

Special Board Minutes (Draft)
November 1, 2023 @ 12:00PM
Administration Conference Room

Present: Brian Gallup-Chair, Donna YellowOwl, Steve Conway, Lockley Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman, James RunningFisher, Michael Hoyt (12:07pm), James Evans (12:12pm).

Mr. Gallup called the meeting to order at 12:02pm.

Approval of Board Agenda: Motion by Ms. YellowOwl to approve the special agenda with no changes. Second by Ms. TallWhiteman. Motion passed with Brian Gallup, Donna YellowOwl, Steve Conway, Lockley Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman, James RunningFisher, Michael Hoyt, James Evans voting for.

Public Comment: None.

ITEMS OF ACTION

Approvals: Motion by Mr. Bremner to approve Discussion/Possible Action: Update on Native American Classics. Second by Mr. RunningFisher. *Discussion:* Matthew Johnson was asked to review the teams offer that has asked to work with Tony Wagner to help with the Winter Classics. Mr. Johnson, Cinnamon Salway and Heidi Bullcalf stated they want to help put on the best Classic and make all feel welcome. They will help to establish local vendors, food vendors, sell programs, sell artwork (ie. t-shirts, hoodies, etc.), help with custodial work and maybe have a dance that night so the students can get to know each other. They will coordinate safety, and welcome the public and tribe and work with them on resources. Tony Wagner stated there will be 8 games. Boys BB will be on Friday; Girls will be on Saturday. Mr. Wagner stated he received a call in May on sponsoring this tournament; Great Falls was the original host but lost their site so Mr. Wagner offered to sponsor the games in Browning. BPS has 2 gyms. Mr. Wagner stated that he never was going to exclude the Browning Ref pool. His thoughts were to use BPS pool to represent BPS and the others for other games and worked with Alvin YellowOwl. Mr. Wagner stated he did invite other schools which has been done before and the BPS pool was invited. There are 7 officials from the local pool and from the outside pool. Mr. Gallup stated this is a wonderful opportunity for Browning and other schools are excited to come here; everyone should be positive. Mr. Bremner offered a handout from MHSA rules on tournaments and asked if the Board is to go against MHSA policy. The policy does not say we can do this with the referee pool; it says all schools will go through their local MOA officials' pool. Mr. Wagner stated that he did call MHSA and spoke with Amy and she gave the ok that he could go with other schools' officials. Ms. YellowOwl stated that the majority of the officials are Browning referees and asked what is the public's concern; and asked for explanation as she is not sure what the problem is. Ryan RunningCrane stated that all have experienced racism and there are those who say were not good enough and it sends the message to MHSA that were not equipped to do these games. Vic Hall stated that 99% of the referees belong to the local pool because of discrimination and to save BPS money. Pat Armstrong stated he has been a referee for a long time and is recognized across the State. Mr. Armstrong stated this is about trust and it feels like Browning 's Pool is on the back burner and was never asked. Mr. Armstrong asked for clarification and stated as an official he wants to do what is proper and succeed. Mr. Armstrong felt that it is the boards job to decide. Mr. Gallup agreed that more communication is needed and stated this could have and should have been worked out. Alvin YellowOwl thanked Mr. Armstrong for his comments and stated he was asked by Mr. Wagner to contact officials. Browning's pool was never excluded. He reached out and got 3 yes and 3 no to work the Classics. Mr. YellowOwl stated BPS can take him off of list and he will help if needed. Mr. YellowOwl stated that he doesn't want bad blood and doesn't like the bashing on Facebook; nobody needs to go there. Mr. YellowOwl stated that if the Browning pool can use his 3 officials that said yes, they can take care of the other spots; the stress is too much. Vic Hall state he has a list of referees; browning pool is on it and the lot goes on experience; this tournament is not being done that way. The local pool should be contacting outsiders and they don't need a masters to do this. Wayne Smith felt that MHSA is in place to keep each pool in place and in their own areas and felt the conversation should have happened with Vic; respect, this would not have happened if those rules were brought up. This keeps integrity of it intact and there would be no hard feelings. Kellen Hall stated he and Pat are Master Officials and are fighting the state in a discrimination battle right now to put 2 seats with the state. Last year Golden Triangle gave information against our officials; there has never been anything about bashing others, this is about transparency; it is about kids. Without the kids they don't have a job. Mr. Conway stated that

he is pro-Browning and it is a small pool with Browning and Ht. Butte. Mr. Conway does not believe this issue should have come before the school board. Ms. TallWhiteman stated this is about the process taken and has nothing to do with Alvin YellowOwl; with no process, there are hurt feelings and integrity is questioned. There should not be a personal issue and noted that her husband is not on the list. This causes animosity and has made our pool look inadequate; Mr. Wagner's choices are great refs but he should have followed BPS process. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that she has questions on the hospitality rooms as well. Mr. Hoyt asked if BPS pool was given the opportunity and Mr. Wagner stated yes. Mr. Hoyt asked if there are rules that we cannot use the local pool. Mr. Wagner state no. Mr. Hoyt stated he sees why there are hurt feelings and they feel discriminated against. Mr. Wagner stated he did call MHSA; they gave him the ok and he did not discriminate. There are Refs from both pools. Mr. Hoyt felt the local pool should be respected. Mr. Gallup stated the boards intent is to never discriminate against anyone. Mr. Bremner stated refereeing is about following the rules and we need to as well; whether MHSA says we don't have to, it is written in the MHSA rules. Mr. RunningFisher stated he is proud of the local pool and felt that BPS should be using them and if they decide they can't do it, then bring in others. Ms. YellowOwl agrees with Ms. TallWhiteman that the process wasn't followed and innocent people are placed in the middle and there are hurt feelings and asked Mr. Wagner, why he did not go to Vic Hall first. Ms. YellowOwl stated she is a policy person and the policy should be followed. Ms. YellowOwl thanked Alvin for organizing this, but felt upset that this had to come before the school board; it shouldn't have ever come to the board. Ms. YellowOwl stated she told Mr. Wagner he opened a big can of worms with no communication to the Browning pool. Mr. Evans stated he will support the Browning pool but he did not know there was a pool.

Mr. Evans left meeting at 1:06pm.

Superintendent Hall stated that this should not have come to the board and stated she told Mr. Wagner to work with Vic Hall and the local pool. Superintendent Hall thanked Alvin YellowOwl for stepping up and MHSA did say we could do this however we should use our own pool. Motion by Mr. Bremner to give scheduling of referees to Vic Hall and the Browning pool and Mr. Hall to work with Mr. Wagner for this tournament. Second by Mr. RunningFisher. *Further discussion:* Kellen Hall stated that the Browning pool has already agreed to include Alvin YellowOwl as a referee. Vic Hall stated that he has a referee coming from the Box Elder pool. Ms. TallWhiteman stated that she is not open to outside pools but welcomes Alvin YellowOwl. Wendy Bremner stated this has never been an issue before but if they need the help, let the local pool bring others in. Mr. Gallup stated it is not the Boards problem about who the pool brings in and also stated that Mr. Wagner will work with the local pool and he hopes that nobody will take anything personal and will work together. Motion passed with Brian Gallup, Donna YellowOwl, Steve Conway, Lockley Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman, James RunningFisher, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Motion by Mr. RunningFisher to adjourn at 1:12pm. Second by Mr. Conway. Motion passed with Brian Gallup, Donna YellowOwl, Steve Conway, Lockley Bremner, Rae TallWhiteman, James RunningFisher, Michael Hoyt voting for.

Respectfully submitted:

Carlene Adamson, Board Secretary

Brian Gallup, Board Chairperson

Sandra Rivas, District Clerk