

NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ON RE-DISTRICTING, GOVERNANCE AND REPRESENTATION

Minutes of September 16, 2010 Meeting

The Redistricting, Governance and Representation Committee met on Thursday, September 16, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. at the NSAA Office. Dr Bob Reznicek chaired the meeting. The purpose of the committee was to determine if there is a need for legislative proposals to be sent back to NSAA member schools to address re-districting, governance and representation.

Committee members present were Mark Novell, Fillmore Central, NSAA District I Board of Director; Karen Hand, Lincoln Public Schools; Dr. Bob Reznicek, Boys Town, NSAA District II Board of Director; Jerry Bartee, Omaha Public Schools; Jeff Johnson, Papillion-LaVista South High School; Mike McMahon, Omaha Catholic High School; Jay Bellar, Battle Creek, District III Board of Director; Dennis Dolliver, Norfolk High School; Ed Stansberry, Walthill High School; Max Kroger, Ord, District IV Board of Director; Dave Barrett, Adams Central High School; Cindy Huff, Wood River High School; Greg Holliday, Hastings High School; Dr. Dallas Watkins, Dundy County-Stratton, NSAA District V Board of Director; Joan Reznicek, Red Cloud High School; Alan Garey, Medicine Valley High School; Scott Schoneman, Holdrege High School; Kent Halley, Mitchell, District VI Board of Director; Lee Dick, Scottsbluff High School; and Troy Unzicker, Kimball High School. Ex-officio members included NSAA Staff Dr. Steve Shanahan, Debra Velder and Bud Dahlstrom. Committee members unable to attend were Jerry Rempe, Southern High School; Keith Muller, Wilber-Clatonia High School; Michelle Egr, Schuyler; Jeff Bellar, Norfolk Catholic High School; Dr. Brian Maher, Kearney Public Schools; and Ward Wacker, Gordon-Rushville High School. Also in attendance were Attorney Jack Mayfield and Ryly Jane Hambleton, Lincoln Journal Star.

Bob Reznicek addressed issues in regard to the purpose of the committee and protocol for the meeting and subsequent meetings. As an advisory committee, the group was informed that any proposals for change that come from this committee's work would be required to go through the NSAA legislative process.

Committee members were asked to express perceived strengths of the existing governance structure. Strengths identified were:

1. One-hundred year history of success.
2. One school; one vote.
3. Legislative process/democratic/representative.
4. Focus on opportunities for students.
5. Good number of interactive/communication between different size schools.
6. NSAA serves as a shield/buffer for member schools.
7. Member schools are loyal/supportive of NSAA
8. NSAA considers our purpose educational that governs our activities.
9. Regionalization with statewide consistency.
10. Flexibility in organization
11. Willingness to listen to membership.
12. Grassroots organization – generate ideas from school level up.
13. NSAA promotes sportsmanship – values for life.
14. Good system of checks and balances to hold to core values/mission.
15. Responsibility for safety of students – concussion/physicals/catastrophic insurance.
16. Great playoff/championship system.
17. Good use of technology to benefit the organization and schools.
18. Decisions made to accommodate schools – look at problems and willing to change.
19. Representative Assembly based on number of schools is vitally important.

20. An organization that gives schools the opportunity (through activities) to assist young people to mature into adults as a primary purpose.
21. NSAA is a good facilitator of information both at the state and national level.
22. Nice to have rules, organization, guidelines to follow.
23. The people who are part of the organization staff and volunteers.
24. Educational program for members and coaches.
25. Good professional organization partnerships – NCA/NSIAAA/NDE/NCSA.
26. Accountability is important and stressed.

Committee members were asked to express ways to alter the present governance structure. Suggestions identified were:

1. Move toward equalization of the number of schools in each NSAA district.
2. Do we look at districts –
 - a. size of districts – geographically
 - b. number of schools
 - c. student population
3. How many schools does each Board member represent?
4. Can we combine districts to equalize the number of schools/NSAA districts?
5. How many Board of Directors do we want or need?
6. Has the NSAA changed as fast as society?
7. Shorter and less cumbersome legislative process.
8. Need better understand of needs/wants/desires of all sizes of districts.
9. Class A-B-C-D meetings.
10. Empower the people we have to utilize those talents.
11. Be a bridge to the Board of Directors-look at staff as experts in their areas.
12. Are the Directors judicial or legislative?
13. Is the Legislative Commission an extra/unnecessary step?
14. Do we need a more statewide approach and less territorial?
15. Could the Legislative Commission be a discussion/issue/discovery body?
16. Diversity on the Board is needed – gender/ethnicity.
17. Each class should be able to deliver their own proposals.
18. Need a clear understanding of how the legislative process works—educate yourself.
19. We need to ease the frustration.
20. East vs west is the concern.
21. We should not be too aligned by class, we should hear others opinions.
22. We should not be suspect of other schools, class ideas.

Committee members were asked why should we keep the current structure and not consider changes.

1. We have not seen the new structure of 6 board members to 8 board members in operation.
2. Solves some but not all issues.
3. Eight members Board can incorporate new ideas.
4. An eight member Board was a quick fix.
5. We need more lengthy discussion.
6. Legislation come from and is approved by the member schools Not the Board of Directors.
7. With Superintendents on the Board, education is a priority.

The facts and findings brought forth at the meeting will be discussed at the next scheduled meeting to determine grouping and prioritization.

Committee members were asked to submit potential proposal ideas to Dr. Reznicek via email so that the proposals can be organized by a subcommittee and disseminated to the committee members.

With no further business, the committee stood adjourned at 4:00 p.m...

The next meeting of the Committee on redistricting, Governance and Representation will be held in Lincoln on Wednesday, October 27, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Debra Velder, Associate Director