

Minnesota State High School League  
Board of Directors Meeting  
August 6, 2013

Meeting Synopsis

**Action Items**

- The Board approved expense reimbursements for member schools that participated in 2012-13 state tournaments. The total reimbursement amount approved was \$712,796. The money will be shared by 360 different schools. The 2012-13 reimbursement amount is more than \$50,000 greater than the 10-year average of \$660,000.
- The Board authorized staff to execute a contract with Trophies Plus of Iowa to provide medals and trophies for subsection, section and state tournaments and meets for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years. Four sealed bids were received and reviewed. The bid from Trophies Plus was the lowest bid by about 23 percent. Assistant Director Rich Matter also reported that inscriptions will be added to subsection and section medals.
- The Board approved a resolution of appreciation for the service and dedication to the League by former Board members Rick Bleichner, Tom Conzemius, Mark Fredericksen, Walter Hautala and Mike Rusinko.
- The Board approved the 2013-14 editions of the League's Official Handbook, the Board Policy Manual, the Region Secretaries Manual, the Officials Policy Manual, and the Employee Handbook.

**Discussion Items**

- Associate Director Jody Redman reported that she continues to work with the Soccer Advisory Committee on choosing a site for the 2014 and 2015 state tournaments, years for which the Metrodome will be gone during construction of the new stadium. The outdoor stadium at St. Cloud State University is the most likely site.
- Associate Director Kevin Merkle presented a concept under consideration to address the continuing issue of scheduling football games. He has worked with a few key individuals to vet a process that may be best described as "pod" scheduling. The concept would divide the schools by class into geographic pods in which the schools would meet to establish schedules within their pod. Football scheduling has become an issue that needs to be addressed outside of traditional conferences. The concept requires additional tweaking and the Board will be updated at its next meeting.
- The Board, at a workshop prior to the meeting, established eight broad goals for the 2013-14 school year: 1) football scheduling; 2) placement of schools based on a "success factor;" 3) home school student eligibility; 4) Bylaw 208-Nonschool Competition and Training review; 5) educational initiatives for administrators, coaches and officials; 6) classes for activities and placement; 7) licensure of coaches; and 8) development of a policy for transgender athletes.
- Staff is in the process of renewing contracts for state tournaments/meets at both Target Center and Xcel Energy Center for 2014 through 2018. Executive Director Dave Stead said that costs are likely to increase by about six percent.
- Executive Director Stead reported that an appointed committee has met to hear information related to placement of six school into conferences. After final action by the committee, the

schools and conferences will be notified and a 10-day period during which appeals can be requested will begin. If appeals are requested, an independent hearing officer will review the placements and make a recommendation to the Board which will make the final determinations.

- The Audit/Finance Committee requested and received Board approval of the expenses for May and June, as well as for renewal of various insurance policies.
- The Eligibility Committee requested and received approval of seven penalties for violation of several bylaws. The committee also reported that the appeals process for student transfers was revised effective Aug. 1 and the Board took formal action to accept the revisions.

### **Extra Point**

- Board member Bob Grey offered a reflection at the start of the meeting that included a poem that he said he has had in a scrapbook for a long time. It is titled “Just a Little Boy” and reads:

He stands at the plate with his heart pounding fast.  
The bases are loaded. The die has been cast.  
Mom and Dad cannot help him. He stands all alone.  
A hit at this moment would send his team home.  
The ball nears the plate. He swings and misses.  
There’s a groan from the crowd with some boos and hisses.  
A thoughtless voice cries, “Strike out the bum.”  
Tears fill his eyes. The game’s no longer fun.  
Remember, he’s just a little boy who stands all alone.  
So, open your heart and give him a break.  
For it’s moments like this a man you can make.  
Keep this in mind when you hear someone forget.  
He’s just a little boy and not a man yet.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the League Board of Directors is Thursday, Oct. 3, 2013.