

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
Minutes of June 6, 2013 Board Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM – at Mercer Island High School

Attending: R. Hawley, B. Fortier, H. Valentine, K. Snider, I. O'Hearn, G. Hill, K. Lucchesi, and P. White (via Skype)

Guests in attendance: Candace Kolbas, Annie Ackerman-Brown, Allen Johnson, Karen Woo, and Rob Phillips

1397 Richland Program Update

Guests from the Richland program in attendance: Annie Ackerman-Brown, Interim Board President (Three Rivers Lacrosse); and Candace Kolbas, Former Board Member (Three Rivers Lacrosse)

I. O'Hearn gave an update and background on conversations held with Richland Head Coach, Kirk Bachison, in regards to the future of the Richland program. The status of the program's roster size and numbers of youth players throughout the club was discussed in regards to viability of a potential second high school team as part of the WHSBLA league.

Annie Ackerman-Brown asked to address the board. She reported that there are 52 high school players identified as returning to the Richland program next season and a growing number of youth players. Demographics were looked at relative to the high schools and school districts represented by the current Richland team.

It was reported that although there have been some recent changes to the Three Rivers Lacrosse Club Board, there are active members and coaches interested in creating a second high school team for the betterment of lacrosse in the area. After looking at the demographics, it was agreed that it would make the most sense to create a new program in the Kennewick School District. The potential addition of a Kennewick team was met with favor by the WHSBLA Board. A letter to that effect shall be sent to the Richland board.

1398 Sammamish-Newport Program Update

I.O'Hearn gave an update on the potential split of the Sammamish-Newport program. It was reported that the roster numbers are adequate and there is a large amount of support for the program to split in to two high school teams. With the larger number of Newport High School players, it was determined that it would make sense to change the name of the existing program to "Newport" and accept a new program, "Sammamish-Interlake" in to the league as a new DII team.

The WHSBLA board will follow up with a letter to the Sammamish-Newport board acknowledging support for the name change to "Newport" and the formation of a second team. I.O'Hearn offered to meet with the school district staff to help answer any questions they might have.

#### 1399 O'Dea, Garfield, SAAS Update

Guests, Karen Woo (Garfield parent) and Rob Phillips (SAAS Administrator) were present at the meeting to learn more about the direction of these teams, in particular to where existing players would be required to play.

A discussion was held regarding the status of the Metro area programs following the removal of the Seattle Addendum. It was reported that there is good reason to believe that O'Dea will field a team for the 2014 season. It was suggested that if SAAS were to form a team, they could develop a formal partnership with other schools. There was concern raised about making sure that every student has a place to play. It was acknowledged that although WHSBLA aligns with WIAA policy as much as possible, there are variations to ensure that everyone gets to play whether their school has a team or not.

Much discussion followed about how to move on from here. The board agreed to have some answers to these questions by July 1. In summary: O'Dea looks to start a new team; SAAS is in the best position to form a team while others possibly join in formal partnership; A meeting of Metro coaches will soon follow to get input to help in decision making; There is board support for an SAAS program.

#### 1400 Metro Coaches Meeting

K. Snider explained that the idea of a Metro area coaches meeting is to gather feedback and ideas with possible recommendations to help make informative decisions. It was noted by the board that there is value in sitting down to get viewpoints from constituents and provide transparency with board actions. Coaches have asked board members for clarification as well as a chance to be heard. Such a meeting will be set to take place in the next few weeks before the board reconvenes to make decisions regarding Metro area teams.

#### 1401 University Prep Players

Guest, Allen Johnson, the Nathan Hale Board President, was in attendance to give some background information about their program.

Similar to the item about concerning SAAS players aligned to Garfield, the alignment of University Prep students with Nathan Hale was discussed at length. B. Fortier gave background information about the Seattle Addendum. Discussion followed about how to keep within guidelines while transitioning players. It was decided that a vote on the matter would wait until after the Metro area coaches meeting so that feedback could be gathered.

#### 1402 Bylaws Change Proposed

It was suggested that the WHSBLA Bylaws be amended to include email votes as official policy of the board. Notice will go out to the general membership by mid-August about the proposed change.

#### 1403 DII Coaches Meeting

It was announced that similar to the Metro area meeting, Rob, Kris and Greg plan to meet with the Division II coaches prior to the September board meeting to gather feedback and input regarding DII league alignment and playoff structure.

#### 1404 Illegal Uniforms

It was reported that at least 6 teams were out of compliance for the 2013 season in regards to uniforms. The WHSBLA board had given teams a 3 year grace period to come in to compliance and that deadline has now passed. Sanctions were discussed for uniform violations for the 2014 season. It was also suggested that a letter be sent from the WHSBLA board to companies that provide uniforms to local teams quoting the NFHS uniform regulations. I. O'Hearn agreed to draft such a letter.

#### 1405 Program Audit Summary

It was reported by B. Fortier that there were a number of repeated offenses found for paperwork violations and missed payment deadlines. Discussion followed as to how to stop such offenses from occurring each year including further sanctions against offending programs.

#### 1406 Coaching Certification

It was brought up that in requiring all coaches to have a certain level of clock hours to be in compliance, the board has no way to verify those hours are met. It was suggested that coaching certification be changed to something easier to verify such as US Lacrosse Level 1 being mandatory for all coaches. The matter will be tabled until the August board meeting.

#### 1407 Compete With Class Initiative 2014

K. Snider reported that this first year with the Compete With Class Initiative went well. The WHSBLA board will have to decide whether or not to continue the program. The item was tabled until the August board meeting.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Kathi Lucchesi

Executive Secretary/Treasurer