

## **NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION**

Advisory Committee for Middle Level Activities

Minutes of October 6, 2009 Meeting

The Advisory Committee for Middle Level Activities met on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, 10:00 a.m. at the NSAA Offices.

Committee members present were Brian Tonniges, York Middle School; Rich Bacon, Johnson County Central High School; Roger Severson, Bellevue Public Schools; Lisa Schroeder, Ralston Middle School; Rocky Ruhl, Wayne High School; Beth Nelson, Newman Grove High School; Lonny Polacek, Kearney Horizon Middle School; Dave Barrett, Adams Central High School; Alan Garey, Medicine Valley Public Schools; Grant Norgaard, McCook Public Schools; Bruce Parish, Chadron High School; Doyle Christensen, Alliance St. Agnes Academy; and NSAA staff members Dr. Jim Tenopir, Debra Velder, and Jennifer Schwartz.

Committee members were welcomed and appreciation was expressed for their willingness to serve on this committee. Dr. Tenopir explained that the purpose of this committee was advisory and any issues relating to change would require approval of the NSAA Board of Control and/or the NSAA membership.

It was moved by Bruce Parish and seconded by Rocky Ruhl that members of the Advisory Committee for Middle Level Activities be elected at the annual January district meetings beginning in January 2011. The term of office shall be three years and shall commence on August 1 succeeding the date of election. An alternate member of the Advisory Committee for Middle Level Activities shall be chosen in each district to succeed to membership on the Advisory Committee for Middle Level Activities in case of a vacancy in the district represented. The alternate member shall serve as the member of the Advisory Committee for Middle Level Activities of the district represented in all interschool controversies in which the member from that district has a special or personal interest. Motion carried 6-0.

(The term of service will correspond to the current NSAA Board of Control member: District I – 2012; District II – 2012; District III – 2013; District IV – 2011; District V – 2011; District VI – 2013.)

Current regulations found in NSAA Bylaw Article 9, "Middle Level Activities" were discussed. Items specifically addressed were:

1. Bylaw 9.2, "Membership." It was agreed that each district middle level advisory member act as the junior high/middle school representative for the schools in his/her legislative district and assist with the introduction and explanation of middle level legislative proposals.
2. Bylaw 9.8, "Contest Limitations." Currently, the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 10 and Rule 14 outline the number of permissible contests for seventh and eighth grade. The contest limits found in NSAA Bylaw 9.8 can not be implemented until the language is changed in the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 10 and Rule 14.
3. Bylaw 9.10, "Cooperative Sponsorship." It was moved by Bruce Parish and seconded by Rocky Ruhl to introduce a legislative proposal at the November district meetings to permit member junior high/middle schools to enter into a cooperative sharing agreement with another member or non-member junior high/middle school. Motion carried 6-0.
4. Bylaw 9.6, "Sunday Competition." The NSAA Board of Control has adopted an approved ruling to allow schools to compete on Sunday provided the local junior high/middle school has a policy permitting such activity.
5. Bylaw 9.1, "Purpose." The primary goal of the seventh and eighth grade activities program is participation such that interscholastic competition be only for seventh and eighth graders. The Nebraska Department of Education Rule 4.02C states, "nonpublic elementary schools having seventh and eighth grade athletics may include fifth and sixth grade students if the

local governing body has a policy regulating participation.” Because the Nebraska Department of Education permits the use of sixth graders, a member nonpublic junior high/middle school may petition the NSAA Board of Control for a waiver to use sixth graders when needed to field seventh and eighth grade teams.

6. Participation by home-schooled students at the middle level. Under NSAA Bylaws it is permissible for home-schooled students to participate in seventh and eighth activities programs. Local school policies could be more restrictive.

Due to the fact that no fee is required to join the NSAA junior high/middle school membership, catastrophic insurance will not be provided by the NSAA for seventh and eighth grade activities participation. Each school is responsible for obtaining its own catastrophic insurance.

It was suggested that a database be developed by the NSAA to assist member junior high/middle schools in determining participation eligibility for those seventh and eighth grade students who are fifteen prior to August 1.

The committee expressed its commitment to develop rules which help govern and provide structure for junior high/middle school activities programs while also allowing for the local needs of the junior high/middle schools to be met.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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Jennifer A. Schwartz, Assistant Director