

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION
April 11, 2018**

President Dufoe called this administrative session of the Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. Directors present: Dufoe, Ebeling, Zittergruen, Francis, Kroemer, Boehmer, Seivert and Fadness. Attending from the state office: Berger, Brown, Ihnen, Ross, Eslinger and Brinkmeyer.

Motion by Francis, second by Kroemer and unanimously approved by all Directors present to approve consent items: March 2, 2018 Board of Directors' minutes and March 2018 financials.

The state office received a letter from Woodward Academy requesting membership into the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union. Ross indicated Woodward Academy expressed interest in participating in IGHSAU sanctioned competitions during the 2017-2018 school year. They would like to create equitable opportunities to participate in athletics just as they have over the years for the young men that have resided at Woodward Academy. **After brief discussion, motion by Kroemer, second by Boehmer and unanimously approved by all Directors present to accept Woodward Academy as a member of the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union effective the 2017-18 school year.**

Ross reviewed several items related to post-season basketball tournaments. Attendance at the state tournament was slightly below budget. It was noted that the games at the state tournament were all competitive except one. New this year—each state tournament qualifying coach and every player were given a questionnaire inquiring of their experience at the state tournament. Coaches were asked to rate their experience in several areas including: 1) pre-state tournament materials and information 2) tournament facilities 3) tournament services 4) awards and 5) officiating. Participants were asked to rate 1) tournament facilities 2) tournament services and 3) awards. Ross reviewed the results and also some of the comments received. Overall, the responses were positive. Directors expressed appreciation for the staff's efforts in continuing to make the tournament fresh. The pink brick road, "Ticket Punched" banners, selfie stations, etc. were all great additions.

Berger reviewed timeline for the softball season, which included release dates for: memos, classification, tournament manual and regional pairings.

Informational items related to track and field: Track and field state qualifying assignments were released on May 10th. A copy was provided to Directors. Ross indicated that due to the cold, rainy and snowy weather there are parts of the state where teams have yet to compete in a meet. Because GoFan electronic ticketing worked well at the state softball tournament, state swimming meet and the co-ed bowling tournament, it will be used at the state co-ed track and field meet. Spectators can purchase tickets in advance utilizing GoFan. This should streamline ticketing procedures. Purchasing a ticket when you arrive at the stadium will continue to be an option. Two representatives from GoFan will be on site all three days to assist with any situations that may occur. There will be an area on the corner outside the stadium where spectators will have their electronic ticket verified and receive a wristband. Electronic tickets will be available May 1.

Soccer informational items: Jim Albertson from Marion has been contracted as Coordinator of Soccer Officials. Albertson will serve as the IGHSAU liaison for soccer officials in Iowa. He will be responsible for the identification, training, evaluation and selection of officials for the IGHSAU soccer postseason series. Albertson will work with officials' organizations, conference and local assigning groups and will be the primary contact for NFHS rule interpretations.

Brinkmeyer informed Directors that effective this soccer season, the Athletic Union is implementing a soccer survey project to gather information from coaches and officials following each of their games. It will be a 12-question form to be completed by the coach and official following each soccer game.

The 2018 state soccer tournament schedule has been adjusted. This year all matches will begin one hour earlier than in previous years. The first match of the day will begin at 11:00 a.m. rather than noon. Class 1A will play its championship on Saturday, June 9 at 10:00 a.m., class 2A at 12:30 p.m. and class 3A at 3:00 p.m. The change allows management more flexibility in case of weather issues.

Brinkmeyer brought Directors up to date on the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. The deadline for applications was April 3. Sixty-two applications from across the state were received. There was a nice mix of sophomores to seniors among the applicants. The committee will be comprised of 11 members--two from each of the four districts and three at-large positions. Committee members should be selected by May 1. The staff has discussed various ways in which committee members could be utilized and gain valuable experience. One idea is for committee members to attend state tournaments in various capacities—similar to an internship.

Due to the Joint Committee being unable to meet during the IHSADA Convention, discussion is being conducted between the IGHSAU and IHSAA on the possibility of meeting during the state co-ed track and field meet. Traditionally, the committee also meets during the state baseball tournament. Boehmer created an agenda that was shared with Directors. Within review, Berger asked Directors to contact her if additional items should be added prior to the next meeting.

The new IGHSAU website was launched last month. Overall, the feedback has been positive and staff is very pleased with the outcome. Eslinger shared with Directors that every effort was made to ensure the ease of use. During the IHSADA Convention, Eslinger met with administrative assistants and athletic directors to review and provide instruction on utilizing the website. All forms can now be completed online and submitted.

Berger informed Directors that she recently met with Dave Jesse, IGHSAU financial advisor. She reviewed documentation received from Jesse reflecting investments and returns. Within discussion, Fadness expressed opinion that we need to be certain that our funds are invested in companies that are reflective of IGHSAU values.

Seivert arrived at 10:00 a.m.

During the March administrative session, Directors asked Berger to meet with her team to determine which items from the Ad Hoc Committee's "Long-term Strategic Planning" and "Continued Investigation" recommendations should be first priority. The staff determined that 1) implementation of a state-mandated break in the calendar 2) the structure of post-season schedule-format, schedule and length and 3) possible movement of sport(s) from spring to fall

from “Continued Investigation” category and number of contests/length of season from the “Long-Term Strategic Planning” receive first consideration. Within discussion, Berger mentioned that the IHSAA is also interested in researching the implementation of a state-mandated break in the calendar. Directors supported and are comfortable with the staff pursuing the aforementioned items.

In an effort to eliminate double-jeopardy as related to the scholarship rule, the Executive Directors from the four activity organizations are going to meet to discuss ways in which this may be accomplished. The IGHSAAU and the IHSAA follow Iowa Code that states if a student is not passing all classes at the end of a final grading period, the student is ineligible for the first 30 calendar days in the athletic event in which the student participates. Although the Iowa Code does not mention the Iowa High School Speech Association and the Iowa High School Music Association, the organizations follow a somewhat similar rule where the participant will sit out the first 30 days of the next grading period. Numerous schools follow this same policy as it relates to clubs, cheerleading, dance, FFA, etc. Double-jeopardy arises when a student becomes academically ineligible and must sit out the first 30 days of the next grading period for music or speech activities and then during an athletic season in which the student participates, another 30 days is required by Iowa Code.

Berger shared with Directors that a survey was sent to softball coaches asking for input regarding the state softball tournament format. After analyzing feedback, a new state softball tournament schedule was developed. Changes include having quarter-final losers play one more game rather than two and have three championship games played on Thursday evening and two Friday evening rather than all five in one day. It is the opinion of management that these changes will create momentum throughout the week and culminate with championships. Hopefully, these changes will also increase attendance. After discussion, the consensus of Directors was to move forward with the changes and conduct a review following the tournament.

The Board of Directors recognized Kroemer for being named IGCA Administrator of the Year, Eslinger for receiving the Jerry Wetzel Award which is given by the IGCA and Ihnen who will receive the NFHS Citation Award in the Speech/Debate/Theatre category this summer during the annual convention.

Seivert provided a legislative update.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Karon Brown
Associate Director