

Sandhills Valley Sports Cooperative Committee Meeting

August 18, 2020

F. Kramer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Members Present: Lana Watson, Kim Kramer, Howard Gaffney, Rich Burnside, Tim Vanderheiden, Todd Ascherl, Toni Powers & Frank Kramer

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Jason Wehnes (Athletic Director)

T. Powers read the minutes from the July 14, 2020 meeting. No changes were made. Burnside moved to approve the minutes. Watson 2nd the motion. Voting: Aye- Burnside, Watson, K. Kramer, Ascherl, Vanderheiden, Gaffney, Powers & F. Kramer. Nay- None. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **(Pole Vault)** Mr. Wehnes reached out to Coach McCall at St. Pats and he is willing to lend our kids poles if they need one, but he was not interested in coaching them. Gaffney requested that NSAA be contacted and see if we can even have a coach, from another school, working with our kids. Ascherl stated that a staff member must be trained on the progression of steps for pole vault to save us from any liability issues. It was requested to check with Monty Pierce, to see if he would have any interest coaching pole vault.
2. **(Athlete's Handbook)** The committee requested that Mr. Wehnes use most of the information from the Coach's Handbook that is relevant to student athletes and parents for the Athlete's Handbook. Watson offered to put the athlete's handbook together and get a copy to each committee member. Powers moved to table this item until the next meeting. K. Kramer 2nd the motion. Voting: Aye- Powers, K. Kramer, Burnside, Watson, Ascherl, Vanderheiden, Gaffney & F. Kramer. Nay- None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **(Protection Equipment for sports)** AD Wehnes purchased splash guards for football and neck gaiters for volleyball with the approval from both superintendents per the guidelines from NSAA.
2. **(Home Event Gatherings)** Mr. Wehnes requested that the committee decide on who they were allowing to attend home games. (I.e. If masks would be required? If we only allow parents and no other fans?) He would like a decision before the homecoming game August 28, 2020. Ascherl stated that adults should be allowed to make their own decisions on whether they attend a game or not. They all know the risk that they are taking by attending and not wearing a mask. Gaffney moved to table this item to a future date. After further discussion, Gaffney rescinded his motion. Burnside moved to allow full attendance at games as allowed by current guidelines, have a poster made that states masks are recommended and a ticket waiver that says "By buying a ticket, you will not hold these schools responsible if you fall ill with Covid 19 from attending these games" Watson 2nd the motion. Voting: Aye- Burnside, Watson, K. Kramer, Ascherl, Vanderheiden, Gaffney, Powers & F. Kramer. Nay- None. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Toni Powers, Sandhills Valley Cooperative Secretary

3. **(Homecoming)** Due to the Covid pandemic the homecoming games were moved to Stapleton this year so that we could have homecoming earlier than the October date originally planned in case games later were canceled. The committee decided that since the game will be in Stapleton, that the pep rally would be held in Tryon per our by-laws. Burnside moved to hold the pep rally/SV burning in Tryon on Friday, August 28, at 1 pm with the games and dance to follow in Stapleton. Transportation will be provided by Stapleton for the 7-12 graders to the pep rally. Powers 2nd the motion. Voting: Aye- Burnside, Powers, Watson, K. Kramer, Ascherl, Vanderheiden, Gaffney & F. Kramer. Nay- None. Motion carried.
4. **(Games in Tryon per by-laws)** AD Wehnes stated that he has tried to move games to Tryon but all the AD's from other schools have stated that they do not want to play in Tryon. Powers said that the reason games need to be held in Tryon is so that the Improvement Club has some concessions. They use those funds to host the McPherson Co after prom party and other fun events for the kids in Tryon. If they cannot raise money, then these events would not happen. She also stated that the JV and JH games that are scheduled to be held in Tryon are not adequate fund raisers since they only bring in about \$100 profit. Burnside requested that the McPherson County Improvement Club be offered a couple of the concessions during varsity games in Stapleton during each season. Mr. Gaffney stated that he could make that happen for them.
5. **(Mask requirement for transportation to and from games)** AD Wehnes, Gaffney and Vanderheiden all recommend masks be required when riding in the bus to and from games to protect the kids that want to wear masks from getting sick by the student athletes that do not wear them since social distancing is not feasible in the bus. K. Kramer stated that if a child is worried about getting sick, from a child not wearing a mask, then it is the responsibility of the mask wearer to make sure their mask is one built to keep the germs out. Mr. Gaffney offered to take a girls' bus and a boys' bus to games to help with social distancing. K. Kramer moved that mask will be recommended but not required on Cooperative buses to and from games but if we travel to a school that does require masks at their facility during games all of our student athletes will be required to wear a mask at the host school even if their parents have signed a waiver. All student athletes must have a signed parental waiver turned into the AD to opt their child out of the masks wearing on Cooperative transportation to and from games. Burnside 2nd the motion. Voting: Aye- K. Kramer, Burnside, Powers, Watson, Ascherl, Vanderheiden, Gaffney & F. Kramer. Nay- None. Motion carried.
6. **(Eligibility of Remote Learners)** Per NDE and NSAA there is no differentiation between remote learners and on campus learners. They are both allowed to participate in extracurricular activities. K. Kramer moved that the eligibility policy for on campus learners also applies to remote learners participating in Sandhills Valley Cooperative extracurricular activities. Burnside 2nd the motion. Voting: Aye- K. Kramer, Burnside, Powers, Watson, Ascherl, Vanderheiden, Gaffney & F. Kramer. Nay- None. Motion carried.
7. **(Cross Country Assistant Coach)** Due to cross country having almost 20 participants both Jr. High and High school per our by-laws Mr. Kloke will be allowed to chose an assistant coach for that sport and have it approved by AD Wehnes, Mr. Gaffney and Mr. Vanderheiden.

Discussion Items: Mr. Wehnes will forward NSAA emails to the cooperative committee and both superintendents so that we will all be informed of the new guidelines and recommendations.

Next meeting will be September 14, 2020 in Stapleton at 7pm.

Powers moved to adjourn at 9:15 pm. Burnside 2nd the motion. Voting: Aye- Powers, Burnside, Watson, Vanderheiden, Ascherl, Gaffney, K. Kramer, & F. Kramer. Nay- None. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Toni Powers, Sandhills Valley Cooperative Secretary