

**COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018**

**RADISSON DENVER SOUTHEAST
3155 S. VAUGHN WAY, AURORA**

CALL TO ORDER

President Jim Lucas called the January 25, 2018 meeting of the CHSAA Legislative Council to order at 8:35 am.

ROLL CALL

Associate Commissioner Tom Robinson called the roll of the members of the Legislative Council as listed below:

LEAGUE	NAME			LEAGUE	NAME
5280	Reed Doughty			Frontier	Eric Hahn
	Kelly Presser				Aaron Riessen
Arkansas Valley	Gary Page			High Plains	Mike Miller
Black Forest	Don Steiner			Intermountain	Greg Jones
	Ryan Witzel			Jeffco	Jim Hynes
CADA	Craig Denney				Autumn Sereno
	Michael Krueger				Jerry McWhorter
	Leroy Lopez			Lower Platte	Brady Nighswonger
CASB	Craig Bailey				Jenny Smock
	Mandy Jackson			Metro	Jeremy Lustik
	Paul Pitton				Scott Yates
	Dustin Sprague			Mile High	Steve Latuda
	Larry Valente				Jason Maguire
CASSA	Dianna Chrisman			North Central	Steve McCracken
	Chris Fiedler			Northern	Chase McBride
	Robert Framel			Patriot	Brad Joens
Centennial	Larry Bull				Steve Longwell
	Ryan Knorr			Pikes Peak	Nick Baker
	Vince Orlando			San Juan	Tracy Hill
Colorado 7	Jim Roedel			Santa Fe	Carl Lindauer
CS Metro 4A	Shelli Miles			South Central	Jamie Wagner
CS Metro 5A	Chris Noll			Southern Peaks	Kevin Jones
	Andy Parks				Cole Larsen
	Mike Sibley			Southwestern	Randy Powell
Confluence	Zach Carlson			Tri-Peaks	John McGee
Continental	Tom Brieske				Mike Prusinowski
	John Koslosky			Tri-Valley	Michael Green
	Sean Patterson			Union Pacific	Jeremy Kerns
Denver	Kevin Bendjy			West Central	Ryan Christensen
	Karen Higel			Western Slope	Luke DeWolfe
	Kevin Maguire				Klark Kindler
East Metro	Glenda Bates				Jeremy McCormick
	Vic Strouse				Tami Payne
	Rob Varner			YWKC	Bonnie Wallin-Kuntz
Fisher's Peak	Frank Coppa				
Front Range	Ken Denning				
	Bob Gorman				
	Kendall Wilson				

All members were present except Mandy Jackson, and Chris Fiedler.

INTRODUCTIONS

Lily Schmoker from Rock Canyon High School opened with the National Anthem.

President Jim Lucas introduced the members of the Board of Directors: Paul Cain, Mesa County Valley Schools, District 1; Rick Logan, Thompson School District, District 2; Doug Pfau, Weldon Valley, District 3; Angie Sanders, Conifer, District 4; Loren Larrabee, Lutheran, District 5; Michael Hawkes, Shining Mountain Waldorf, District 6; Troy Baker, Buena Vista, District 7; Joe Garcia, Antonito, District 8; Richard Hargrove, Springfield, District 9; Kelley Eichman, Welte Education Center, At-Large; Terita Berry, Denver East, At-Large; Wendy Dunaway, CDE representative; Tracey Johnson, Academy District 20, CASB representative; Jeff Durbin, Stratton Schools, CASE; and Alex Halpern, Legal Counsel. Jim Wilson, Colorado State Legislature, was not present.

President Lucas then introduced Parliamentarian Ben Rainbolt and the CHSAA staff; Commissioner Rhonda Blanford-Green, Associate Commissioner Tom Robinson, Assistant Commissioner Bert Borgmann, Assistant Commissioner Bethany Brookens, Director of Digital Media Ryan Casey, Assistant Commissioner Ernie Derrera, Assistant Commissioner Bud Ozzello, and Assistant Commissioner Jenn Roberts-Uhlig.

OPEN FORUM

Cathy Sellers, Unites States Paralympic Association, gave an overview of Paralympics. She asked the membership to assist

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 20, 2017 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

It was moved (Craig Bailey) and seconded (Tami Payne). The motion passed to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2017 Legislative Council Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

President Lucas thanked the media, the Legislative Council Representative, the CHSAA Staff, and Commissioners, member schools and audience members for being in attendance. He also thanked Assistant Commissioner Borgmann, and Executive Assistant Whitney Webermeier for the success of the Hall of Fame banquet the previous night.

President Lucas said he felt the Board of Directors made the right decision in hiring Commissioner Rhonda Blanford-Green, and thanked her for accepting the position as she has brought new ideas, thoughts, and processes to the CHSAA. She hit the ground running, and runs constantly. Other state associations contact the CHSAA to ask questions, and ask for advice on running different athletic and activity issues they are having in their own states, which speaks volumes that the CHSAA is in the forefront of many issues that confront us each year. He said he echoed Dave Hogan's statement that we are in the best profession in the world. We get to coach and teach the youth of America, and mold them into future leaders in our country. Please continue to promote high school sports and activities to parents and students and dispel the myth around high school sports. He said we live in a crazy and very unstable world today. We need to be aware of our students' friends, family, coworkers and strangers that are battling mental illness. We have too many young people taking their lives at middle school and high school levels. We've had two school shootings this week in Texas and Kentucky. We've lost several lives in the past month due to people with mental illness. We need to keep our eye on all those in need, and support them. We need to help our students with coping skills to handle success, social media issues, rejection, defeat, to seek help when they are feeling lonely or depressed. We need to let them

know the sun will come up tomorrow, and it's a new day. We as teachers and coaches many times provide the stability in a student's life because their home life may be in shambles. We need to let students know we are always there for them. High School athletics and activities gives us the avenue to help us make students successful in whatever they choose to do in the future. At last night's Hall of Fame banquet, many of the inductees spoke about the coaches, the teammates, the teachers, and the trials and tribulations they had that molded them and prepared them for their adult lives and their careers. I will say it again, we are in the best profession ever. Wear it, be proud of it, and let's continue to cultivate future teachers, coaches, professionals, and leaders of us in the future. Let's have a great meeting today. Let's vote to do what is best for students, and enjoy.

RULES OF ORDER - PARLIAMENTARIAN

Ben Rainbolt, Parliamentarian, explained the rules of order and voting procedures. He said he was happy to be here again, and said he appreciates all the representatives do for kids.

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

Commissioner Rhonda Blanford-Green welcomed everyone, and thanked the staff, board members, members of the CADA, and members of the CHSCA. She stated that in her first six months she has had the blessing of being surrounded by many people who have helped her transition back into not only the CHSAA. She said she didn't realize that when you apply for a job, you have the key words you put on a resume, but once you sit in that chair, and you start to get back into the bylaws and taking phone calls, I found my heart never left the CHSAA. My passion, not only to upgrade the sports I was involved in before I left, but just seeing the bigger picture of where the association needs to go, the communication with you, the collaborative efforts that we need to put in place. I've been told many times to slow down, go home, first one in the office, but that passion is there, and it's not a honeymoon period. This is probably one of the best state associations in the nation, and I feel honored and blessed to be your commissioner and your leader. I've heard conversations about how big the packet is, and the agenda is long. The reason is about reaching goals that were discussed with the board, and schools at the beginning of the year at the school summit. Today includes some of the clean up the bylaws that we felt as a staff needed to happen to help with hardship waivers and transfers.

My goal as commissioner is to make sure that this association is running financially in the black always. When I left five years ago, we were giving \$300,000-\$400,000 back to schools through corporate sponsorships and revenue streams. You know there are things we have no control over, and sometimes that is weather and ticket sales. That accounts for about 32 percent of our budget. You have the benefit of having a commissioner that has been in three state associations that has been involved in revenue sustaining platforms. We are moving forward with those ideas. We are in this together to try to find ways to not only elevate the association, but also to find ways to put those finances back into your pocket. "Rethink and reshape the Paradigm". When we look at our foundation, and it's continuously depleting because we are helping those programs, there has to be a way to put money back into the fund. As you look at what is in the packet today, and the power point, you may not have all the details, but everything we are doing today, we are keeping an open mind about the direction of the association. It started off different today. The fact that we did not stand up and say the pledge of allegiance, but we, who work for kids, had one of our own come up and sing the national anthem is the beginning of change in the association. We are going to throw new ideas out to you. That is why you hired me to make sure we are thinking outside the box, we are moving forward, and we are not staying status quo or stagnant in anything we are doing. She finished with saying she is honored to be your commissioner.

Assistant Commissioner Jenn Roberts-Uhlig revealed the new platform for safety and risk minimization. Ms. Roberts-Uhlig said the office created a contest for the Head, Heart and Heat campaign. SMAC information will

be associated with this logo. The contest received over 250 entries. Cassidy Paxton from Sterling High School as our logo winner. Cassidy is a three-sport athlete participating in softball, basketball, and soccer. Cassidy is involved in FBLA, FCA, 4-H, yearbook, and as well as being very active in her church. She holds a 4.0 gpa, and is ranked number one in her class. Cassidy was also awarded the Western Dairy Association grant for \$2,500 at the CHSAA Hall of Fame banquet. She plans to attend Liberty University in Virginia, and major in graphic design.

Commissioner Blanford-Green spoke regarding implementing programs such as our speak out person today that will touch other students in our schools. With this logo contest we reached out to your technology and graphic design, and art department to bring another subset of kids into CHSAA. One of our goals moving forward is to include more students. How do we touch kids and build participation in areas that are outside of the norm? There is a subset of kids out there that are bowling, that are playing e-sports, that are doing so many other things that we need be aware. So many kids in our schools that are walking in our halls we're not including. Know that you are going to be hearing a lot of things about outside events, and ways that we can get kids involved in activities.

Ryan Casey discussed the RPI, and the new Technology Committee. Mr. Casey said the Technology Committee has been working together since last August, and will present what was given to the Board of Directors. He shared that two associations have contacted the CHSAA in the last two weeks they believe we are using the best ranking system in the nation. They said it was due to the transparency of the RPI, and that it doesn't use margin of victory, which is something as a state association should stay away from as best we can. As a staff we continually look at areas that we want to focus on in elevating communication, and from that discussion, the Technology Committee was created. He thanked everyone on the Technology Committee including Chair Dave Walck. It is an amazing group of minds, people who are dedicated global thinkers. It is easy to find a ranking system for one school. It isn't easy to find one for 350 schools. He said they have met 6-8 times since August, and all but one has been by video conference. We created a survey to our member schools that more than 220 of you responded. We had great feedback, and appreciate every one of you taking that survey, because it gave the committee direction. The survey revealed most of schools like the RPI to capture post season brackets, but they want it seeded by a committee. The most important factors according to the survey are accuracy and transparency, and schools asked for more weight on their own winning percentage. As part of our process, we examined seven different weights to the RPI formula, to determine which formula was the most accurate, we compared a team's ranking in the final RPI standings during the regular season to how they performed in post season. In the overwhelming majority of the data we examined, the standard formula was the best performing, and most accurate predictor. A second formula was either the most, or second most accurate for all sports. This formula is 30/40/30. Ultimately, this is the formula the Technology Committee will recommend to the Board of Directors in February is this formula be used in all sports, which will help eliminate the need for separate formulas. The committee will explore using a classification modifier in all sports.

Commissioner Blanford-Green said she heard someone say it would be so nice if they didn't have to deal with parents. She said that parents are not going away. She believes most of the parents are in it for the right reasons. She said she connected with Amy Manson from Positive Coaches Alliance to collaborate on a parent platform. The launch will be at our state tournaments this winter with video messaging and foyer booths. Amy Manson, PCA, addressed the Legislative Council. She said there is research that shows when parents chill out, and just relax and enjoy watching their kids play, their kids perform better, play longer, and enjoy sports more. The website (Positive Coaching Alliance Colorado) has so many resources including parent meeting agendas to set the expectations for the year, parent pledges, and at no cost.

Commissioner Blanford-Green introduced the new Arbiter/Planet High School electronic management system as approved by the Board of Directors. She introduced the CEO of Planet High School, Joe Hawkins, and Kory Eldridge, Arbiter Athlete. They gave the Legislative Council an overview of the eligibility management system.

Commissioner Blanford-Green introduced board member, and previous Budget Committee chair, Jeff Durbin, to speak on behalf of the board regarding their support of this new platform. He expressed his excitement for schools to begin working with Planet High School/Arbiter Athlete to help athletic directors be successful, and make their jobs easier, and do in a cost-effective way. As mentioned before, over 90 percent of school have indicated they need this type of platform.

Commissioner Blanford-Green thanked the Legislative Council for indulging her in introducing several items that are not normally on the agenda, but felt it was important information that needed to be shared with the membership. This is one of the most important meetings we have. This is about policy, how we do business, how we communicate to make sure that competitive equity is in place across the state of Colorado.

LEGAL UPDATE

Commissioner Blanford-Green introduced Alex Halpern, Legal Counsel for the Legal update. He said that it has been several years since we've had a litigation go to court, which is a positive sign. Shows a lot of background work taking place at the schools and administration at the CHSAA that is getting these situations resolved before people feel like they need to go to court. It also reflects the positive effect of the amendment we got from the legislature two years ago when we eliminated the arbitration option that people had the illusion that it was going to be cheaper and easier than it turned out to be. We had a pending appeal that looked like it was going to litigation back in December, which was a mid-year, and following the coach transfer. The family's lawyer was sending emails to Commissioner Blanford-Green with date deadlines, and was sure this case would be going to court. She received an email shortly after from the dad stating he just wanted to talk with her to understand what CHSAA is doing, and just wanted an opportunity to be heard, and the lawyer is fired. They had a meeting and the parents walked away satisfied with the decision, and it was fair. He addressed the amendment to the hardship rule that simplifies the definition of what constitutes a hardship, which will make it easier to apply it from the administrative level and the parental level. He stated he appreciated the opportunity to be our legal counsel.

Commissioner Blanford-Green agreed that we are fortunate to have Mr. Halpern as our legal counsel as he is highly regarded nationally and speaks at all the Legal Meetings for state associations. We have your support at the local level, and we are going to do what you ask us to do. We are going to uphold your bylaws, and we need to make sure they are relevant.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

Commissioner Blanford-Green said she inherited a budget, so you tend to scrutinize expenditures and revenue streams. She said she is nervous about where we rely on ticket sales. A CHSAA Now line item has been added as it has truly become our messenger, and our informational highway for everything we do. This is important and needs to be funded. This gives us the opportunity to report on every sport and every activity that happens within your schools. She reviewed several line items on the income and expense site of the budget. Her major focus is to not have a budget that is just maintaining, but a budget where we can offset costs and the cost doesn't come back to our schools. On the operational side, you can see the things that this staff has control over. We have decreased individual spending and internal spending within our office. We have school board members and school administrators on our board because we need to be more transparent in our spending and our income. I have had several meetings with the legislators, and budget is always a topic. She thanked Ms. Hewson for her work in getting financial information posted on our website. She indicated she as requested our auditor to present the audit at next years meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROPOSALS

ADM 1 – ADD A NEW ACTIVITY

(Board of Directors)

It was seconded (Steve Longwell). The motion passed 68-1.

ADM 2 – ELIGIBILITY REGAIN DATE MODIFICATION

(Board of Directors)

It was seconded (Shelli Miles). The motion passed 53-16.

ADM 3 – CLARIFYING AGE EXCEPTION

(Board of Directors)

It was seconded (Andy Parks). The motion passed 69-0.

ADM 4 – STATE STATUTE COMPLIANCE

(YWKC)

It was seconded (Chris Noll). The motion passed 64-6.

ADM 5 – LEGAL GUARDIAN CLARIFICATION

(Board of Directors)

It was seconded (Greg Jones). The motion passed 69-1.

ADM 6 – ELIMINATE OUTDATED BYLAW

(Board of Directors)

It was seconded (Tracy Hill). The motion passed 70-0.

ADM 7 – ENROLLMENT WAITING LISTS

(Board of Directors)

It was seconded (Rob Varner). The motion failed 24-46.

ADM 8 – HARDSHIP CONSIDERATIONS

(Board of Directors)

It was seconded (Larry Bull). The motion passed 66-4.

ADM 9 – EMANCIPATED STUDENTS

(Board of Directors)

It was seconded (Kendall Wilson). The motion passed 70-0.

ADM 10 – HOMELESS STUDENTS

(Board of Directors)

It was seconded (Tami Payne). The motion passed 69-1.

ADM 11 – SUNDAY CONTACT – SENIORS

(Board of Directors)

It was seconded (Craig Denney). The motion failed 24-46.

ADM 12 – FOUNDATION BENEFIT CONTEST

(Board of Directors)

It was seconded (Eric Hahn). The motion passed 47-23.

ADM 13 – STUDENT DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE

(Board of Directors)

It was seconded (Ken Denning). The motion passed 65-4.

ATHLETIC PROPOSALS

**ATH 1 – MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CONTESTS (CENTENNIAL AND CONTINENTAL LEAGUES)
MAXIMUM INNINGS INDIVIDUAL
BASEBALL**

It was seconded (Ken Denning). The motion passed 42-28.

ATH 2 – SEASON OF SPORT - FOOTBALL

(CENTENNIAL)

It was seconded (Steve Longwell). The motion passed 62-8.

ATH 3 – EQUIPMENT DATES - FOOTBALL

(TRI PEAKS LEAGUE)

It was seconded (Randy Powell). The motion passed 68-1.

POLICY PROPOSALS

POL 1 – SANCTIONING A NEW ACTIVITY

(Board of Directors)

It was seconded (Craig Denney). The motion passed 67-0.

POL 2 – STATE STATUTES APPLICATION

(Board of Directors)

It was seconded (Jeremy Kerns). The motion passed 55-15.

Administrative Committee Reports

Budget

Chairman Jim Thyfault presented the Budget Committee Report (First Reading), reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Tami Payne) and approved 70-0.

Classification and League Organizing Committee

Chairman Randy Holmen presented the CLOC Committee Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. Proposal ADM 2a – Greeley Central to play up in 4A classification in the following sports: Cross Country, Football, Girls' Tennis, Track and Field and Wrestling (Northern). The motion was seconded (Bob Gorman), and approved 69-1. ADM 2b – Montezuma-Cortez to stay in 3A classification for Cross Country Track and Field and Wrestling except football which would remain 2A (Intermountain). The motion was seconded (Cole Larsen), and approved 68-1. ADM 2c – Skyline HS is asking to play up in the 4A classification in the following sports Cross Country, Football, Golf – both boys' and girls', Spirit, Girls' Tennis, Girls' Swimming, Track and Field and Wrestling (Tri Valley League). The motion was seconded (Chase McBride). The motion passed 68-1. ADM 2d – Golden View Academy remove probation status Victory Prep Academy remove probation status (Board of Directors). The motion was seconded (Mike Krueger), and passed 61-9. ADM 2e – Fort Lupton placed down to 3A for team sports except football which would remain 2A (Colorado 7 League). The motion was seconded (Larry Bull), and passed 44-24. ADM 2f – Allow Holly to join the Santa Fe League for basketball and volleyball (Arkansas Valley League). The motion was seconded (Tracy Hill), and passed 62-8. ADM 2g – Enrollment change for Lake County (Frontier League). The motion was seconded (Rob

Varner), and failed 4-66. ADM 2h – St. Mary’s High School to 2A in baseball (League voted unanimously against approving this amendment) (Tri Peaks League). The motion died due to a lack of a second. The motion was seconded (Zach Carlson) to approve the report as amended. The report was approved as amended 67-2.

Coaching Education Registration Advisory (CERAC)

Chairman Derek Chaney presented the Coaching Education Registration Advisory Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Sean Patterson) and approved 41-27.

Officials’ Fees

Chairman Mike Book presented the Officials’ Fees Committee Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Kevin Jones) and approved 70-0.

Tournament and Playoff Finance

Chairman Dave Walck presented the Committee Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Craig Denney) and approved 69-1.

Activity Committee Reports

Student Leadership

In the absence of Rashaan Davis, Chairman of the Student Leadership Committee, the report was presented by Assistant Commissioner Ernie Derrera. He presented the report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Leroy Lopez) and approved 69-0.

Athletic Committee Reports

Baseball

Chairman David Schuessler presented the Baseball Committee Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Tami Payne), and passed 67-2.

Cross Country

Chairman Rick Macias presented the Cross Country Committee Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. ATH 3a – Class 2A Cross Country – minimum number of runners per team, three per gender for regional and state. (San Juan Basin). The motion was seconded (Don Steiner), and passed 47-17. The motion was seconded (Steve Latuda) to approve the report as amended, was put to a vote and passed 66-3.

Field Hockey

Chairman Richard Judd presented the Field Hockey Committee Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Andy Parks). The motion passed 68-0.

Football

Chairman Michael Krueger presented the Football Committee Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Eric Hahn) and approved 68-0.

Golf

Chairman Chris Cline presented the Golf Committee Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Tami Payne) and approved 66-2.

Gymnastics

In the absence of Stacy Folmar, Chairman of Gymnastics Committee, the report was presented by Assistant Commissioner Bert Borgmann. He presented the Gymnastics Committee Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Klark Kindler), and was approved 68-0.

Lacrosse

Chairman Mark Kanagy presented the Lacrosse Committee Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Luke DeWolfe), and passed 67-0.

Soccer

Chairman Justin Saylor presented the Soccer Committee Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Tami Payne). The report was approved 69-0.

Softball

Chairman Steve Longwell presented the Softball Committee Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Vince Orlando) and approved 65-1.

Tennis

In the absence of Ed Anderson, Chairman of Tennis Committee, the report was presented by Assistant Commissioner Bethany Brookens. She presented the Tennis Committee Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Craig Denney) and approved 64-3.

Volleyball

Chairman Caleb Howard presented the Volleyball Committee Report, reviewed the major changes, and moved for adoption of the report. The motion was seconded (Tracy Hill) and approved 68-1.

NOMINATIONS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Legislative Council will elect representatives at the April meeting from nominations received at the January meeting.

Representatives to be replaced (4 year terms)

Replacement for District 1 (San Juan, Southwestern, Western Slope) from the Western Slope League as per the rotation schedule to replace Paul Cain will be Luke DeWolfe, Athletic Director, Steamboat Springs High School.

Representative for District 2 (Centennial, Frontier, Northern, Tri-Valley) from the Northern League as per the rotation schedule to replace Rick Logan (retiring 2018) will be Chase McBride, Athletic Director, Niwot High School (2-year term. No vote in April necessary).

Replacement for District 5 (Confluence, Denver, Metropolitan) from the Confluence League as per the rotation schedule to replace Loren Larrabee will be Femi Alao, Athletic Director, DSST-Green Valley Ranch High School.

Replacement District 8 (Black Forest, Fisher's Peak, Intermountain, Southern Peaks) from the Black Forest League will be Don Steiner, Athletic Director, Evangelical Christian Academy.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Legislative Council, it was moved (Craig Bailey) to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 pm.