

KPSAA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

10am-2pm

Warehouse Conference Room

I. Call to Order

President Settlemyer called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Jesse Settlemyer, Kyle McFall, Megan Smith, Vaughn Dosko, Dan Beck, Tim Daugharty, Shannon Dwyer, Jenna Fabian, Tyler Krekling

Absent: Doug Hayman, arrived at 12:23

Name	Title	Role/Location
Jesse Settlemyer	High School Representative (2025)	President / KCHS
Kyle McFall	Activities Representative (2024)	Vice-President / Kenai Alt
Megan Smith	Parent Representative (2026)	Secretary / Kenai Middle
Vaughn Dosko	Executive Secretary	Principal Kenai Middle
Dan Beck	Secondary Administrator (2024)	Member / KCHS
Tim Daugharty	Board of Education Representative	Member
Shannon Dwyer	Representative at Large (2024)	Member / Skyview
Jenna Fabian	Elementary Representative (2025)	Member / NNS Elem
Doug Hayman	K-12 Representative (2024)	Member / Connections
Tyler Krekling	Middle School Representative (2025)	Member / Homer Middle
Mary Blossom	Admin. Secretary (non-voting)	Administrative

- Guest Attendees: Jonus Kaponus, Skyview. Rod Van Saun, Ninilchik. Tiffany McCorison, Ninilchik (via telephone).

III. Approval of November 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Kyle

Second: Shannon

Amendments: None

Motion carried, unanimous

IV. Approval of February 20, 2024 Executive Board Meeting Agenda with Flexibility

Motion: Megan

Second: Jenna

Amendments: Flexibility allowed to accommodate public comment.

Motion carried, unanimous

V. Public Comment

A. Jonus Kaponus, Discussion Item A – ESports Middle School Proposal

Mr. Kaponus presented the board with a proposal for esports for middle schools. He is the current esports high school coach at SOHI. Mr. Kaponus shared the inclusive nature of esports is beneficial for those not participating in traditional sports. His proposal included a possible collaboration with Vanta or possibly a district developed organized play. He explained at Vanta organized leagues are already set up for middle school, the platform is free and supports the games and services needed to run a successful program, including professional development opportunities. He did say this is brand new at Skyview, but sees the potential for increased interest. Everyone is accepted, no cutting, takes every level and at any skill. No travel, officials, uniforms involved with the only expenses being equipment and technology. Vanta offers lots of console options including Nintendo Switch, Xbox, computers, etc. Mr. Kaponus also stated other middle schools in the state are running similar competitions and that Alaska is behind in terms of competitive gaming. The board likes the computer programming side of this, not just the gaming aspect. Typical esports participants at the collegiate level are studying computer engineering, graphics design and the like. The board discussed the next steps including providing the request for adding the activity, specific language, stipend request and activity guidelines. Next steps for Mr. Kaponus would be to submit the form, reach out to the other middle schools and let them know you are working on adding esports. The board would like to see official language developed for middle school esports.

B. Rod VanSaun and Tiffany McCorison

Mr. Van Saun in person along with Mrs. McCorison telephonically introduced themselves to the board. Mr. Van Saun is a volunteer and coach for many years at Ninilchik School, and heavily involved in basketball. He presented to the board regarding a 7th grader not being allowed to practice with the high school varsity basketball team. Mr. Van Saun stated he was disturbed that he even had to be here talking about this issue. He said he is advocating for his own kids as well as other small schools. He feels this is a small school issue and pointed out the limits Ninilchik has in comparison to other larger communities. He shared having spoken to other small schools around the state and allowing younger kids to participate with older kids is general practice to balance out lower numbers. This issue is not asking for younger kids to participate competitively between schools, travel with the team, or in any way act as a team member. He asks the board to allow for a coach's discretion in allowing middle school athletes to participate in a high school varsity practice.

Mrs. McCorison is a mother to three children, including the youngest that is the 7th grader involved in this matter. She views this as a very small issue, but ended up all the way to the school board as a discrimination issue. She now is advocating for clear policy with KPSAA. Ninilchik is a small town with limited capabilities and basketball is hugely important to the community. She said her two boys are in homeschool and the social aspect is very important. She asks for the principal and coach be allowed to make the decision based on what is best for the team and school.

Mr. Dosko shared to the guests that while not written in specific policy, the district's long-standing practice has been to not allow students not in high school to participate in high school practices. This has been communicated to schools and administrators. He made it clear

there is considerable knowledge and passion for small and rural schools among board members and opportunities for them. Mr. Settlemyer thanked the guests for participating and providing comments to the board. In summation of the discussion, guest commentary is asking for KPSAA language to allow for middle school students the ability to participate at practice with high school teams at small schools with coach and principal input.

VI. Executive Secretary Report/Communications

A. Petition for 7th grader to practice with JV/Varsity Basketball team

Mr. Dosko shared the district's decision to not approve the petition for a middle schooler to practice with the high school basketball team. There was communication back and forth from Mr. McCorison and district administration. Mr. Dosko communicated the decision to the family, which led to a discrimination case being filed with the school district. It was determined by the lawyer that discrimination did not exist. So what the school board heard was more about discrimination than the issue of a middle schooler practicing with a high school team. It was a long and drawn out process.

B. Request to retain Wrestling assistant coach for Nikiski Middle School

Mr. Dosko shared with the board that Nikiski wanted to hire a second coach for wrestling. The school was allocated the stipend, but had not hired the second coach. The season then starts, they reach out to HR to hire a coach, but their numbers did not support the assistant. The school disputed because they were allocated the stipend at the beginning of the school year. Mr. Dosko said while that is true, the position wasn't hired. The decision was made to have the school use their 710s until their numbers are close to the stipend guidelines and at that point the original allocation would be fully funded and the 710 account reimbursed. Vaughn said the intent is to be more diligent in filling the stipends and not just use them to spend the money. Mr. Dosko made it clear that if the school had filled the vacant stipend at the beginning of the year, there would have been no questions or issue. The board agreed that if a school has not filled the stipend prior to the start of a season, then the school should have to prove their participation numbers supports that assistant stipend.

C. ASAA/Region III Updates

Mr. Dosko provided the board with recent Region III and ASAA updates.

- Most likely a loss of a 1A berth for peninsula basketball teams.
- TAD policy revisions are still in the works.
- A committee at the state level is looking at transfers between schools.
- Wrestling weight verification form is being updated.
- MOAs and Co-ops between schools are being looked at more closely. KPBSD has the largest Co-ops in the state.
- Swimming discussion about 2 day versus 3 day region tournament; decided to stay at 2 day.

D. Mr. Dosko wanted to add to his report information about the national athletic director's conference. He believes someone from the KPSAA board should attend annually and the funds should be included in the KPSAA budget to fund at least one member per year. He reminded the board about his attendance last year and the vast and important information he learned, both as a principal and his position with KPSAA. He is receiving feedback from the 15-18 people around Alaska that attended this winter. There is so much to learn from staying in

touch with everything from national issues to equipment. Alaska is very limited in what we see up here. The board would like to work to create language and amend the Bylaws to include this conference. Vaughn will work to polish the language and have it for the next meeting.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Non-KPBSD Student Participation Fees – Doug

(Item E on the agenda) Flexibility to accommodate K-12 Representative board member, Doug Hayman. Mr. Hayman shared he studied and researched our buildings to understand their operations and what we should be charging non-KPBSD student participant, that was a hard question to find a direct answer to. He met with the district leadership team including Liz Hayes. Because there are so many variables, it would be hard to defend a steep increase. He said the email he received from Liz said she could support an increase for out of district students of \$100-150. Mr. Hayman said he would like to see that board support a \$200 increase above the current fee structure for non-KPBSD participants. He shared it would not be hard to defend given what he learned. The board discussed the issue and also should follow suit at the middle school level.

High School language: *“Non-KPBSD participants will be assessed an additional \$200 to support an equitable contribution to facilities and operations per KPBSD activity. The family cap will not be applicable to Non-KPBSD participants.”*

Middle School language: *“Non-KPBSD participants will be assessed an additional \$60 to support an equitable contribution to facilities and operations per KPBSD activity. The family cap will not be applicable to Non-KPBSD participants.”*

The board discussed the issue of the family cap and whether it should apply. Should we create a new appendix form for Non-KPBSD participants. Mary will contact Big Teams and if a new form for this situation would be recommended.

The board would want the talking points communicated with school administrators and ADs as they will be on the receiving end of the questions.

A. ESports Middle School Proposal

Mr. Krekling will reach out to the middle schools and gather feedback on the esports proposal as the board continues discussion of this topic.

B. Stipend Policy – Request from Jeff Ambrosier - HR (Enclosure)

The board reviewed the information provided by Jeff Ambrosier regarding the hiring process for coaches. Mr. Dosko shared there continues to be some schools that are trying to hire coaches without following the process and making sure required trainings are completed. There are a number of reasons why coaches may be hired after the start of a season; therefore, stipends should be prorated. Trying to hire volunteer coaches after the end of the season, even if the numbers support the additional assistant, is that okay? Waiting so long to have positions posted is also an issue. The idea behind this is more about getting ADs and

principals on board and following the process. The board is in favor of language stating that if a stipend request is submitted more than 10 days after the start of the season, program or activity, the stipend may be prorated. How does the board write this without considering the hiring process? The board will get further clarification from Mr. Ambrosier and revisit the discussion at the April meeting.

C. ASAA Compliance with Title IX – Handbook Change - Jesse

The KPSAA board reviewed ASAA's recent Compliance with Title IX language and incorporating the updates into our high school handbook. Mr. Settlemyer said the new language addresses the athletic teams established for female at birth students, double division sports and co-ed teams. The board has anticipated this coming and discussed how to include this in the high school handbook. Any reference of boy or male in the high school handbook will need to be removed. Mary will add the new language to Appendix M to include reference to ASSA's Compliance with Title IX. This would include deleting the Interest Survey. The board noted individual schools are in tune to specific interests of their populations. The board also noted the process already exists for establishing new activities and programs. The interest survey simply provides data we are not using and is a waste of time and resources.

D. Middle School Basketball Rules – Tyler (Enclosure)

Mr. Krekling reported on the feedback he received from sending out his request regarding changing some of the basketball rules relating to pressing or trapping in the first half, zones and contest participation. He said most of the feedback received was from small schools. Refencing the current rule about *no full court press or half court traps in the first half*. School feedback favored proposal Option 1 – *teams can play full court defense at any point of the game. If a team is winning by 20 points or more, they must retreat to play half court defense. If at any point their lead goes back under 20 points, then they can play full court defense again. Officials would be responsible for enforcing this rule.*

The rule change regarding zones was favored as proposal Option 1 – *Teams may play zone at any time. Zones can be played anywhere on the court; however, zones may not extend beyond the half court line if a team is up by 20 points or more.*

The rule change regarding required participation and the new rule proposal would read – *All suited players must participate in each contest. If a team does not play a suited player, they must forfeit the game. This does not apply during the borough tournament.*

Mr. Krekling also presented three additional new rule proposals to the board.

The first rule proposal would ask each home team coach to report game results and scores to a Google doc that is shared between coaches and administration.

The second rule proposal will charge admission to borough tournament games with the revenue going directly to offset the cost of officials.

The third rule proposal addresses seeding for the borough tournament.

Mr. Dosko said currently admission may be charged at any middle school event, although it is not a common practice. A lot of people don't carry cash and would require a gate keeper. Would we be hurting middle school events and discouraging attendance? Ms. Dwyer stated booster clubs are starting at the middle school level, now would be the time to implement charging for admission if that is the direction we want to go.

Mr. Dosko, as a middle school principal, also provided comment regarding the other proposed rule changes. He said witnessing full court press at middle school is unskilled craziness much of the time. He sees skill development as the most important aspect of middle school basketball. He sees a big difference in the chaos of the second half as opposed to the first half and prefers the importance of skill development. The board discussed various aspects of defense, zones, pressing and what is the best way to help them learn and develop their skills. Another thought was just to play basketball with using the NFHS rules. The board will continue this discussion in April.

E. Ongoing: Middle College/Jump Start Eligibility After Dropping Classes – Vaughn / Tony

Board consensus is if the student is using the grade for a mid-quarter grade check, then the grade should be loaded on their high school transcript if the course is being used on their graduation track. The discussion is ongoing.

F. Ongoing: Request to Move from Small Schools to Middle School Basketball – Tyler

Mr. Krekling reported feedback from the small schools was overwhelmingly not in support of moving the small schools basketball season in line with the regular middle schools. The board was disappointed there was not more support.

H. Ongoing: Mid-Quarter E2 & E4 Eligibility Checks – Language, 2nd Reading

The board reviewed a 2nd reading of the proposed language update from the November meeting. The language change was agreed to as presented and moved to Action.

1. Student Scholastic Eligibility for Participation – IV. Student Eligibility. Section C. Item 1. b.
2. *Students determined to be ineligible at the mid-quarter check based upon their current cumulative semester grade will begin their ineligibility on the first school day following the grade check until the next eligibility check. Students may regain their eligibility no sooner than the Thursday immediately following the initial mid-quarter grade check if they meet the 2.0 GPA requirement, are passing all classes, and turn in the completed regain eligibility form. Completed regain eligibility forms must be submitted during normal school hours. Students will be afforded seven calendar days from the initial mid-quarter check to regain their eligibility. Otherwise, they remain ineligible until the next eligibility check.*

3. Move to Action Item A

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – For Board Adoption

- A. Student Scholastic Eligibility for Participation – IV. Student Eligibility. Section C. Item 1. b.
 - 1. Adopt language update for mid-quarter eligibility grade checks
 - Motion: Kyle
 - Second: Shannon
 - Amendments: None
 - Motion carried, unanimous consent

IX. Board Comments

Mr. Dosko noted to the board there was the one year contract ratification with a 3.5% increase to teacher contracts. He asked HR if that would translate to coaching stipends, but that was not a part of the agreement. He noted it has been a number of years since stipends were looked at. In terms of what is offered at other school districts, KPBSD is way behind. In comparison to Mat-Su our high school stipends are more what they pay their middle school coaches. Plus, they offer steps that max out after year six. Vaughn said this is a conversation he is willing to have with Nate and Liz. Mr. Settlemyer said he feels our Range 12 stipends need to be significantly more than Range 11. He noted only a \$900 difference, but the programs are considerably more in terms of responsibilities and length of season. The equity among the different schools was also brought up and how to fairly equate stipends to those that are not capable of offering the same level of program.

X. Next Meeting

April 4, 2024

XI. Adjournment

President Settlemyer adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.