

**SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE**  
**P.O. BOX 211575**  
**COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29221-6575**  
**November 18, 2020**

The Executive Committee of the South Carolina High School League met via Zoom Virtual Meeting on November 18, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. at the SCHSL Office, 121 Westpark Blvd, Columbia, South Carolina. The following members were present: Jason Warren, Dr. Darryl Owings, Anna Miller, Sonya Bryant, Laura Hickson, Marty Conner, Ray Cooper, Michael Stone, Kandace Bethea, Andrea Pridgen, Josh Trahan, Tony Folk, Mike Beasley, Carlos Cave, Ryan Brown, Keith Kiser, and Kyle Boczkowski.

Jason Warren called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance & Prayer led by Tony Folk.

A motion made by Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Beasley to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2020, and October 27, 2020 meetings passed 14-0 (15 members present).

**Appeals:**

**Fountain Inn High School** (Maureen Tiller, Principal; Robbie Bell, Athletic Director)

Fountain Inn High School requested an open session for the appeal.

Maureen Tiller presented the case for Fountain Inn High School's At-Large Membership request. The school will open with ninth grade only for the 2001-2022 school year. Each subsequent year, the school will add a grade level until they are fully populated. This plan will add approximately 250 students per year for a student body of 1000 students by 2024-25.

Fountain Inn High School is applying to the SC High School League for member-at-large status for the 2021-2022 school year. They are applying for At-Large Membership due to the population plan as they are not certain with only one grade level they will be able to field the required number of League-sponsored varsity teams for the entirety of each sports season (fall, winter, spring) in their first year.

If they are approved for membership, Fountain Inn High School would be involved in the realignment process of the League for the 2022-2023 school year. With ninth and tenth grade that year, they believe they will be able to meet the requirement for varsity sports that year.

They will have athletic facilities to support all of the sports on campus to include basketball, baseball, football, track, etc. Fountain Inn understands that as a member-at-large, students participating in sports that qualify through their regions, such as track & field, will not be eligible to participate in state championships for those sports.

A motion made by Ryan Brown, seconded by Josh Trahan, to approve At-Large Membership passed 15-0 (16 members present)

**Hannah-Pamplico High School** (Sterling Mosby, Principal; Jamie Johnson, Athletic Director)

Hannah-Pamplico High School requested an open session for the appeal.

Mr. Mosby presented the case for appeal for the student, Mikayon White, seeking a 5<sup>th</sup> year of eligibility. Mikayon has done exceptionally well despite the circumstances he has had to deal with in his life. Due to

familial problems, he struggled in elementary and middle school with getting to school on time, had very low grades, and as a result was retained in middle school. A teacher in middle school became his mentor, ensured he got to school on time, and helped him with his assignments. The first devastating blow for Mikayon was when this teacher passed away. When she died, he began to have more attendance issues. In high school, his mother was diagnosed with cancer and he and his siblings became homeless. They began bouncing around from house to house with no stability. Once the school was able to provide some stability at school, he seemed to be getting better, but then his mother died.

When he came to Hannah-Pamplico High School, he wanted to play sports, but because of academics, he was never eligible. The school staff, mentors, and behavioral health workers have worked with him to get him eligible and this ability to play has turned his situation around. He is doing well academically, he comes to school on time and is excited about his future which was not the case two years ago. He has participated in practices and his coaches and fellow teammates have become like a second family to him. It is the hope of Hannah-Pamplico High School that allowing him to play this year will help him continue on the right path.

Currently, he is passing all of his classes and has not missed any days of school except for quarantine. He is on track to graduate this year. The student turned 19 years old in November but still meets the criteria for age. His only participation in high school sports was during the second semester of last year in which he played basketball.

A motion made by Ryan Brown, seconded by Keith Kiser, to grant the 5<sup>th</sup> year eligibility appeal passed 15-0 (16 members present).

### **Sub Committee Reports**

- A motion from the activities committee by a vote of 8-1 to deny a proposal from Richland Northeast High School to allow showcase basketball games to be played during the preseason, seconded by Michael Stone, passed 14-1 (16 members present).
- A motion from the activities committee by a vote of 9-0 to approve the spring sports season calendar proposed by the League, seconded by Carlos Cave, passed 16-0 (17 members present).
- The activities committee, by a vote of 7-0, tabled the proposal from the South Carolina Track and Cross Country Coaches Association (SCTCCCA) regarding track qualifiers and state championships until the next committee meeting in January.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Singleton discussed the football State Championships which will be held at Benedict College and Spring Valley High School. The League is still working out the logistics of the events but expects that Class AA & AAA will be held at Spring Valley High School and Class A, AAAA, & AAAAA will be held at Benedict College. Facilities and parking areas will be cleared after each game. Spring Valley High School can host about 1,850 fans and Benedict College can host about 2,000 fans. Given the limited number of fans, the League is not permitting high school bands to be a part of the championship to allow for maximum spectators. A limited number of High School League passes will be accepted.

The League is currently looking at Florence Civic Center to host the Basketball State Championships. It may take four days (Wednesday – Saturday) to accomplish all of the state finals because facilities would have to be emptied and thoroughly cleaned after each game. Some games may have to be played during school hours to accomplish this. If this is agreeable, the League will put together a schedule for the committee to look at during the January meeting. The semi-finals, which are typically played at Bon Secours and Florence Civic Center, will likely be held this year at the home site of one of the two teams as determined by the playoff brackets.

Mr. Singleton shared with the committee that Mr. Keith Warren will be working with the SC High School League as an independent contractor overseeing the League's technology department. Mr. Warren is currently an employee with the Mississippi High School Athletic Association but will be moving to South Carolina in December.

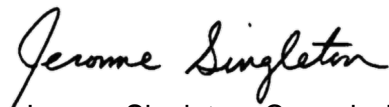
Mr. Singleton gave an update on the League's 2020-2021 priorities, one of which was to promote female sports. The League held a virtual press conference to highlight the participation of girls' tennis championships and volleyball. The League also plans to show a recap of those events in which several girls had record-breaking scores and to showcase those highlights on social media and the League website.

Mr. Singleton has selected a committee made up of principals, athletic directors, and coaches to address the second priority which is to see if there is a different way to look at realignment and reclassification other than enrollment count. The committee will be chaired by Ozzie Ahl of Rock Hill High School.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for January 12 & 13, 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerome Singleton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

**Note: In all votes, the President only votes in the event of a deciding vote.**