

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting - May 5, 1975

The fifteenth meeting of the Senate Education Committee was held on May 5, 1975 at 3:50 p.m. in Room 323.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Richard H. Bryan  
Senator Schofield  
Senator Blakemore  
Senator Foote  
Senator Neal  
Senator Sheerin

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OTHERS PRESENT: See Exhibit A

A.B. 547 - Makes changes in provisions relating to educational personnel.

Mr. Dick Morgan advised that the bill is supported by the Teacher's Association, Clark and Washoe School Districts and the School Trustee's Association. In effect, what they have said is that school boards should not be holding hearings on termination cases. The school board presently has the option to hearing cases; however, in the bill they have taken out school board and indicated that the hearing officer shall hear cases. Mr. Morgan referred to the italicized wording on page 1 and advised that each year the school districts file in budget form the next year's estimates -- they are asking that that same form be send to the Nevada Tax Commission where all other records are sent. With reference to changes on page 2, Mr. Morgan advised that last session the Legislature approved a mandatory evaluation system of all personnel; the librarians and counselors were being evaluated on the same form as the teachers and they asked for an evaluation form that would pertain to what they were doing. Line 40 of page 2 provides that an individual being terminated or non-renewed have a hearing.

Senator Bryan asked why records were sent to the Nevada Tax Commission. Mr. Morgan stated that it relates to the negotiation law and economic data that is available to negotiating parties. This will put data in front of parties that would resolve problems regarding whether money is available. Mr. Petroni advised that they are having this problem in Clark County because they make the budget available to the Association as well as filing it with the state department. Apparently they are having some problem statewide getting the budgets from the state department.

Senator Blakemore moved "Do Pass"; seconded by Senator Schofield; motion carried unanimously.

A.B. 359 - Establishes policymaking boards within association for inter-scholastic activities.

Assemblyman Craddock spoke in favor of this bill which he has sponsored (See Exhibit B for copy of Mr. Craddock's testimony). Also provided by Mr. Craddock were copies of Chapter 7, 8 and 15 of the NIAA Handbook

(copies of aforementioned chapters are attached hereto and marked as Exhibit C and Exhibit D). Mr. Craddock presented the committee with copies of NIAA organizational chart in its present form (Exhibit E) and his proposed reorganization (Exhibit F). Also provided were: copy of case regarding Cleveland vs. Lyon County School District (Exhibit G); copy of letter from Roy W. Martin Junior High to Robert Lund of Clark County School District (Exhibit H); and copy of NIAA's Executive Secretary's contract (Exhibit I).

Senator Bryan asked if this proposal would require compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act; Mr. Craddock advised that he does not think this would require anything other than taking a good look at what they have. Senator Bryan then asked if regulations adopted by this board would be approved by the legislative commission and board of control. Mr. Craddock replied no, this is policy only. The rules, procedures and regulations could be adopted by the executive secretary.

Marvin Picollo, Washoe Co. School District, advised that both Washoe County and the NIAA would like to go on record as having the opinion that they should stay as they are because it has grown in a manner of natural progression. Since this was changed in the last session, they have not had enough time to get the bugs out; however, they do feel it is working. With reference to Mr. Craddock's feeling that it is not possible to obtain a speedy decision, Mr. Picollo advised that when necessary they are able to take poll votes and have been able to get decisions in one day. Mr. Picollo feels that the speed would not be increased if they had to poll 17 county superintendents and then poll seven board members -- this process would slow it down. Mr. Picollo feels that the system is working and they would like to leave it in its present form.

Senator Neal asked if Mr. Picollo feels there is anything wrong with vesting the executive secretary with the authority to interpret policy. Mr. Picollo replied that the board realizes that they have got to give more authority to the executive secretary. He is taking on authority as fast as he can.

Senator Sheerin commented that he feels the basic difference is that the present proposal is vertical decision making, while Mr. Craddock proposes a horizontal decision making process. Senator Sheerin suggested that principals and vice principals be added to Mr. Craddock's measure. Mr. Picollo replied that he has no objection -- he believes the key difference is that you are replacing the high school principal with people being one step further removed. If it is to be changed, Mr. Picollo feels that this would be a better situation than Mr. Craddock proposes. Senator Sheerin asked Mr. Picollo what his feelings would be if the executive secretary were put between the two boards. Mr. Picollo replied that he should still work for the NIAA control board.

Senator Bryan asked who, under the present organization, promulgates the regulations which have the force of law under the administrative procedures act. Mr. Picollo replied that the NIAA board establishes rules and regulations for zoning, etc. Those rules must be approved by the superintendents. In the final analysis, the final authority rests with the legislative commission.

Mr. Angelo Collis, So. Nevada Zone Conference, advised that it was voted upon last week at the So. Nevada Conference that he be sent by them to discuss this bill. Mr. Collis further stated that the So. Nevada Conference represents class B, A, AA, and AAA schools and they would like him to present their opposition to the bill. Mr. Collis commented that he is vice principal of Clark High and deals every day with the people that make up the NIAA. Mr. Collis advised that they are opposed to the idea of one student - one vote. They feel that a school with 50 students should be able to participate. This bill is creating two boards in the place of one; if an additional board is added, it will increase the difficulty in getting problems solved. They have been striving to effect improvements in the NIAA. Two years ago they went before the Legislature to incorporate the IAA under state statutes because they were informed that they should have state statutes that would enable them to function. They do want to increase the authority vested in the executive secretary. When the NIAA board was changed to 12 members, they added 3 members of the Board of Trustees. Out of three meetings that have been held, there has not been one where all three members were in attendance at the same time. They don't seem to have the time to spend on the everyday problems that come up. Of the 54 schools involved in the NIAA, 39 are outside of Clark County. With respect to the raising of money for the organization, \$12,600 came from dues from Clark County out of the \$35,600 that was taken in dues. The Southern zone tournament this year grossed \$7,004, while the Northern tournament grossed \$29,443. Mr. Collis feels that there is a definite need to keep people in the field who have expertise in the activities that the students participate in.

Mr. Larry Olsen, Principal of Chapparral High School and representing the Secondary School Principal's Assn. of Nevada, advised that they are in opposition to this bill. They would like to see the current organization of NIAA continue and be given an opportunity to try to succeed the way it is. They feel that if they had two groups (the legislative commission and the board of control) it would create problems. The guidelines are designed for the state as a whole and not for one county over another. When a student enters the ninth grade, the NIAA eligibility for that student would start.

Senator Sheerin asked what the policy decision was behind the board of control coming into existence. Mr. Picollo advised that they were told by other associations throughout the country that that decisions of those groups would be challenged unless they were given legal authority. It was at their request upon recommendation from groups around the country

Mr. Bob Best, Nevada State School Board Assn., advised that the school boards concur in their opposition to this bill. At the spring meeting of the school board, the board reasserted their stand in opposition to changing the law. The new organization with an executive secretary has only been in operation since July 1, 1974, and they would like to give it a chance to work.

Mr. John Hawkins, Superintendent of Carson City Schools, recommended that the organization of the NIAA remain as it is since it has had only one year to operate with an executive secretary. Mr. Hawkins further commented that every state out of 48 have secondary people on the board of control, and about 90% of the work is done by that board.

Mr. Mike Horan, Sparks High School, advised that he is representing the Washoe County Administrative Assn. of Vice Principals and the athletic directors of Washoe county. Mr. Horan stated that the amended version of the bill does not guarantee input from secondary school principals who are responsible for running these programs. Mr. Horan recommended that the committee not vote this bill out of committee.

Maurice Moyle, Yerington High School, advised that he was directed by the following schools to request that this bill be defeated: Carson City, Proctor Hug, Edward Reed, Reno, Sparks, Wooster, Fallon, Douglas, Elko, Lowrey, Hawthorne, Manogue, Stewart, White Pine, Yerington, Fernley, Gabbs, Incline, Lovelock, Sun Valley and Virginia City. Mr. Moyle further stated that the dual policy-making board would be cumbersome; there would be no source of appeal beyond this other than the court. Mr. Moyle has found the executive secretary to be accessible and he can render decisions.

Father George Wolf, Manogue High School, advised that when he has a problem, he phones the principal in Lovelock and feels confident in that he knows he will understand his problems and will listen to him. He feels that if this bill were passed, he would then have to communicate with Clark County where they do not know him and are not aware of his problems and, therefore, he would lose his representation. Father Wolf feels that this is an honest attempt of one parent to change something but feels that perhaps the principals should have been contacted. Father Wolf feels the system is working as it is.

Mr. Bert Cooper, Executive Secretary of NIAA, referred to the speed in which matters could be solved and advised that they have a few problems that go to the legislative commission which are outlined in Chapter 8 of the NIAA handbook. These procedures can be appealed to the legislative commission. Mr. Cooper gave the following example of what might happen if they had two boards: if the legislative commission would vote 6-1 in favor of a policy, and it were then taken to the board of control, which would be made up of 17 county superintendents, and they might vote

in opposition by 15-2, then there would be no negotiations and it would be defeated. The way it is operating now, where most matters are debated and discussed from the schools up through the board of control and then recommended as policy matters that have to be ratified by the legislation commission. Those members on the board are elected by their member schools.

Senator Bryan asked Mr. Cooper how a problem would reach him. Mr. Cooper replied that a principal has to submit to him an appeal or protest before it would go to the board. Senator Neal asked how Mr. Cooper would be effected if Mr. Craddock's changes were adopted. Mr. Cooper replied that instead of the board of control being made up of elected representatives, a trustee would be involved in hiring and the salary for the executive secretary.

Mr. Tod Carlini, Lyon County School, commented that Nevada has gone from 39 schools to 54 schools and hopes that the legislature will allow them to continue their present operation and give them an opportunity to fulfill the things that have to be done -- they can't do this in just one year.

Senator Sheerin feels that perhaps there should be some changes made but does not think that Mr. Craddock's proposal is the way to go. The NRS provides that the Trustees can form an association; the association is to adopt rules and there should be a procedure for appealing those rules. Senator Sheerin further advised that we should go back and look at the incorporation - it provides for the Board of Directors to be known as the legislative commission and it also provides for a governing body which is the board of control. Therefore, there are two groups in the incorporation, and Senator Sheerin feels that the only thing they need is one group. The persons to decide who that one group is is the Board of Trustees -- that is what the statutes say. They should create 1 group; and that board of control should have all the rule making power and decision making power. The only power that should be vested in anyone else should be a separate group set up for the appeal power. Senator Sheerin also feels there are changes to be made in their appeal procedure, in that Chapter 14 says that students may appeal to the board of control. The board of control should make the initial decision and if that decision is not accepted, it is appealed to the appeal body that is created for the final decision. The appeal procedure in Chapter 10 should also be looked at -- this indicates that the school may appeal, so apparently the students can't appeal. Senator Sheerin stated that for the above reasons, he is not going to support this bill, and feels that they need to look at their present structure and talk to their attorney about it.

Mr. Craddock suggested that the operation be turned over to the executive secretary and agrees that we should provide more authority to him.

A.C.R. 56 - Urges the board of regents of the University of Nevada to continue to explore requirements, possible funding sources and related matters concerning establishment of a law school at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Senator Blakemore moved "Do Pass"; seconded by Senator Schofield; motion carried unanimously.

S.C.R. 43 - Urges the board of regents of the University of Nevada to continue to explore requirements, possible funding sources and related matters concerning establishment of a law school at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Because the committee has processed A.C.R. 56, which is identical to S.C.R. 43, Senator Bryan moved that we indefinitely postpone S.C.R. 43; seconded by Senator Blakemore; motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon W. Maher, Secretary

ROOM # 323  
Monday

DATE 5-5-75

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NAME	ORGANIZATION	ADDRESS
Tr. George Wolf	Manogue High School	Reno, Nev
Maurice S. Myle	Yerington High School	Yerington
MIKE HORNAN	No Nev NAA COUN SPARKS H.S.	SPARKS, NV
John Hawkins	CARSON CITY SCHOOLS	CARSON CITY
W. Mung	Whitell High School	Zephyr Cove
Morise R. Borley	Carson City, N.S.	Carson City
Bob Best	Nev. State School Boards Assn	Carson, N.V.
Maxine Picollo	Washoe Co. School Dist	Reno, Nevada
Larry Olsen	Secondary School Principal Ass'n of Nev. Las Vegas	Las Vegas
Kurt S. Cooper	Exec Sec. NIAA	Carson City
Angelo Colton	So. Nevada Zone Conference	Las Vegas

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

My first interest in the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association (NIAA) resulted from supporting my own son's participation in these activities. Your time and patience could not be expected to endure the details as I know and can provide them. Briefly, on May 7, 1974, I filed a complaint for injunctive relief in behalf of my son and his team mates. A Temporary Restraining Order was issued and subsequently vacated with certain conditions being agreed upon by the parties involved. I caused the case to be dismissed on May 30, 1974, when the conditions agreed upon had been met. A quote from that Notice of Dismissal, "Whereas, the defendants have made due apologies to plaintiffs for the errors caused by Defendants' actions,..."

The Vice Principal of the school involved, Eldorado, was the Vice President of the NIAA Board of control at that time. Eldorado was a new school, in its first year of operation. The student body was 8th through 11th inclusive. Several 9th grade students were permitted, with the full knowledge of the staff and NIAA officials, to compete in High School and Junior High Track and Field events, until they won the eastern zone finals. The Eldorado 9th grade students were precluded from competing in the Finals while other 9th grade students from Jr.-Sr. High schools were allowed to continue. The end result was 19 pages of legal documentation and two court hearings involving several hundred dollars just to have the school officials say sorry kids, we were wrong!

Subsequent to the litigation referenced above, I attended two meetings



of the NIAA Board of Control and one meeting of their Legislative Commission (the 17 County Superintendents) wherein the so-called reorganization of the NIAA took place. No significant improvement has been made over the immediate past. A full time Executive Secretary has been employed, but he is helpless to do anything, because the Board of Control and the principals are charged with the administration of the program. See Chapters 8 and 15 of the NIAA Handbook.

They also increased the Board of Control from 7 to 12 members which only added difficulties to an almost impossible situation. Try to get an immediate or expeditious interpretation of a rule from a 12-member board that is scattered throughout the state when you have a week to spare.

Last week I received a copy of a case which originated between the Lyon County School District and a student by the name of Chester Cleveland, Jr. That case was commenced on October 29, 1974, and is now in the State Supreme Court. I have 166 pages of documentation which includes a 22-page Memorandum of Decision and Orders. Page 5, lines 18 through 21, "Both Plaintiffs (in their pleadings) as well as all Defendants (in open Court) have requested that this Court deal with the Lyon County School District athletic code on its merits for guidance and promulgation of rules by proper authority."

The above quote is particularly interesting when the case generally involves the school's attempt at enforcing its rules and regulations off the school grounds during the weekend. Denial of due process is the specific charged.

Goss et al vs. Lopez et al was decided by the U. S. Supreme Court on January 22, 1975. That decision holds that notice and a public

hearing is required when a student is suspended from General Curriculum for 10 days or less.

The National Federation of State High School Association's Official Handbook 1974-75 (Nevada is a member) Page 67 under Legal Status of State Association: Quote "The structure establishing and governing state associations should be clearly separated from the rules and means to alter the structure should not necessarily be the same as for altering the rules;..."

In our State they are not separated. The policymaking board consists of the 17 County Superintendents. The president of the Control Board is a Superintendent and a member of the policymaking board. Mr. Chairman and Members, the Lyon County School District is now under court order dated December 3, 1974, to file with the Clerk of the First Judicial District Court a full text of a new proposed code or set of rules and regulations governing athletes and athletics at Fernly High School, Lyon County, Nevada, but not necessarily limited thereto, or a resolution dealing with that same matter. The portion underlined is quoted from Case No. 5716, Page 21, lines 15 through 19. I submit to you that the entire NIAA is in jeopardy for at least two reasons:

1. The inability of the organization to effectively operate as structured. Explanation: the Superintendent and Board members protect their authority so jealously that a decision cannot be made in a timely fashion.
2. The complete absence of student representation at the policymaking level. Explanation: One Superintendent represents 58% of the student population while one Superintendent with an equal vote has no student

My oldest son is a 16-year-old sophomore. He has played one year of Junior Varsity and one year of Varsity football. He has lettered two years in wrestling and this year won 3rd in State AAA at 168 lbs. My only other child is 10 years old. He holds the Southwest Conference, United States Judo Association Title. Their involvement in sports has kept them too busy to throw rocks at the neighbors' windows or any other malicious mischief that I know of. I'm personally and selfishly interested in the welfare of the NIAA, in the interest of my own and 62,613 other high school students in Nevada.

Of the 17 letters that I have received from principals regarding A.B. 359, one logical and reasonable exception has been taken to A.B. 359 if words were amended out. Those two words are Page 2, line 3 [whenever practical]. This suggested amendment would put the principals in charge of the administration of the program while the policy would be set by the Superintendents and the School Boards. This bill would also provide the safeguards of separation suggested by the National Federation referred to hereinabove. It would also force the dual majority into placing some responsibility into the hands of the Executive Secretary, thereby streamlining the entire operation by bringing the interpretation of rules, and such other routine matters, to rest where they are accessible when needed. Any questions you may have I'll be happy to try to answer.

## CHAPTER 7

### Powers and Duties of Officers

#### Section 1: President

It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings of the Board of Control and the member schools of the Association. He may call such special meetings of the Board of Control as he may deem necessary in accordance with Chapter 5, Section 2. He shall act as the official spokesman for the Association and shall perform such duties as are generally required of his office.

#### Section 2: Vice-President

It shall be the duty of the vice-president to perform all the duties of the president when the latter is unable to perform these duties.

#### Section 3: Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary of the Association shall be the chief administrative officer of the Association and shall perform such duties as are required by these rules and regulations and as provided in his contract.

The Executive Secretary shall be bonded in an amount not less than \$20,000, the premium for which shall be paid by the Association. He shall make a complete financial statement to the Association annually following an audit by a certified public accountant. All expenses of the audit shall be paid by the Association.

EXHIBIT  
C

## CHAPTER 8

### Powers and Duties of the Board of Control

#### Section 1

The Board of Control shall have the authority to exercise all the powers expressed or implied in these Rules and Regulations, and to act as an administrative board in the interpretation of all questions arising from the directing of interscholastic activities of the member schools as provided in the Rules and Regulations. Where there is no rule or precedent the decision of the Board shall prevail.

#### Section 2

The Board of Control shall:

- (a) exercise general control over all activities in which member schools participate as provided in the Rules and Regulations.
- (b) provide necessary facilities, equipment, and personnel to conduct the business of the Association.
- (c) give interpretations of the rules of the Association and clarify application of the rules and regulations.
- (d) authorize the executive secretary to conduct investigations relative to violations of the rules and regulations of the Association as provided in the Violation and Appeal Chapter 10.
- (e) adopt an annual budget for the operation of the business affairs of the Association and set dues in conformance with the formula adopted by the Association.
- (f) employ an Executive Secretary, set his or her salary, and provide payment thereof.
- (g) assign member schools to the necessary classifications, zones or divisions to better achieve the objects of the Association, and for the efficient and effective conduct of interscholastic activities.
- (h) provide for the organization, supervision, and certification of officials for all interscholastic activities under its jurisdiction as provided in the Rules and Regulations.
- (i) make such other regulations not inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation and Rules and Regulations.

#### Section 3

All actions of the Board of Control under Chapter 8 may be appealed to the Legislative Commission by a member school, through the Superintendent, within ten (10) calendar days.

## CHAPTER 15

### Rules Governing Member Schools

#### Section 1 RESPONSIBILITY OF PRINCIPAL:

The principal of each member school is responsible to the Association in all matters pertaining to interscholastic activities, including the eligibility of students. In case of delegated authority to other eligible and regular staff members, the principal is not relieved of the responsibility in case of infraction or violation of rules of the Association. No interscholastic athletic activities may be scheduled or performed without the approval of the principal.

#### Section 2 RESPONSIBILITY FOR REGISTRATION OF PLAYERS:

The principal shall be directly responsible for the registration of all students. He shall not delegate this responsibility to any other person.

#### Section 3 SUPERVISION OF TEAMS:

The principal or his authorized representative shall accompany all teams or school groups participating in any interscholastic activity as a school representative. He shall ultimately be responsible for all matters affecting the team and the school. The school shall be considered as responsible for all acts of the participating team, or for school groups sponsored by the school while on athletic trips. The principal or his authorized representative accompanying the team or school sponsored group to a meet, game, contest or tournament shall exercise the utmost care in the supervision of said team or school sponsored group.

#### Section 4 SPORTSMANSHIP OF SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES:

It shall be the responsibility and duty of principals, coaches, faculty members, and all other official representatives of member schools in all interscholastic relations to practice the highest principles of sportsmanship and ethics of competition. The Board of Control shall have authority to penalize any member school whose representatives may be adjudged upon competent evidence to have violated this obligation.

#### Section 5 POLICY ON UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT AGAINST AN OFFICIAL:

(a) Conduct of Contestants (*Against an Official*): A contestant who is disqualified by a game official because of a flagrant or unsportsmanlike conduct in connection with any interscholastic contest, shall be ineligible until reinstatement by the Principal and written report of the details of the incident and action taken has been filed with the Executive Secretary for review by the Board of Control.

(b) Officials to Give Explanation: If the act is against the official the incident must be referred in writing through the Commissioner of the zone to the Executive Secretary.

(c) Respect for Authority: Authority vested in the contest officials must be respected and upheld. If an act of violence is committed against the person of a game official by a fan, student, player or faculty member of the school, during any interscholastic activity, the Principal of the school shall make a report within twenty-four (24) hours to the Executive Secretary giving complete details of the incident, the name of the parties involved and what corrective action has been taken.

NEVADA INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
 ORGANIZATION CHART

Legislative Commission  
 made up of  
 County Superintendents

NIAA Board of Control

*PRESIDENT	**DISTRICT I two members	**DISTRICT II one member	**DISTRICT III one member	**DISTRICT IV three members	***AT-LARGE Statewide one member
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\*\*\*School Trustees

CLARK COUNTY  
 one member

CARSON CITY,  
 WASHOE COUNTY  
 one member

OTHER COUNTIES  
 one member

Voting Members

Executive Secretary

District One  
 Member Schools  
 12

District Two  
 Member Schools  
 9

District Three  
 Member Schools  
 12

District Four  
 Member Schools  
 21

\*Elected by Legislative Commission

\*\*Administrative District Representatives  
 elected by the member schools  
 (each school has one vote)

\*\*\*Elected by the Board of Control

\*\*\*\*Elected by the Trustees of the district  
 or districts

NIAA Board of Administrators

\*PRESIDENT

\*\*DISTRICT  
I  
two members

\*\*DISTRICT  
II  
one member

\*\*DISTRICT  
III  
one member

\*\*DISTRICT  
IV  
three members

\*\*\*AT-LARGE  
Statewide  
one member

CLARK COUNTY  
one member

\*\*\*\*School Trustees

CARSON CITY,  
WASHOE COUNTY  
one member

OTHER COUNTIES  
one member

Voting Members

*Craddock*

*AB 359*

Legislative Commission  
7 Members of the  
Boards of Trustees

Executive Secretary

Board of Control  
17 Supt. of County  
School Districts

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*Pin*  
*✓/Pin*

AB 359

Legislative Commission  
7 Members of the  
Boards of Trustees

Board of Control  
17 Supt. of County  
School Districts

Executive Secretary

NIAA Board of Administrators

\*PRESIDENT

\*\*DISTRICT  
I  
two members

\*\*DISTRICT  
II  
one member

\*\*DISTRICT  
III  
one member

\*\*DISTRICT  
IV  
three members

\*\*\*AT-LARGE  
Statewide  
one member

CLARK COUNTY  
one member

\*\*\*School Trustees

CARSON CITY,  
WASHOE COUNTY  
one member

OTHER COUNTIES  
one member

Voting Members



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IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LYON

CHESTER CLEVELAND, JUNIOR by )  
LOUINDA CLEVELAND, his mother )  
and guardian ad litem, )  
  
Plaintiffs, )  
  
vs. )  
  
ROBERT SHIPLEY, individually and )  
in his capacity as principal of )  
Fernley High School; TODD CARLINI, )  
individually and in his capacity )  
as Superintendent of Schools of )  
the Lyon County School District; )  
DR. LEONARD RIFE, individually and )  
in his capacity as President of the )  
Board of Trustees of the Lyon )  
County School District; EDDIE SNYDER, )  
MILDRED SCIARANI, GENE MINOR, JACK )  
MARCY, RICHARD FULSTONE, and GRANT )  
ANDERSON, individually and in their )  
capacities as members of the Board )  
of Trustees of the Lyon County )  
School District, )  
  
Defendants. )

No. 5716

161

FILED

1974  
W. J. PARR  
Lyon County Clerk  
Deputy

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION AND ORDERS

THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

THIS CAUSE was commenced October 29, 1974, by  
Plaintiffs' filing of a Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive  
Relief, with Plaintiffs being represented by the Nevada Indian  
Legal Services, through Attorney DONALD K. POPE, ESQ., (specially  
admitted to practice in Nevada) and this Court, after an in camera  
conference in its Douglas County Chambers with Attorney POPE and  
Lyon County District Attorney RONALD T. BANTA, ESQ., (represent-  
ing all Defendants), determined not to execute a Temporary  
Restraining Order, the execution of which would have allowed  
Plaintiff CHESTER CLEVELAND to play in the last Fernley High  
School varsity football game of this 1974 season. The Motion  
for a Preliminary Injunction was set for hearing on the merits

1 to commence at 1:30 o'clock, p.m., Thursday, November 14, 1974,  
 2 in the above-entitled Court. The Motion was heard that date and  
 3 the matter was submitted for decision, subject to Defendants  
 4 being allowed to file additional Points and Authorities in  
 5 response to Plaintiffs' Supplemental Authority in Support of  
 6 Motion for a Preliminary Injunction, and Plaintiffs' request for  
 7 leave of Court to file a reply thereto. Procedurally this case  
 8 is properly before the Court even though injunctive relief is  
 9 being requested in addition to declaratory relief. (See  
 10 Kress v. Corey, 65 Nev. 1; Sullivan v. Houston Independent  
 11 School Dist., 307 F. Supp. 1328). Nor can there be any challenge  
 12 respecting Plaintiffs' standing to sue in this matter. Kelley v.  
 13 Metropolitan County Brd. of Ed., 293 F. Supp. 485 at 489.

14 On conclusion of the hearing in this matter, the Court  
 15 requested that counsel for Plaintiffs file an appropriate petition  
 16 for appointment of a guardian ad litem, and that has been  
 17 accomplished and the Court has by Order appointed LOUIDA  
 18 CLEVELAND, the natural mother of CHESTER CLEVELAND, JUNIOR,  
 19 guardian ad litem in these proceedings. All Points and Authori-  
 20 ties have been filed and received by the Court, and this case is  
 21 ready for decision concerning the Motion for Preliminary  
 22 Injunction.

23 THE FACTS

24 The Defendants are the Principal (ROBERT SHIPLEY) of  
 25 the Fernley High School, Fernley, Lyon County, Nevada, the  
 26 Superintendent (TODD CARLINI) of the Lyon County School District,  
 27 and the several members of the Lyon County School District Board  
 28 of Trustees. CHESTER CLEVELAND, JUNIOR, at the time of this  
 29 controversy, is a sixteen year old student at Fernley High  
 30 School, residing in Fernley, Lyon County, Nevada, and he and his  
 31 guardian ad litem bring this action for himself individually as  
 32 one who has been removed from an athletic team for violation of

1 the existing athletic code. The evidence shows that at some  
2 time prior to September 22, 1974, the Lyon County School District  
3 Board of Trustees adopted a revised athletic code entitled  
4 "Uniform School District Responsibilities and Regulations Relating  
5 to Athletics and Athletes", which code provides in its relevant  
6 part as follows:

7 "1. Training and curfew regulations of the school must be  
8 obeyed.

9 a. TRAINING RULES

- 10 1. No drinking of alcoholic beverages.
- 11 2. No smoking.
- 12 3. Obey the curfew time set by the coach  
and school.
- 13 4. Obey the specific training rules of  
the coach.

14 Any team member observed breaking drinking and/or  
15 smoking regulations shall be removed from the team  
16 for the duration of that sport. Any team member  
17 observed drinking and/or smoking a second time  
18 during the same school year shall not be allowed  
19 to participate in any sport for 12 calendar months  
20 dated from the second offense. (Emphasis con-  
21 tained in the original code).

22 Violations of training regulations, if valid,  
23 regardless of person supplying the information,  
24 will be accepted by the school. . . . .

- 25 6. Any behavior contrary to that which has been stated,  
26 is a direct reflection on the school, team and  
27 coaches and will not be tolerated. Violations of  
28 a minor nature will result in suspension and possible  
29 expulsion from the team, or from athletics for the  
30 year.

31 I have read and agree to abide by the above res-  
32 sponsibilities and regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Athlete

33 On the morning of September 22, 1974, at the approxi-  
34 mate hour of 2:00 o'clock, a.m., Lyon County Deputy Sheriff  
35 ARTHUR LOHR stopped Plaintiff, CHESTER CLEVELAND, JUNIOR, on  
36 Main Street in Fernley, Lyon County, Nevada. When Deputy LOHR  
37 approached the Plaintiff's vehicle, it is undisputed that there  
38 was present in the vehicle (though not really material herein)  
39 a six-pack of beer which is in evidence, and there is but little

question that Plaintiff had been drinking beer prior to being stopped. At this time the Deputy arrested Plaintiff CLEVELAND and later issued a citation to him for violation of NRS 484.379, driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

On September 27, 1974, Deputy LOHR advised Defendant, ROBERT SHIPLEY, of the facts as set forth above, emphasizing in addition that there was also an uncited curfew violation. Defendant SHIPLEY thereafter summoned Plaintiff, CHESTER CLEVELAND, to come to the Principal's office. Upon Plaintiff, CHESTER CLEVELAND's arrival, Defendant, ROBERT SHIPLEY, confronted him with the facts as related by Deputy LOHR, which Plaintiff, CHESTER CLEVELAND, first admitted, then subsequently denied. The admission followed MR. SHIPLEY's stating to Plaintiff words to the following effect, "since you were cited for DUI, you must have been drinking". Plaintiff, CHESTER CLEVELAND, then told Defendant, ROBERT SHIPLEY, that a hearing was to be held on October 3, 1974, on both the DUI citation and a speeding citation issued to Plaintiff. Based upon the information obtained from the Deputy Sheriff, as well as Plaintiff, CHESTER CLEVELAND's, initial admission, Defendant, ROBERT SHIPLEY, suspended the Plaintiff from the Fernley High School football team pending the outcome of the hearing, or trial, on the citation. The evidence shows that Plaintiff is a student in his junior year in good standing at Fernley High School and was, until September 27, 1974, a member in good standing of the varsity football athletic team of said school. The evidence is not clear with reference to the number of games missed by Plaintiff, but, the result of his being suspended, following his claimed violation of the non-drinking rule contained in the code, he was not permitted to participate in the last several games of the 1974 varsity football season. It is significant that at the time of the suspension no NRS 62 proceedings were pending nor had he enjoyed the benefits of a hearing or trial by the civil authorities in Justice Court, and there is no evidence that either had occurred at the time of this hearing. Had there been either, a determination of guilt or innocence might have been determinative of the suspension question.

The facts are substantially without dispute except  
1 Plaintiffs have put in dispute whether there were several empty  
2 beer cans in the vehicle September 22, 1974, and whether Plain-  
3 tiff had in fact been drinking, and whether the Deputy could have  
4 detected the odor of alcohol on the person of Plaintiff. The  
5 evidence may tend to support these disputed facts to the detri-  
6 ment of Plaintiff, but the questions before this Court, at this  
7 stage of the proceedings, do not call upon the Court to make a  
8 determination on the merits of Plaintiff's activities, but  
9 rather as to the constitutionality and/or legality of the then  
10 and presently existing athletic code of said School District.

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11 DETERMINATION RE RULES SUBSTANCE

12 Though the 1974 football season is over, the fact of  
13 a potential "double-discipline" (should there be a second  
14 "violation" by Plaintiff) causes this matter not to be moot  
15 as to Plaintiff, as do the considerations concerning the sub-  
16 stance of the code and the issue as to claimed requirements of  
17 procedural due process relative to the code.

18 Both Plaintiffs (in their pleadings) as well as all  
19 Defendants (in open Court) have requested that this Court deal  
20 with the Lyon County School District athletic code on its merits  
21 for guidance and promulgation of rules by proper authority. This  
22 involves CLEVELAND's challenge of the code on its merits,  
23 together with the claim that due process procedural requirements  
24 apply in these matters. In approaching this responsibility, I  
25 emphasize that this Court has no intention of eroding the  
26 statutory powers of duly-constituted local school authorities.  
27 The autonomy of local school authority has been established by  
28 a declaration of legislative intent. See NRS 385.005(1) and (3).  
29 This Court is hesitant to interfere with regularly constituted  
30 school authorities in their management and discipline of students  
31 (athletic or non-athletic) who are placed under their supervision.  
32 The Legislature is expressly authorized to provide for the

1 educational interests of the State, in such manner as shall  
2 seem most appropriate. Art. 11, sections 1 and 2, of the Nevada  
3 Constitution. In the exercise of this power, school districts  
4 have been created and authorized to have substantially exclusive  
5 jurisdiction in all school matters over their respective geo-  
6 graphic areas, through their elected Boards of Trustees. And  
7 the Trustees are, as already mentioned, authorized to make and  
8 enforce rules. NRS 392.030. It was clearly intended, therefore,  
9 that the management of school affairs should be left to the  
10 discretion of the Board of Trustees and school administrators,  
11 and not to the Courts, and Courts should not interfere with the  
12 exercise of discretion on the part of a School Board as to what  
13 is a reasonable and necessary rule, except in a plain case of  
14 exceeding the power conferred.

15 The first main principle involved in considering the  
16 validity of a school code is that the rule must pertain to  
17 conduct "which directly relates to and affects management of  
18 the school and its efficiency". Board of Directors of Indep.  
19 School Dist. of Waterloo v. Green, 147 N.W.2d 854, 858. Conduct  
20 outside of school hours and school property may subject a pupil  
21 to school discipline if it directly affects the good order and  
22 welfare of the school, 47 Am. Jur. Schools, Sec. 173 at 426, and  
23 the connection between the prohibited acts and the discipline  
24 and welfare of the school must be direct and immediate, not  
25 remote or indirect. 79 CJS, Schools and School Districts, Sec.  
26 496 at page 445, and Annotations, 27 ALR 1074, 41 ALR 1312. In  
27 each case, the particular circumstances must be examined. The  
28 case at bar involves the advantages of an extracurricular activity  
29 provided by the Lyon County School District, a consideration  
30 which this Court believes extends the authority of a School Board  
31 somewhat as to participation in that activity. This is so  
32 notwithstanding NRS 389.050 which requires that public schools

1 provide general physical training for students. The influence  
2 of the students involved is an additional consideration. Stand-  
3 out students, whether in athletics, forensics, dramatics, or  
4 other interscholastic activities, play a somewhat different role  
5 from the rank and file. Leadership brings additional responsi-  
6 bility. These student leaders are looked up to and emulated.  
7 They represent the school and depict its character. I cannot  
8 complain against a School Board for expecting somewhat more of  
9 these types of students as to eligibility for their particular  
10 extracurricular activities. Bunger v. Iowa High School Athletic  
11 Asso., 197 N.W.2d 555, 53 ALR. 3d 1110.

12 There is no question but that school authorities may  
13 make a football player ineligible if he drinks beer during foot-  
14 ball season. There is no question either that such authorities  
15 may do likewise if the player drinks beer at other times during  
16 the school year, or if he then possesses, acquires, delivers or  
17 transports beer, see O'Connor v. Board of Ed. of Central School  
18 Dist. No. 1, 316 NYS.2d 799, with guilty knowledge (Court's  
19 emphasis). Undoubtedly, an athlete shown to have actually vio-  
20 lated a non-drinking rule during summer vacation, whether  
21 convicted in criminal court or not, can be rendered ineligible  
22 by school rule or code. All of these situations have direct  
23 bearing on the operation of the school, although the bearing  
24 becomes progressively less direct. The same would apply too,  
25 as well, to for example, curfew and smoking prohibitions. The  
26 scope and duration of any resulting school sanctions for such  
27 violations will be hereinafter discussed. In reviewing the  
28 "Uniform School District Responsibilities and Regulations  
29 Relating to Athletics and Athletes", cited above, there is  
30 certainly no vagueness or over-breath, for example, concerning  
31 the no drinking and no smoking prohibitions, this from a sub-  
32 stantive point of view. Nor are the concomitant penalty, or

1 penalties, vague from a due process point of view, though they  
2 might have been more efficiently drawn concerning provision  
3 number six (6). It is, for example, the act of drinking of  
4 alcoholic beverages that results in a violation of a training  
5 rule, and, the emphasized means of proving such violation, namely,  
6 by being "observed" is not exclusive, but apparently cumulative.  
7 The due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the United  
8 Stated Constitution condemns an enactment for vagueness or over-  
9 breath only "if its prohibitions are not clearly defined".  
10 Grayned v. City of Rockford, 408 U.S. at 227. The requirement  
11 is only that there be a warning as to what is unlawful, that  
12 there be no arbitrariness or discrimination, and that there be  
13 no violation of a constitutionally protected right. An athlete  
14 has volunteered to a special categorization thereby distinguishing  
15 himself from non-athlete students so none of the referred to  
16 requirements are violated in terms of the no drinking and no  
17 smoking prohibitions. I hold that these two training rules are  
18 valid and within the permissible scope of school rules governing  
19 athletes. The provisions requiring the obedience of "the curfew  
20 time set by the coach and school" and "the specific training  
21 rules of the coach" trouble me in that they are indefinite, and  
22 specific curfew times and specific training rules should be  
23 adopted by the Lyon County School District's Board of Trustees  
24 so that the athlete will have a "warning as to what is unlawful".  
25 Certainly, internal training rules, the violation or violations  
26 of which would not be disruptive to the squad and/or school, and  
27 which will not result in suspension or removal for any extended  
28 period of time will not require this type formality.

29 The other main principle involved in considering the  
30 validity of a school rule is reasonableness. The general  
31 requirement that a rule promulgated by a governmental subdivision  
32 or unit be reasonable applies to School Board rules. Board of



1 Directors of Indep. School Dist. of Waterloo v. Green, 147 N.W.2d  
2 at 858. The task then is to determine whether it is so unreason-  
3 able and arbitrary as to be illegal. In dealing with ineligibil-  
4 ity for extracurricular activities as contrasted to expulsion  
5 from school altogether, and with students who represent the  
6 school in interscholastic activities as contrasted to less active  
7 students, school rules may be broader and still be reasonable.  
8 A rule does not require violation of the criminal law for an  
9 infraction to occur, but school rules need not be confined to  
10 crimes. To some extent at least, school authorities may base  
11 disciplinary measures on immoral acts or on acts definitely  
12 contrary to current mores or social standards. 47 Am. Jur.,  
13 Schools, Sec. 186 at 433; 79 CJS, Schools and School Districts,  
14 Sec. 503(b) at 450; 41 ALR 1312. For example, the no-drinking  
15 and no-smoking rules contained in the Lyon County School Districts  
16 code are limited to actual drinking and actual smoking by an  
17 athlete, and this is not a case of imposition of ineligibility  
18 for mere occupation of a car containing beer with knowledge of  
19 the presence of the beer, when the beer is discovered by an  
20 officer. Bunger v. Iowa High School Athletic Asso., 197 N.W.2d  
21 555. The no-smoking and no-drinking rules in question are  
22 reasonable as they require a close relationship between the  
23 athlete and the prohibited beverage or substance than mere  
24 knowledge that the substances are nearby.

25 In addition to NRS 392.030 concerning the authority  
26 of Boards of Trustees of School Districts and Principals and  
27 other administrators to suspend students who will not submit to  
28 reasonable and ordinary rules of order and discipline, is  
29 NRS 392.460 which places the same school officials, including  
30 teachers, on a parity with peace officers "for the protection  
31 of children in school and on the way to and from school". This

1 as well as non-athletes) for infractions of reasonable rules for  
2 protection of children enroute to and from school. The statutes  
3 did not give consideration to property lines, but more appropri-  
4 ately to the school's basic interest in discipline. Where not  
5 otherwise inconsistent herewith, the Lyon County School District's  
6 Board of Trustees may promulgate rules and regulations concern-  
7 ing conduct of athletes both on and off the school property  
8 (impliedly), so long as such rules and regulations directly  
9 concern order and discipline for legitimate extracurricular  
10 activities. In modifying or re-enacting the code, the Board  
11 of Trustees must narrowly draw the same so that they do not  
12 attempt to regulate an athlete's conduct while he is under the  
13 control of his parent or guardian unless his conduct has a  
14 reasonably direct effect on the school's authority and responsi-  
15 bility for discipline. NRS 62.010, et seq, but not necessarily  
16 limited thereto, will generally comprehend the parent and guardian  
17 situations which should generally be handled by civil authorities.

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18 With respect to the substantive aspect of the Lyon  
19 County School District's code, Defendants have argued that if  
20 one section thereof be stricken, the rest of the law remains  
21 intact, unless the entire law is unseverable. Evans v. Job, 8  
22 Nev. 322, 342 (1873). This is correct, but for reasons herein-  
23 above expressed by the Court and hereinafter given concerning  
24 some substantive aspects of the existing athletic code and the  
25 applicability of procedural due process, the code hereinabove  
26 referred to must be redrafted.

27 DETERMINATION RE EVIDENTIARY  
28 AND PROCEDURAL DUE PROCESS

29 Defendants at Page 3 of their opposition Points and  
30 Authorities state as follows:

31 "The Plaintiffs in their brief cite a variety  
32 of United States Supreme Court and various lower  
federal court decisions which stand for various

1 general principles to the effect that the pro-  
2 tections of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U. S.  
3 Constitution are available to every person, in-  
4 cluding students. To the extent that these pro-  
5 tections do not reach the levels afforded to  
6 criminals, Defendants have no argument with these  
7 holdings."

8 This Court need not adhere to even "friendly" agree-  
9 ments on the issues by counsel, but at bar it does appear that  
10 School Districts, including the Lyon County School District,  
11 when enacting athletic codes must abide by procedural due process  
12 under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution  
13 as applies to the States, as qualified hereafter, including, in  
14 most cases, the entitlement to notice and hearing.

15 The Fourteenth Amendment, which applies to actions of  
16 the State agencies such as School Boards, provides that no person  
17 may be deprived of life, liberty and property without due process  
18 of law. Givens v. Poe, 346 F. Supp. 202; Louisiana High School  
19 Athletic Asso. v. St. Augustine High School, 336 F.2d 224 (regard-  
20 ing "state action" under the Fourteenth Amendment). See Hoferer  
21 v. Cornella, Civil Action No. R-2905, U. S. District Court for  
22 the Northern Division of Nevada, which dealt with the withholding  
23 of Hoferer's diploma for "non-academic" reasons, where the U. S.  
24 District Court held that the school authorities there have no  
25 right to refuse delivery of an academically earned diploma for  
26 failure to pay a disputed claim when the merits of the dispute  
27 have not been first resolved under the standards of due process.  
28 (Court's emphasis). The Hoferer case is the closest Nevada-  
29 Federal decision bearing any analogy to the due process issues  
30 presented at bar.

31 The facts here simply demonstrate that Defendant  
32 SHIPLEY called the Plaintiff on September 27, 1974, and met  
33 with him at the Fernley High School Principal's office outside  
34 the presence of any third persons. Upon Plaintiff's arrival,  
35 the Defendant, ROBERT SHIPLEY, confronted Plaintiff with the

1 generally there must be written notice of the specific charge  
2 to the student-athlete and his parent or guardian, an "impartial  
3 tribunal" (whether it be the Principal, the Superintendent or  
4 members of the Board of Trustees, etc.), both sides must be  
5 heard, a written report of the facts must be provided to the  
6 student and his parent or guardian, along with a notice within  
7 a reasonable period of time preceding the hearing, a list of  
8 accusing witnesses should be provided in writing and the student-  
9 athlete should have the right to put on his defense or his  
10 version of the circumstances, and the right to examine the  
11 adverse witnesses, and the decision of the authorities should  
12 be based upon substantial evidence. Naturally, the athlete  
13 should have a reasonable period of time to prepare for the  
14 hearing, but it should be held within a reasonable period of time  
15 depending upon the prejudice that might befall the athlete in  
16 terms of the missing of athletic contests, the effect that it  
17 may have upon his lettering, the relationship it may have to the  
18 prospect of a university or college scholarship, but not limited  
19 thereto. It should be a policy matter as to whether the athlete  
20 may or may not be represented by an attorney, but certainly  
21 counsel at public expense is not warranted in absence of extenu-  
22 ating circumstances. Nor do I see it necessary or appropriate to  
23 have the hearing, which is anticipated to be somewhat informal, to  
24 be stenographically reported, though minutes taken by a person  
25 uninterested in the outcome of the proceedings, would seem  
26 appropriate. I emphasize that the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments  
27 of the United States Constitution do not require a trial-type  
28 hearing in every conceivable case of government impairment of  
29 private interest. For, though due process of law generally  
30 implies regular allegations, the opportunity to answer and a trial  
31 according to some settled course of judicial proceedings, this is  
32 not universally true. To be more fundamental, the minimum

1 procedural requirements necessary to satisfy due process depend  
2 upon the circumstances and the interests of the parties involved.  
3 Dixon, supra, at 155. This principle or philosophy is succinctly  
4 and beautifully pronounced in Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee  
5 Committee v. McGrath, 341 U.S. 123 at 163, as follows:

6 "Whether the ex parte procedure to which  
7 the Petitioners were subjected duly observed  
8 the rudiments of fair play; . . . cannot . . .  
9 be tested by mere generalities or sentiments  
10 abstractly appealing. The precise nature of  
11 the interest that has been adversely affected,  
12 the manner in which this was done, the reasons  
13 for doing it, the available alternatives to  
14 the procedure that was followed, the protection  
15 implicit in the office of the functionary whose  
16 conduct is challenged, the balance of hurt  
17 complained of and good accomplished - these  
18 are some of the considerations that must enter  
19 into the judicial judgment."

14 The existing Lyon County School District athletic  
15 code is without any of these procedural safeguards since an  
16 athlete may be "removed from the team for the duration of that  
17 sport" or in the event of a second offense or violation during  
18 the same school year "shall not be allowed to participate in any  
19 sport for 12 calendar months dated from the second offense",  
20 requiring only that one be observed "breaking" a rule, and this  
21 is so "regardless of person supplying the information". Fernley  
22 High School is a public school and a common or public school, as  
23 a general rule, are ones supported by taxation, open to all of  
24 suitable age and attainments, free of expense, and under the  
25 control of agents appointed by the voters. AGO (9-2-1909); AGO  
26 89 (8-6-1951). A student does not shed his constitutional rights  
27 when he enters high school, or indeed even grade school. Givens,  
28 supra, 202. In Nevada a student has a constitutional right to  
29 a public education. It has been contended in other cases (Kelley,  
30 supra, 293 F. Supp. at 491) that the interests a student-athlete  
31 such as Plaintiff has in engaging in athletics is a mere privilege  
32 and not a constitutional right. This argument was answered by

1 the United States Supreme Court in Cafeteria v. McElroy, supra,  
2 367 U.S. 886, when it said that the question of whether summarily  
3 denying a person access to a governmental cite of her former  
4 employment violated the requirements of the due process clause of  
5 the Fifth Amendment cannot be answered by easy assertion that,  
6 because she had no constitutional right to be there in the first  
7 place, she was not deprived of liberty or property by the govern-  
8 ment's action. At the hearing in this matter, Defendant ROBERT  
9 SHIPLEY, acknowledged to the Court, that athletic activities such  
10 as football, were an integral part of the educational system and  
11 process, qualifying his remark by stating generally as follows:  
12 "that it is not as integral as, for example, history and mathema-  
13 tics". Although the right to pursue an academic education is not  
14 directly affected, the penalty suffered by Plaintiff CHESTER  
15 CLEVELAND, JUNIOR, infringes upon a facet of public school educa-  
16 tion which has come to be generally recognized as a fundamental  
17 ingredient of the educational process. It is obvious that before  
18 such a valuable interest is denied, the rudiments of fair play  
19 dictate the right to notice and a hearing. In Kelly, supra, 293  
20 F. Supp. 485, the Court held that in view of the lack of pre-  
21 existing standards and regulations to structure any disciplinary  
22 action taken by the School Board, and in view of the conspicuous  
23 absence of a formal charge, followed by a hearing, against any  
24 particular school or individual of misconduct, the School Board  
25 which suspended the interscholastic program in question for the  
26 entire high school for a period of one (1) year denied that  
27 school the protection of procedural due process. Admittedly, a  
28 great number of the cases involved herein decided by federal  
29 courts, involve the classic cases of civil rights, but the case  
30 at bar does not differ in kind but perhaps only in degree in  
31 terms of the legal and constitutional questions involved, which  
32 typically give rise to the invocation of federal jurisdiction.

1           The Defendants further contend that one week before  
2 Plaintiff was suspended from the football team, he executed a  
3 document prepared by the Nevada Interscholastic Activities  
4 Association entitled "Student Eligibility Certificate", being  
5 Exhibit "B" in evidence. That document in its relevant part  
6 states as follows:

7           "I understand that in order to be eligible  
8 for participation in this program I must comply  
with the requirements listed below . . .

9           14. Have maintained satisfactory standards  
10 of character and citizenship as established  
by the Nevada Interscholastic Activities  
11 Association."

12           The NIAA has defined what "satisfactory standards of  
13 character and citizenship" are in Exhibit "C" in evidence (though  
14 in a qualified way insofar as Plaintiffs are concerned), and its  
15 relevant part provides as follows:

16           "14.28 CHARACTER AND CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

17           A student is not eligible to represent his school  
18 in any interscholastic program who is under disci-  
19 pline for any act which reflects discredit on his  
school, or whose character, citizenship or con-  
duct is such as to reflect such discredit.

20           (a) The Board of Control interprets 'Conduct  
21 which reflects discredit on the school' to  
22 include violation of accepted training rules,  
23 smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages,  
stealing, vandalism, and other acts contrary  
to the laws of the state and the rules of  
the school."

24           Defendants now state that they have found no require-  
25 ments that procedural due process apply to enforce a validly  
26 executed agreement and suggest that Plaintiffs have waived such  
27 rights. If this contention were to be followed by this Court,  
28 I would be subscribing to a doctrine which allows the contracting  
29 away of constitutional rights. On these facts, that would  
30 violate public policy. In this case there was certainly no  
31 waiver of the right to notice and a hearing. In other words  
32 neither the Nevada Legislature, the NIAA, nor the Lyon County

1 facts as related by the Deputy Sheriff, and though there is some  
2 dispute as to whether Plaintiff did or did not admit at this time  
3 to the September 22, 1974 drinking incident, this Court does  
4 find that he admitted to the incident. Even should there have  
5 been an unequivocal admission by the Plaintiff, such admission  
6 was made without prior notice of the specific charge (namely,  
7 violation of the non-drinking rule), without the opportunity of  
8 Plaintiff to prepare or to really be heard relative to this  
9 matter. Defendants argue that the fifteen to twenty minute  
10 meeting between Plaintiff and Defendant SHIPLEY on September 27,  
11 1974, which resulted in the unquestioned suspension of Plaintiff  
12 from football play "until the outcome of the criminal traffic  
13 proceeding" was not summary in nature. A "summary proceeding"  
14 is not determined to be such solely because of its brevity. Here  
15 the alleged misconduct and violation of a training rule, if  
16 committed at all, was not committed in the immediate view and  
17 presence of any Lyon County School District administrators or  
18 staff, nor was it committed on the Fernley campus. If it were  
19 committed in the immediate view and presence of any such persons,  
20 perhaps it is appropriate that it be punished summarily for which  
21 specific findings of fact and sanctions in writing should be made  
22 available, forthwith, to the athlete as well as his parent or  
23 guardian. Even here, should the sanctions be extensive, a  
24 hearing is required at which time the athlete may present a  
25 defense and, perhaps, mitigating circumstances. If the violation  
26 is not committed in the immediate view and presence of any such  
27 personnel, and if the discipline or sanctions are beyond, for  
28 example, a suspension from one athletic interscholastic contest,  
29 then, though, a pretermination hearing need not be a judicial  
30 or quasi-judicial trial, it must meet rudimentary due process.  
31 Goldberg v. Kelly, 397 U.S. 254. Of course, the nature of the  
32 hearing will depend on the circumstances of each case but



1 School District can condition the granting of even a privilege  
2 upon the renunciation of a constitutional right to procedural due  
3 process. Dixon, supra, at 156.

4 The NIAA, with the Lyon County School District being  
5 an active member thereof at all relevant times hereto, was  
6 authorized by NRS 386.420 and it is interesting to note that  
7 NRS 387.205(1)(g) provides that there may be an imposition of  
8 taxes for fees and dues to support the NIAA, further supporting  
9 the evident "state action" in this matter. NIAA Regulation  
10 Chapter 15.00 provides as follows concerning student appeal  
11 procedure:

12 "15.01 When not previously provided for, a  
13 student, his parent or guardian with the know-  
14 ledge of his principal, may appeal to the Board  
15 of Control any adverse decision by the Execu-  
16 tive Secretary concerning the student's eligibil-  
17 ity to participate in interscholastic athletics.

18 (a) President of the Board of Control shall  
19 appoint an ad hoc committee of not less than  
20 two members to hear the appeal and render a  
21 decision. The hearing procedure shall pro-  
22 vide for notice to the student of the time  
23 and place of said hearing and an opportunity  
24 for the student to be represented and heard,  
25 and the right to cross examine. . . .

26 (c) If the above process is not concluded  
27 within ten (to be amended to fourteen) calen-  
28 dar days, due to the inaction of the Board  
29 of Control, the student shall become eligible  
30 until such time as the ad hoc committee ren-  
31 ders a decision."

32 Though the above-cited provision applies to matters  
typically unrelated to the type discipline in question in these  
proceedings, it does provide a reasonable analogy and direction  
to the parties in these proceedings in terms of the adoption of  
new and modified codes and regulations of conduct concerning  
extracurricular athletic events through the Lyon County School  
District. In addition, if the suspension or the removal of the  
athlete is to be for a period in excess of ten (10) days, for  
example, notice and a hearing appear appropriate, and in the case

1 of a material violation committed in the immediate view and  
2 presence of school personnel (which discipline exceeds the ten  
3 days), an appropriate hearings procedure should be established  
4 for the purposes mentioned supra. Certainly, extended suspension  
5 or exclusion from the athletic program deprives a student of  
6 important rights and liberties. Any such long absences threatens  
7 the athlete with the inability to perform and enjoy the certain  
8 fruits and benefits that follow such performance, and will  
9 necessarily reduce his incentive to continue his educational  
10 career. I make this finding and conclusion by taking judicial  
11 notice of the social, economic, and psychological value and  
12 importance today of receiving a public education through the  
13 twelfth (12th) grade. See Breen v. Kahl, 296 F. Supp. 702.  
14 Certainly, if it is a critical situation resulting in the strong  
15 potential of eminent danger to the athlete himself, other  
16 athletes, non-athlete students or, for example, school property,  
17 then an immediate suspension would be appropriate with a hearing  
18 following due written notice within a reasonable period of time  
19 thereafter. Naturally, the hearing process should be arranged  
20 so as to avoid any significant cost or expense incidental to the  
21 use of a tribunal or hearings officers and particularly in view  
22 of the obvious budgetary concerns of all branches of government  
23 in Lyon County, including the executive, legislative and judicial.  
24 Certainly, reasonable financial considerations should not inter-  
25 fere with nor determine the procedural and substantive constitu-  
26 tional rights of the student.

27 I stress, an athlete may not be suspended from an  
28 activity until he has received the full benefit of the notice and  
29 hearing requirements set forth above, unless his continued par-  
30 ticipation presents a real or direct threat of physical harm to  
31 other students or faculty or school property, or has, or in all  
32 probability will continue to more than reasonably disrupt an

1 activity. Certainly, a pretermination hearing may only be  
2 disregarded when there are considerations of immediate danger or  
3 aggravated disruption of school curriculums, and even here,  
4 minimal standards of procedural due process will apply. Any  
5 hearing should be conducted within several days following the  
6 notice unless the athlete expressly waives time. This Court has  
7 earlier referred to a hearings officer or tribunal and certainly  
8 any such person or persons should be impartial. It is sufficient  
9 if the hearing and decision is made by the Principal of the  
10 school, unless he is otherwise disqualified from participating,  
11 in which case, the hearing and decision may be conducted and  
12 made by a member or members of the School Board selected by the  
13 Superintendent of Schools. Whether or not the hearing is open  
14 (to the public, so to speak) is a significant policy considera-  
15 tion that the School District must make, but by analogy to  
16 NRS 62.010, et seq, the Juvenile Act of this State, perhaps  
17 confidentiality in such hearings would be appropriate. The  
18 school's decision may well depend upon the amount of notoriety  
19 caused or given in the matter preceding the hearing. There  
20 should be appeals remedies in certain cases. A discipline which  
21 has the effect of removing or suspending the athlete from the  
22 sports activity for its duration or for an extended period of  
23 time should entitle the student to notification of his right to  
24 appeal and to have a hearing de novo before a two or three  
25 member panel selected by the Superintendent of Schools from  
26 members of the School Board not previously involved in the case,  
27 or constituted of another person or persons whether affiliated  
28 with the school or not. Should the Superintendent be disqualified  
29 from making the selections, then the Deputy Superintendent or  
30 other designee should make them. If through no fault of the  
31 student-athlete he is not given his hearing within the prescribed  
32 period of time set forth in the new rules or code, he should

1 become eligible until such time as the ad hoc committee renders  
2 its written findings and decision. Suspensions or removals prior  
3 to hearings should be imposed sparingly consistent with this  
4 decision.

5           The Uniform School District Responsibilities and  
6 Regulations Relating to Athletics and Athletes enacted by the  
7 Lyon County School District's Board of Trustees during the year  
8 1970, are unconstitutional on their face, and, necessarily, in  
9 their application in view of their failure to set forth pre-  
10 existing standards and regulations to structure any disciplinary  
11 action taken, and in view of the clear absence of the requirement  
12 of a formal charge, followed by a hearing. The Court was not  
13 called upon to make a determination relative to a code of conduct  
14 comprehending non-athlete students, but certainly all students  
15 are entitled to rudiments of fair play and an abidance to  
16 reasonable procedural due process, should they be faced with  
17 expulsion or an extended suspension from an interscholastic  
18 athletic program.

19           The athletic code presently in existence within the  
20 Lyon County School District on its face, as well as in applica-  
21 tion, constitutes a denial of Plaintiff's right to due process  
22 of law under the Fourteenth and Fifth Amendments to the United  
23 States Constitution, and Plaintiff has suffered and may continue  
24 to suffer irreparable injury unless the Defendants and all their  
25 agents, employees and servants are restrained and enjoined from  
26 preventing Plaintiff from participating on athletic teams at  
27 Fernley High School and, if applicable, any other public high  
28 school within the County of Lyon, State of Nevada. Said  
29 Defendants shall be further enjoined from making application of  
30 those certain provisions of the athletic code in existence,  
31 because of their referenced constitutional infirmities.

32           This Court determines that Plaintiffs should not

1 be allowed an attorney's fee, but they are entitled to their  
2 taxable costs, if any, incurred in the institution and prosecu-  
3 tion of this action.

4 ORDERS

5 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff, CHESTER CLEVELAND,  
6 JUNIOR, is entitled to a hearing regarding his "first offense"  
7 prior to his purported "first offense" or violation being used  
8 against him, if at all. (For purposes of enhancing the penalty  
9 or discipline to a potential twelve (12) calendar month suspension  
10 on account of any potential "second offense").

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11 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Defendants, and particu-  
12 larly the Board of Trustees of the Lyon County School District,  
13 together with Lyon County District Attorney RONALD T. BANTA  
14 (pursuant to NRS 386.410) do within forty-five (45) days from the  
15 filing of this Decision, file with the Clerk of the above-entitled  
16 Court a full text of a new proposed code or set of rules and  
17 regulations governing athletes and athletics at Fernley High  
18 School, Lyon County, Nevada, but not necessarily limited thereto,  
19 or a resolution dealing with that same matter.

20 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that there be filed with the  
21 Clerk of this Court within forty-five (45) days from the filing  
22 date of this Decision, a statement of the manner in which any  
23 such new athletic code or set of rules and regulations or  
24 resolution is to be communicated to the students, the parents,  
25 the teachers, and other administrators within the school system.

26 IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that counsel for  
27 Plaintiffs forthwith prepare and submit to the Court an appro-  
28 priate Judgment consistent herewith, which will make appropriate  
29 mention of this Court's findings and conclusions in this  
30 Memorandum Decision, inter alia, that procedural and substantive  
31 due process be generally followed with respect to the new  
32 athletic code.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiffs shall have their taxable costs incurred in the institution and prosecution of this action, the same to be demonstrated by a duly executed Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements to be filed in this action concurrent with the filing of the proposed Judgment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon this Court's receipt of the above-referred to and requested information and materials, this Court will determine (depending upon the acceptability or non-acceptability of the proposed rule or code) if further proceedings or hearings are required, consistent with NRS 30.010 et seq.

DATED this 3rd day of December, 1974.

  
DISTRICT JUDGE

ROY W. MARTIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

2800 EAST STEWART • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101

D. L. BADGER  
PRINCIPAL

May 2, 1974

Mr. Robert Lunt, Director  
Student Activities Department  
Clark County School District  
2832 East Flamingo Road  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Mr. Lunt:

On May 1, 1974, at the Eastern Zone Track Meet, a formal protest was lodged against Eldorado High School by the Roy W. Martin Junior High School girls' track coach, Gail Barnett, on the following basis.

Girls participating on the Eldorado High School track team were entered in this junior high school zone track meet. Also, ninth grade boys from Eldorado High School were entered. This is clearly in violation of NIAA Regulation 21A, page 21, and Regulation 11, page 26, of the NIAA Handbook.

Also, the name of Terri West was not on the official roster for Eldorado High School's junior high girls track team, and she was allowed to compete.

The above should, according to Regulation 21A, page 21, of the NIAA Handbook, declare these students ineligible for any further participation in track for the remainder of this season.

Thank you for your consideration of this protest.

Sincerely,

*H. B. Lamb*  
Dr. H. B. Lamb  
Assistant Principal

*Gail Barnett*  
Gail Barnett  
Girls' Track Coach

HBL/lal

*Check with your 9th grade teacher on protest form Eldorado see article 2*

*Check with applicable*

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# NEVADA INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

REGISTRATION FROM ELDORADO HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE 1st 2nd SEMESTER OF 1973-1974 SCHOOL YEAR.

Class One

The following students are eligible to represent this high school in baseball and baseball (Indicate Girls or Boys)

Date April 26, 1974

Signature of Principal

*John G. Bayler*

Last name, first name No name, list names Alphabetical order.	Certified Date of Birth			Place of Birth	Entrance Date at Your School	Units Passed Last Semester	Date Entered Ninth Grade	Parent's or Guardian's Name and Residence Address
	Month	Day	Year					
AN LARRY	6	21	60	Las Vegas	9-5-73	0	9-74	Robert's Armonson-4101 E. Lake Mead Mouth L.V.
ANNE ✓	2	20	60	Las Vegas	9-5-73	2	9-74	Mr. A. Long, Indley-2712 N. Carson Street
BE ✓	5	1	59	Washington, D.C.	9-5-73	2	9-5-73	M.A. Hall-2 Madison-WAFB
S STEPHANIA ✓	3	1	59	Crosby, Fla.	9-5-73	2	9-5-73	Mr. & Mrs. Hartman-WAFB
HA ✓	8	6	59	Athens, Greece	9-5-73	2	9-5-73	Mr. Alvin Jones-5651 Buchanan
L VALARIE	5	25	60	Las Vegas	9-5-73	2	9-74	Carl Brown-3826 Goldmist Ave.
LD L. JUANITA ✓	6	13	60	Laurel, Mississippi	9-5-73	2	9-74	Mr. & Mrs. Wolverton-20 Lendie Dr. -WAFB
<p>TERMI WEST'S NAME LIST</p> <p>S NOT</p>								



When entering names of contestants, please print, first and last names and list them in order of their best work.

Circle Division

High Jump

- 1. JAMIE ANTONSON
- 2. West, Terri

50 yard dash

- 1. Bonnie Finley - 1
- 2. ~~Dorcas Pater~~ West, Terri

100 yard dash

- 1. X
- 2. X

440 yard run

- 1. Debra Hitchens
- 2. ~~...~~
- 3. ~~...~~
- 4. ~~...~~

Shot Put (6 lb.)

- 1. EVA JONES
- 2. Sandra Phillips

100 yard dash

- 1. JAMIE ANTONSON
- 2. Joyce Hall
- 3. Terri West

500 Relay

- 1. JAMIE ANTONSON
- 2. Dorcas Pater
- 3. Mary's Kowalsky
- 4. Candy Callahan

500 yard relay

- 1. JAMIE ANTONSON
- 2. Joyce Hall
- 3. Dorcas Pater
- 4. Bonnie Finley

Long Jump

- 1. Bonnie Finley
- 2. JAMIE ANTONSON

220 yard dash

- 1. Bonnie Finley
- 2. Joyce Hall
- 3. Karen W. Meyer

Relay Alternates

- 1. Phyllis Hines
- 2. EVA JONES

EL Dorado



# Nevada Interscholastic Activities Assn.

400 WEST KING STREET  
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701  
TELEPHONE: 885-4390

MARVIN PICOLLO, PRESIDENT  
BERT L. COOPER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

April 10, 19775

## MEMORANDUM

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TO: *SLC* Assemblyman Craddock  
FROM: Bert L. Cooper, Executive Secretary  
SUBJECT: REQUESTED MATERIAL

As per your request of April 10th I am attaching a copy of the contract between the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association and myself.

BLC:tm  
Attachment

CC: Marvin Picollo

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S CONTRACT

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It is hereby agreed by and between the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association's Board of Control, located in the State of Nevada (hereinafter called the Board) and Bert L. Cooper, (hereinafter called the Executive Secretary) that the said Board thru its president in accordance with its action outlined in a letter to said Executive Secretary on April 24, 1974, has and does hereby employ the said Bert L. Cooper as Executive Secretary of the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association for a one year period commencing July 1, 1974. Both parties agree that said employee shall perform the duties of the Executive Secretary in and for the Board of Control in said State as prescribed by the laws of the State of Nevada and by the rules and regulations made thereunder by the Board of Control of said Association.

WITNESSETH:

That, in consideration of a salary of \$20,000.00 to be paid the first year, said Executive Secretary agrees to perform faithfully the duties of Executive Secretary of the Board and to serve as Administrative Officer of the Board. The annual salary shall be paid in equal installments in accordance with board policy.

The Board hereby retains the right to adjust the annual salary of the Executive Secretary during the term of his contract, the said salary adjustment not to reduce the annual salary below the figures said stated above. Any adjustment in salary made during the life of this contract shall be in the form of an amendment and shall become a part of this contract. It is provided, however, that by so doing it shall not be considered that the Board has entered into a new contract with the Executive Secretary nor that the termination date of the existing contract has been extended. However, the Board may by specific action extend the termination date of the existing contract.

That throughout the term of this contract the Executive Secretary shall be subject to discharge for good and just causes, provided, however, that the Board does not arbitrarily or capriciously call for his dismissal and that the Executive Secretary shall have the right to services of written charges, notice of hearing, and a fair hearing before the Board. If the Executive Secretary chooses to be accompanied by legal counsel at the hearing, the said legal expenses will be incurred by the Executive Secretary.

That it is agreed that the Executive Secretary will furnish throughout the life of this contract a valid and appropriate certificate in School Administration in the State of Nevada as directed by the Board and that the Executive Secretary hereby agrees to devote his time, skill, labor, and attention to said employment during the term of this contract.

That the Executive Secretary will keep records of the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association, keep an accounting of the monies provided for the operation of the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association, disburse monies in compliance with budgetary requirements as directed by the Board, direct the affairs of the Association as provided by the Constitution and By-Laws, prepare forms, distribute reports, conduct tournaments and contests as directed by the Board and provide communication and liaison among member schools.

That the Board individually and collectively, will refer promptly all criticism, complaints, and suggestions called to its attention to the Executive Secretary for study and recommendation.

That should the Executive Secretary be unable to perform any or all of his duties by reason of illness, accident, or other cause beyond his control and such disability exists for a period of more than seventy five (75) days during any school year, the Board may at its discretion make a proportionate deduction

from the salary stipulated, or if said disability is permanent, irreparable, or **189**  
of such nature as to make the performance of his duties impossible, the Board  
may, at its discretion, terminate this agreement, whereupon the respective duties,  
rights, and obligations hereof shall terminate.

The Executive Secretary does hereby agree to have a comprehensive medical exami-  
nation not less than once every two years and not more than once each year; that  
a statement certifying to the physical competency of the Executive Secretary shall  
be filed with the President of the Board and treated as confidential information  
by the Board, the cost of said medical report to be borne by the Nevada Inter-  
scholastic Activities Association.

That the Board shall provide the Executive Secretary with transportation required  
in the performance of his official duties during the employment under this  
contract.

That the Board shall devote a portion or all of one meeting, at least annually,  
to a discussion of the working relationship between the Executive Secretary and  
the Board.

That the Executive Secretary shall receive twenty-two and one-half (22½) days  
vacation annually, accumulative to forty-five (45) days, exclusive of legal holi-  
days and shall be entitled to fifteen (15) days sick leave annually, accumulative  
to ninety (90) days. Vacation shall be taken within twelve (12) months of the  
year in which it is earned and shall not be cumulative beyond forty-five (45)  
days. Earned sick leave shall be cumulative to a maximum of ninety (90) days or  
as provided by state law or Board policy.

With Board approval, the Executive Secretary may attend appropriate professional  
meetings at the local, state, and national level, the expenses of said atten-  
dance to be incurred by the Board.

That failure to notify the Executive Secretary in writing, no later than ninety (90) days prior to the termination of the contract, of the Board's intent not to renew the contract will automatically result in a one-year extension of the existing contract.

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That the Executive Secretary shall fulfill all aspects of this contract, any exception thereto being by mutual consent of the Board and the Executive Secretary. Failure to fulfill the obligations agreed to in this contract will be viewed as a violation of the administrators' Code of Ethics and will be reported by the Board to the appropriate Nevada Association of School Administrators and state educational authorities.

Dated this 5th day of June, 1974.

Bert S. Cooper  
Executive Secretary 6-14-74

Nevada Interscholastic Activities  
Association

John Hawkins 6-19-74  
President

Nevada Interscholastic Activities  
Association