

KPSAA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

KPSAA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 25, 2021

10am-12pm

Virtual Meeting (via Zoom)

I. Call to Order

10:05 am

II. Roll Call

Name	Title / Role	Present Y/N
Dan Beck	President / Middle School Representative (2021)	Y@10:20
Dan Carstens	Vice President / Secondary Administrator (2022)	Y
Kari Dendurent	KPSAA Executive Secretary	Y
Jeff Ambrosier	Secretary / K-12 Schools Representative (2022)	Y
Mike Illg	Board of Education Representative	Y
Teala Lund	Parent Representative (2023)	Y
Kyle McFall	Activities Representative (2022)	Y
Al Plan	Representative at Large (2022)	Y
Jesse Settlemyer	High School Representative (2021)	Y
Bill Withrow	Elementary School Representative (2021)	Y
Mary Blossom	Admin. Secretary (non-voting)	Y

A. Guest Attendees:

Eric Simonsen, Homer Middle & Homer High School Band Teacher

III. Approval of November 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Mike Illg

Second: Teala Lund

Amendments: None

Motion carried, Unanimous

IV. Approval of February 25, 2021 Agenda with Flexibility to Accommodate Guest Attendee

Motion: Jeff Ambrosier

Second: Al Plan

Amendments: None

Motion carried, Unanimous

V. Executive Secretary Report/Communications

A. Approval to add ESports Club Status at Soldotna High, Non-stipend

B. Approval of Chapman adding Cross Country Skiing, Grades 6-8

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- C. Approval of Nikiski waiver to allow 6th grade to participate with MS Volleyball B Team
- D. Approval for Homer High to allow basketball game times to start at 3:00 for enhanced mitigation and allow visiting teams to get home earlier
- E. Approval to add Esports Club status at KCHS, Non-stipend
- F. Approval to add Intramural Volleyball Club Status at Skyview, Non-stipend

Kari also reported on a conversation with Matt Widaman (CTE Coordinator) about Adding FFA (Future Farmers of America) to Seward High School. This activity would come from a direct stipend from CTE and not overseen by KPSAA. Mr. Widaman will reach out to all the high schools regarding the program.

As a reminder, there will be an academic stipend review in June. We will be looking at adding a stipend for yearbook at middle schools. Equity will be looked at across the board for elementary, middle and high schools.

Mike Illg asked for athletic director feedback from Kenai and Soldotna regarding their Esports Clubs.

*Kenai: Jesse reported difficulties in having computers that can actually run the games. Need upgrades to 15 computers to run in person practices. Had conversations with Matt Widaman on getting CTE help. Coaches are lined up, looking at start up in the fall.

* SoHi: Kyle noted similar conversations with Matt Widaman, in which he tried to give some direction to help speed up the process. SoHi is also on pause due to roadblock with IT, need the technology to run the program. Coach is ready, but at a standstill. Unsure who to reach out to at this point.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. @ 11:00 – Eric Simonsen, High School Festival Coordinator / Solo Ensemble Festival
Mr. Simonsen addressed the board with a little bit of background information, and reported last year's high turnover in music teachers at the secondary level. In terms of the music festivals, high school offers honor choir (October), mass choir (February) in separate festivals, and honor and mass band (April) combined in a single festival. Each festival has a music coordinator responsible for the audition process, securing clinicians, and purchasing and distributing music.

Mr. Simonsen offered two proposals: one for the current (2020-21) school year and another for next (2021-22) school year.

Proposals for current school year (2020-21) include:

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1. Promptly hiring coordinators for KPBSD Honor Choir and Band. This would allow exposure for new music teachers in following traditional procedures for borough honor groups. In addition, coordinators would schedule and plan a borough level Honor Choir and Honor Band festival event.

2. Coordinate borough level solo and ensemble festivals for choir and band. Schedule the event at an appropriate date to comply with ASAA deadlines. Similar to ASAA's All-State selection process, students would submit recorded auditions, student auditions would be adjudicated, and ensembles would be selected. Students would receive recognition for their selection. Presumably, this event would be held via Zoom.

Proposals for 2021-22 include:

1. Switching festival dates for high school honor choir and mass choir (mass choir would now be held in October at KCHS and honor choir would move to February).
2. Splitting the existing high school band festival into two festivals (creating a new either honor or mass band coordinator position). Keep the high school mass band festival at the same time (April) and location already scheduled, and move the high school honor band to join the high school honor choir festival. Having both honor festivals simultaneously allows for a concert of appropriate length. High school band students would have equal opportunity to participate in borough-sponsored events as their choir peers.
3. Create a KPSAA sponsored solo and ensemble festival to be held in accordance with ASAA guidelines in April, bringing KPBSD more in line with other districts. This would be a combined band and choir festival. KPSAA would establish a student participation fee that will pay to hire adjudicators. Create two new coordinator positions: high school band solo and ensemble, and high school choir solo and ensemble festival coordinators responsible for the planning and organization of the festival.

The board thanked Eric for the time he put into the proposals. Dan B. stated the procedure and the timing needed for handbook language changes for proposal #2 and #3. The process will not be completed and approved for the 2021-22 school year. Kari will reach out to the high school administrators and solicit their feedback. She will pass on the information to the board. Going forward and revisiting the other two proposals including the language changes will need support and recommendations from the other music teachers.

- B. Spring Student Council Meeting – 2021. Kari received an email regarding the Student Council meeting. She noted there should be a spring meeting held, as that is when the Student Council Representative is seated on the Board of Education for 2021-22

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school year. The meeting last spring was pushed to the fall 2020 due to COVID. Soldotna High is on the rotation for holding the spring meeting. Kyle will reach out to Homer High for information since they held the fall meeting. With recognition of having a fall event, KPSAA is supportive of resuming this spring calendar activity.

- C. Skyview Track & Field, Request to Additional Range 4 Stipend for 100+ - Kari Dendurent.

Kari shared with the board a specific example for MS track at Skyview operating in excess of 100 participants over the last three years with only 3 adult coaches. She will be approving the Skyview request for an additional Range 4 stipend, which will be paid from the school's 710 activity account. She expressed the importance of continuing to put the guideline numbers forward for school board approval. The supervision of such large numbers does lend to safety and liability factors. Mike noted there would be an additional round of federal funding and will look into the possibility of using some of that funding for stipend expansion, with the purpose of supporting student activity.

- D. Middle School Wrestling – Mike Illg

Mike shared he is not clear if MS wrestling will happen this year. In the event it is cancelled, he asked to discuss if the middle school wrestlers could practice with a local high school team if it is safe to do so. He expressed interest in allowing wrestlers a way to be active in their sport. The board likes the idea, but discussed various viewpoints on the matter. Including who is responsible for tracking the numbers, level of supervision, facility issues, mitigation plan, etc. If KPSAA feels strongly, the topic should be discussed with leadership at the district level. Kari will reach out to the middle school principals to get the numbers and check on feasibility. Mike thanked the board for considering this item.

- E. Draft Language for Adding Esports to HS Handbook, Move to Action for Vote

Kari explained the process for adding an activity, including the applicable stipend and school board approval.

Mike introduced the preliminary language as presented to the board. ASAA outsources this activity to a company called PlayVS, and they coordinate the entire program. Key points presented - two seasons, sanctioned games, participation (including eligibility), playoffs and tournaments.

At this point, the board paused this discussion to hear testimony from Guest Attendee, Eric Simonsen (Discussion Item A).

Returning to the Esports discussion, Mike stated he was looking for direction and feedback as to what the board wanted to propose. Discussion involved fees and cost to the school to use PlayVS. Rocket League is available without the \$1,000 buy in. Concerns discussed by the board include the fluidity of the program and the

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constant changes. The lack of current support from IT in getting the technology up and running at SOHI and KCHS is another disadvantage. Both schools have several kids signed up to participate and coaches willing to volunteer to run the clubs. The hope is to keep kids involved. Mike also expressed his frustration with IT in getting the programs going, and is confident the district can overcome these issues. He would like to see this move forward as an official activity in the fall. The board discussed handbook language, participation fees, and related costs including possible transportation for regional events. The concern at this time is having the exact language completed in time for Board of Education approval. The board recognized the desire to move this proposal forward, but decided there are too many unknowns. Kyle agreed and stated his school needs the opportunity to see how the club will work. Kyle also suggested inviting Nikolaevsk to the April KPSAA meeting, and include Eric Soderquist (IT Director). Mike noted the uncharted territory and despite many hours researching, no other handbooks exist for Esports in other districts. He reluctantly agreed to postpone formal language and continue with the fall and spring clubs. Mike also asked about doing research with other district ADs. Perhaps they can provide background and additional resources. Kyle offered to reach out to Palmer and see what they are doing in MatSu. Kari and Dan will work with the Niko club sponsor and Eric Soderquist and invite them to the April meeting if necessary.

F. Expiring Terms, Board Seats:

1. Dan Beck, MS Representative (2021)
2. Dan Carstens, Representative at Large (2022) - Appointed
3. Jesse Settlemyer, HS Representative (2021)
4. Bill Withrow, Elementary Representative (2021)

Kari noted the expiring terms, Dan Carsten's seat will be appointed for one year, plus her Executive Secretary position will be filled at some point by the superintendent.

G. ASAA Updates – Kari Dendurent

1. Masks will be required for all ASAA state events.
2. Football classification committee is forming to recommend how football should be organized by division, conferences and playoff berths.

Jesse noted ASAA has allowed Chugiak to move down to Division II at their last meeting creating a chain reaction from other districts. Kyle said Anchorage is not happy in their classification. They want more teams in their division to legitimize their championship, which is now basically a city championship. Football has decreased dramatically and programs have gotten smaller.

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VII. ACTION ITEMS:

A. *Recommended Stipend Changes for Appendix D MS and HS Team/Staffing Guidelines, Tabled from 11/12/20* – Kari Dendurent

Discussion reiterated the need for stipend requests to be pushed forward. The board strongly agrees school board approval is warranted to ensure the safety and supervision of athletes, and best instruction practices for coaches.

Motion: Dan Carstens

Second: Mike Illg

Amendments: None

Motion carried, Unanimous

B. *Suggested Language Changes to HS Handbook, Regaining Eligibility for Spring Sports* – Kyle McFall

Kyle shared this was first presented last year. The language change is to allow for students who are ineligible at the end of the first semester due to lack of credits an avenue to regain eligibility for spring sports (fourth quarter).

Motion: Jesse

Second: Dan C.

Amendments: None

Motion carried, Unanimous

C. *Language Change to Add ESports as an Official New Activity, Including Team/Staffing Guideline* – Mike Illg

Tabled

Motion: Mike

Second: Bill

Amendments:

1. Moved to table Action Item C per previous discussion. This will remain a Discussion Item until language is deliberated and ready for adoption.

VIII. Adjournment

Discussion: Dan Beck shared his appreciation for board member's efforts at this meeting. Specifically noting the plan to move forward with Esports.

Motion: Dan C

Second: Kyle

Motion carried, Unanimous

IX. Notice of Next Meeting

Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.