

VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE
1642 STATE FARM BOULEVARD
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22911

Updated 9-12-16 p.m. – noted in turquoise

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA SEPTEMBER 2016

TIME: Tuesday, September 20, 2016

- 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Foundation Board Meeting – VHSL Office – Jim Stemple and Eric Barnes
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. New Member Orientation – VHSL Office – Eric Baylor, Willie Bell, Cliff Conway, Matt Delaney, Dan Forgas, Ty Gafford, Travis Gray, Beth Hardy, Eric Jones, Dave Melton, Mark Mear and Brad Qualls
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Personnel and Operations Committee – Hilton Gardens, Thomas Jefferson Board Room – Mike Davidson, chair, Martin Grimm, Ty Gafford, John Ferguson, Mark Mear, Tommy Golding, Chris Robinson, Beth Hardy, Jim Stemple
- 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee – Hilton Gardens, Peter Jefferson Conference Room -- Danny Knott, chair, Eric Baylor, Matt Delaney, Dave Jeck, Carol Fenn, Laura Sutton, Willie Bell, Delegate – TBD, Jim Stemple
- 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Communications Committee – VHSL Office – Jeff Dietz, chair, Cliff Conway, Dave Melton, Cecil Snead, Dan Forgas, Felicia Bailey, Tom Garrett, Jim Stemple
- 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Policy and Programs Committee – VHSL Office – Paul Joseph, chair, Major Warner, Tim Teachey, Brad Qualls, Travis Gray, Eric Jones, Vanessa Wigand, Jim Stemple

Wednesday, September 21, 2016

TIME: 8:30 a.m. Full Executive Committee

PLACE: Virginia High School League Office
1642 State Farm Boulevard
Charlottesville, VA

- I. **Roll Call:** Jim Stemple, chair, Martin Grimm, Paul Joseph, Brad Qualls, Matt Delaney, Chris Robinson, Major Warner, Cliff Conway, Laura Sutton, Tim Teachey, Jeff Dietz, Dan Forgas, Mike Davidson, Eric Baylor, Tommy Golding, Danny Knott, Ty Gafford, Travis Gray, Vanessa Wigand, Eric Jones, Willie Bell, Dave Melton, Dave Jeck, Carol Fenn, Mark Miera, John Ferguson, Cecil Snead, Beth Hardy, Felicia Bailey, Tom Garrett and Billy Haun.

VHSL Staff: Joyce Sisson, Tom Dolan, Lisa Giles, Shawn Knight, Hannah Catherine Munroe, Mike McCall, David Hopkins, Lori O’Toole, Denise Marshall and Lora Bickley.

II. **Agenda Approval:**

III. **Minutes:** The May 5, 2016 Executive Committee Minutes have been posted on BoardDocs.

POST MINUTES

IV. **Announcements and Call for New Business:**

A. **Introduction of new members:**

Eric Baylor, principal of East Rockingham High School, appointed by 2A East.

Willie Bell, superintendent of Franklin City Schools, appointed by the Region 2 Superintendents Group.

Cliff Conway, principal of Courtland High School, appointed by 4A East.

Matt Delaney, principal of Salem High (Virginia Beach), appointed by 5A South.

Dan Forgas, athletic director of Manassas Park High School, appointed by 3A East.

Ty Gafford, principal of Altavista High School, appointed by 1A East.

Travis Gray, athletic director at Holston High School, appointed by 1A West.

Eric Jones, superintendent of Powhatan County Public Schools, appointed by the Region 1 Superintendents Group.

Dave Melton, superintendent of Fredericksburg City Schools, appointed by the Region 3 Superintendents Group.

Mark Miera, superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools, appointed by the Region 6 Superintendents Group.

Brad Qualls, director of athletics at Patriot High School, appointed by Region 6A North.

- B. Announcements
- C. BoardDocs
- D. Chairman’s Letter – Attach ltr.
- E. Room Arrangements for October and March Meetings
- F. Travel Voucher

- G. Committee schedule and procedures -- All committees will meet the day prior to regularly scheduled Executive Committee meetings. Should a committee not need to meet, VHSL staff will announce the cancellation when the Executive Committee agenda is posted.
- H. Phone/email listing – Attach listing
- I. Alternate (refer to Handbook Section 11-1-2(2))
- J. Call for New Business

V. **Concerns from the Public:** The Executive Committee provides this agenda item at each of its meetings for the purpose of receiving citizen input on the operation of the League. Complete Guidelines for Public Comment before the Executive Committee may be found on page 23 of the 2016-17 Handbook, a key excerpt of which follows: In order to allow the Committee sufficient time for its other business, the total time allotted to public comments will generally be limited to thirty (30) minutes. (12-05) Individual speakers and/or groups will be limited to three minutes. There will be no discussion by the Executive Committee during this time. Individuals and/or groups will provide the VHSL with information regarding their presentation in advance in writing. Presentations will be included in the agenda.

As of September 8 we have received no requests.

VI. **Legal Report:**

- A. **Appeals Process:** VHSL Legal Counsel Craig Wood will address members concerning their responsibilities in regard to appeals.
- B. **Homeschool Issue:**

Background

In the 2016 session of the General Assembly two bills HB131 (<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?161+ful+HB131>) and SB 612 (<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?161+ful+SB612>) allowing students who receive home instruction to participate in VHSL interscholastic programs subject provisions in the bills and to all policies that the local school board may establish regarding such participation. Similar bills were passed during the 2015 session of the General Assembly. The Governor vetoed these bills in both 2015 and 2016.

Summary of NFHS Action

In 2015 and 2016, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) conducted three surveys to collect information concerning home school students from the fifty-one member associations.

➤ In May 2015, a survey was conducted to answer the following questions:

1. Does your state provide athletic eligibility to home school students or virtual school students?
2. Does your state allow students in private schools to participate at their public high school of residence if the private school does not offer a particular sport?

3. Does your state have bylaws that specifically address the foregoing questions? (If so, please scan and attach such bylaws.)

A total of thirty-four states responded with twenty-six states affirmed that home school or virtual school students are provided athletic eligibility.

➤ In December 2015, a survey to answer the following questions was conducted:

1. Does your state association allow home school teams to become members?
2. Do you allow your members to participate against home school teams?

A total of thirty-nine associations responded with thirty-four states reporting that home school teams are not allowed to become members and twenty-six associations do not allow member schools to participate against home school teams?

➤ In February 2016, a survey to collect information about minimum of GPA requirements and home school students. The following questions were asked:

1. Is there a minimum GPA for athletic participation in your state?
2. If so, what is it?
3. Do you permit athletic participation by home-schoolers?
4. If so, does your minimum grade requirement (if you have one) apply to home-schoolers?

A total of thirty-six associations responded to the survey. Twenty-nine states reported not having a minimum GPA, while twenty-one responded that they do allow athletic participation by home-schoolers and fifteen responding that the minimum grade requirement does not apply to home-schoolers. Only six states responding require a minimum GPA, which was a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

VII. **Committee Reports:**

- A. **Finance:** Chairman Danny Knott will report findings and recommendations. Note the budget narrative that has been developed for the benefit of the committee members.

[Attach Narrative and 2017 Budget](#)

1. VHSL Financial Review of Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Report through June 30, 2016. [Attach](#)
2. VHSL Foundation, Inc., Review of Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Report through June 30, 2016. [Attach](#)
 - a. Foundation Background: The VHSL Foundation was created in 1997 as a way to ensure that future generations will have the same opportunities that have enriched the lives of young people since 1913. As an extension of the Virginia High School League, the Foundation stimulates ongoing statewide support for League activities and programs by securing, managing and allocating resources for the preservation, enrichment and expansion of League programs and services to Virginia's youth. It is designed to create an endowment

wherein the principal funds would be invested so that the interest from that fund could support existing programs.

The VHSL and the VHSL Foundation are separate and distinct organizations with different governing boards and separate registrations with the IRS.

In accordance with the Foundation By-laws, the VHSL executive committee annually appoints representatives to the VHSL Foundation board.

b. 2016-17 Board Appointments: Eric Baylor and Jim Stemple (by principals), Jim Hyson and Mark Meana (by the VIAAA), Emilie Tilley and Elaine Fogliani (by superintendents), Brian Monday and Victor Cardwell (by other representatives). Other members of the Foundation Board are London Bradley, Bert Dodson, Jr., Shirley Eye, Carl Francis, Joe Gieck, Patricia Griffin, Billy Haun, Herb Hecht, Bryan Thomas, Wayne Vick, Ken Willard, Kenny Word, Gene Corrigan (emeritus) and Carl Rosberg (emeritus).

c. VHSL Foundation Report: The VHSL Foundation granted out \$51,724.85 for cross country, theatre and scholastic bowl team travel. There was an increase of approximately 30% in the total number of donors, and the total number of gifts received.

d. Incoming VHSL Foundation Officers:

Mark Meana, President
Jim Hyson, Vice President
Pat Griffin, Secretary
Brian Monday, Treasurer

e. Marketing/Collateral material:

<http://www.vhsl.org/doc/upload/Foundation%20Post%20Card-July-2016%20MC.pdf>

f. Statement of Position: [Attach](#)

3. Revisit the action taken at the December 2015 meeting to increase the activity fee to \$50 and the catastrophic insurance to \$6 beginning with the 2017-18 school year.
4. Audit: An audit of VHSL's FY 2016 financial statements, Internal Controls, and compliance with accounting rules and regulations is in progress. The audit report will be available at the December meeting.
5. An oral report will be made as to any outstanding FY2017 membership payments.
6. Rappahannock County High School - Benefit Game: Rappahannock County High School is requesting that the VHSL donate their 1/3 percent of the proceeds from their benefit game to a specific cause. An oral report will be made.
7. Sponsorship Update:

- a. Corporate Sponsorship Background: The League’s collaboration with corporate sponsors has proven to be essential in establishing and running strong programs. Partnerships enable us to expand our programs and work for the benefit of member schools.

Sponsors allow the League to maintain improved and expanded benefits of membership at a level well beyond what would be possible were we to continue to depend solely on dues and program revenue.

Corporate sponsorships and grants provided the VHSL with total fundraising income of \$667,903.10. Without our sponsors, the executive committee would need to look at increasing member school dues by more than \$2100 per school. Also worth noting is that since the initial corporate sponsor partnerships and grants began, more than \$7 million has been received.

As executive committee members, representatives are responsible for the fiduciary health of the organization. If you have any suggestions for potential corporate partnerships, you are always encouraged to speak with Hannah Catherine Munro, Director of Development for the VHSL (434-977-8475 or hcmunro@vhsl.org).

- b. Staff is in discussion with Russ Potts Production, Inc. for a contract extension.

Potential Revenue Sources for Schools: Two VHSL corporate partnerships that provide direct revenue streams to member schools are:

- NFHS Network and PlayON Sports School Broadcast Program which affords opportunities for individual schools to broadcast regular season games and receive revenue from subscriber fees and,
- VHSL has 165 schools (53%) participating in the Licensed Resource Group program. LRG generated \$48,834.07 for Virginia schools during the 15-16 school year. This number is down from the previous year’s \$52,350 total.

- c. Corporate Sponsorship Action items: Hannah Catherine Munro will make an oral report and be available for questions.

NFHS Network ticketing program
 Fine Designs renewal
 RPPI contract

8. Capital Improvement project:

Capital Property, Plant and Equipment

PRIORITY NEEDS

1. Technology – System and functionality of site is outdated. Website development/upgrade. Webinars to conduct League business/meetings/conferences. Computer hardware and software upgrades.
2. HVAC – System is 28 years old and past its life expectancy. VHSL has entered a service contract with Southern Air.
3. Building roof replacement – The original roof is past its life expectancy and has been patched/repared over the years.
4. Parking lot replacement – Lot is past its life expectancy and in need of immediate replacement.

5. Building interior – Painting entire interior. Water damage repair caused by HVAC system condensation in bathrooms and storage areas.
6. Conference Room – expansion of small conference room.

9. Status of Coaches Pass: As of September 8, we have issued 2235 VHSL Coaches Passes. Last year on September 3 we had issued 2118 passes.
10. Conflict of Interest Forms: [Attach](#)
11. Listing of VHSL Foundation Donors: [Attach](#)

B. **Personnel and Operations:** Chairman Mike Davidson will report findings and recommendations.

1. **Goals for Executive Director:** The Executive Director and League Chairman shall develop annual goals for the Executive Director, to be submitted and approved by the Executive Committee no later than October 1. The proposed goals for 2016-17 are:

Goal 1 – During the 2016-2017 year, the Executive Director and staff will analyze the FY 2017 VHSL operational budget, including revenues, expenditures, sponsorships, and spending. This evaluation will enable the VHSL to address the three-year trend of having a net loss of the operating budget and to create a FY 2018 budget that will better support the VHSL mission.

Goal 2 – The VHSL will be developing a new strategic plan during the 2016-2017 year. A component of this plan will be to develop a communication plan that addresses clear, concise, and transparent communication with all stakeholders: students, parents, membership, officials and coaches, and the general public. The plan will address providing accurate and up-to-date information on the website, communicating with membership staff, the process for making decisions and changes, and communicating the mission of the VHSL and the benefits to students who participate in interscholastic activities.

Goal 3 – During the 2016-2017 year, the Executive Director and staff will review the VHSL Employee Handbook. Information in each section will be evaluated and updated for accuracy. The salary and benefit section will be reviewed to ensure the VHSL compensation package, salary and benefits, is in alignment with competitive market levels. An additional section will be added to the handbook that addresses staff evaluations and focus on creating SMART (Strategic, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Timely) goals and a rubric for evaluating the goals.

Goal 4 – During the 2017-2018 year, the VHSL will implement a new alignment for member schools, going from the current model of six groups and twelve regions to six groups and twenty-four regions. With the new alignment, the size of the Executive Committee will increase from thirty-one to forty-three members using the current guidelines for voting members. The Executive Director will work with staff, the executive committee, and membership during the 2016-2017 year to implement a governance system for the VHSL that will effectively and functionally work with the new group and regional alignment while continuing to provide representation for the member schools in each region.

2. **Review recommendations for Executive Director from previous year.**

The Personnel and Operations Committee met on May 4, 2016 and recommended the following areas of focus for the Executive Director during the 2016-2017 year.

1. Finances and budget
2. Changes to the new classification system
3. Communication and transparency
4. Staff evaluation and salary scales

3. **New Staff Positions:**

- a. VHS� Director of Finance: David Hopkins was approved earlier this month as the new VHS� Director of Finance. This position has been vacant since December 31, 2015.

[Attach](#)

- b. Athletic Programs Assistant: Carrie Little was hired as Tom Dolan’s assistant, replacing Carolyn Shifflett, and began work the middle of June.

Since January 1, the League has hired four new employees: Billy Haun, Executive Director; Kelley Haney and Carrie Little, Athletic Program Assistants; and David Hopkins, VHS� Director of Finance.

C. **Policy and Programs:** Chairman Paul Joseph will review the committee’s findings and recommendations.

1. **Frank C. McCue Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC):** Review of September 7 SMAC minutes. [Attach](#)

a. SMAC has requested that the attached information be reviewed by the Policy and Programs Committee concerning “Recommendations for the Safety of Young Athletes: Addressing Year-Round Training”

[Attach](#)

2. **Coaches Education:** Review of August 4 Coaches Education Committee minutes. [Attach](#)
3. **Legislation:** Review legislative proposals as appropriate (only those specifically requested by a member of the Executive Committee).

4. **State Quarterfinals:** The Alignment Committee had previously supported reinstating quarterfinal games in the following sports beginning with the 2016-17 school year: Field Hockey, Volleyball (B&G), Baseball, Soccer and Softball.

5. **Sportsmanship Report:** An oral report will be made on 2015-16 Violations and Player and Coach Ejections.

6. **Pitch Policy:** Shawn Knight will provide an oral report on the meeting held on September 14.

7. **State Events for 2016-17:**

VHSL State Tournament Sites 9/16

State Events	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-19
Cheerleading 1A-6A Championships	Siegel Center	Siegel Center	
Cross Country 1A -6A Championships	Great Meadow – Mountain View host	Great Meadow – Mountain View host	
Field Hockey 1A-4A Combined Championship 5A-6A Championships	Virginia Beach Training Center	Virginia Beach Training Center	Stafford Area Schools host
Football 1A – 2A Championships	Salem Stadium	Salem Stadium	
Football 3A – 4A Championships	William & Mary	William & Mary	
Football 5A – 6A Championships	Hampton University	Hampton University	
Golf 1A – 2A Championships Site	Heritage Oaks – Harrisonburg HS		
Golf 3A – 4A Championships Site	Stonehouse – Jamestown host		
Golf 5A – 6A Championships Site	Magnolia Green – Cosby host		
Girls Open Golf All Classes – 1 Championship	International Country Club – West Potomac host		
Volleyball 1A-6A Championships for Girls; One Combined Championship for Boys	Siegel Center Thursday and Saturday	Siegel Center Friday and Saturday	
Basketball Supersites	ODU, VCU, Robinson, JMU, Salem CC, Virginia High – Quarterfinals or Quarterfinals and Semifinals	ODU, VCU, Robinson, JMU, Salem CC, UVA-Wise – Quarterfinals or Quarterfinals and Semifinals	
Basketball 1A – 6A Championships	Siegel Center	Siegel Center	
Gymnastics 1A – 5A Combined Championship and 6A Championship	Patriot High School	Tuscarora High School	
Indoor Track 2A-3A-4A Combined Championship	Roanoke College – Staunton River host		

Indoor Track 5A – 6A Championships	Boo Williams Sportsplex – Bethel host	Boo Williams Sportsplex – Bethel host	
Swim/Dive 2A	Christiansburg Aquatic Center – Radford host		
Swim/Dive 3A-4A Championships	Swim RVA – Lafayette host		
Swim/Dive 5A-6A Championships	George Mason – Oakton host		
Wrestling 1A-3A Championships	Salem Civic Center	Salem Civic Center	
Wrestling 4A - Championships	Churchland High School		
Wrestling 5A & 6A	Oscar Smith High School		
1A – 2A Spring Jubilee	Radford	Radford	
3A – 4A Spring Jubilee	Salem	Salem	
5A – 6A Spring Jubilee	6A North Host	6A North Host	
Tennis	6A – GMU; 5A – Huntington Park; 4A – Salem; 3A – Salem; 2A – Va. Tech; 1A – Radford	6A – GMU; 5A – Huntington Park; 4A – Salem; 3A – Salem; 2A – Va. Tech; 1A – Radford	
Outdoor Track 1A – 2A Championships	East Rockingham HS	East Rockingham HS	
Outdoor Track 3A – 4A Championships	Harrisonburg HS	Harrisonburg HS	
Outdoor Track 5A – 6A Championships	Todd Stadium –Newport News Public Schools	Todd Stadium –Newport News Public Schools	
Theatre 1A - 4A Championships	Monticello H S		
Theatre 5A – 6A Championships	Dickinson Center	Dickinson Center	
Scholastic Bowl 1A – 6A Championships	William & Mary		
Forensics 1A – 6A Championships	Clover Hill		
Debate Combined 1A – 3A Championship and 4A, 5A, 6A Championships	TBD		
Film Festival	VCU		

Highlights Need Approval

D. **Communications:** Chairman Jeff Dietz will report on the committee findings and recommendations.

1. **Update on rSchoolToday and Big Teams:** Joyce Sisson will give an oral report. [Attach](#)

2. **Fall 2016 VHSL insert and VHSL Foundation inserts.** VHSL program inserts are available. The inserts can also be personalized with an individual school's athletes. Numerous schools have taken advantage of this option. [Attach](#)
3. **NFHS Network Board Update:** An oral report will be made.
4. **League Awards:**
 - a. **Torch of Honor:** This is the League's highest honor, recognizing service above and beyond the call of duty. Consideration will be given to outstanding service to VHSL at the regional and/or state level beyond that mandated by regular employment, innovation in developing new programs or expansion of existing programs, and other evidence of exceptional service to high school activity programs over a period of at least five years.

Ken Tilley, former VHSL Executive Director, and Craig Wood, VHSL Legal Counsel are the two nominees for this prestigious award.

- b. **2015-16 Regional Award of Merit:** Regions are encouraged to nominate outstanding administrators, coaches and contributors who have made exceptional contributions to their region. Regions are encouraged to forward their recipients for the 2016-17 school year to Mike McCall as soon as they have been finalized.

2015-16 Region Award Recipients

Region 1A East

Administrator – Rita Holmes

Coach – Mark Redden

Contributor – Crystal Davis

Region 1A West

Administrator – Stan Dunham

Coach – Kermit Nelson

Contributor – Dr. Scotty Dove

Region 2A East

Administrator – Dr. Stanley Waskiewicz

Coach – Jeff Smoot

Contributor – Craig Whittaker

Region 2A West

Administrator – John O'Neal

Coach – Bill Houseright and Tom Rife

Contributor – Gary Thompson

Region 5A North

Administrator – Bob Maxey

Coach – Buz Male

Contributor – Stan Parker

Region 5A South

Administrator – Ryan O’Meara

Coach – Hutch Hammond

Contributor – Lee Dodson

Region 6A North

Administrator – KT Lynch

Coach – Bruce Hanson

Contributor – Bill Clark

- E. **Strategic Planning:** An oral report will be presented.
- F. **Opportunities for Disabled Students:** Shawn Knight will provide an oral report.
- G. **Alignment:** Minutes from the June 15 and August 4 meetings are attached for review and the Executive Committee will act on appeal from William Byrd High School (explanation below).

Background

In December 2011, the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Executive Committee voted unanimously to develop a four-, five-, or six-classification model for the alignment of Virginia’s high schools. This decision was reached after extensive discussions were conducted in 2009-2010, and a 2011 survey of member schools in which two-thirds of schools responding supported four or more classifications.

The VHSL Executive Committee adopted a six classification alignment that became effective in the 2013-2014 school year. The primary objectives of the new alignment was to provide; 1) greater equity, 2) better balance, and 3) more playoff opportunities for schools and students.

The six classes shrank the huge disparities with a difference of 205 and 408 students in five of the classes and just over 1,000 students in Class 6A. In the previous system Group AAA schools ranged from a low of 713 students to schools with more than 2900 students. Group AA ranged from 670 students to more than 1500 students.

In the three classification system, Group AAA had 130 schools, Group AA had just 84 schools and Group A had 99 schools. There was also inequity among the regions. The Central Region had 34 schools which Region IV had just 16 schools. With the new six classification system, each classification has between 50-54 schools and two regions each and each region has between 24-28 schools.

The new alignment also expanded opportunities for students to compete in state playoffs. The number of state championships increased from 90 to 150.

During the April 20, 2015 Alignment Committee meeting, the 2015 VHSL Alignment Survey results were discussed. There was a good response to the survey and two items were noted for discussion. Three concerns that continue to warrant efforts to improve are travel, finances, and the loss of instructional time. The second item of note was that the VHSL should keep the six-classification system and work to address concerns.

The committee also discussed proposed legislation that allowed for the alignment plan adopted for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years may be extended for an additional two-year period allowing for realignment during the mid-point of a four-year alignment cycle beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. The recommendation to the Executive Committee was at mid-point for a school to remain in its current classification if the school is no more than 5% above the highest school's previous ADM within the classification in which they wish to remain. The justification for this recommendation was that having a four-year alignment cycle will help to stabilize schools' status.

The committee also made a recommendation to the Executive Committee that beginning with the 2017-2018, conferences would be removed altogether and there would be four regions per class. Each school would play a district schedule and then use the smaller regions as the playoff grouping.

On December 17, 2015, the Alignment Committee met to develop a recommended plan for the 24 regions. This plan was distributed to member schools on December 29, 2015. Schools had until Monday, January 8, 2016 appeal their placement in the proposed plan. The Executive Committee approved this plan at the February 17, 2016 meeting.

On January 13, 2016, the Alignment Committee met to hear appeals from nine schools. Seven of the appeals were approved. At the February Executive Committee meeting, members were concerned about the process for appeals where sometimes appeals were left "hanging or unsettled". They concurred with the Alignment Committee that they should formulate the process and consider parameters for subsequent Alignment Committee meetings and timelines/directives for such meetings. Therefore, the Executive Committee tabled all of the appeals and required all of the schools to resubmit the appeals for the August 4 Alignment Committee hearing.

Summary of Action

At the May 5, 2016 Executive Committee meeting, this recommendation from the Alignment Committee was accepted.

On June 15, 2016, the Alignment Committee met to prepare the Initial Alignment Plan for 2017-18 and 2018-19 based on the 5% buffer numbers using the March 31, 2016 ADM Figures.

On August 4, 2016, the Alignment Committee met to finalize a recommendation to the Executive Committee at the September meeting. The Committee heard twenty-five appeals of which nineteen were approved. One appeal was withdrawn, one did not need a vote, and four were denied. The four that were denied were all appeals to play in a classification than where their March ADM numbers placed them. One of the denied schools, William Byrd has appealed the Alignment Committee decision to the Executive Committee.

In addition to the appeals, the Committee at the August meeting defined and provided additional clarity for the "off-year" appeal considerations; logic, size, expenses, geography, and profit. They also made a recommendation for renaming the regions.

There was also discussion about the use of the mid-point appeals and use of the 5% buffer. The Committee decided that it was too soon to make any decisions on the effectiveness of this process and

that since it will not be used again for four years, they should wait to see the consequences of this year’s actions before making any changes or decisions.

William Byrd: Requests to be placed in the 3A Classification rather than the 4A Classification where the March 31, 2016 ADM numbers place them. [Attach materials](#)

VIII. **Consent Agenda** (staff recommends approval):

A. **Approval of 2016-17 Crisis Management Committee:** 12-3-1 of the Policy Manual indicates there “shall be a standing committee to include the six Group Board chairmen, the League chairman, one athletics/activities director representative and three at-large members of the Executive Committee. The committee is empowered to act on behalf of the full Executive Committee to deal expeditiously with any potential crisis that may have statewide implications.” The following are recommended committee members for 2016-17.

VHSL Chair	Jim Stemple	3A	Tim Teachey
6A	Paul Joseph	2A	Eric Baylor
5A	Matt Delaney	1A	Ty Gafford
4A	Major Warner		

Athletic/Activities -- Tommy Golding
Delegates at Large Superintendent -- TBD
Vanessa Wigand
Felicia Bailey

B. **Advisory Committees for 2016-17:** 12-4-1 of the VHSL Handbook under Executive Committee Duties requires the Executive Committee to approve the Advisory Committees for the current year. A draft version is provided; regions are requested to review, confirm, update and fill vacancies as needed.

[Attach](#)

C. **Ratification of Vote by email:** The committee voted by email in September to approve the appointment of David Hopkins for the position of VHSL Director of Finance.

[Attach](#)

IX. **Legislation:**

A. **Emergency:** The following proposals are presented as an Emergency Amendment, requiring a three-fourths vote of approval, and would become effective immediately unless the Executive Committee incorporates into the legislation a later effective date. The Executive Committee may declare a proposed amendment to be an emergency amendment requiring prompt action.

1. **27-4-1 CONTEST LIMITATION RULE (submitted by 1A West)**
And 53-3-1 CONTEST LIMITATIONS

27-4-1 CONTEST LIMITATION RULE-*No member school ...*

27-4-2 Exception:

- (1) Beginning with the start of the 2016-17 winter season and ending with the conclusion of the 2018-19 winter season, 1A schools only may experiment with a six-quarter rule in basketball that permits participation in two levels of competition on the same day, up to a maximum of 6 quarters per day.
 - a. For inter-classification play with other VHSL member schools, the host school would determine the rules of participation relative to the 6-quarter rule.
 - b. For tournament play involving multiple classifications, participation rules would be determined prior to the start of the tournament.
 - c. During the experimental period, data would be compiled from the member schools in the 1A classification by a selected committee of school representatives from across the state to help determine the positive/negative impact on 1A schools and athletes. Comparisons will be made to the previous year(s) regarding participation, game cancellations (due to not having enough players), problems resulting from multi-classification competition, etc.

~~27-4-2~~ 27-4-3 Interpretation:

54-3-1 Contest Limitations-No member school may permit its athletes or teams to compete in more than the Total number of regular season interscholastic contests, meets or tournament specified below for each sport either on the varsity or sub-varsity level.

Basketball – 22 Basketball players in Group 1A only are limited to 6 quarters per day, but may play at both the varsity and sub-varsity level on the same day as long as they do not exceed 22 contests per season, exclusive of post-season play. (See 27-4-2).

RATIONALE:

- 1. Decreasing enrollments have affected schools’ abilities to compete, especially at the jV level. Schools that might not otherwise be able to field both a JV and Varsity team would have a better chance of doing so given a 6-quarter rule.
- 2. Currently, Tennessee and West Virginia have in place a six-quarter per night participation limitation which allows players to play at the JV and Varsity levels on the same night.

Staff has no position on this request.

September Executive Committee Action: _____

- B. **First-vote items:** The following proposals are first-vote amendments. If a proposal receives a majority vote of approval at any meeting, it would be adopted if approved by a two-thirds affirmative vote at the next scheduled meeting and would become effective July 1, 2017. Proposed amendments not approved on second-vote shall be null and void.
- 2. **27-2-5 – Coaches Education Requirement; 27-2-6 – State and Local Knowledge Requirement (submitted by the Coaches Education Committee)**

27-2-5 Coaches Education Requirement-A VHSL-approved course in principles of coaching and sport first aid is required of all first time athletic coaches at a VHSL member school and those athletic coaches who are exempted through the VHSL Coaches Rule 27-2-2 (4). Coaches have ~~three~~ two years in which to meet this requirement. Prior to the first practice for all coaches of VHSL fall, winter and spring sports teams, these individuals must take a recognized course providing both education and prevention regarding concussion as it relates to high school activities.

Note: Examples of such courses include but are not limited to: "Concussion in Sports. What You Need to Know" produced by the NFHS, ACTive Concussion Management Course, "Athletic Concussion Training for Coaches" produced by the Oregon Center for Applied Sciences and "Heads Up, Concussion in Youth Sports" produced by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

27-2-6 State and Local Knowledge Requirement-All athletic coaches are required to complete a VHSL Component which familiarizes the coach with rules and regulations found in the VHSL *Handbook* as well as those found at the local level. Coaches have three years in which to meet this requirement.

27-2-7 Child Abuse Recognition, CPR, and AED Requirement- Effective July 1, 2017, consistent with the Code of Virginia requirement of teachers, all coaches, athletic and activities, are required to complete a child abuse recognition and intervention course that meets Virginia Board of Education guidelines. School divisions may design their own training or utilize other training opportunities to fulfill this requirement. Verification of such training should be maintained by the school and/or school division's human resources department. Additionally, all coaches are required to provide evidence of completion of certification or training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and the use of automated external defibrillators (AED). The certification or training program must be based on the current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator, such as a program developed by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. Verification of such training should be maintained by the school and/or school division's human resources department.

27-2-8 Penalty- ~~A school shall be fined \$50 for each coach per sport~~ The participation of a coach who does not complete this requirement in the prescribed time shall constitute the use of an ineligible coach and result in penalties as prescribed in 30-3-1.

RATIONALE:

The change to 27-2-5 reduces the period for completion of the coaches education requirement from three years to two years in an effort to reduce the liability exposure of member schools, as much can occur in a three year period.

Language added to 27-2-6 clarifies current interpretation of this section, as the coaches education requirement heretofore has only applied to athletic coaches.

Proposed language inserted as recodified 27-2-7 requires coaches to complete the same requirements (CPR/AED/child abuse recognition and intervention) that teachers are now required by the Code of Virginia to complete. The language conforms to current Virginia Department of Education language and brings all coaches into conformity with our teacher coaches.

Recodified 27-2-8 clarifies the status of coaches who do not complete the coaches education requirements in the prescribed time as well as the penalty for such coaches' participation. This legislation renders such coaches ineligible until such time as the requirements are satisfied.

Staff recommends approval.

September Executive Committee Action: _____

3. **28A-5-3 (4) Scholarship Rule Interpretations (submitted by Executive Director)**

28A-5-3(4) A student scholastically eligible or ineligible at the beginning of a semester shall be considered eligible or ineligible under this rule throughout that semester; however, throughout any semester during which the student wishes to maintain his/her eligibility, he/she must be continuously enrolled in five subjects that, if successfully completed, will render him/her scholastically eligible for League participation the ensuing semester. (Exceptions: ~~(a)~~ a student who receives an incomplete in a subject which causes him/her not to meet minimum scholastic requirements is ineligible until the work is satisfactorily made up and credit for that course is awarded, at which time his/her eligibility is restored; ~~and (b) a student whose original failing grade in a subject becomes a passing grade through successful completion of SOL testing in accordance with local school division policies.)~~

Rationale: Not passing the SOLs is not used by schools to determine eligibility.

Staff recommends approval.

September Executive Committee Action: _____

X. **Action Agenda:**

A. **October Meeting Schedule:**

October 13, 2016

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration
8:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Breakout Session
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Group Boards Meet
11:15 – 12:15 p.m.	Membership Meeting
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Regions Meet (not mandatory)

March Meeting Schedule:

Group Boards and Membership Meetings

Thursday, March 9 -- tentative schedule – change in previously approved date

8:00 - 8:30	Coffee/Danish - Issue Credentials -- Ballroom Lobby
8:30 - 9:45	Regions Meet Rooms TBD
10:00 – 11:30	Group Board Meetings – Rooms TBD

Friday, March 10 -- tentative schedule – change in previously approved date

8:00 - 8:30	Coffee/Danish – Issue Credentials -- Ballroom Lobby
8:30 - 9:45	Breakout Sessions
10:00 – 11:30	Membership Meeting -- Shenandoah Ballroom

- B. **Addition of 4A State Field Hockey Tournament:** The results of the field hockey survey are attached. The committee will need to act on the addition of a 4A Field Hockey State Tournament.

Attach survey

C. William Byrd Alignment Appeal:

September Executive Committee vote: _____

D. Approval of the VHSL Recommended Final 24-Region Alignment Plan for 2017-18 and 2018-19:

Staff recommends approval

September Executive Committee vote: _____

E. Approval of the VHSL Recommended Final District Alignment Plan for 2017-18 and 2018-19

Staff recommends approval.

September Executive Committee vote: _____

F. Include action on any specific items designated by committee reports:

XI. **Discussion and Information:**

A. **Future legislation for review by region councils (first vote in December).**

54-16-1 District Scheduling-Every school in a district must play all other schools within a three classification spread in regular season play in all sports. Schools are not required but may choose to play above the three-classification spread within their district.

54-16-2 Deviation from District Scheduling Requirement-by unanimous vote of all members, a district may request of the Executive Committee to deviate from the requirement in a district to play all other school within a three classification spread in regular season play in all sports.

- B. **NFHS Summer Meeting:** The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) held its 97th Summer Meeting was in Reno, Nevada from Tuesday, June 28th through Saturday, July 2nd. The conference was very well attended.

The main focus of the conference was on the multi-year communications campaign “*My Reason Why*”. This is a joint campaign between the NFHS and state associations that is intended to highlight the value and benefit of participation in high school sports and activities through real-life engaging stories from student, parents, coaches and the community at large. The goal of this campaign is to drive participation and strengthen support for high school athletics and activities while also showcasing the outstanding work being done by the state associations.

Each state will receive a “tool kit” and materials will be tailored to individual associations.

The keynote speaker for the first general session of the conference was Leland Melvin. Leland presentation was titled *“The Right Stuff is the Never Give Up Stuff.”* Leland is a former Virginia High School League alumnus who graduated from Heritage High School in Lynchburg in 1982. He graduated from the University of Richmond with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry. He also has a Master of Science Degree in Materials Science Engineering from the University of Virginia. In 1987 he was drafted by the Detroit Lions and also participated in training camps with the Toronto Argonauts and Dallas Cowboys. Leland is the first and only NFL draftee to become a NASA astronaut.

Lisa Giles presented a session on student leadership.

It is worth noting that VHSL representatives are heavily involved in NFHS Committees.

- Tom Dolan is on the Baseball Rules Committee.
- Lisa Giles is chairman of the Speech, Debate and Theatre Committee, as well as the Heart of the Arts Selection Committee
- Mike McCall is on the National Records Committee.
- Katherine Dec, the chair of the VHSL Frank C. McCue Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), serves on the NFHS SMAC.
- Tom Zimorski serves on the Football Rules Committee.
- Duane Hyland, is on the Speech, Debate and Theatre Committee.
- Hannah Catherine Munro is the Section 2 Representative on the NFHS LRG Advisory Committee and serves on the NFHS Network Leadership Circle and serves the Online Ticketing Committee for the NFHS.
- Shawn Knight is on the Spirit Rules Committee.
- George Homewood is on the Swimming and Diving Rules Committee.

C. **Complimentary Registration for the Previous Year’s Host of the Ken Tilley Student Leaders**

Conference: Previous year’s host will be allotted 3 adults and 10 students to attend the following year’s conference provided that it nets a minimum of \$6,000.

- D. **Hall of Fame:** The banquet is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12 at 6:00 p.m., and Executive Committee members are encouraged to attend. The Class of 2016 includes three athletes (**Cornelius (Bang) Cousins, Jr.; Heath Miller and Meg Turner**); four coaches (**Robin Dotson; Tom Harding, Joel Hicks and Munro Anthony Rateau**); and one contributor (**Bettie Joe (B.J.) Carroll**).

- E. SMAC has requested that the attached information be reviewed by the Policy and Programs Committee concerning *“Recommendations for the Safety of Young Athletes: Addressing Year-Round Training”*. The attached is for review by the Executive Committee.

[Attached](#)

- F. **Section 2 NFHS Meetings:** NFHS Section Meetings give staff a great opportunity to share ideas and compare programs with other state associations. The 2016-17 Section 2 NFHS Meeting (DE, DC, KY, MD, OH, PA, VA, WVA) will be on September 26-28 in Maryland. Billy Haun and Tom Dolan will attend.

G. **League Award:** Hannah Catherine Munro, Director of Development Activities recently completed 20 years with the VHSL. This accomplishment is another indication of the dedication of the VHSL staff.

XII. **Consideration of New Business Items:**

XIII. **Business from the Floor:**

XIV. **Adjournment:**