It was also noted that with the new format change in basketball, an additional 48 schools would participate at the state site this year. The committee supports the current policy.
3. The proposed Tacoma Dome renovation will take place in phases over a period of years, and that means some WIAA events held there will be impacted more than others. New bleachers will be purchased and they will replace all portable bleachers, which will mean no bleachers for gymnastics. A new site for gymnastics will need to be secured.

#### 4. SPLITTING SPRING TOURNAMENTS

The committee discussed the process for gathering feedback regarding the potential for the splitting of spring sports championships as a means for communities to support more programs which is difficult to do with all events held during the same two days.

- **Thomsen/McCarthy** moved to have staff continue to research the availability of sites and other issues associated with splitting the spring tournaments. MOTION PASSED.

#### HANDBOOK SUB-COMMITTEE

Harlan Kredit summarized the following proposed editorial changes:

1. WIAA handbook rule 17.8.2 - (Open gym) activities are open and advertised to all members of the student body **of that school**.
2. WIAA handbook rule 71.12.1 – Practice is defined as a **school** ~~regularly~~ scheduled team physical activity designed for the preparation of athletes for the ensuing sports season and must be conducted under the supervision of the school coach. Participation in physical education classes does not constitute a practice.
3. WIAA handbook rule 17.12.7 – Schools may ~~schedule~~ **conduct** practice or contests during any six days of the week ~~for the purpose of meeting the minimum practice requirements~~.
4. WIAA handbook rule 17.13.0 – Squad Definition – **A school may have only one varsity team in each sport but can have as many subvarsity teams as allowed by its league.**
5. WIAA handbook rule 18.23.1 – Schools may not give students special treatment or privileges on a regular basis to enable them to participate in non-school athletic activities. **Some examples of special treatment or privileges include** reduced practice times, special workouts, late arrivals, early dismissals, **or missing a practice or contest**. Regular is defined as being more than once.
6. Requested board policy change from Bothell HS, Cedarcrest HS, Inglemoor HS, Jackson HS and Sehome HS regarding the process by which teams are counted for allocation purposes in cross country to be implemented with the 2018-19 school year: **To count as a cross country team, a school must demonstrate that an official team competed in a sanctioned varsity event by the end of the fifth week of the season.** Brian Smith added that he met with the cross country coaches during their recent conference, and they believe that allocations should be given only to schools that meet with team definition by having competed in a meet by the fifth week of the cross country season. He added that wrestling allocations are based upon weight assessment, which is a comparable determination.
7. Final wording on a proposed amendment to be submitted on behalf of the Board which would extend the timeline for an ejection to be appealed from prior to the resumption of play to 24 hours following the conclusion of the contest.
  - **Lindgren/Whitmore** moved to approve all seven items. MOTION PASSED.

## FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Lori Wyborney provided updates on the following topics:

1. Due to the fact that expenses are increasing at a rate faster than revenue increases, a subcommittee will be developed to pursue innovative events, analyze the current 6-year revenue plan and address staff salaries as an incentive to maintain quality staff. Eric McCurdy added that perhaps the Association should take a more active role with national events, and possibly host events that will attract a broader audience.
  - **Lindgren/Malich** moved to approve the formation of a special committee that will investigate these issues. MOTION PASSED.
2. An ongoing goal of the Board is to protect the solvency of the WIAA and to assist schools with their costs for participating in state events.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

Leah Francis presented the 2015-16 audit and shared a graph depicting a five year summary of revenue and expenses. Expenses have been increasing at a rate of three percent (3%) a year, while revenue has been increasing only at one percent (1%) a year, resulting in an overall decline in net income. She added that a large portion of unexpected expenses were due to fact finding that was conducted during 2015-16. While the Association has the funds to operate, the financial committee continues to investigate ways to remedy this trend. Tim Thomsen suggested membership fees and ticket prices, including the Board-approved policy regarding the all-tournament ticket price, continue to be analyzed

- **McCurdy/Lindgren** moved to accept the 2015-16 annual audit. MOTION PASSED.

The fall report and the year-to-date financial report were presented for discussion and review. Fall attendance was less than projected. Football attendance was down by 2,500 at semifinals and 1,000 at the finals. Over the past five years, attendance has averaged about 6,500 fans per year less than the previous five-year average. The decreased attendance was countered, however, by lowering expenses by holding the westside semifinals in school stadiums. Fall events, overall, were \$17,000 under budget on expenses which helps the overall financial picture.

Ms. Francis reminded the board that adult ticket prices increased by \$1 last year, and that student ticket prices increased \$1 this year. The six-year plan increases ticket prices every other year and that membership fees are scheduled to be increased in 2017-18. Special committee chair Mick Hoffman will continue to study the issue.

- **Rouleau/Malich** moved to accept the fall tournament report and the year-to-date financial report. MOTION PASSED.

## REQUESTS FOR ACTION

### THIRD READING

#### NFHS Mandated Pitch Count

Cindy Adsit presented the proposed pitch count rule with revisions based upon the average of the pitch counts that will be utilized by 23 state Associations. Implementation will begin with the 2017 spring season. Mick Hoffman suggested the pitchers be allowed to finish the at-bat, but when it was shared

that 105 pitches in a high school game occurs often, it was determined to remain with 105 pitches as the top number.

- **Whitmore/Rouleau** moved to approve the proposed pitch count rule as presented on third and final reading (Attachment #2). MOTION PASSED.

### **Future of RPI**

Greg Whitmore provided an RPI report with a proposed plan and timeline for determining which sports will utilize RPI in 2017-18. He encouraged board members to read the FAQ and added that all concerns that have been expressed were discussed by the committee. Andy Barnes shared that there have been at least 100,000 hits since the RPI was launched on January 6. Greg acknowledged that an incredible amount of staff time has been devoted to the development, implementation and monitoring of the system. Pat McCarthy shared that there have been several compliments about the RPI webpage. Greg added that weekly reminders have been sent to schools in terms of inputting all games on schedules and updating scores in a timely manner.

- **Malich/Caples** moved to authorize the RPI committee to survey the schools to determine if RPI should apply to other team sports. MOTION PASSED.

### **WESCO request for experiment**

John Miller summarized the request of the Wesco league to utilize an extra hitter in subvarsity softball. He added that in September the Board approved a similar request to allow middle level softball teams to utilize an extra hitter, and that last year high school subvarsity and middle level baseball teams were allowed to utilize an extra hitter which proved to be a positive experience as it allowed additional players to participate. Cindy Adsit shared that amendments have been submitted for all experiments regarding the extra hitter in both softball and baseball.

- **Malich/Kredit** moved to approve the experiment to allow high school subvarsity softball teams to utilize an extra hitter. MOTION PASSED.

### **Regional sites**

John Miller presented the 2017 regional wrestling sites. Cindy Adsit presented the list of proposed regional basketball sites and the game assignment procedure and process. She added that games will be assigned to sites on Sunday, February 19, except for the 3A games that will be assigned on Wednesday, February 22, due to the glue involving districts 2 and 5/8.

- **Malich/Kredit** moved to approve the 2017 regional wrestling sites. MOTION PASSED
- **McCarthy/Malich** moved to approve the 2017 regional basketball sites and game assignment procedure and process. MOTION PASSED (Attachments #3 and #4.)

### **Track and Field Qualifying Marks**

Brian Smith provided the proposed 2017 track and field qualifying marks. About 50 additional students participated at each state site due to the qualifying marks in 2016. Of the 52 qualifiers in the 1B, 2B and 1A State Meet, 50 percent (50%) were in top eight, and 70 percent (70%) were in top 15, which means those athletes were qualified to be there. He added that the cross country factor was changed from five

to seven students to model swimming. The qualifying standards in all individual events have been reviewed as directed by the Board.

- **Lindgren/Whitmore** moved to approve the 2017 track and field qualifying marks. MOTION PASSED (Attachment #5.)

#### **PROPOSED FEE INCREASE FOR OFFICIALS**

Tim Thomsen shared that there are issues with a shortage of officials in a number of areas around the state and that there have been no fee increases since the recession. The most recent \$2 varsity game fee was rolled into the RTO fee. The fee review committee is recommending \$1 for middle schools, \$1 for subvarsity, and \$2 for high school varsity. The hope is that the increase will provide some incentive for initial and ongoing commitment by officials and that the RTO will continue. Mick Hoffman requested that an annual financial report be provided to all schools.

- **Kredit/McCarthy** moved to approve the proposed fee increases on first reading for 2017-18. MOTION PASSED

#### **Children of “mission or key and essential” military personnel**

Scott Nordi shared that he, along with Joe Keller, Wendy Malich and Mike Colbrese, testified with both the House and Senate Education Committees in opposition to House Bill 1023 (HB 1023) and Senate Bill 5117 (SB 5117.) Mr. Nordi shared that there is some consideration for modification of HB 1023, but not for SB 5117, but if the Board is willing to expedite the process to implement a proposed change dealing with the children of mission or key and essential military personnel, there is consideration to drop the bills. He shared that there are approximately 250 key and essential military personnel across the state, although not all have children of school age. The current proposed bills, however, could have a much farther reaching effect and would create a separate class of students. He added a concern about other special interest groups also appealing to the legislature to champion their cause and how either of these proposed bills could open that possibility. Joe Keller added that both he and Scott Nordi shared examples of eligibility cases involving military families where eligibility was granted. Mike Colbrese added that Dave Tikker wrote a letter in opposition to both bills on behalf of WSSAAA. Tim Thomsen shared that OSPI has on its website that 156,000 military families reside in Washington

- **McCarthy/Kredit** moved to implement the policy immediately, rather than going through the amendment process, as a means to address the issue prior to legislative influence. In addition, staff will develop an information pamphlet and a liaison for military families in transition. MOTION PASSED. MOTION PASSED (Attachment #6.)

### **PLANNING**

#### **State Event Updates**

The executive staff reported that the planning for all winter events is progressing well and that all are looking forward to some terrific contests.

#### **Executive Board Signup for trophy presentations for winter events**

A signup sheet was passed around for board members to present awards at the upcoming winter events (Attachment #7.)

### **Winter Coalition**

Mike Colbrese reported that the Winter Coalition will be held on Monday, March 20, 2017, at the Renton Pavilion and that the amendments will be sent to all schools following the Board meeting. Cindy Adsit presented the two applications submitted for the Gareth Giles recognition award.

- **Thomsen/Malich** moved to approve Bob Jones and Shelly Thiel as recipients of the 2017 Gareth Giles awards, with the awards to be presented during the Winter Coalition. MOTION PASSED .

### **Representative Assembly Voting**

Andy Barnes presented a listing of the applicable dates regarding the distribution of the amendments and the Representative Assembly voting timeline.

## **WIAA COMMITTEES**

### **Governance**

Ken Lindgren reported that discussions to date have been far encompassing and involve much of the handbook, including classifications and the process to determine the formation of a league. He added that during the next meeting in March the committee will discuss the formation of a league, timeline, and appeals process, including a review of other state association models .

### **Football Summit**

John Miller shared that each of the district directors and league representatives will participate in a February meeting to look at options for scheduling football games that best meet the needs of the schools involved. NOTE: Due to weather issues, the meeting has been rescheduled for March 13.

### **RTO**

Tim Thomsen provided a proposed amendment to be submitted on behalf of the RTO committee which is about each district having a committee. He added that a fact sheet is being developed that will show disbursement of funds and the efforts in place to recruit and retain officials.

### **Membership Survey**

Wendy Malich recommended that, based upon information gleaned from the membership survey, that while an online version will be available, the WIAA handbook will continue to be printed and distributed to schools. The schools continue to support and promote diversity, that all Association financial information is posted online and that resources are readily accessible to schools. She added that committees are in place to address specific issues (electronic media, ball adoption, etc.)

### **Digital Media RFP**

Greg Whitmore provided a copy of the RFP which was sent out to four companies to bid on becoming the next digital media partner with the Association.

## **HONORARY BOARD REPORTS**

**Eric Anderson (AWSP)** shared that there is a concern, particularly from the 2B schools, about the “safe” number of athletes to have on a team in order to continue to play. Currently the WIAA policy defines the number of participants required to count for allocation purposes and the NFHS requirements for the number of participants required to start a contest. Rather than a hard number, there may be better indicators of whether or not a contest should be played. John Miller shared that there may be some talking points after the February meeting of football representatives. Anderson shared that there are a

number of issues arising with inappropriate and/or unsportsmanlike actions by parents and fans. Some concerns about the future of RPI. One school has a designated student to serve as an ambassador for visiting teams at all contests.

**Lori Oviatt (WSSDA)** shared that January is school board recognition month, and that, as local elected officials, she appreciates everyone who sits on a school board and takes the time to care about important educational issues. Legislative issues are top of mind. A team of WSSDA reps, who serve on the Federal Relations Network as advocates on our behalf of the state of Washington, are in Washington DC actively lobbying for public education. They will be advocating for the top three priorities determined by the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA), Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA), and the Washington Association of School Business Officials (WASBO). This year's legislative conference will be held on February 12 and 13, 2017, with WSSDA, WASA and WASBO will convene to discuss priorities.

**Joel Aune (WASA)** reported that WASA's main priority at this time is legislative advocacy, particularly lowering the levy lids as part of the plan to fully fund education. He added that legislators do respond to phone calls, emails and letters on proposed legislation, and encouraged all in attendance to demonstrate their support for education to the legislators.

**Dave Tikker (WSSAAA)** reported that the conference will piggyback on the April board meeting and has provided the conference agenda. He added that Tom Doyle has indicated that this will be his last year in overseeing the WSSAAA mentorship program.

**Ross Hjelseth (WFIS)** shared that he attended the WFIS board meeting held in December. He encouraged private school representatives to get involved in their representative districts to better relations with public school representatives.

**T.J. Greene (Tribal Schools)** shared that, due to an unfortunate assault incident of a Native American student that occurred following a basketball game, he has been working with the schools to answer some questions and resolve the issues and has been assisted.

**Kent Andersen (District Directors)** reported that no specific issues have been brought forward by the district directors.

**Lois Gorne (Fine Arts)** shared that regular season competitions in speech and debate programs have been held, and are moving toward the state championships in March. Proposed changes to consolidate the format for the individual events were developed during the fall conference.

## UPDATES FROM STAFF

### UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN

Mike Colbrese presented a power point on the status of the healthy culture. He added that Pam Veltri and Al Falkner assisted in developing the rubric regarding healthy culture. Both the power point and the rubric will be on the Activities Matter portion of the website.

## **ECKC**

Andy Barnes reported that the UW football game against Rutgers has been moved from Saturday, September 2, to Friday, September 1, which could impact the availability of Husky Field for ECKC. Due to the uncertainty of facility availability, teams have not yet been secured.

## **LEGAL AND LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

John Olson reported that there are no new legal situations, but there are some ongoing issues. Staff is waiting for documents from the legal council representing the Sabbath schools and volleyball accommodation. He added that the trial date is set for May. A second issue involves the Skagit County soccer Association refusing to utilize Arbitrator.

## **NETWORKING WITH BASKETBALL COACHES**

Greg Whitmore shared that on December 18, 2016, he, Tim Thomsen and Pat McCarthy met with representatives of both the boys and girls basketball coaches association at the Snoqualmie School District office. As a result of that meeting, Joe Harris was added to the RPI committee. Tim added that the meeting was productive and felt it went a long way in developing good relations.

## **AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION (AFCA)**

Ross Hjelseth shared that the AFCA sent a statement to the NCAA that Friday nights should be reserved for high school football only.

## **NFHS**

Mike Colbrese shared that the recent NFHS Winter Meeting focused on media training, assisting schools in how to deal effectively with the media. NFHS is working on outreach and highlighting students.

## **FEATURES AND ARTICLES**

A series of articles and features of interest were provided to the Board.

## **REVIEW OF JANUARY BOARD MEETING ACTION**

Andy Barnes reviewed action taken by the Board during this meeting.

## **MEETING CONCLUSION**

- **Malich/Lindgren** moved to adjourn at 11:22 AM on Monday, January 30, 2017. MOTION PASSED.

Submitted by:

Eric McCurdy, WIAA Board President  
Mike Colbrese, WIAA Executive Director  
Cindy Adsit, Recorder

Next Meeting: March 18-19, 2017