

High school activities board adopts policy on meetings, records

By Bob Mercer
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE – The board of directors for the South Dakota High School Activities Association decided Tuesday to approve and adopt an official policy on open meetings and records.

“Effective immediately,” chairman Darren Paulson of Rapid City said after the pair of 7-0 votes.

The policy is patterned after state laws on open meetings but doesn’t cover records beyond the documents used at meetings.

Legislators meanwhile plan to move forward with a committee hearing Thursday on SB 90.

That measure, sponsored by Sen. Corey Brown, R-Gettysburg, would make the activities association subject to South Dakota’s open meetings and public records laws.

Brown’s bill coupled with an uproar from

school district officials across South Dakota in recent months promoted the association to consider the policy.

The association’s board held a special meeting last week and a special meeting this week solely to discuss operating with more openness.

As recently as January the directors and executive director Wayne Carney refused to provide audience members with copies of documents being considered by the board on whether schools have shortcoming on hosting state-level events.

The new policy calls for 24-hour meeting notice, posting of the agenda and making all meeting documents available on the SDHSAA.com website ahead of time.

There are standard exceptions similar to state law for documents dealing with executive session matters such as matters involving a specific student.

The SDHSAA directors established a subcommittee Tuesday to work with their staff and legal counsel to put the new open-meeting policy into the association’s constitution.

The full board of eight directors will consider the proposed amendment at their regular March 5 meeting. They will decide that day on the final form of the constitutional amendment.

The proposed amendment then would be submitted to the association’s 180 schools for action at the April 22 annual state meeting.

“According to our constitution, it has to be approved by 60 percent of our member schools,” director Rick Weber of Flandreau said.

A lawyer for the association, Lindsey Riter-Rapp of Pierre, has told the board she considers the association to be a voluntary, non-profit organization.

That statement is repeated in the first line of the resolution passed Tuesday.

A chapter of state law titled “High School Activities Association” covers its activities.

The association’s leadership has sought legislative approval on various matters in the past decade ranging from concussions and suspensions to funding for the association’s foundation.

Legislation this year is under consideration regarding a change in suspension schedule.

Unresolved is the degree to which the association is a public body. Many legislators think it is or should be because public schools are involved and public funds and public facilities are used.

Complicating the answer is that private schools are members too.

SDHSAA director Todd Trask of Wall said

adoption of the open meeting and public-record legislation will serve to make the association a public organization.

“That’s going to affect us in a big way if that happens,” Trask told the other directors. “If it passes and that is the case, it has the potential to affect us in a big way – a big way.”

The legislation might not have reached final action before the March 5 board meeting.

Director Jason Uttermark of Aberdeen said the board’s proposed constitutional amendment should be aligned to the legislation as best possible.

Uttermark said it’s “fine” if the Legislature wants to pass its proposed law but he favors SDHSAA adopted the constitutional amendment.

“It’s another step. It shows good faith to the Legislature,” Uttermark said.

Carney said the past practice for many years was to provide a meeting packet of documents to each director approximately a week before each meeting.

He said that was to accommodate the directors’ schedules so that they had time to review the materials before driving to the meeting.

Riter-Rapp told the directors all sides would be on the same page if the meeting materials become available to the schools and the general public at the same time that directors receive them or at least 24 hours before the meeting.

“That’s not an issue,” Carney said.

The resolution is the basis for the amendment that will be offered.

“Looking at the resolution, I can see it become the amendment, with very little if any change,” Weber said.

Make-A-Wish seeking unused air miles

SIoux FALLS – For the third year, a statewide campaign for unused airline miles will help make wishes come true for South Dakota kids with life-threatening medical conditions.

The Feb. 27 effort will benefit Make-A-Wish® South Dakota, enabling the chapter to grant travel wishes to kids across the state.

More than 65 percent of the wishes granted by Make-A-Wish require air travel, the largest expense of the chapter’s annual wish budget. Miles from Delta, United, and US Airways are accepted.

Once the miles are donated they never expire and 100 percent

of the donated miles stay in South Dakota. Over the last two years more than 5 million miles have been donated, saving the organization more than \$50,000 in airfare.

Watch KSFY or NewsCenter1 Feb. 27 for more information. Miles will be accepted that day by calling (800) 640-9198. Miles can also be donated online any time at southdakota.wish.org.

A minimum donation of 1,000 miles is required for Delta and U.S. Airways and 500 miles for United. To expedite the process, you need to have your account number and know exactly how many miles you would like to donate.

“Donating frequent flier miles makes a significant difference in helping us to fulfill our mission of granting wishes,” Paul Krueger, president and CEO of Make-A-Wish South Dakota said. “This campaign is a unique way to support the sick kids and families we are serving.”

Krueger said no matter how many miles you donate, the impact is enormous. He said it takes 40,000 to 50,000 miles for one ticket and once your miles are donated to Make-A-Wish they will never expire.

For travel wishes typically the wish child, his or her parents or guardians and immediate siblings

living at home are included in the wish. The largest family that traveled this past year had 10 members.

The statewide effort is made possible by KSFY, NewsCenter1, Midco Connections, and Midcontinent Communications.

Make-A-Wish South Dakota was founded in 1984 to grant the wishes of children between the ages of 2 1/2 and 18 with life-threatening medical

conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

Since its inception, Make-A-Wish® South Dakota has granted more than 1,070 wishes. Seventy wishes were granted last year and more than 60 kids are in the process of receiving a wish. The average cost of a wish is nearly \$7,000.

Visit southdakota.wish.org or call (605) 335-8000 for more information.

www.plaintalk.net

CLAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S PRESS BRIEFING

02/02/14 18:00 – A caller reported a van parked on a rural road with a woman inside. A deputy checked and found the woman was fine and needed no assistance.

02/02/14 21:56 – A deputy responded to a report of a vehicle westbound in the eastbound lane of Highway 50. The vehicle was located in Yankton County and the impaired driver was arrested.

02/03/14 07:49 – A deputy responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle parked near a vacant house in Irene. The vehicle was gone upon arrival.

02/03/14 20:00 – A business requested extra patrol after firing a disgruntled employee.

02/03/14 21:05 – A patient was transported from the hospital in Vermillion to the Human Services Center in Yankton for an involuntary mental illness committal.

02/04/14 10:45 – The school resource officer investigated the theft of items from the high school girls locker room. The thieves were located and the stolen property was recovered. The report was forwarded to the States Attorney for consideration of charges.

02/04/14 12:16 – Deputies assisted with traffic control for a funeral procession that needed to cross the Highway 50 Bypass.

02/05/14 11:17 – An inmate was transported from the Yankton County Jail to the Clay County Jail after a 24/7 program violation.

02/05/14 12:37 – An inmate was transported to a doctor appointment and then returned to the jail.

02/06/14 06:17 – A deputy responded to a report of a vehicle becoming a traffic hazard on Highway 46. The owner

was contacted and requested to move the vehicle from the road. The deputy provided traffic control until the vehicle was moved.

02/06/14 06:51 – A deputy investigated a car/deer collision on Burbank Road.

02/06/14 18:38 – An inmate was transported to the Yankton County Jail to meet a prisoner transport shuttle to Hughes County.

02/06/14 23:47 – A vehicle was stopped in Vermillion and the driver was notified of a burned-out headlight.

02/07/14 07:34 – A complaint was received of numerous cars running the stop signs at Highway 19, Timber Road and Highway 50 each morning as people commute to Vermillion.

Extra patrol was conducted and numerous violations were observed and vehicles were stopped. Extra enforcement will continue, subject to staff availability, until the problem is resolved.

02/07/14 08:03 – A vehicle was observed with the driver driving with her head out of the window due to a frosted over windshield. The vehicle was stopped and the driver was provided with time to clear

her windshield. The driver was then cited for no valid driver’s license and escorted to the examination station.

02/07/14 08:28 – A deputy and a trooper mediated a family dispute at a rural residence regarding care and placement of an elderly mother.

02/07/14 19:04 – Deputies located a woman who was wanted for Clay and Union County warrants. The woman was booked into jail and later posted her bond.

02/07/14 20:55 – A vehicle was stopped on Highway 50 and the driver was notified of a burned out headlight.

02/08/14 09:14 – A rural resident reported an injured raptor bird at her residence. A local conservation officer was notified.

02/08/14 18:33 – While arresting a man for a warrant for a drug crime, deputies found new evidence of drug use. A search warrant was conducted and the man and a woman present were subsequently charged with additional drug offenses including Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana.

Total Records: 20

Attention Pleasant Valley Township Residents

Pleasant Valley Township Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 4th, 2014 7:00 pm
at Clay Rural Water System

Items to be considered include annual elections of clerk and treasurer, election of one supervisor, and opening of quotes for gravel, mowing, and summer and winter road maintenance. All residents are encouraged to attend.

For a complete agenda or more information, please contact:

Brandi Johnson, Clerk
30630 Frog Creek Rd.
Wakonda, SD. 57073
Brajohns76@wildblue.net



Welcome to the World

The following babies were born at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in January 2014:

ADRIUS	DREW	JAXON	KENNA	RYDER
AKICITA	DYLAN	JAXX	KIYANI	RYLINN
ALaura	EDEN	JAY	KYLIN	SHELBY
AMILIA	EMILY	JETT	LIYAH	TAHHONNE
ANABELLE	EVIE	JOHNATHAN	LUCAS	TEISON
ATAL	GABRIEL	JORDAN	MAXON	THEA
AUBREY	GENESIS	JOSEPHINE	NEVAEH	THOMAS
AVA	HALEY	JOVJOHN	NICKOLAS	TYLER
CARSTEN	HENRY	JUSTICE	NORA	YUG
CHARLES	ISAAC	KARA	OLIVER	Z'AKYAN
DEMI	ISSAC	KATHERINE	RAEGAN	ZOE
DEYLIYAH	JANESSA	KAYLEE	ROYAL	

Avera Sacred Heart Hospital

www.AveraSacredHeart.org