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Posted February 27, 2017 07:23 pm
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GHSA board votes to accept executive director Gary Phillips's retirement proposal, executive committee to vote next week

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The Georgia High School Association executive committee meets next week about the employment status of executive director Gary Phillips, the organization announced Monday.

Eight of the 10 members of the GHSA board of trustees met during a called meeting in Macon on Monday. The meeting centered largely around pending legislation in the Georgia House and Senate, per minutes released by the GHSA on Monday afternoon. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and the Macon Telegraph reported the result of the vote before the minutes were released.

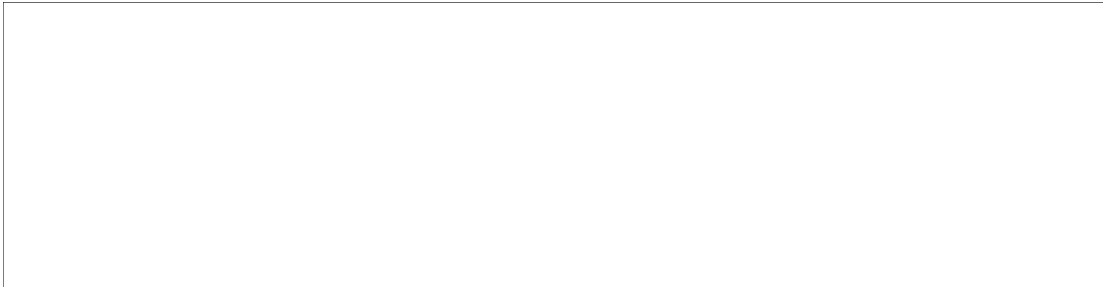
Georgia Senate Bill 203 and House Bill 415 would provide for a nonprofit organization to govern high school athletics, including a governing structure, requirements for a board of directors and a representative assembly, among others. In an executive session, the trustees discussed the legislation and "the offer by the sponsors of the bills to withdraw the legislation if Executive Director Gary Phillips resigned," according to the minutes from the meeting. Phillips told the trustees that "for the good of the GHSA and the schools it represented, and in order to stop the proposed legislation," he would retire at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. That offer was made on the condition that the organization would honor contracts and benefits due through 2017-2018 school year, the minutes said.

The house bill is sponsored by Rep. John Meadows (R-Calhoun), Rep. James Shaw (R-Lakeland), Rep. Paul Battles (R-Cartersville), Rep. Christian Coomer (R-Cartersville), Rep. Jon Burns (R-Newington) and Rep. Barry Fleming (R-Harlem). The senate bill is sponsored by Sen. Bruce Thompson (R-White), Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford), Sen. Greg Kirk (R-Americus), Sen. John Albers (R-Roswell), Sen. Marty Harbin (R-Tyrone) and Sen. Judson Hill (R-Marietta).

The motion to recommend the executive committee accept the offer was passed 5-3. GHSA President Glenn White voted for the motion, along with Jesse Crews (Charlton County), Don Corr (Cherokee County), Gary Long (Mill Creek) and Benjy Rogers (Bleckley County). Tommy Stringer of Loganville, Jim Finch (Mary Persons) and Joe Lancaster (Jackson County) voted against it. GHSA vice president Lisa Moore Williams and the Georgia School Superintendent Association's Wes Taylor were absent from the meeting.

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Phillips started as executive director in July 2014. He also served as the assistant executive director for 13 years and spent 10 years as the sport administrator for wrestling. Phillips's tenure includes the 2016 state basketball tournament, when the finals were played on baskets that were placed incorrectly at the Macon Coliseum, and the most recent reclassification process.

The executive committee will meet at 10 a.m. Monday.

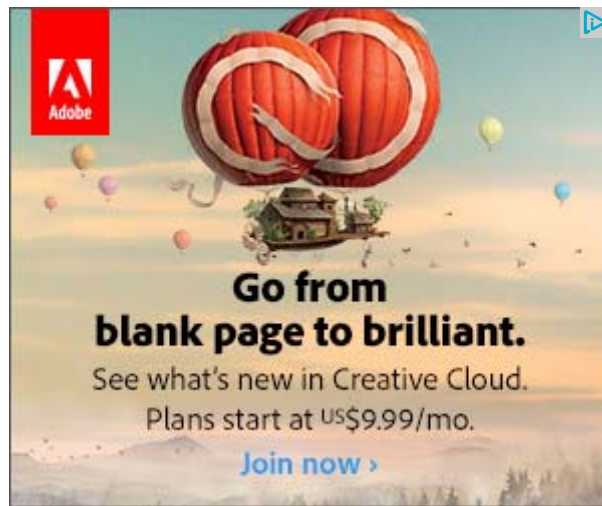


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