

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
Minutes of October 27, 2016 Board Meeting

Members present: V. Smith, B. Fortier, K. Snider, I. O'Hearn, H. Valentine  
Via conference call: D. Hummel, R. Hawley, R. Amell and G. Hill  
Absent: K. Lucchesi

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM

1665 Adjustment to Agenda

With board member, Greg Hill, arriving late to the meeting, the agenda was adjusted to make sure all members were present to discuss league alignment.

1666 Replacement of Executive Secretary

Vern updated the board on the status of seeking someone to replace Kathi as Executive Secretary. Catie Larsen is a former board member (vice president) of the Tahoma Lacrosse Club and is a teacher in the Kent School District. Catie served as the VP when Vern was coaching and he found her to be very well organized and had the ability to keep things on schedule. He endorsed her for the job.

After brief discussion, the board approved the hiring of Catie Larsen as the WHSBLA Executive Secretary. Catie will receive the current stipend for Executive Secretary. Vern will contact both Catie and Kathi to discuss the transition and ask that both be present at the next board meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

1667 Tax Update

Vern distributed the draft tax return prepared by our accountant for the 2015 fiscal year ending on June 30, 2016. Vern will contact Oliveira CPA to update the firm on the WHSBLA address.

1668 Henry Johnson Appeal

Board member, Henry Valentine, gave an update on the status of the Henry Johnson appeal. H.V. agreed that he would be on the appeal board. The WHSBLA board will also solicit two ADs to serve on the appeal board with him.

Ian will contact the Mercer Island AD and Rod will contact the Curtis AD asking them to serve on the appeal review board.

1669 Transfer Requests Update

Transfer requests have been received by Sean and Max Walsh and by Danny Sawyer. No progress has been made on these requests. Henry will forward his recommendations to the full board within a week.

#### 1670 Talon Kohler Eligibility Review - Rogers

Brandon informed the board of a letter submitted by the Rogers program stating that Talon Kohler is eligible to play sports for Rogers HS. They submitted the letter because Talon lives in the Emerald Ridge boundaries but has already been approved by the Puyallup School District to attend Rogers and play sports for the Rogers athletic program. Rogers was informed that if Talon does not attend Rogers HS as a 10<sup>th</sup> grader, the letter becomes void.

#### 1671 Gig Harbor Eligibility Question

Rob brought up a question he received from Gig Harbor regarding eligibility. They have a player who resides in the Gig Harbor school district but attends Charles Wright, a school without a lacrosse program. Rob advised and the board agreed that Gig Harbor need not submit a transfer request. The player is eligible to play for Gig Harbor.

#### 1672 Championship Committee Status Report

The Championship Committee has yet to meet or discuss the 2017 season championships. Ian was assured that Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, was reserved by Starfire for the championships. Problems with car vandalism were discussed. Kris confirmed that there were problems at the recent college game as well as confirmed vandalism at the 2016 championship game. Ian will inquire about adding security to the event to include two officers working the parking lot and two officers working in the stands/field.

#### 1673 Team Registration – Coaches Packets

The pros and cons of having teams submitting electronic documents were discussed and Henry agreed to look into it further. It was suggested that publicly addressing and fining programs that are out of compliance might help with getting programs to submit. As an alternative, Vern agreed to contact some of the larger soccer organizations to see what they do for their team registrations.

#### 1674 Orting Lacrosse Update

The status of the Orting Lacrosse program was discussed. Brandon will contact Orting for follow-up information.

#### 1675 Chiawana Lacrosse Update

The status of Chiawana Lacrosse was discussed and Dylan mentioned they may be looking at only fielding a JV team for the 2017 season. Brandon will contact the program and discuss this option with them.

#### 1676 Coaches Clinic

Ian announced that several coaches have agreed to head a coach's clinic following the league membership meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

## 1677 Scheduling Update

Brandon noted that the regional representatives need to identify their scheduling person as soon as possible. The first draft of a schedule should be ready to go out by Dec. 1.

## 1678 League Alignment

Prior to the October board meeting, the board had the opportunity to review and discuss potential league alignment options including those presented to the full membership.

A new option was presented by Brandon which reflected feedback he had gathered from coaches who attended the fall Membership meeting.

This new option (termed "option C") keeps the conference alignments as they are presently set, divides programs into D1/D2 to allow for competitive games, and creates 4 championships: 4A, 3A, 1A/2A, and a Private "A" championship.

1. As presented, 8 private schools will compete for the Private "A" championship and the remaining 3 private schools (1A and 2A schools) will compete in the 1A/2A playoffs.
2. Teams will be moved from D1 and D2 based on the previous season's performance and the small 1A/2A privates may be moved into the Private "A" playoffs if they become dominant in 1A/2A playoffs.

After Brandon presented this new proposal, each board member was asked to discuss their preference between the options previously presented at the Membership meeting and this new Option C:

Rob expressed his concerns and opposition to the formation of a Private School Championship, fearing that putting them into their own playoff would only encourage the very player movement we are attempting to address.

Dylan, while generally in favor of Option C, expressed his opposition to allowing the 3 smaller private school teams to compete against public school teams for the 1A/2A championship.

Rod expressed his general support for the newly offered Option C.

Henry expressed his support for the newly offered Option C.

Greg expressed his general support for the newly offered Option C.

Kris presented detailed arguments against the need for separating the private from the public school teams for playoffs and/or championships. He pointed out that these arguments reflected both his personal view as well as the view of the Metro teams he

represents. Kris argued the 'numbers' did not justify the concern expressed by other board members regarding private schools dominating the competition. Private schools are not overly represented in the playoffs, semi-finals, or as champions in either DI or DII. He expressed there is simply no evidence that the privates were gaining an unfair advantage. Kris proposed that if the board is concerned with improper recruiting, the focus should be on a particular offending school and to not lump all privates in the offender category. He also disputed the notion that players are self-recruiting to some of the private schools and that until the WIAA did something like is being proposed, then WHSBLA should hold off.

Ian spoke in favor of Option C and listed counter arguments to the points that Kris made.

Vern spoke last, focusing on the need for the board consensus and the importance of a level playing field for all programs. He disagreed with Rob's concern that team shopping will only become worse if we give the private school teams their own championship. He also disagreed with Kris that either coach recruiting or player self-recruiting was not already a problem in high school lacrosse. He pointed out that over the last three years the top 7 private school teams had the following in-conference records: 2014: 34-31; 2015: 47-16; 2016: 52-13. Finally, Vern pointed out that the WIAA was struggling with this very problem, but lacked the will to take action.

#### 1679 League Alignment Decision

Based on the preferences expressed during the discussion, a vote was requested on the issue of approving Option C as the WHSBLA league alignment with the caveat that, if passed, the board would then look at whether or not all private school teams would go into their own playoffs or if the 3 small privates would compete in the 1A/2A playoffs.

- a. Voting for Option C: Dylan, Rod, Henry, Ian, Brandon, Vern, Greg
- b. Voting against Option C: Rob, Kris
- c. Voting to allow the three 1A/2A private school teams to compete in the 1A/2A playoffs: Rod, Henry, Ian, Brandon, Vern, Greg
- d. Voting against allowing the three 1A/2A private school teams to compete in the 1A/2A playoffs: Rob, Dylan, Kris

#### 1680 November Board Meeting

The November meeting of the WHSBLA board is set for Tuesday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Kathi Lucchesi (for Vern Smith)