

ND FFA Association Board of Directors

Minutes

April 15, 2020 3:30 pm CST: Zoom Meeting:

Members/Directors:

Aaron Anderson, State Advisor	Brent Arndt, Dist. 4	Benjamin Van Berkom, FFA President
Craig Kleven, State Exec. Sec.	Breana Bregel, Dist. 5	Christina Bingham, FFA Secretary
Thomas Winders, FFA Foundation	Brian Schneider, Dist. 6	Anna Stopplesworth, FFA Vice President
Ben Curdy, Dist. 1	Mike Kamrath, Dist. 7	Mikayla Wolfe, FFA Treasurer
Lance Van Berkom, Dist. 2	David Leier, Dist. 8	Madeliene Nichols, FFA Sentinel
Kasey Okke, Dist. 3		Hannah Remington, FFA Parliamentarian

Officers:

President	Aaron Anderson
Vice President	Brian Schneider
Secretary	Craig Kleven
Treasurer	Mike Kamrath

Standing Committees:

Written Applications & SAE	Brian Schneider, Kasey Okke, Ben Van Berkom
CDEs	David Leier, Lance Van Berkom, Breana Bregel, Christina Bingham, Madeliene Nichols, Craig Kleven
Finance	Aaron Anderson, Mike Kamrath, Mikayla Wolfe, Tommy Winders
Events/Activities	Aaron Anderson, Brent Arndt, Anna Stopplesworth, Hannah Remington, Ben Van Berkom
Policy	Aaron Anderson, Craig Kleven, Brian Schneider, Mike Kamrath, Ben Van Berkom

Absent: Nichols joined after 5:00 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Anderson at 3:34 pm.

Roll call by Anderson.

Secretary's Report:

The secretary's minutes were reviewed. Kamrath moved, Stopplesworth second to approve the minutes from 03.25.20 meeting. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Anderson ask the district representatives to each share their reports from their districts regarding the FFA State Convention board questions and survey provided to the teachers, plus any discussion the districts have had regarding FFA State Convention and FFA events. The obvious is that FFA State Convention will not be able to continue as usual, June 1-4, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Majority shared reports from the districts that Winter CDEs should be held at state convention this year if convention is possible. Most districts wanted to keep four a day convention but realized the possible need for a five-day convention. District 2 was only district open to traveling throughout the state to compete in various CDEs.

NDSU Guidelines: NDSU has suspend summer registration and made it online. Currently they are letting outside agencies make those decisions regarding events. The only alternative dates that would work for NDSU are July 27-30 or August 3-6. At the current point in time, it is unknown how many NDSU faculty would be able to help setup (use their department facilities/resources) and run CDEs with a late July or August convention.

Anderson directed the board to the survey and opened the floor for discussion and sharing of information from the respective FFA and school districts.

Board reviewed the 85 responses from the FFA advisor survey. There were five options for convention, plus additional questions and general comment sections. The following is a summary of the questions asked during the discussion and review of the information. FFA camp dates and the current \$2,000.00 investment was discussed. How will advisors and school administration respond to NDSF, FFA State Convention, and PDC three weeks in a row? How would attendance be affected by grain harvest in August? How many seniors will have already moved on and not participate? What about other members? Parents are concerned about bringing students together from across the state and gathering in Fargo, the current hotspot in the state. If safety is a main concern, and convention is postponed to August will it still be cancelled, and resources exhausted? Do we spend the time and resources of ND FFA to offer a convention with so many unknowns? Will we have a National FFA Convention? What happens if we don't have convention in August and COVID-19 clears up? What about teachers' with or without summer and FFA contracts? Do we recognize proficiency awards, degrees, and Stars in a virtual format? Do we know if volunteers will help with judging of the CDE events at state convention? Is it fair to the future FFA state officers to not elect an officer team until August? Is it fair to the current officer team to not hold a convention? Many districts are split today compared to a week ago regarding holding convention in August. We need to decide today and recognize the proficiencies, degrees, and Stars in a virtual format. Majority of advisors do not want virtual CDEs. Investing in a face to face convention is the preference, but there are so many unknowns if it will actually be able to be held the first week of August. Winter CDEs have consumed several weekends and lots of time. More advisors and members would like to compete in Winter CDEs. Will an August event with the COVID-19 pandemic limit the availability of volunteers required for a Winter CDE?

Anderson provided an anonymous online poll for the board to participate in. Cancel convention, Postpone convention until August, Wait until May 1 to decide regarding holding convention at a later date. Unanimous majority was to cancel convention. After over an hour of discussion and review of the materials and resources it was decided a motion and vote was needed.

Arndt moved to cancel the 2020 FFA state convention and look for alternative opportunities to recognize members. B. Van Berkom seconded the motion. Anderson called for discussion. Bregel, "Did we review the survey results fully?" Leier, "Does this motion cover holding any CDEs?" Chairman Anderson recognized state convention and CDE selection as a separate item. Vote was taken. Motion passed.

Anderson opened the floor for further discussion on CDEs. How do we qualify CDE teams? Do not have to make that decision today. Is there a fair way of qualifying teams? Most districts stated that if a normal format for CDEs cannot be held, teams should not qualify for nationals. Board will meet again in two weeks to discuss. Do we survey FFA advisors regarding holding the CDEs in the fall? If so, then there should be a question asking advisors to visit with their administration regarding the authorization of travel to one location or multiple locations, regardless the situation of COVID-19. How many advisors will want to prep several CDE teams in August and September, plus prepare for District Leadership? Discuss this further at the next special meeting. As of today, National FFA has postponed CDE/LDE declarations until September 1.

What does it look like recognizing the current FFA state officers and electing the 2020-21 state officers? Does the screening committee meet virtually and slate the officers for 2020-21? Districts and advisor survey shared the same response. Continue with the regular process (virtually) during the first week of June. Bingham moved to hold FFA state officer elections June 1 and 2, 2020 through a virtual screening committee process and slating the 2020-21 FFA state officers . Stoppleworth seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

How do we recognize the students virtually? How do we announce the newly elected state officers? Need to figure out something for the new officers and the retiring officers. Utilize every form of media to spread the good news of what each member has achieved. Check into broadcasting on BEK TV.

New Business:

State and Honorary American Degrees have not been selected: Board felt to hold off on recognizing 2020 Honorary State FFA degree recipients since there will not be a face to face convention. No names were nominated.

Honorary American Degrees were discussed. Will there be a National Convention and if not, will those recipients receive their degree at the 2021 convention?

Nominations for Honorary American Degrees, non-teachers:

L. Van Berkom nominated Tracey Hartwig.

Kamrath nominated Tamara Maddock (work prior to becoming a teacher this spring).

Bregel nominated Adam Marx.

B. Van Berkom nominated Fred Bakke.

Nominations for Honorary American Degrees, eligible teachers:

Bregel nominated Dan Spellerberg.

B. Van Berkom nominated Troy Enga.

Leier moved to cast a unanimous ballot and move all names forward for consideration. Arndt seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Next Meeting Date & Location:

During the current COVID-19 situation, special board meetings will be held on an as needed basis. May 1, 2020 at 9:00 am CST by Zoom.

Regular scheduled meeting is Monday, June 8, 2020 ND State Capitol Bismarck.
10:00 am Committee Work; 11:00 am Board Meeting

Due to no further business, meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm