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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

2348

2007 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2348

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2348

Senate Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 7, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 2998, 3000

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

Chairman Freborg opened the hearing on SB 2348, a bill to require a public hearing before high school tournament selections. All members were present. (Senator Flakoll was in appropriations at the beginning of the meeting and arrived during the hearing.)

Senator Tollefson introduced the bill. (Written testimony attached)

Chairman Freborg asked why we would believe a hearing would spread these activities around more than they are now?

Senator Tollefson said it would give a formal opportunity to pitch their communities. Some smaller communities could handle some of these events. It would be determined by the pitch.

They do not have a formal hearing opportunity now.

Senator Taylor asked for some examples of communities that were slighted or are missing out.

Senator Tollefson said there are a couple of situations that could have been looked at more closely. Facilities are the key. This is not a Minot bill. Minot was not able to host the state wrestling tournament because they needed 8 mats and the dome in Minot has space for 6.

Some of the reasons should be looked at. The North Dakota High School Activities

Association does good things. The invitation process may be lacking. Towner could handle a debate tournament.

Senator Gary Lee asked how this would affect the criteria North Dakota High School Activities Association uses to decide location of events; would they still determine the criteria?

Senator Tollefson said the facilities would be part of the criteria but the selection process should not be based entirely on facilities. There is no opportunity to pitch a community.

Senator Bakke asked how many events are we talking about?

Senator Tollefson said the process is a subcommittee of athletic directors and coaches that determine the rotation and make a recommendation to the board.

Senator Heitkamp testified in favor of the bill. He has been a high school official, he used to ref basketball and still refs football. He has only positive feelings towards the North Dakota High School Activities Association. They let our young people grow and become great adults. This bill is common sense. The bill is about a process and fairness. If a community does not get a tournament, there are probably some good reasons. We may hear they already have a process and then we should leave it to the committee. Everyone knows what the big plums are, the number one tournament is class B basketball. He has friends who attend the class B basketball tournament every year and they all say it should be in Bismarck every year but it is not fair to give it to Bismarck every year. If he was on the North Dakota High School Activities Association, he would want this policy. It is not an indictment of the North Dakota High School Activities Association, just a conversation that we need to have.

Senator Horne testified in favor of the bill. It is a good idea and worth considering.

Sherman Sylling, Executive Secretary of the North Dakota High School Activities Association, testified in opposition to the bill. (Written testimony attached)

Senator Bakke asked if we are talking about 32 events?

Mr. Sylling said 32 state and regional tournaments.

Senator Bakke asked if they are spread out?

Mr. Sylling said the regional tournaments are spread out and are held within the region. They have been held in Dickinson, New Town, Williston. They rely on the class B schools to help with the location. It is hard to find a venue that will hold the regional tournaments. Grand Forks has the only venue that will accommodate the state hockey tournament.

Senator Taylor said he appreciates their desire to not over burden any one athletic director, Would it be helpful to have someone let the board know about the hotels and restaurants in a city? Is there a process for that?

Mr. Sylling said that is considered. Sometimes they make a mistake. They held the class B girls' basketball tournament in Jamestown, their facilities were great but it turned out they did not have enough hotels. That has affected later decisions.

Senator Gary Lee asked what criteria the committee has established so they know where to place these things. Why wouldn't this process augment what they are already doing?

Mr. Sylling said they are not a secret organization. They are not opposed to input, in fact they have asked their schools for more input in the last few years than ever. When the athletic directors from our major communities come into this meeting, they not only represent their community, they represent their school because we run our tournaments through schools. The athletic directors have a pulse for the venues that are available, for the motel rooms, they have all that information when they come to the meeting. In the case of Jamestown, they thought there would be enough rooms and there weren't.

Senator Gary Lee asked about speech, drama, music events and the selection process.

Mr. Sylling said they have a fine arts committee. No one is looking to host these events. Only a very few will host class B music because it takes so much space.

Senator Gary Lee asked how communities interested in hosting drama or music events would engage the North Dakota High School Activities Association?

Mr. Sylling said they would get an invite from that community through their school.

Senator Bakke asked if the members of the committee bring the information about the community, the chamber of commerce does not do a presentation?

Mr. Sylling said when the committee meets, they make recommendations 4 years out so they can tie up the venue. They can bring whoever they want to the meeting. The tournament managers usually bring the information about the number of rooms available, eating establishments and those sorts of things. The Chamber of Commerce would be welcome, they have open meetings. If a tournament manager really pushes for a tournament, they will bring their resources to the meeting.

Chairman Freborg confirmed the tournament managers make the pitch.

Mr. Sylling said the tournament managers represent their school and community. Sometimes a tournament manager will say they can't host an event, they will say they do not have the capability of doing it. They also consider political correctness. Everyone thinks class B basketball should be in Bismarck every year but they don't place it in Bismarck every year. He used to dread the April meeting because that is when they make site determinations, Since they have begun to use this process, it has really helped.

Senator Taylor said he realizes their meetings are open; how much input do they get from the communities. Is it on the agenda?

Mr. Sylling said they don't advertise for it. If they want to be on the agenda they can be. Any time a member school requests to be put on the agenda they are always put on. If a private person wants to be put on the agenda, they have to go through their school.

Wilfred Volsek, Superintendent of the Mandan Schools and chairman of the North Dakota High School Activities Association tournament committee, testified in opposition to the bill.

(Written testimony attached)

Chairman Freborg asked if the process described in the bill will help or hinder the committee?

Mr. Volesky said it would not be a problem if it was done at the time the tournaments are set. He is not sure of the intent of the bill in situations such as what occurred this fall where the state soccer tournament was supposed to be in Grand Forks and had to be moved to Bismarck because of weather. It would be hard to accommodate that timeline with the process described in the bill. Sometimes they need to make a change of tournament site. Right now the athletic directors meet with a wide representation of city officials to get ready for any tournament. He thinks the communities are very well represented by their tournament manager. The community representatives are welcome to come and are allowed to speak regarding sites. They have a process that works very well. It is very fair.

Bob Briggs, Superintendent of Surrey Schools and president of the North Dakota High School

Activities Association, testified in opposition to the bill. . The system currently in place serves the needs of the North Dakota High School Activities Association, the students and the member schools. This bill would add another layer that we don't need. They have an open meeting process. They give careful consideration to the decisions and all questions are answered. The tournament managers do a good job of presenting the strong and weak points of their facilities and city. They make a gallant effort to do their best and try to vary sites.

Senator Bakke asked if their open meeting policy includes advertising their meetings.

Mr. Briggs said their schedule is on their website and all member schools have the schedule.

Chairman Freborg closed the hearing on senate bill 2348.

Senator Taylor said the bill as is will not add very much. There is an issue here. Its not so much that the board needs every community in the state to come with a mug and an pen and a power point presentation. The tournament committee might be helped by having one meeting each year that allows communities to give them an inventory of their strengths and

weaknesses. He is sure the activity directors are trying to do what they can to know about each community, that would allow current and accurate information every year in terms of facilities, hotels and restaurants.

Senator Bakke said instead of the board having a public hearing, is Senator Taylor suggesting the selection committee would hold a hearing?

Senator Taylor said that is what he is thinking, it could be once a year. That board would still have all the power it currently has to make the selections, we would not interfere with that process.

Senator Gary Lee is it in line 6? Is the opportunity already there? He can appreciate it's a tough job, they have a rotation.

Senator Bakke said she is bothered, they say they welcome input but she does not sense they publicly say now is the time for your input. She likes that the bill requires them to publish the time and place of the meeting. She understands those kinds of presentations can take a lot of time.

Chairman Freborg said Minot was awarded the wrestling tournament then the requirements changed from 6 to 8 mats. You would think those requirements would change when awarding the next tournament. He knows that is what set this off.

Senator Taylor said they got the volleyball tournament but it must not have the economic impact of wrestling.

Senator Gary Lee said it is interesting it happened over wrestling, that has been in Minot a lot. It is surprising they did not know the criteria were changing.

Senator Bakke asked if there is an appeal process.

Chairman Freborg said in this case Minot probably expressed concern. He should have asked how long prior to the event had the change had been made. Had Minot already prepared for the state wrestling tournament? Volleyball does have a lesser impact.

Senator Bakke said another tournament, soccer, was moved to Bismarck at the last minute.

Senator Gary Lee said the board president is from Surrey and that is very close to Minot. He must have had a idea of what was happening?

Senator Bakke said she would be happy to remove everything but the requirement to publish notice of the meeting where the decision will be made, leave the last line, that would solve the issue.

Chairman Freborg said it might. They have the policy now that those who want to be placed on the agenda must go through their school and it is a good policy. It is perhaps more important that they attend the regional meetings where they are making the recommendations because once it gets to the board meeting, it is too late.

Senator Bakke said once a year they could advertise what the process is and when the meetings will be held so people know how they can have a voice rather than requiring presentations to the committee.

Senator Gary Lee said it says in the written testimony that they do not advertise their meetings but they do send the board agenda to newspapers and TV.

Chairman Freborg said that is not an ad, it is open to the general public but not for them to participate. When the district chairs meet, that would be a better time.

Senator Taylor said the regional sites are not contentious, perhaps it would be appropriate at the meetings with the tournament managers.

Chairman Freborg said maybe we can't fix the problem. Maybe if they are going to change a site, the change should be made within three years of the event.

Senator Taylor asked how much communication there is between the school administrators and the chamber and business interests of the city. Maybe a public notice of the meeting dates and that the meetings are open to the member schools might be as help to the process as anything. He doesn't want to get much more involved in the process.

Senator Bakke said if they pull an event out of a city a month before the event that does not give the city an opportunity to book another event. That is a loss of revenue.

Senator Gary Lee asked if they are under the administrative rule process?

Chairman Freborg said he doesn't think so, they are not an agency.

Senator Bakke said she will work with it today and have it ready for Monday.

Chairman Freborg said to keep it real simple. He doesn't want to muddy up what they are doing now, it seems like it might be working okay.

Chairman Freborg closed the discussion of SB 2348.

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. 2348

Senate Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: February 12, 2007

Recorder Job Number: 3352

Committee Clerk Signature

Minutes:

Chairman Freborg opened the discussion on SB 2348. All members were present.

Senator Bakke distributed amendment 70844.0101. She said she has discussed the amendment with Senator Tollefson and he is comfortable with it. She said after hearing testimony, it appears the North Dakota High School Activity Association has a process that is working. The amendment asks the NDHSAA to advertise the process so communities have ample time and it prevents tournaments from being cancelled at the last moment. The amendment is a suggestion, a starting point.

Senator Taylor mentioned the cost of advertising in all daily newspapers in the state for two weeks, once per week, could be expensive. They do have a website where the information could be available.

Senator Bakke said that is a good point. She was concerned about the 24 months notice for moving or cancelling a tournament. Senator Tollefson thought it was fine.

Chairman Freborg said possibly the ads could appear in qualifying cities.

Senator Gary Lee said he called the NDHSAA about Minot and the state wrestling tournament.

Minot has hosted the event with 6 mats for years. The class A wrestling coaches went to the NDHSAA with a concern: due to a drop in the number of class A wrestlers, the current set up

would potentially allow a wrestler to win on byes. They recommended the addition of 2 more mats. Minot could not accommodate the additional mats. The activity director from Minot was involved in the decision.

Senator Flakoll asked if this would apply to all tournaments, state, regional and district, or just state tournaments.

Senator Bakke said the original bill said any tournament so she tried not to change that. She assumes they make the decisions at one meeting.

Senator Flakoll said if the regional and district tournaments were involved, perhaps the notice would have to appear in the weekly papers too since those communities would be eligible for district or regional tournaments.

Chairman Freborg said perhaps ads could be placed in the papers of eligible cities.

Senator Bakke said she had envisioned the 4 major newspapers. She wanted to avoid the bidding process since the NDHSAA has tried that and it didn't work. She did think it was important to advertise the process so communities are aware of it and know how they can have a voice.

Senator Flakoll said he is not sure he would support the modifications offered. If a notice was published in a town's paper would that mean the town was eligible? Minot thought they were eligible for state wrestling.

Senator Bakke said she understood that any town could host a tournament if they have the facilities.

Senator Flakoll asked if the tournament sites would include music and drama.

Senator Bakke said she got the impression that all events were scheduled through this committee.

Chairman Freborg asked how the communities would know the requirements.

Senator Bakke said they insinuated everyone knew the requirements and had to go through their school but they did say they do not publish the requirements. She wondered if the 24 month notice should be changed to 1 year, would that be more reasonable.

Senator Gary Lee said 2b does allow for an emergency situation.

Senator Bakke said 2a allows for the change if the site is agreeable.

Senator Taylor said these tournaments are set 5 years out. In the original bill, it asked that notices be published in local papers and no one in testimony mentioned cost. Would the website be sufficient?

Senator Flakoll said he has no problem with using the website.

Senator Bakke said a letter to the schools would be a possibility, just so there is some way for the people to find out how they can have a voice. She is not sure its general knowledge.

Senator Flakoll moved amendment 70844.0101 with the addition to 1c "or written notice to all school districts in the state", seconded by Senator Bakke.

Senator Flakoll said they could reference their website in the letter as a place to go for further information.

The motion passed 5-0.

Senator Bakke moved a Do Pass As Amended on SB 2348, seconded by Senator Gary Lee.

Senator Flakoll said before we had a bill that was distinct from the problem. We have now addressed the concerns of the prime sponsor.

Senator Taylor said the NDHSAA has a procedure if they balk.

The motion passed 5-0. Senator Bakke will carry the bill.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2348

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act relating to high school tournament site selections.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. North Dakota high school activities association - Tournament site selection - Hearing - Notice.

1.
 - a. The North Dakota high school activities association shall annually publish a notice of the tournament sites that it intends to select during the ensuing twelve months.
 - b. The notice must include a description of the selection process and the dates, times, and locations at which the association will meet to consider and select the tournament sites. The notice must also describe how representatives of potential tournament sites and members of the public can obtain information regarding potential tournament sites and how they may provide information regarding potential tournament sites for the consideration of the association.
 - c. The association shall publish the notices required by this section at least once each week for two consecutive weeks in each daily newspaper of general circulation in the state. *or written notice to all school districts in state.*
2. Once the North Dakota high school activities association has selected a tournament site, the association may not reschedule or cancel the tournament without giving at least twenty-four months' notice to the owner or operator of the tournament site. The provisions of this subsection do not apply if:
 - a. The owner or operator of the tournament site assents to the schedule change or cancellation; or
 - b. The tournament must be rescheduled or canceled due to an act of God or other emergency beyond the control of the association."

Renumber accordingly

*adopted 5-0
2/12/07*

Senator Bakke 2/12/07

Date: 2/12/07
Roll Call Vote #:

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2843

Senate Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken More Amendment 70844.0104 with change

Motion Made By Sen. Flakoll Seconded By Sen. Bakke

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Freborg	✓		Senator Taylor	✓	
Senator Flakoll	✓		Senator Bakke	✓	
Senator Gary Lee	✓				

Total Yes 5 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

*l. e. code: or written notice to
all school districts in the state.*

Date: 2/12/07
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2007 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2348

Senate Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass As Amended

Motion Made By Sen. Bakke Seconded By Sen. Lee

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Freborg	✓		Senator Taylor	✓	
Senator Flakoll	✓		Senator Bakke	✓	
Senator Gary Lee	✓				

Total Yes 5 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Bakke

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2348: Education Committee (Sen. Freborg, Chairman) recommends AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2348 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 1, after "A BILL" replace the remainder of the bill with "for an Act relating to high school tournament site selections.

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- c. The association shall publish any notice required by this subsection at least once each week for two consecutive weeks in each daily newspaper of general circulation in the state or provide written notice to each school district in the state.
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 - a. The owner or operator of the tournament site assents to the schedule change or cancellation; or
 - b. The tournament must be rescheduled or canceled due to an act of God or other emergency beyond the control of the association."

Renumber accordingly

2007 HOUSE EDUCATION

SB 2348

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. **SB 2348**

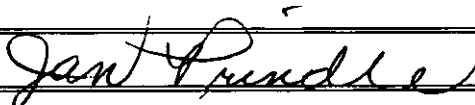
House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: **6 March 2006**

Recorder Job Number: **4444**

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes

Chairman Kelsch opened the hearing of HB 2348.

Senator Ben Tollefson, District 38, prime sponsor, introduced the bill. (Testimony Attached.)

Representative Herbel: In your testimony you talk about communities making a "pitch" for an event. Can't they do that now?

Senator Tollefson: No publication is taking place and no knowledge is out there so that a school or a community anywhere doesn't necessarily have the opportunity if they don't know about it.

Representative Hunsakor: Under current policy I believe there is a time when anyone who wants to can come to Valley City when they have their meeting and make their pitch for a tournament. There aren't too many schools that have the facilities or space and whatever else it takes to host these tournaments. Those that can, surely must know about them ahead of time and can make time in their agenda to go to the meeting.

Senator Tollefson: The actual opportunity is not published to them so they may organize themselves to make that pitch.

Representative Hanson: Do they have rotation for certain tournaments?

Senator Tollefson: They do have some order but there are two main factors involved with any decision. One is facilities. Not every community could handle a big tournament. There are some that could handle a more. This is an issue I visited with the Attorney General about. It is a public entity and as such there are requirements for open records, meetings and notification.

Representative Hunsakor: You stated that schools that could host the higher profile tournaments that draw thousands could have their opportunity to make a pitch. I would suggest that they all know about those tournaments months and years ahead and determine when the activity committee meets and have some one there.

Senator Tollefson: The notification is part of this issue. Golf can be played in lots of places in ND and this is something that everyone does not necessarily know about. It isn't just the big stuff we're talking about. This would open everything up for all of the state regardless of the size of the community. To me this bill is low-keyed but it is meaningful and all of the state should be involved in some of these activities and to date I don't think that they are involved.

Vice Chairman Meier: Does the ND Activities Association then need to pay for these publications to go in to the newspapers around the state?

Senator Tollefson: Could they afford to publicize all of these events? Their total operating assets are some over a million dollars. I hesitate to say anything derogatory about the Association because they do a good job; but they can do a better job and all of us can benefit.

Robert Horne, District 3, testified in favor of the bill. I will not add a lot of time to your hearing. I simply wanted to be on record as supporting SB 2348.

Senator Joel Heitkamp, District 26, testified in favor of the bill. The one thing I agree with everyone on is that the ND HS Activities Association does a very good job. The point of the bill is to make sure that there is a process. There is a process in the bill to provide written notice

to every school in the state and I want to red flag that for you. It seems there are some question marks there whether we are setting up a school district superintendent who may get notice who doesn't want to become active as an economic development worker in his community and so I think the written notice should be in the paper. I would have suspected that all of this would have been in place through the ND HS Activities Association. I know that we don't like to micromanage organizations but bills like this don't come around because of a curling tournament. They come around because some one feels the process needed to happen. If the cost of that publication is something you feel you cannot afford, the cost is a pretty cheap insurance policy just on the PR side. The newspapers are the official publication in each town. They are affordable.

Chairman Kelsch: Senator Tollefson brought up Towner ND having a speech tournament. The biggest issue I see with some of the small towns is not the gymnasium or classrooms you can set up for the state music contests, is about hotels and eating facilities. That's where the concern is to me. Does it not become a waste of money because in a lot of these areas there is just no one that can handle this?

Senator Heidtkamp: I agree that those are the problems and if you have to sift through the problems. If word gets out and there are economic developers who want to compete on this plane, let's make it happen—we need more of this. I see this as a positive.

Representative Herbel: Don't the people that are in charge of your commerce already know when these tournaments are held and take advantage to get their pitch in. That's just common sense I would think.

Senator Heidtkamp: I think most of what transpires with the Activities Association is with the school district. I think they do a very good job of making sure the school districts are involved. The big breakdown happens is with the people that do make the pitch for this and whatever

they have to that school district. If you have a superintendent who thinks his city cannot compete for that but you may have some developers who do. I know with publication the developer had no right to whine. He could know about it in advance and sit down with the superintendent to make it happen and work together as a team.

Representative Herbel: Is the next thing after this that we start micromanaging the tournaments.

Senator Heidtkamp: That's something we would not support, but a process is fair.

Representative Karls: Canceling with two year notice seems kind of severe.

Senator Heidtkamp: In scheduling that's where you are at. When you put the money and time in it you have an investment. You as a Committee could pick the date you are comfortable.

Chairman Kelsch: Sometimes the schools aren't happy with the location. In my mind the Class A basketball tournament should always be in Bismarck and the reason I say that is they have separate courts and you don't have to listen to another game being played right next door.

Senator Heidtkamp: Saturday I got into the NDSSC right before tip off. Afterwards we all went to a "meeting" and talked about the game. The one consistent message was that it should be mandated that the Class B basketball tournament always be in Bismarck. They just loved Bismarck for the venue.

Representative Hunskor: This is about schools and about kids. If all the superintendents are involved why does it have to be in the newspapers? The superintendent is going to get the machinery going. If they are against it, there will be a problem anyway.

Senator Heidtkamp: There could easily be a breakdown here. What about the ability of that community to potentially host a tournament and be able to generate the revenue that comes in on it and bring people to their community and create a buzz?

John McMartin, president of the Minot Area Chamber of Commerce, testified in favor of the bill. Chambers of Commerce and economic development agencies have all fallen under the open meetings law. We've all learned how to deal with public notices. I don't think public notice is the issue here. There are certainly are the towns that know when those events are coming up and those communities have got organized convention and visitor bureau and organized groups to attract those things. But there are other communities that if they know about it could organize themselves through their voluntary community organizations to secure that event. Many people love to go someplace else to go to a convention and dislike immensely to be the host for the convention because of all the work. That might be the issue for some superintendents, but I don't know that. Allowing those volunteer people to become aware is what this is about so I stand in support of this bill on behalf of my chamber.

Jack McDonald, on behalf of the ND Newspaper Association testified in favor of the bill and included a proposed amendment. (Testimony Attached.)

Opposition:

Sherman Sylling, executive director, ND HS Activities Association, testified in opposition to the bill. (Testimony Attached.)

Vice Chairman Meier: How much time in advance after it was realized that Minot could not accommodate the 8 mat wrestling was notice given.

Sylling: In December the tournament committee met. Prior to that meeting the board of directors had approved the addition of 70 some matches. Instead of bringing 6 wrestlers to the tournament, we allowed them to bring 8. Consequently they added additional matches to

the tournament which extended the day hugely and came to require 8 mats. In December they addressed it, the board approved it in January and this following February is when the tournament was in Fargo in place of Minot. And the volley ball tournament went from Fargo to Minot.

Representative Mueller: You spoke to the Class B schools and how they do their volley ball basketball things when two districts are competing for the right to go to the state tournament. How do those individual district sites get determined?

Sylling: When the schools are assigned to a district, the district tournament that they plan is actually a post-season tournament. It is not part of the regular season. They plan everything about the district and they tell us where it's at.

Representative Hanson: Did you have a contract signed with Minot on the wrestling?

Sylling: We did not.

Representative Hanson: Are class B golf tournaments assigned to Class B schools.

Sylling: Whenever possible. It's grown to the point where we need to have two 18-hole courses.

Representative Hanson: Do you have a two-year rotation in state basketball tournaments.

Sylling: There is no set rotation. The board of directors a few years ago said that with the state Class B tournament they preferred going all the way to the East one out of three years.

Representative Hanson: Under your Class A setup now for basketball are there only three cities that can host it?

Sylling: At the present time that is true.

Chairman Kelsch: There was a Tournament Site Rotation which goes through 2001 passed out. You kind of see how they are rotated. I did find it interesting that Fargo, being the

largest city in the state, hosts only one more event than Minot does. Jamestown is right up there behind that. Bismarck only hosts 13 events through 2011.

Representative Herbel: What's the input on the regional basketball tournaments? How are they determined?

Sylling: We publish in our bulletin that is available on line and we contact our schools and let them know that in April of each year the board of directors will approve the regional tournament sites. On March 16 our district chairmen meet and they make recommendations for change for the board to consider. They are asked to bring in their recommendations for next year's regional settings. We ask the two district chairman who represent these district schools to get together and when they can come in and have addressed it at the local level, it just makes it so much better. We have home court advantage at regional tournaments that some claim. We can't away from it but sometimes we run out of options. Now that we involve the schools more at that level they understand the problems and understand the work that goes in to holding and sponsoring tournaments because we also ask representatives from those districts to manage those districts for us.

Representative Herbel: We used to have a rotation between Mayville and Grafton for regional. Now it's gone to Grand Forks. I imagine you got input from the two districts. I know there was a lot of discontent from the community people because it was played at a neutral site and run by disinterested people. What kind of input do you have when there is a disagreement between two districts as to the site?

Sylling: At the district chairman's meeting I tell them if they haven't taken the time and the effort to mutually agree on a site, the board is going to set the site and then I don't want to hear from you folks. In the case you brought up we had two districts who could not agree.

Representative Hunskor: Does the music and speech ever go to the smaller schools?

Sylling: Whenever possible it sure does. State music is a huge function. We have difficult times finding places that are able to hold state music or speech because of the number of kids are involved. Any time a tournament can be placed in a smaller community, it is.

Representative Hunskor: Do you see an interest by small schools in hosting these events?

Sylling: I'm not able to measure the interest. When I was superintendent at Watford City, it became difficult to find a place to handle our regional music because a school had to be willing to shut down for an afternoon in order to do that.

Representative Hunskor: Then basically most everything has to be in some larger community because of restaurants, motels and everything else that goes with it whether it's music, speech or whatever.

Sylling: If it is a one day function where they can go in and out providing they have a venue large enough because it takes a host of rooms to do that. We're not opposed to more work at the Association. We just want to make sure that work has a better result.

Representative Mueller: I'm not picking up any place in your presentation or our discussion that directly conflicts with this bill. How is the Association negatively impacted by this legislation that calls for notification?

Sylling: I see this as duplication. I honestly believe that communities are represented. If they feel they are not being represented by the administration of their school, I believe that's a local issue. We honestly believe that communities are represented now.

Representative Solberg: I just wanted to let the Committee know that this young man and I competed in the cutting horse arenas throughout the state and he was always tough. Prior to that he was one of ND's best bull riders. He was also the administrator for the Watford City Public Schools. He's a very diverse person and he can handle these committees really well.

Sylling: When I rode bulls I wasn't as nervous as I am right now.

Wilford Volesky, superintendent of the Mandan School District and chairman of the ND HS Activities Association Tournament Committee, testified in opposition to the bill.

(Testimony Attached.)

Bob Briggs, superintendent of the Surry School and president of the ND HS School Activities Association, testified in opposition to the bill. (Testimony Attached.)

Representative Karls: How long have you been president?

Briggs: This year. Our president usually serves at the end of a four year term on the board.

Jerry Obenaur, middle school principal of Hazen, and representing the ND Athletic Directors Association. As a an athletic director in a small community, it is our responsibility to communicate with our chamber of commerce, economic development person, mayor, local entities and we know far in advance when tournaments are being held. It is our duty to try to get those tournaments in our communities. Hazen has wonderful facilities and we host very nice tournaments. We take them as we can get them. We understand that there are many other schools and districts that are viable for these tournaments. The district tournament selections are on a rotation. We rotate between Trinity, Beulah, and Hazen because of our venues. We do get together to try to see where we can host the regional tournaments. They are sometimes strenuous but positive meetings. As far as having a notice in the newspaper I as the person responsible for getting tournaments to our town, that wouldn't benefit me any more than the current system we are at now.

Representative Hunskor: Do you host any music or speech?

Obenaur: We try to host regional speech. Hosting a tournament is more of a financial impact reason of having it. Hosting state music or speech we do not feel that is as financial impacting to our community. To do that we would have to shut down our school for a day and a half.

Doug Johnson, ND Council of Educational Leaders, testified in opposition to the board.

I just want to go on record that we oppose this bill. Initially when it came forward we did not take a position. After listening to testimony today that it is best left in the hands of the ND HS Activities Association to determine the decision process for the tournament selection process.

There being no further testimony, Chairman Kelsch closed the hearing of SB 2348

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Bill/Resolution No. **SB 2348**

House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Hearing Date: **6 March 2007**

Recorder Job Number: **4491**

Committee Clerk Signature

Jan Prindle

Minutes:

Chairman Kelsch opened discussion of SB 2348.

Representative Herbel: I move Do Not Pass

Representative Karls: I second.

Representative Hanson: The only problem I had as it showed on the list is five years in advance. Some of these cities are starting to plan for it and all of a sudden they pull their activity and they're stuck. I asked about a contract and they said they don't have contracts. That's the only problem I had with it.

Chairman Kelsch: I think all of you know what happened. Minot was scheduled to have the state wrestling. When I talked to the parents that went to the state wrestling tournament, it was so much nicer in the Dome (Fargo). They loved it. The facilities were so much nicer and it was nicer to have eight mats. It wasn't that did it to punish or anything like that. They gave Minot another tournament. I was shocked when I saw Minot had the Class B basketball tournament two years in a row.

(There was further unstructured, informal discussion among Committee members of pros and cons of different tournament venues and activities.)

Representative Mueller: There was much discussion about problems this morning and this bill does not address any of them. It only adds a publication requirement. I will have to support the Do Not Pass.

A roll call vote was taken: Yes: 13, No: 0, Absent: 0.

The Do Not Pass motion carried. Representative Herbel will carry the bill.

Date: 6 Mar
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2007 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2348

House Education Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By Herbel Seconded By Katcs

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Kelsch	✓		Rep Hanson	✓	
V Chairman Meier	✓		Rep Hunskor	✓	
Rep Haas	✓		Rep Mueller	✓	
Rep Herbel	✓		Rep Myxter	✓	
Rep Johnson	✓		Rep Solberg	✓	
Rep Karls	✓				
Rep Sukut	✓				
Rep Wall	✓				

Total Yes 13 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Herbel

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 6, 2007 5:09 p.m.

Module No: HR-52-4588
Carrier: Karls
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2348, as engrossed: Education Committee (Rep. R. Kelsch, Chairman) recommends DO NOT PASS (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2348 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2007 TESTIMONY

SB 2348

Senator Freborg, Chairman and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

The North Dakota High School Activities Association is an entity unto itself. They are partially financed by public tax dollars (.20 cents per student per year). Their budget includes about \$78,000 of those tax dollars. There is a cap of \$350 per school year.

High school activities, that is, state athletic tournaments, speech and music festivals, are an integral part of North Dakota life on many levels and has been a source of economic development in many North Dakota communities where they are hosted.

Not all communities have the facilities or accommodations to host larger tournaments. Many could and should welcome smaller ones for the economic base that could be built in the community. Senate Bill 2348 would give interested cities and towns an opportunity to formally pitch their communities.

Senate Bill 2348 is a simple bill only requesting and requiring the high school activities association to properly advertise and conduct hearings that would give all schools a chance at some of these tournaments that are so lucrative to so many.

We sincerely hope that the committee recognizes that this bill has a broadening effect on the selection process to allow all of North Dakota to participate in these activities.

Your positive acceptance of this bill is appreciated.

-Senator Tollefson



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2006-2007

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David Carlsrud, Asst. to Exec. Sec.

February 7, 2007

Chairman Freborg, members of the Senate Education Committee.

My name is Sherman Sylling. My title is Executive Secretary of the North Dakota High School Activities Association. I am accountable to an eleven member Board of Directors that represents 177 member schools in the State of North Dakota.

I am here today to speak in opposition to SB 2348. This bill as written would require a another level of hearings that would allow individuals as well as public and private entities to make presentations prior to the NDHSAA Board of Directors making a final decision in the selection of regional and state tournament sites.

Please bear with me while I explain the tournament site selection process that is utilized at the present time.

Class B member schools participating in basketball and volleyball have been assigned a district for competition purposes. Two districts have been paired to create a region. Each district conducts a tournament that determines the qualifiers for the regional tournament.

The NDHSAA sponsors 24 Class B regional tournaments in the sports of boys' basketball, girls' basketball and volleyball.

Each competition district appoints a District Chairperson to represent it in matters such as but not limited to the recommendation of regional tournament sites. The two district chairs from each region are encouraged to meet and agree on a recommended regional tournament site. If the two districts cannot agree on a recommended tournament site, the NDHSAA Board of Directors will decide where the tournament will be held. I cannot recall a time when the Board of Directors has placed a tournament at a site other than a site agreed upon by both districts.

In Class A our member schools are organized into two regions, east and west. The North Dakota High School Activities Association sponsors a total of 8 Class A Regional Tournaments in the activities of boys' basketball, girls' basketball, volleyball and hockey. Each region is responsible to meet and provide recommendations for regional tournament sites.

Each April, the NDHSAA Board of Directors makes final decisions regarding sites for the 32 Class A and B regional tournaments.

The present process used in the selection of regional tournament sites has seriously reduced the number of complaints from member schools.

We presently have a need for 20 sites to accommodate our state tournaments. A number of years ago, the NDHSAA Board of Directors would invite communities to come in and bid on a state tournament. This was before my time, but I have been told this process was cumbersome and ineffective at best. Communities would pick and choose which tournaments to bid on (basketball) and little consideration was given to the other tournaments (soccer, golf, gymnastics, etc.). Another factor was, not enough consideration was being given to tournament managers who were managing numerous state and regional tournaments. Our tournament managers are first and foremost activities administrators in schools located in our largest cities. No community or the NDHSAA should ever expect a local activities administrator to manage a number of tournaments that interferes with their school position.

That process evolved into one whereby the NDHSAA Board of Directors would meet and determine state tournament sites. It was determined that the process of selecting state tournament sites required extensive planning and the present system needed to be adjusted.

Eight years ago we created a Combined Tournament Committee. The Combined Tournament Committee is made up of a combination of NDHSAA Board Members and Tournament Managers from our larger cities. This eleven member committee consists of four NDHSAA Board Members and seven Tournament Managers/Activities Directors representing the Cities where various state tournaments are held. (Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, Mandan, Bismarck and Jamestown) This committee has been commissioned to undertake extensive planning and make state tournament site recommendations for the NDHSAA Board to consider. Our tournament managers, who represent those major cities, are a very valuable resource in this planning process. The Committee works hard to develop a plan that fairly distributes tournaments and does not over-burden any one manager with an abundance of tournaments. It is not an easy task, but in my opinion this process works well. In this planning process, venues are analyzed to determine whether or not the tournament can be adequately accommodated. On rare occasions, tournament sites have been changed due to extenuating circumstances.

It is my understanding this bill has been introduced because of such a rare change. State wrestling had to be moved because we had a venue that could not accommodate a requirement of eight wrestling mats. The need for eight mats materialized after the initial approval of that site. The Combined Tournament Committee addressed the situation and recommended the site for state wrestling be changed and state volleyball would be placed in its' stead. This decision resulted in a re-balancing of state tournament sites.

We do not advertise our Board or Committee meetings in the newspapers. The Board agenda is sent to daily newspapers, radio and television prior to every regularly scheduled Board meeting. Those meeting dates are also published on our website. All North Dakota High School Activities meetings are open to the general public.

On behalf North Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors and our member schools, I would encourage a do not pass vote on this bill. We believe communities are adequately represented by school administrators in the tournament site selection process.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak on this bill.

I will attempt to answer any questions you might have.

Testimony on SB 2348
Senate Education Committee
February 7, 2007

Chairman Freborg and members of the Senate Education Committee.

My name is Wilfred Volesky and I am the Superintendent of the Mandan School District. I also serve as the chairman of the North Dakota High School Activities Association Tournament Committee.

I am here today to speak in opposition to SB 2348. As this bill is written it reverts the process of selecting tournament sites to a process that was used a number of years ago that simply did not work. At that time cities made presentations to the NDHSAA Board of Directors and tried to develop such elaborate and expensive gimmicks to convince the NDHSAA Board to award their city the tournament. It did not take many years for this process to become a financial drain for the cities putting on the tournament especially the elite tournaments. So the process of tournament selection was changed.

Today we have a Tournament Committee that makes the preliminary selection for the tournaments and then makes a recommendation to the NDHSAA Board of Directors for their approval.

The Tournament Committee is composed of eleven members—four NDHSAA Board of Directors and seven Tournament Managers/AD's from the largest cities in the state. This committee has the responsibility to set tournament sites for a large number of regional tournaments and for all state tournaments. We normally meet twice a year and set state tournaments five years into the future to make sure that appropriate venues are available and can be secured for different tournaments.

The Tournament Managers/AD's are a very valuable resource to this committee. Because of their experience they know how to manage large tournaments and represent their communities in a very positive way. Every manager/AD would like to have as

many tournaments as possible come to their city each year. Yet they realize that there are a number of cities in the state that have facilities and venues that can handle most of the NDHSAA regional and state tournaments.

When the Tournament Committee meets they analyze all of the different venues for each regional and state tournament. Smaller regional and state tournaments are placed into smaller cities so they have an opportunity to host some tournaments. The larger tournaments are rotated among the states largest cities that have venues and facilities that can adequately accommodate the different tournaments. The Committee is also careful not to overwork a tournament manager/AD in a given year by placing too many tournaments in a particular city.

Personally, I believe the process works very well. It distributes the financial incentives that accompany most tournaments throughout the state rather than in one particular city. The process also rotates tournaments from one city to another so that all cities that can host the tournament have the opportunity to do so. The process also enables the committee to set regional tournament sites in cities recommended by the member schools in each region of the state.

We currently have a process that works very well and that represents North Dakota communities, member schools and most importantly the student participants in a fair and equitable way. I would ask that you enable us to maintain this process by a do not pass vote on this bill.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak on this bill.



SENATOR BEN TOLLEFSON
District 38
500 24th Street NW
Minot, ND 58703-1864
btollefson@nd.gov

SENATE
**NORTH DAKOTA
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



COMMITTEES:
Finance and Taxation,
Vice Chairman
Natural Resources,
Vice Chairman

Chairman Kelch, ladies and gentlemen of the House Education Committee: my name is Ben Tollefson. I am senator of the 38th district from Minot. I am the prime sponsor and bring to you today SB 2348.

A recent editorial in a North Dakota newspaper said it best: "SB 2348 is in any town bill." That is really what it is all about – giving any North Dakota town the chance to "pitch" their community in a hearing setting seeking an opportunity to host an event in their town.

Athletic tournaments, music festivals, speech contests and so forth are a prized event anywhere. They are a form of economic development for a community and it's not to say that all towns could handle any or all activities but they could handle some. And some of those would seek and grasp the opportunity to host an event that could bring people to their community; not only for the economic benefit for also for the opportunity for showing others what they have in their place.

The stipulations in SB 2348 are easy and create no problems for the North Dakota High School Activities Association to administer. Public hearings and notices published in newspapers for all to see will give all interested a chance of a prize.

Two words best describe the situation SB 2348 addresses: they are "facilities" and "broadened opportunities."

The NDHSAA is a "public entity" because public tax dollars, in part, support the organization and its operation. A public entity is regulated under 44-04-20 of the North Dakota Century Code which includes open meetings laws, open records and notification of meeting requirements.

We ask that SB 2348 be amended then ask for your recommendation of a do pass for "any town's" sake.

- Sen Tollefson 3/5/07

March 6, 2007

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
SB 2348

REPRESENTATIVE KELSCH AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Jack McDonald. I am appearing today on behalf of the North Dakota Newspaper Association. We object to the provisions of Section 1 of the bill that would allow the North Dakota High School Activities Association to give the public notice of its tournament selections and how to change them simply by mailing a letter to each school district.

These letters will be consigned to "file 13" and will never see the light of day. This provision guarantees that the public will not get notice of these matters.

If you support this bill and want the public to get notice of these matters, then require that the public truly get notice by publishing the information in the newspapers of the state rather sending letters to the school superintendent.

If you have any questions, I will be happy to try to answer them. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2348

Page 1, line 16, remove "in the state or provide written notice to each school district"

Renumber accordingly



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March 6, 2007

Chairman Kelsch, members of the House Education Committee.

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Each Class B District appoints a District Chairperson to represent it in matters such as but not limited to the recommendation of regional tournament sites. The two District Chairs from each region are encouraged to mutually agree on a recommended regional tournament site. If the two districts cannot agree on a recommended tournament site, the NDHSAA Board of Directors will consider all recommendations and invitations before making a decision as to where the tournament will be held. When both Districts make the effort to work out a mutual recommendation, it carries a lot of weight with the Board of Directors. I cannot recall a time when the Board of Directors has placed a tournament other than a site agreed upon by both districts.

In Class A our member schools are organized into two regions, east and west. The North Dakota High School Activities Association sponsors a total of 8 Class A Regional Tournaments in the activities of boys' basketball, girls' basketball, volleyball and hockey. Each region is responsible to meet and provide recommendations for regional tournament sites.

At the April meeting, the NDHSAA Board of Directors makes final decisions regarding sites for the 32 Class A and B regional tournaments.

The present process used in the selection of regional tournament sites has seriously reduced the number of complaints from member schools.

We presently have a need for 20 sites to accommodate our state tournaments. A number of years ago, the NDHSAA Board of Directors would invite communities to come in and bid on a state tournament. This was before my time, but I have been told this process was cumbersome and ineffective at best. Communities would pick and choose which tournaments to bid on (basketball) and little consideration was given to the other tournaments (soccer, golf, gymnastics, etc.). Another factor was, not enough consideration was being given to tournament managers who were managing numerous state and regional tournaments. Our tournament managers are first and foremost activities administrators in their respective schools. No community or the NDHSAA

should ever expect a local activities administrator to manage a number of tournaments that could potentially interfere with their school position.

That process evolved into one whereby the NDHSAA Board of Directors would meet and determine state tournament sites. It did not take long to determine that the process of selecting state tournament sites required more extensive planning and the present system needed to be adjusted.

Eight years ago we created a Combined Tournament Committee. The Combined Tournament Committee is made up of a combination of NDHSAA Board Members and Tournament Managers from our larger cities. This eleven member committee consists of four NDHSAA Board Members and seven Tournament Managers/Activities Directors representing the Cities where various state tournaments are held. (Fargo, Grand Forks, Minot, Mandan, Bismarck and Jamestown) This committee has been commissioned to undertake extensive planning and make state tournament site recommendations for the NDHSAA Board to consider. Our tournament managers, who represent those major cities, are a very valuable resource in this planning process. The Committee works hard to develop a plan that fairly distributes tournaments and does not over-burden any one manager with an abundance of tournaments. It is not an easy task, but in my opinion this process works well. In this planning process, venues are analyzed to determine whether or not the tournament can be adequately accommodated. On rare occasions, tournament sites have been changed due to extenuating circumstances.

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every regularly scheduled Board meeting. Those meeting dates are also published on our website. All North Dakota High School Activities meetings are open to the general public.

On behalf North Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors and our member schools, I would encourage a do not pass vote on this bill. We believe communities are adequately represented by school administrators in the tournament site selection process.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak on this bill.

I will attempt to answer any questions you might have.

NDHSAA Tournament Site Rotation
Board Approved
January 27, 2007

Activity In Chronological Order	Approved 2006-07	Approved 2007-08	Approved 2008-09	Approved 2009-2010	Approved 2010-2011
Class A Girls Golf	Bismarck	Fargo	Minot	Wahpeton	Jamestown
Boys Tennis	Fargo	Grand Forks	Bismarck	Fargo	Bismarck
Boys Soccer	Fargo	Mandan	Fargo	Jamestown	Grand Forks
Cross Country	Jamestown	Minot	Jamestown	Valley City	Jamestown
Girls Swimming	Mandan	Grand Forks	Mandan	Grand Forks	Mandan
Football	Grand Forks	Fargo	Grand Forks	Fargo	Grand Forks
Volleyball	Minot	Jamestown	Minot	Jamestown	Minot
Wrestling	Fargo	Bismarck	Fargo	Fargo	Fargo
Gymnastics	Bismarck	Valley City	Dickinson	Valley City	Jamestown
Boys Hockey	Grand Forks	Grand Forks	Grand Forks	Grand Forks	Grand Forks
Girls Hockey	Minot	Grand Forks	Grand Forks	Grand Forks	Grand Forks
Class B Girls Basketball	Minot	Minot	Grand Forks	Minot	Minot
Boys Swimming	Grand Forks	Mandan	Grand Forks	Mandan	Grand Forks
Class A Girls & Boys Basketball	Fargo	Bismarck	Fargo	Bismarck	Fargo
Class B Boys Basketball	Bismarck	Fargo	Minot	Minot	Bismarck
Girls Tennis	<i>Minot</i>	Fargo	Minot	Grand Forks	Minot
Track	Bismarck	Bismarck	Bismarck	Bismarck	Bismarck
Class B Golf	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Class B Baseball	Mandan	Jamestown	Mandan	Jamestown	Mandan
Class A Baseball	Jamestown	Mandan	Jamestown	Mandan	Jamestown
Girls Soccer	Grand Forks	Bismarck	Fargo	Jamestown	Minot
Class A Boys Golf	Grand Forks	Dickinson	Jamestown	Minot	Fargo
Notes:					
Bold and Italics indicates recommended changes in the approved sites.					
Tournament Committee meeting - December 20, 2006					

Testimony on SB 2348
House Education Committee
March 6, 2007

Chairman Kelsch and members of the House Education Committee.

My name is Wilfred Volesky and I am the Superintendent of the Mandan School District. I also serve as the chairman of the North Dakota High School Activities Association Tournament Committee.

I am here today to speak in opposition to SB 2348. As this bill is written it reverts the process of selecting tournament sites to a process that was used a number of years ago that simply did not work. At that time representatives from various cities made presentations to the NDHSAA Board of Directors and tried to develop elaborate and expensive gimmicks to convince the NDHSAA Board to award their city different tournaments. It did not take many years for this process to become a financial drain for the cities putting on these tournaments, especially the elite tournaments. So the process of tournament selection was changed.

Today we have a Tournament Committee that makes the preliminary selection for the tournaments and then makes a recommendation to the NDHSAA Board of Directors for their approval.

The Tournament Committee is composed of eleven members—four NDHSAA Board of Directors and seven Tournament Managers/AD's from the largest cities in the state. This committee has the responsibility to set tournament sites for a large number of regional tournaments and for all state tournaments. We normally meet twice a year and set state tournaments five years into the future to make sure that appropriate venues are available and can be secured for different tournaments.

The Tournament Managers/AD's are a very valuable resource to this committee. Because of their experience they know how to manage large tournaments and represent

their communities in a very positive way. They work with the Chamber of Commerce and tournament committee representatives from their city and know and understand which tournaments they will have an opportunity to host. Every manager/AD would like to have as many tournaments as possible come to their city each year. Yet they realize that there are a number of cities in the state that have facilities and venues that can handle most of the NDHSAA regional and state tournaments.

When the Tournament Committee meets they analyze all of the different venues for each regional and state tournament. Smaller regional and state tournaments are placed into smaller cities so they have an opportunity to host some tournaments. The larger tournaments are rotated among the state's largest cities that have venues and facilities that can adequately accommodate the different tournaments. The Committee is also careful not to overwork a tournament manager/AD in a given year by placing too many tournaments in a particular city.

Personally, I believe the process works very well. It distributes the financial incentives that accompany most tournaments throughout the state rather than in one particular city. The process also rotates tournaments from one city to another so that all cities that can host the tournament have the opportunity to do so. The process also enables the committee to set regional tournament sites in cities recommended by the member schools in each region of the state.

We currently have a process that works very well and that represents North Dakota communities, member schools and most importantly the student participants in a fair and equitable way. I would ask that you enable us to maintain this process by a do not pass vote on this bill.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak on this bill.

March 6, 2007

SB2348

House Education Committee Hearing

Good Morning Chairwoman Kelsch and members of the Education Committee. For the record, my name is Bob Briggs and I am the Surrey School Superintendent. I am also the current President of the North Dakota High School Activities Association.

I speak today in opposition to SB2348. As you have heard in previous testimony this morning, our process for tournament site selections is already a tiered system with an opportunity for input from communities through a designated process. That process has evolved over many years and is serving our member schools and their students very well. we do not need another tier to go through. The present tournament committee system takes into account the community, the facility, the equipment (if Needed), the tournament manager, the workers, and most importantly, the students, when making their site selections.

Because one or two people have a disagreement with the process, or the need to change a site, does that mean it is necessary to change the whole process? Does it also mean that we need legislation to "fix it"? I do not believe so, and I would encourage everyone that has a concern to first learn the whole process and why decisions are as they are before looking for a major change.

The High School Activities Association is 100 years old. This in itself speaks to the fact that we serve our member schools in an effective manner. Through their input we have a very viable system for making change in our rules and procedures with one purpose in mind, serving the students of North Dakota through activities. We believe that has been, and is being done through our current systems. We therefore ask for a "Do Not Pass" on SB 2348.

Thank you and I will attempt to answer any questions.