

# GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES April 2, 2020

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A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on April 2, 2020 by Glenn White, President. The meeting was held electronically. The following took part: (present - 12; absent - 0)

Scarlett Grantham - sub  
Steven Craft  
Curt Miller

Jim Finch  
Joe Lancaster  
Jasper Jewell

Jesse Crews  
Michelle Masters  
Kandice Mitchell

Dawn Odom  
Glenn White  
Lisa Moore

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#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Executive Director Robin Hines addressed the committee on several issues, starting with the fact Governor Brian Kemp's recent decision to close all schools through the end of the school year made several of the planned discussion points moot.

"The governor made this meeting a lot easier," said Hines. "There are a lot of things I planned to talk about that are no longer necessary. But there are still several issues to discuss."

Hines then addressed the topic of possibly giving athletes who are missing their senior seasons another year of eligibility. He mentioned a recent conference call with the other states in Section III of the NFHS, saying that the other associations in this group were "100 percent opposed to changing the eight-semester rule."

"There are a lot of problems with this idea," said Hines. "For one thing, it would have a backwards trickle-down effect and positions would be taken by these returning seniors that normally would be filled by rising players who have worked hard for their chances."

"But more than this, we have to keep in mind that what we do is scholastic in nature. Extra curricular activities are supposed to be a supplement to academics. To add another year of eligibility just for athletics is not what the GHSA is all about."

The Board of Trustee members were in complete agreement with Hines on this issue and many voiced their opinions that the GHSA should not grant a fifth year of eligibility.

Hines briefly touched on the questions most have about when activities could resume. "We don't know when our kids will be able to train again and I am concerned with when this might become a safety issue with sports like football if we are not able to come back soon enough." The BOT members echoed those concerns.

Hines then moved on to the Spring meeting of the State Executive Committee, which was originally scheduled for April 19-20 at the Marriott in Macon. He discussed trying to hold the meeting electronically, but Steven Craft asked if it would be possible to delay the meeting until a time when the SEC members might be able to meet in person. Several members of the BOT spoke up to say they were in favor of that idea. Hines said he felt good about the suggestion and agreed to put the meeting on hold for an indefinite time in hopes of being able to hold a normal meeting at some point in the future.

Hines told the committee of a request to waive physical exams for next year if the student had a valid exam this year, but that idea was met with uniform disfavor by the BOT members. Another idea voiced to Hines was the possibility of pushing the GHSA spring sports schedule into the summer, but that suggestion also was unanimously rejected by committee members.

Hines then told the BOT that the GHSA would be applying for a loan under The Care Act. "This loan, which is forgivable like a grant, would allow us to cover payroll, utilities and other expenses for the office for the next two months," said Hines. "This is what the stimulus package is for and it is really good news for us."

Craft then asked if it would be possible to hold tryouts in sports like cheerleading and volleyball as late as June, assuming activities could resume by then. Hines said that would be possible as long as it was done before the first official day of fall practice.

Associate Director Carror Wright then closed with a prayer, and President Glenn White adjourned the meeting.