

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA DECEMBER 2016

TIME: Tuesday, December 6, 2016

- 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Foundation Board Meeting – VHSL Office – Jim Stemple and Eric Baylor
- 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Personnel and Operations Committee – Hilton Gardens, Thomas Jefferson Board Room – Mike Davidson, chair, Martin Grimm, Ty Gafford, Keith Perrigan, Mark Mear, Tommy Golding, Chris Robinson, Beth Hardy, Jim Stemple
- 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee – Hilton Gardens, Peter Jefferson Conference Room -- Danny Knott, chair, Eric Baylor, Matt Delaney, Tony Brads, Carol Fenn, Laura Sutton, Elie Bracy, Delegate – TBD, Jim Stemple
- 3:00 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
- 3:00 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, December 7, 2016

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

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, Elie Bracy, Dave Melton, Tony Brads, Carol Fenn, Mark Mear, Keith Perrigan, Cecil Snead, Beth Hardy, Felicia Bailey, Tom Garrett and Billy Haun.

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

Two new Executive Committee Members:

Elie Bracy, superintendent of Portsmouth City Public Schools, replaces Willie Bell, Region 2 Superintendent's Group.

Tony Brads, superintendent of Culpeper County Schools, replaces Dave Jeck, Region 4 Superintendent's Group.

II. **Agenda Approval:**

III. **Minutes:** The September 21, 2016 Executive Committee Minutes have been posted on BoardDocs. [Attach](#)

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

- A. Room arrangements – March
- B. Committee schedule and procedures
- C. 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 November 22 we have received no request.

VI. **Legal Report:** Craig Wood will update the committee on the Gloucester Transgender Case before the Supreme Court. He will also give some guidance and direction on the subject of kneeling during the National Anthem.

VII. **Committee Reports:**

A. **Finance:** Chairman Danny Knott will report on the committee's findings and recommendations.

The VHSL Budget Timeline stipulates that at the December meeting staff will inform the Finance Committee of known variances in next year's budget that significantly deviate from historical trends and will provide salary and benefit proposals as well as projected revenue to meet such costs. This information is contained in the Budget Narrative. A first draft of the FY2018 budget will be provided to the Finance Committee at the February meeting for their review and feedback.

1. VHSL Financial Review of Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Report through October 31, 2016, including FY2018 Budget Narrative. [Attach](#)
2. VHSL Foundation, Inc., Review of Balance Sheet and Income and Expense Report through October 31, 2016. [Attach](#)
 - a. Foundation Donor List: [Attach](#)
 - b. Statement of Position: [Attach](#)
 - c. Showker Challenge gift update: Joe Showker offered a Challenge Gift to the VHSL executive committee of \$5,000. We are hoping to get all gifts by December 31. As of November 23, 14 executive committee members have made 16 gifts totaling \$2,384.50. The executive committee is almost half way to meeting the challenge. Special "Thanks" to Jim Stemple for securing gifts from all Stafford County Schools. Additionally, ten VHSL staff members have made gifts totaling \$2,185.02. Five of these staff members make monthly gifts so that total will continue to rise. On-line gifts may be made by clicking <http://www.vhsl.org/foundation.online-giving>.
3. Audit – Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates audited the financial statements of the Virginia High School League, Inc., for the year ended June 30, 2016, and issued their report. The auditors issued an unqualified (clean) audit report and expressed their opinion that the financial statements presented a fair statement of the financial position of the Virginia High School League. Copies of the audit will be distributed to committee members.
4. Sponsorship Update: Year-to-date, the VHSL has taken in \$249,975.06 in corporate sponsorships. This includes partnership dollars from Wilson Sporting Goods (official VHSL ball sponsor), PlayOn Sports, NFHS, Fine Designs (official state championship apparel supplier) and the Licensed Resource Group. Additional funds are expected from Pepsi, NFHS and GoFan (Huddle on-line ticketing group). We have traditionally received funds from Wegmans, Jostens and grants from the Allstate Foundation and the Wells Fargo Foundation. It is to be noted that Wells Fargo and Allstate are not guaranteed but rather, they are grant applications that are submitted and reviewed on an annual basis.

Staff expects those additional funds to total \$222,000.00, leaving the League still shy \$128,024.94 of the budgeted corporate sponsorship amount of \$600,000.

Member schools are encouraged to use and support VHSL sponsors, as well as, connecting staff to potential sponsors. Hannah Catherine Munro will be present for discussion.

One of the VHSL newer sponsors is GoFan. GoFan was used at cross country and field hockey for on-line ticket sales. VHSL member schools may set up their own on-line ticket sales by contacting GoFan directly: Tom Loizzo, Office Phone: 678-679-7628 or tloizzo@huddleinc.com

As a GoFan partner, your school will:

- Keep 100% of your ticket revenue.
- Have shorter ticket lines with quicker entry
- Allow for credit card purchases.

[Click to see additional benefits. http://www.huddleinc.com/get-gofan-digital-tickets](http://www.huddleinc.com/get-gofan-digital-tickets)

- B. **Personnel and Operations:** Chairman Mike Davidson will report on the committee's findings and recommendations.

1. Review Goals of Executive Director:

- (a) The following goals were developed by the Executive Director and League Chairman and approved at the September 2016 Executive Committee meeting:

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. Communication and transparency

3. Staff evaluation and salary scales
 3. **Prepare mid-year evaluation of Executive Director:**
 4. **Staff Vacancies:**
 - (a) **Assistant Director of Athletics Vacancy:** Joyce Sisson announced her retirement from the VHSL effective February 2, 2017. Applications are being received through November 25, 2016. Executive Director Haun will give an oral report on the status of this vacancy.
 5. **Letter Requesting Permission for Executive Director to teach class**
- C. **Policy and Programs:** Chairman Paul Joseph will review the committee's findings and recommendations.
1. **Coaches Education:** Review of minutes of the November 17 meeting.
 2. **Legislation:** Review legislative proposals as appropriate (only those specifically requested by a member of the Executive Committee).
 3. **Governance:** Review the results of the governance survey.
 4. **State Sites:** Begin discussion on sites for 2017-18.
 5. **Wrestling:**
 - a. 3A Request Pending:
 - b. 4A – Site and Schedule change: 4A voted in October to return to Salem for state wrestling, stating that a single class championship for them at Churchland would be the smallest invitational type meet they would attend all year. They also have opted to continue with a 12 person bracket at that site. This will require 4A to wrestle on Thursday night so as not to inconvenience, from a schedule standpoint, the other three classes who are competing in Salem.
 6. **Sportsmanship Committee Minutes:** The minutes from the October 3, 2016, meeting will be reviewed.
 7. **Ejections:** Ejections for this Executive Committee meeting are sorted by region and reflect all Ejections through November 30. It should be noted that the 3-game suspension in football appears to have had little effect in curbing football fights. It may be relevant to revisit the three game legislative piece in football in February and decide at that time how we hope to curb our fighting ejection problem.

[Attach](#)

8. **Football Ratings/Determination of Pairings Proposal:** Due to the addition of 12 regions next year and the inclusion of additional tiebreakers over the years the process of determining seeds has, is and will be more complicated. League staff will be asking the Football Ratings Committee to address a mechanism that will place more eyes on the final power ratings on seeding Sunday to guarantee as accurate and timely a document as possible.

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

1. **Update on rSchoolToday and Big Teams; rSchoolToday training:** As of 11/22/16, 300 of 315 (95%) VHSL schools appear to be using rSchool in some manner. 144 schools are using rSchool for schedules, rosters and scores as requested. Approximately 75 schools reported Week 12 football scores in rSchool. rSchoolToday is programming a scores "ticker" for display on the VHSL Home page. The ticker will display scores by sport and will be searchable by school. Schools can report scores using the rSchoolToday Activities Scheduler program on their desktop, or the rSchoolToday mobile app on their phone or other mobile device. Only those scores reported will be displayed on the ticker. The ticker should be up and running within the next couple of weeks.

[Attached](#)

2. **rSchoolToday Official Site for Scores:** Staff recommends that schools report ALL scores in all sports in rSchool. rSchool is developing a "ticker" for our home page that will be filterable by sport. In addition, rSchool can be used to calculate district standings based on win-loss record or points (modified point/rating system).

E. **Homeschool Committee:** Executive Director Haun will make an oral report.

VIII. **Consent Agenda:**

A. **Approval of October 2016 Group Board Minutes:** [Attached](#)

Staff recommends approval.

December Vote: _____

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. **56-4-2 Pitching Regulations (submitted by the Executive Director)**

56-4-2 Pitching Regulations-For the purposes of this rule, delivery of one pitch constitutes having pitched in one inning. The following provisions apply to regular season as well as post season play. the pitch count is based on pitches thrown to the batters during their time at bat. Warm up pitches allowed before each inning or warm up pitches allowed by the umpire in case of injury or game delay do not count. All NFHS substitution and pitching rules must be followed.

A dead ball pitch will not be considered as a pitch for the purposes of pitch count (e.g., a pitch thrown when time is called, a balk or illegal pitch, etc.)

A pitcher at the Varsity or Sub-varsity level who reaches the maximum pitch count limitation allowed per day during an inning will be afforded the opportunity to finish pitching to the current batter at bat.

The following provisions apply to regular season as well as post season play.

Specific rest periods are in place when a pitcher reaches a high threshold of pitches delivered in a day.

MAXIMUM PITCHES ALLOWED PER DAY

Varsity and Sub-Varsity 110

The rest periods required during regular season and post season tournament play are listed below:

- *If a pitcher throws 101 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- *If a pitcher throws 76-100 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- *If a pitcher throws 51-75 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- *If a pitcher throws 26-50 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
- *If a pitcher throws 1-25 pitches in a day no calendar day of rest is required before pitching again.

No pitcher may throw more than 51 pitches over two consecutive days. If a pitcher throws 51 pitches over two consecutive days, one calendar day of rest must be observed.

A calendar day refers to a time period beginning at midnight on one calendar day and ending at 11:59 p.m. on that same day. A calendar day of rest begins with the day following the first day a pitch is thrown.

A calendar day means that if a pitcher throws 76 pitches on Tuesday that player may not pitch again until Saturday. If a pitcher throws 25 pitches on Tuesday, that pitcher may pitch again on the next day which is Wednesday. The starting time of the game does not matter in the calculation of when a pitcher is eligible to pitch again.

Schools shall document each player’s pitch count using the Game Changer Application for tracking purposes. The home score book and pitch count accounting is official but it is recommended that opposing teams compare as the game progresses for accuracy. Umpires will not be a part of the process.

~~(1) A pitcher may pitch in a maximum of nine innings in one day but not more than fourteen innings in any seven day consecutive period.~~

~~(2) If a pitcher pitches in one inning for four consecutive days that pitcher shall have one calendar day of rest from competition pitching beginning with the day following the fourth consecutive day a pitch is thrown.~~

~~(3) If a pitcher pitches in two or three innings in one day that pitcher shall have one calendar day of rest from competition pitching beginning with the day following the first day a pitch is thrown.~~

~~(4) If a pitcher pitches four to seven innings in one day that pitcher shall have two calendar days of rest from competition pitching beginning with the day following the first day a pitch is thrown. Further restrictions regarding this section include:~~

~~(a) After two days of rest a pitcher may pitch a maximum of two innings,~~

~~(b) After three days of rest a pitcher may pitch a maximum of three innings,~~

~~(c) After four days of rest a pitcher may pitch to the limit of the rule.~~

~~If a pitcher returns to competition pitching prior to receiving the amount of rest required to pitch to the limit of the rule (his full rest cycle), that pitcher shall have one calendar day of rest beginning with the day following the early return to competition pitching.~~

~~NOTE: This means if a pitcher returns to the mound after two or three day's rest and pitches one to three innings, that pitcher shall have one calendar day of rest from competition pitching beginning with the day following the first day a pitch is thrown.~~

~~(5) If a pitcher pitches in eight or nine innings in one day that pitcher shall have three calendar days of rest from competition pitching beginning with the day following the first day a pitch is thrown.~~

~~(a) After three days of rest a pitcher may pitch a maximum of two innings,~~

~~(b) After four days of rest a pitcher may pitch a maximum of three innings,~~

~~(c) After five days of rest a pitcher may pitch to the limit of the rule.~~

~~If a pitcher returns to competition pitching prior to receiving the amount of rest required to pitch to the limit of the rule (his full rest cycle), that pitcher shall have one calendar day of rest beginning with the day following the early return to competition pitching.~~

~~NOTE: This means if a pitcher returns to the mound after two or three day's rest and pitches one to three innings, that pitcher shall have one calendar day of rest from competition pitching beginning with the day following the first day a pitch is thrown.~~

~~(6) If a pitcher returns to competition pitching prior to receiving the amount of rest required to pitch to the limit of the rule, that pitcher shall have one calendar day of rest beginning with the day following the early return to competition pitching.~~

RATIONALE: Pursuant to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) mandate for a pitching policy based on pitches thrown, effective for the 2017 baseball season, this policy replaces the current VHSL pitching policy which is based on innings pitched.

Staff recommends approval.

December Vote: _____

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 by a two-thirds affirmative vote at the next scheduled meeting and would become effective July 1, 2016.

2. **54-16-1 District Scheduling and 54-16-2 Deviation from District Scheduling Requirement (submitted by Executive Director)**

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.

Rationale: This was one of the Alignment Committee’s original approved tenants of the six classification restructure. While it was historically preserved in Alignment Committee minutes approved by the Executive Committee it was never formally added to the handbook.

Staff recommends approval.

December Vote: _____

C. **Second-vote items:** Each of the following proposals received a majority favorable vote in September. To become effective in July, each shall require a two-thirds favorable vote in December.

3. **27-2-5 – Coaches Education Requirement; 27-2-6 – State and Local Knowledge Requirement (submitted by the Coaches Education Committee) – Recommended in September 26-1-1**

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.

December Executive Committee Action: _____

4. 28A-5-3 (4) Scholarship Rule Interpretations (submitted by Executive Director) – Recommended in September 28-0

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.

December Vote: _____

X. **Action Agenda:**

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

XI. **Discussion and Information:**

- A. **Governance representation:** Given that the governance survey has not identified a clear option for the Executive Committee to consider it is recommended that an additional survey is conducted offering the most popular options from the first survey. At that point a February vote with March discussion and potential revision could be sent to the Executive Committee for second or Emergency vote (if altered through March Membership meeting) in May.
- B. **Venues for State Sites:** State venues are becoming increasingly more difficult and costly to secure. While everyone likes the experience associated with being in a “bigtime” venue the cost and scheduling issues may be outweighing the benefits.
- C. **Guidelines for advancing to state competition under new governance:** League staff has begun the process of establishing state bracketing for next two years. In all scenarios A will play B and C will play D during the 2017-18 school year. For 2018-19 staff is offering the following bracketing option of A playing C and B playing D. Additionally certain sports such as golf will/may require different consideration due to facility availability.
- D. **Strategic Planning:** As part of the VHSL Strategic Planning process, the League will hold six public meetings across the state to hear input from constituents. Tentative site locations include Marion, Roanoke, Harrisonburg, Fairfax, Richmond, and Portsmouth. In preparation for the planning process, the VHSL distributed a survey to constituents. Four hundred twenty-six individuals responded including 194 Ads/DSAs, 83 Principals, 52 Coaches, 15 Superintendents, 15 members of the media, 14 Game Officials and 63 “other”—Sponsors, Donors and Foundation board members). Staff is in the process of putting together a steering committee that will assist with the strategic planning process.

Executive Director Haun will give an oral report.

E. **Technology Championships:** The VHSL conducted a survey of member schools in late September-early October regarding their interest in a technology state championship, and the response was overwhelmingly in support of this initiative. Many schools already participate in some type of technology championship in the areas of robotics, cyber and coding.

CHALLENGES

Producing robotics and/or cyber security events would require specialized knowledge, equipment, and resources, things that the League has none of, so partnerships with existing organizations (whether FIRST, CyberPatriot, or even university science/engineering schools) would be necessary.

A coding event may be the “easiest” and least expensive to produce since the sponsors can be relied upon to create and judge the challenges as well as provide hardware.

ROBOTICS

The FIRST Robotics program challenges teams to--under strict rules, limited resources, and an intense six-week time limit--raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors.

Lisa Giles and Billy Haun spoke with Stan Southworth of Virginia FIRST Robotics on October 27 regarding the possibility of partnering for a state championship in robotics. Among the topics discussed were:

- Schedule (3 days to run, 2 days to compete)
- Facilities requirements (1,500-2,000 seating for up to 50 teams with 10-40 students per team)
- Cost to produce (\$35k)
- Cost to compete (\$6k/team + travel)
- Admission (free)
- Need for VHSL State Robotics Championship to be independent of other FIRST competitions

CYBER SECURITY

The CyberPatriot program presents teams with a set of virtual images that represent operating systems and those teams are tasked with finding cybersecurity vulnerabilities within the images and hardening the system while maintaining critical services.

Lisa Giles and Billy Haun spoke with Diane Miller of Northrup Grumman, and Frank and Rachel of CyberPatriot on October 27 regarding the possibility of partnering for a state championship in Cyber Security. Among the topics discussed were:

- Existing program schedule
- Existing team fees (\$195 provides entry, access to training materials, participant kit)
- Equipment requirements (PC computer, internet access, free software)
- Competition format (exclusively remote/virtual, national competition expenses are paid)
- Need for VHSL State Cyber Security Championship to be independent of other CyberPatriot competitions

CODING (HACK-A-THON)

Hack-a-Thons are collaborative computing events where participants are presented with challenges (most often by sponsoring organizations, but could also be by host) to solve in a 24-48 hour period. These challenges could involve building a website, mobile app or piece of hardware. Participants choose who comprises their team and does what work (one may be a computer programmer, another a graphic designer, one an audio specialist), what challenges they will attempt to solve, and even when they sleep and eat. Some will sleep in a sleeping bag in their chair, others in a “quiet room” on site, others not at all.

Lisa Giles spoke with Shy Ruparel of Major League Hacks on November 3 regarding the possibility of partnering for a state championship in Coding (Hack-a-Thon).

Major League supports a nationwide college hack league by providing a how-to (establishing a budget, writing sponsorship and event proposals, securing facilities, creating a schedule, securing staff, organizing food, etc.) in addition to providing hardware (virtual reality headsets, video games, etc.).

MLH did not see a partnership with VHSL as a feasible option because:

- The MLH model prefers supporting contestants of majority age only.
- The MLH model encourages teams to form on site with no restrictions on number, skill set, affiliation, etc., which contradicts the VHSL model of pre-determined teams by school.

This does not mean we cannot pursue a coding championship. We could still follow the MLH model to independently produce an event.

CURRENT STATUS

Billy Haun and Hannah Catherine Munro are currently pursuing sponsorship dollars to support these initiatives.

- F. **Potential Membership Meeting “Breakout Topics” for March (formerly breakout sessions):**
1. **Governance**
 2. **Venues for State Sites**
 3. **Guidelines Under new Governance** – No district tournaments, activities may have only one opportunity to advance to state
- G. **VSBA Conference Presentation:** Executive Director Haun and Beth Hardy will report on this conference, which was held on November 17.
- H. **VHSL Ken Tilley Student Leaders Conference:** Conference information, registration and accommodations are available at www.vhsl.org for the 21th Annual VHSL Ken Tilley Student Leaders Conference and Sportsmanship Summit on April 28-29 at Freedom High School (South Riding).
- I. **Appeals Matrix:** [Attach](#)
- J. **Darden School of Business:** VHSL was selected as one of seven applicants from the Darden School of Business to review our finances.
- K. **30-Point Rule Guidelines:** There has been much discussion about the 30-point rule and the real possibility that the clock operator may become confused on running or not running the clock. It has been proposed that discussion take place on allowing districts to include a buffer once the 30-point criteria begin so that we do not revert back to regular clock mechanics until the deficit falls below a new threshold (suggested to be 20 or 25 points).
- L. **1A Sectional Football Representation:** There has been discussion in 1A to going back to the format that was used in football in the 2010 season – 66-8-6 Sectional Playoff Representation and 68-8-9 Sectional Championships. The 1A region representatives need to discuss this item at their region meetings.
- M. **The VHSL is a member of the Drive Smart Virginia Coalition for Safe Driving:** DRIVE SMART Virginia is a non-profit organization charged with raising awareness and changing behavior in order to improve the safety of the roadways of the Commonwealth. DRIVE SMART has endeavored to improve the lives of all

Virginians through our public information and education initiatives. Founded in 1995, the organization is led by a diverse board representing safety advocates, the insurance industry and law enforcement. VHSL corporate partner The Allstate Foundation is a member of the coalition and encourages continued participation in the coalition.

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

XIII. **Business from the Floor:**

XIV. **Adjournment:**