

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 303
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Date: December 19, 2013

Place: Board Room – Commodore Commons

Board of Directors Present

Board President – Mike Spence

Directors – Patty Fielding, Tim Kinkead, Mev Hoberg, Sheila Jakubik

Call to Order

5:29 PM – Board President Mike Spence called the meeting to order and a quorum was recognized.

Election of Officers

Director Tim Kinkead nominated Mike Spence for Board President and Legislative Representative. In addition, Mr. Kinkead nominated Mev Hoberg to be the Board Vice-President. The nomination was seconded by Director Sheila Jakubik, with the affirmative vote in favor of the nominations being unanimous.

Presentations

A. Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Classification & League Alignment for Bainbridge High School (BHS) Athletics and Activities

Bainbridge High School Principal Jake Haley provided a summary and background related to the WIAA classification designation and league alignment process. It was noted that every four years, WIAA adjusts the enrollment standards for each school, with the goal of having roughly the same number of schools in each classification grouping. A significant change this time is the adjustments no longer include alternative schools in the count, and only students in the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades are included. The difference between 2014 and the last adjustment year of 2010 was explained. Mr. Haley noted for the last three adjustment cycles, BHS has been a member of the Metro 3A League in District Two. The new WIAA methodology for calculating school size has classified Bainbridge High School as 2A.

Since the presentation at the December 12th school board meeting, the WIAA released a revised list of school classifications after receiving updated enrollment data from schools. Two schools (Bremerton, Port Angeles) in the Olympic League that were previously classified as 3A are now classified as 2A. Based on this new information, Mr. Haley and Associate Principal Kristen Haizlip spoke with schools in both the Olympic and Metro Leagues, and reviewed data and additional feedback from students, coaches and parents. In addition, school administrators considered the issue of lost instructional time, which remains a concern, particularly in the spring, as well as the differences in travel time and costs between the Olympic and Metro Leagues. After extensive analysis and consideration, along with input from coaches and athletes, the following two recommendations were presented as the best fit for the needs of BHS for this classification cycle: 1) Opt-up to the 3A Classification; 2) Remain in the Metro 3A League. While this is the recommendation presented to the board, it was noted that if BHS continues to have numbers that place it at the 2A Classification level, administrators and the board could again be having a dialogue regarding a 2A or 3A placement. Mr. Haley indicated the desire is to continue a dialogue as a district regarding consideration of participation in the 2A Olympic League in 2016-2018 if BHS is again in a 2A classification.

Following the presentation, board members asked clarifying questions including how the WIAA calculated school numbers, opportunities for post-season competition, costs for time and travel, and strategies for addressing lost instructional time for student athletes. Mr. Haley indicated his administrative/staff team has discussed ways to mitigate such issues as instructional time and time/travel impacts.

Public Comment

All citizen comments are summarized, with written comments/letters submitted for record available upon request. *Al Abuax* – Spoke as a football coach on the Island, indicating his preference for the district to be part of the Olympic 2A League. He noted a compelling newspaper article about having all sports in 2A and having opportunities for playoffs no matter how complicated those opportunities might be. Mr. Abuax addressed the board about the district's

mission, vision, and guiding beliefs, particularly in the area of student success. He also spoke about a sense of community. *Andy Grimm* – Spoke about the BHS current division that includes private schools. He indicated the choice was to be in the Olympic League, and for the board to look at the public schools. He also spoke to the competitive issues related to private schools that can recruit players from a larger area, and the possibility of other schools coming into the league. *Kat Matthews* – Addressed the issue of missed school time from the perspective of a student athlete stating there were many ways to make up the time missed. She noted meeting with a math teacher during their zero period and underscored that if a student is proactive about the missed time it is really not a problem. Ms. Matthews also noted feeling closer to the Seattle schools. *Susan Brink* – Stated participants in the track program did not miss class time this year as most of the events took place here. *Travis Moroch* – Noted some students would change to other schools if the district opts for the Olympic League. *Jennifer Pells* – Spoke as the parent of an incoming high school freshman, noting her support for softball and soccer and remaining in the Metro League. *Grace Madigan* – Spoke as a student participating in the golf program and stated her preference for remaining in the Metro League. She also uses time management to address any lost instructional time in school. *Rick Wood* – Spoke as a member of the football coaching staff and applauded the students who spoke at the meeting. He noted the level of competition and parody for the sport of football does not exist (in the Metro League) as it does for other sports. He spoke in favor of realignment in the conference to create a competitive format amongst the schools. *Casey Brink* – Spoke as a student athlete competing in two sports and stated there was a sense of pride when competing in the Metro League. He also noted that whether the district moves to the Olympic League or remains in the Metro League, it is one each team to compete at their highest level.

Following public comment, board members engaged in discussion of the various points related to the recommendations made by the high school administrators. The conversation focused on several issues including loss of instructional time, level of competitiveness, and if enrollment numbers again classify BHS as a 2A school in 2016-2018 the dialogue would be revisited. The idea of holding conversation with the Metro League regarding realignment of specific sport conferences was also discussed. At the conclusion of the discussion, Board President Mike Spence asked for a motion regarding the two recommendations for this WIAA classification cycle.

Motion 43-13-14:

That the Board approves Bainbridge High School to opt-up to 3A classification and remain in the Metro 3A League. (Jakubik) The affirmative vote was unanimous.

Adjournment

7:04 p.m. – President Mike Spence adjourned the meeting.