

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION  
April 7, 2020**

President Francis called this administrative session of the Board of Directors to order at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom conferencing. Directors present: Francis, Ebeling, Dufoe, Fleshner, Kroemer, Boehmer, Fadness and Seivert. Attending from the state office: Berger, Brown, Ihnen, Ross, Eslinger and Brinkmeyer.

**Motion by Kroemer, second by Fleshner and unanimously approved to accept consent items 1) March 6, 2020 Board of Directors' minutes and 2) March 2020 financials.**

Executive Director Berger informed Directors that the IGHSAU filed an application to the Small Business Paycheck Protection Program. This federally funded program provides small businesses with funds to pay up to 8 weeks of payroll costs including benefits. Funds can also be used to pay rent and utilities. The funds are provided in the form of loans that will be fully forgiven when used for payroll costs, rent and utilities. Forgiveness is based on the employer maintaining or quickly rehiring employees and maintaining salary levels. Executive Director Berger informed Directors that the first application was filed with Wells Fargo Bank, which is the current financial institution providing banking services to the Athletic Union. That application was denied. A second application was filed with a small family-owned bank in State Center and was approved almost immediately. Directors suggested Executive Director Berger research the possibility of changing banking institutions. **Motion subsequently filed by Kroemer, second by Fadness and unanimously approved authorizing Executive Director Berger to apply and accept the Small Business Paycheck Protection Program funds provided through the federal government.**

Within the speech update, Executive Director Ihnen informed Directors that the IHSSA is ineligible for applying for the same funds because the association does not have employees. The two individuals working for the IHSSA are employed by the IGHSAU. Directors were also informed that the state speech contests were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to closure, schools were allowed to host local contests within their buildings with hired judges. Those students receiving an Outstanding rating will receive the respective recognition and award. Executive Director Ihnen has received numerous requests from schools asking to have virtual contests now that schools have been closed. Due to copyright issues, the requests have been denied for now. However, he is working with the various companies to obtain copyright approval for students to perform virtually. He believes approval will be given because it is the extension of the rights that schools had originally obtained. With a virtual contest, no one will be allowed in the room with the student and the performance will be judged virtually. The IHSSA Executive Committee recently met and within the meeting decided to cancel all spring district meetings and the annual June meeting. Because this is a rule review year, all rules will remain the same for one more year. The Executive Committee also discussed the possibility of not attending the annual NFHS conference.

The IGHSAU and IHSAA have been working on a contingency plan for spring sports since school closures were announced. Three goals were determined in establishing the contingency plan: 1) Keep students, schools and communities safe and stop the spread of COVID-19, 2) Offer spring and summer sports provided it can be done so safely, following CDC, state and local guidelines and policies and 3) Develop contingency plans which will offer students an opportunity to participate. Executive Director Berger then shared with Directors the plan if school resumes May 1, 2020. Because all spring sports are scheduled to begin practice on May 1, the largest concern is the overlap of students if the first practice date for softball remains May 1. Boehmer agrees and believes it will be more difficult for class 1A and 2A schools. According to QuickStats, the largest overlap involves students participating in track and softball. Francis is of the opinion that if the spring sports season is abbreviated, then the softball season will also have to be abbreviated. Fleshner is more concerned with the status of athletes when they return to sport competitions. The logistics of the season can be worked out, but the condition of students physically needs to be considered. How will the athletes handle competing in several track meets or playing a number soccer matches in a week? The academic piece also needs consideration. Students will be expected to keep up with the rigors of their academics, which could be heavy since they have been out of school since mid-March and then expected to play several nights a week in the various competitions. Executive Director Berger is of the opinion that rescheduling and the limitation of contests during this time should be left to the local school district. The IGHSAU and IHSAA did discuss that once the kids are back in school, it would be difficult to expect them to miss school by leaving early for competitions. Ross stated that he believes the athletic directors will be able to handle the situation because they know the kids in their school. Ross also shared with Directors that Drake University is holding open alternative dates (June 4-6) for state track and field championships. Another option for state track might be to hold the meet at single sites with each class competing at a different high school facility. Two classes would compete on one day and the other two classes the next day. Executive Director Berger inquired about the availability of school facilities if school is cancelled the rest of the year even if on-line or distance learning is being utilized. All Directors stated that until recommendations for social distancing are lifted, their school facilities will be closed. Directors discussed what to do if the Governor extends school closings past April 30. It is anticipated that the Governor will announce her recommendations within the next week. If schools are closed for the remainder of the school year, management of the IGHSAU and IHSAA will meet and jointly make recommendations to respective Boards.

State basketball review/evaluations were discussed by Directors. The evaluations were provided Directors in advance of this administrative session. Feedback overall was positive. There was an overwhelming response to retain the autograph basketballs. Fadness voiced the need to continue discussing the possibility of purchasing a new basketball floor. Executive Director Berger indicated she contacted Connor Flooring, which provides flooring for the NCAA basketball tournaments, and was told there is a waiting list to purchase floors that were used during tournaments. The research will continue.

Directors reviewed 2020 budget reflecting updates on spring sports. Executive Director Berger assured Directors that we will get through this fiscal year, but may have to make some decisions involving the Board of Directors and Representative Council annual June

meeting as well as the annual NFHS conference. Within discussion, Ebeling advised Executive Director Berger to stay the course and make adjustments as needed. Ebeling further stated that in this time, it is probably wise to not attend the NFHS conference. Fleshner agreed with Ebeling's opinion as did Dufoe. Ihnen stated that the IHSSA Executive Committee will discuss not attending this year's NFHS conference at its next meeting.

Directors reviewed the Iowa Department of Education COVID-19 Guidance on Continuous Learning. Schools have two options for continued learning during this time— Voluntary Educational Enrichment and Required Educational Services. Management shared with Directors the state office is receiving numerous inquires about athletic eligibility. The four activity organizations met with the DPE sharing eligibility questions and concerns. They suggested allowing students involved in eligibility situations to be eligible in the fall. A list of pros and cons regarding the questions will be developed by the four activity organizations and provided to the Department of Education for review. Questions also have been received regarding sports physicals. A sports physical is valid for one calendar year. A grace period not to exceed 30 calendar days is allowed. The DPE has asked and is waiting for a response from the Governor to extend the grace period an additional 30 days. Discussion ensued regarding the NCAA Clearinghouse and if they will accept a pass-fail course for athletes. Executive Director Berger indicated she has visited with a few university compliance officers and they are waiting for an answer from the NCAA. She learned that they are more concerned with GPA scores at this time.

The approved 2020-2021 Unified Calendar wherein the "Family Week," July 25-Augst 1, 2021 is reflected was briefly discussed.

**There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. through a motion by Boehmer, second by Travis and unanimously approved.**

Karon Brown  
Senior Associate Director