

September 2002

Mr. Robert W. Hughes, Commissioner  
Florida High School Activities Association  
1801 NW 80<sup>th</sup> Boulevard  
Gainesville, Florida 32606

Florida Legislature  
Commissioner of Education

### **PUBLIC LIAISON ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Florida High School Activities Association's Public Liaison Advisory Committee would like to thank the Florida Legislature, Commissioner of Education and the FHSAA for the opportunity to work within our responsibilities in representing the FHSAA and member schools.

The FHSAA Public Liaison Advisory Committee commends and recommends to the FHSAA the following issues:

- Congratulations to the Florida High School Activities Association on the opening of the new state of the art facility. With the ground breaking that took place March 2001 to the opening of the building in April 2002, it is a grand facility and will definitely meet the needs of the public and all committees that will use it in the future.
- SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR (S.I.D.) program-has been developed to assist the Athletic Director and Coaches in the promotion of the school athletic program through the community media and within the school itself. Selected students attend a workshop with designated FHSAA staff members to learn how to facilitate the initial start-up program on their campus. The S.I.D. program has been going for two years and we would like to see the program continue, looking at ways to improve participation from the schools and continue to expand to include more schools. We commend the Communication Department and Staff on their hard work and dedication to improve the student involvement in athletics from a totally different aspect including: communication skills, media relations, journalism, marketing, promotions and web site development.
- Continue with the manner of which recruiting violations are being handled and any other violations against schools in their attempt to beat the system.
- Procedure of Representative Assembly meeting as to members having all materials prior to voting for the opportunity to review and discuss issues with colleagues. I do not think this meeting could be more organized than it is at the current time.
- Advisory Committee meetings are working well. We feel there is a true benefit in the communication between the FHSAA and the Coaches so they understand the WHOLE picture of what is best for the state not just specific areas/districts.

- Section Appeals are working well. The meetings are positive and all information is explained to the athlete and parents on how the meeting will run and the procedures that will take place. We recommend that policies be reviewed with any new members to Sectional Appeal Committees prior to first appeal.
- Continue with the recognition of the student/athletes through the FHSAA Academic All-State Team, Fred Rozelle sportsmanship Award, the FHSAA Floyd E. Lay All-Sports Award and the FHSAA Hall of Fame. These are highly prestigious awards that recognize the student/athlete, teams and other support people in the state of Florida.
- Continue to strive for minority representative on the FHSAA Board.
- Public Liaison Advisory Committee-not visible on web site-need a link on the home page to receive citizen and public comments and concerns. We received only two letters from the public this year, one on by-law changes which should have been sent sooner and one on a football concern that was received just prior to June Board meeting that the Commissioner had already handled.
- There seems to be fewer complaints now with the change in Board composition. With the open process now in place member schools and their staff have an opportunity to change by-laws, be heard and feel that they are a part of the FHSAA. All groups involved with the daily functioning of athletics on their campuses have a way to voice their concerns.
- PLAC has a concern of appointed members to the committee not showing up for meetings. Notices are sent out in a timely manner so members can make plans and we feel that all should show an interest in their assignment by being at the meetings.

The FHSAA Public Liaison Committee is very pleased with the organization and workings of the FHSAA and staff and Board of Directors. All issues presented were dealt with in a timely manner and all decisions made were in the best interest for the student/athletes and schools in the state of Florida. The PLAC would like to continue to work with the FHSAA Board in being a support group for the Association. We hope that the FHSAA will continue in its positive strides and integrity in making interscholastic athletics in the state of Florida the best for all of our member schools and our student/athletes.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Blumer, CAA  
PLAC Chairman

Cc: FHSAA Board of Directors  
PLAC members