

Proposed Minutes of the Special Board Meeting  
August 24, 2021

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President Van Sickler called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Members present: Alexander, Caudill, Davis, Herman, Palmer, Van Sickler, Zinn

Members absent: None

Administrators present: Hubbard, Reedy, Warner

Administrators absent: Groulx, Simpson

Visitors present: Coach Ty Warczinsky, Stephanie Daley, Coach Dan Ryckman

Guest Recognition: Ty Warczinsky, 720 S. Pine River Rd, Ithaca - New Varsity Boys Basketball Coach. He has worked 15 plus years with youth through child advocacy. He offered a program for a couple of years working with kids. An example: kids caught vaping can get a lesser discipline if they enter his program. He talked about what kids are going through and the challenges they are facing. Ty said it is too easy to access marijuana, drugs etc. He would like to make it easier for kids to access athletics and play sports. This keeps them on the right track. He appreciates the board having this discussion today.

Dan Ryckman, 11681 E. Fleck Rd., Riverdale - He would like to talk to the board about his beliefs. His beliefs used to be at the very top. Now with today's society it is too easy to take the easy way out. After last year kids are not going to come out and play sports. Once they are ineligible they are not going to try again. What can we do as a community to push the kids to try harder?

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Caudill, support by Zinn to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion CARRIED 7-0

1. New Business

1. Athletic Eligibility

Hubbard explained that he had a different interpretation of the MHSAA 60 day waiver. He apologized for the confusion. Back in January the board waived the 2.0 for the rest of the winter and spring sports. Hubbard explained that there was some confusion at the August meeting with the MHSAA 60 day waiver. With Covid we are trying to do what is best for kids and to navigate new territory. This was the basis for making the decision in January to allow the kids to play the rest of the spring. Those same kids are now ineligible for fall sports with the same grades. There are two issues, what do we do for our fall athletes and what do we do moving forward. Hubbard's recommendation is that we use the MHSAA eligibility guidelines for this school year. Hubbard stated we will continue to do grade checks to keep kids accountable. Reedy stated all student/athletes start with a fresh start this year. Ryckman stated that 50% of

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the student body was ineligible at the end of the school year. Reedy said he is on the same page with Hubbard and the coaches. We want to do what is best for the kids. This is about any kid that wants to play a sport, the opportunity to play. The theory behind the 2.0 GPA is great to want to push the student/athlete to do their best, but the reality is that we are pushing the kids away. Herman is all for changing, but she liked the fact that we had higher expectations. Hubbard stated that the kids that didn't make 2.0 gave up. He would rather have them with us because they might not have parental support at home. Davis agrees with Carol, she does believe that we need to follow the MHSAA guidelines for this year. But in the future how are we going to help these kids to reach their academic goals. Zinn and Palmer both agree that kids need sports. Hubbards recommends that the student athletes start out fresh for this school year and we will start doing grade checks. Hubbard suggested that Reedy put together an athletic council to review the policy and bring this back to the board. The committee could consist of board members, staff, parents. Reedy met with the other Athletic Directors in our league and all of them are following the MHSAA guidelines. Everyone feels that the kids need the opportunity to play. Warner believes that we went through a time that we have never been through before. Kids come to school to play sports. The leadership and coaching they receive playing sports will help them through life. Zinn would like to be on the committee for the athletic policies, he would like to lower the grade expectations but raise the standards for their behavior. Motion by Zinn, support by Alexander to follow the MHSAA guidelines for this school year. Roll call: Alexander - yes, Caudill - yes, Davis - yes, Herman - yes, Palmer - yes, Van Sickler - yes, Zinn - yes

Zinn would like the athletic committee to have everyone that has a vested interest in sports. Van Sickler would like that if a student is ineligible after grade checks that we are doing something to help the student get back on track. Palmer talked about youth sports and that sometimes they are burned out before they get to high school. Ryckman stated that it is not youth sports that ruin it for kids, it is bad coaches.

2. Guest Recognition: Stephanie Dailey, 6700 Newcomb Rd., Edmore - She appreciates the board doing this. She agrees with everything the board has said. Not all kids have the support at home and she knows that if her son didn't have the support he could go down the wrong path. She appreciates the board showing their support for the kids to play.

Motion by Alexander, support by Zinn to adjourn at 9:32 a.m.  
Motion CARRIED 7-0

Karen S. Grover  
Recording Secretary