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A REPORT TO THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN

ACADEMIC LEAGUE

Prepared by

THE MINNESOTA ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

December, 1986

Pursuant to 1985 Laws, Spl Session
Chpt 12, Art 8, section 60

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I. INTRODUCTION

Legislation creating the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation in 1983 directs the "Consideration of the establishment of a Minnesota High School Academic League."

Within its 1984-85 Strategic Plan, the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation determined that a feasibility study would be "initiated regarding the promotion and development of a Minnesota Academic High School League." An Academic High School League Advisory Committee was established by the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation which met in 1984 to "Develop preliminary recommendations for the Legislature regarding an Academic High School League." The Advisory Committee developed a working paper on need, organizational structure, program and funding issues.

The 1985 Legislature directed the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation to establish a task force on an Academic High School League reporting back to the 1986 Legislature with recommendations.

The Academic High School League Task Force submitted recommendations to the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation on December 30, 1985. The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation reviewed the findings and recommendations and submitted its report to the 1986 Legislature on February 1, 1986 (see Appendix A).

The 1986 Legislature extended the Task Force's life until December 31, 1986, to further clarify potential relationships between the existing Minnesota High School League and the proposed Academic High School League. Recommendations were completed by the Task Force on November 15, 1986, and submitted to the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation. The Foundation considered the recommendations on November 20, 1986 and January 8, 1987, and submitted its report on January 12, 1987.

II. TASK FORCE PROCESS

The Academic League Task Force developed a Request for Information (see Appendix A), seeking recommendations on Structure, Governance, Functions and Related Issues. Over 1,800 Requests for Information were sent to Principals, Teachers, School Boards, Administrators and educational organizations.

Five hearings were held throughout the State. Over 180 participated in hearings in Mankato, Moorhead, St. Cloud, Duluth and St. Paul. Another 78 letters were received from interested parties.

The Task Force developed recommendations at its meeting of Saturday, November 15, 1986. The meeting focused upon development of a governance structure. Representatives of the Minnesota State High School League expressed support for an academic league to be developed in close relationship to the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation. The MSHSL felt the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation was an obvious vehicle for developing concepts and in implementing an academic league. The Task Force suggested a facilitation role by the Foundation in order to develop a consortium to oversee the academic league's functions. The Task Force also approved a variety of recommendations relating to program, staff development and other issues. The report was submitted to The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.

III. MINNESOTA ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- That an academic league be formed and that grades K-12, public and private, be included in such a league.
- That a state-wide operating body be established under the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation to take responsibility for academic cooperation and competition.
- That a structure be developed which includes teachers, students, administrators, parents and other participants in educational programming. This body would utilize existing groups such as the Educational Cooperative Service Units and other providers as basic program deliverers.
- That the league perform a variety of program functions including coordination of new and existing programs, information dissemination, training, scheduling, conferences and other activities. These programs may include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a) coordination and publicity of existing activities;
 - b) development of new programs for recognition of academic achievement;
 - c) development of interrelationships between various programs;
 - d) development of increased utilization of telecommunications networks;
 - e) development of comprehensive schedules to assist coordination between activities;
 - f) dissemination of information of past program activity and quality.

IV. SUMMARY OF CITIZEN INPUT

The Task Force was deeply impressed by the quality of testimony. The issue of a Minnesota academic league is one whose time has come. The differences in perception of issues and support for the concept within one year reflect a growing public policy discussion in Minnesota as to incentives, the role of academics, and improved utilization on limited resources.

Support was universal for the concept of a Minnesota academic league. Clear policy differences remain as to program location, program focus, relationships with existing providers, and funding issues. The Task Force believes resolution of these issues is not only possible, but necessary, if the concept of a Minnesota academic league is to be successful.

The Task Force believes the academic league should have the ability to establish policy and have the ability to implement those policies.

Both positive and negative aspects of competition were raised during the hearings. Some concerns were with a focus on students winning rather than upon learning. Fears were raised that teachers or schools would be measured by victorious students and, therefore, with lack of educational quality assumed if winning teams were not produced.

Others suggested that students were judged in academic settings every day in school and for much of their adult lives; that competition prepares individuals for real life experiences. The Task Force supported the concept of a balance whereby positive aspects of teamwork and individual striving for improvement could be related to the joy of learning and the possibility of being a "winner", even though a given contest had not produced a victory.

Several issues were raised during the hearings. These included, but were not limited to:

1. The inclusion of special education students. Often, focus has been on the best and brightest. It was hoped that all students could be included in recognition of individual achievement.
2. Many remained concerned as to the flexibility and focus of the Minnesota State High School League and its ability to focus upon academic programs with the same high quality shown in athletic programs. Strong support of the Minnesota State High School League was expressed citing quality of staff and programs, both academic and athletic. Many believed that duplication would occur if any organization other than the MSHSL were to administrate the academic league.

3. Discussion focused upon how to build support for academic programs to the level seen within athletics. Many urged increased attention by school boards, parents, and the media.
4. Support was given to the concept that programs should begin as early as possible for students. The issue was the format of the program. Suggestions were presented of potential negative effects upon elementary students if competition were the model.
5. The relationship of existing classroom activities to extracurricular programs was cited. Items of concern were time away from task, missed days in activities and how few were reached by some of the programs. A closer relationship between curricular and extracurricular activities was suggested.
6. The issue of future program selection was raised. Did we select programs and seek to adapt students to the programs, or did we determine our needs as an educational system and seek programs to fill those needs. It was hoped that in the future, a clearer definition of our educational needs could be developed as a basis for programmatic decisions.
7. The hope that programs would be developed which increase in skill level from grade to grade was expressed.
8. The impact upon teachers and parents of after-school as opposed to in-school programs was discussed as well as the impact of the program on schools with limited resources and those located in smaller districts was discussed.
9. The importance of uniformity across districts in training of coaches, judges and program sponsors was expressed.
10. It was agreed that the burden of distance and travel upon schools in Greater Minnesota must be recognized as a central element of concern.
11. Peer pressure can be utilized to increase participation, in a positive manner.
12. The issue of whether eligibility requirements for participation in the academic league's activities should be the same as those presently established for participation in athletics must be dealt with.
13. A clear definition of "coordination of programs" must be formulated. Most favored the concept of coordination, but different definitions ranging from distribution of information to regulation were presented. A clearer definition must be developed to avoid future confusion and conflict.
14. Concern was expressed that public support and regulation might lessen private involvement in academic programs. The issue became that of increasing private-public partnerships in terms of financial commitment, dedication of personnel, and resource availability.

15. The role of staff was repeatedly raised. Issues became: How to increase the number of potential coaches; how to increase incentives (pay or release time). A major resource will be lost if teachers are expected to increase their commitment without forms of financial or psychological reimbursement.
16. Most supported the concept of cooperative models; however, the definition of cooperative learning was not as fixed as is the concept of the established competitive approach. Further definition and examples of cooperative learning must be developed and disseminated.
17. The difference between programs emphasizing recall of facts, as opposed to those with emphasis on creativity and higher-order thinking skills, must be considered. Question: Are smaller schools at a disadvantage because of potentially fewer students trained in recall activities? Question: Should there be differing approaches to organization of fact-related than to creativity-based models?
18. The concept was advanced that we should not define academic programs as "non-athletic", but rather define everything as student activities with the same levels of recognition and awards.
19. Funding remains a basic issue. Cost is a constant concern as is the possibility of sending confusing messages to funders. Some proposed a clearinghouse for fund-raising appeals as well as a mechanism for financial assistance.
20. Concern was expressed that the rules of any league support the concept of national competitions.
21. Concern was expressed as to program mandates and their effects on both local decision making and budget. A clearer statement regarding voluntary action, as opposed to mandates, should be formulated.
22. Focus has often been upon the impact of programs on students. More attention must be paid to the staff and curriculum development aspect of new programs.
23. Consideration was given to the question of whether we are looking at one model or a set of models with variation based on type and goals of the program as well as local geographics/demographics. Strong support was expressed for a variety of models based upon program goals.

APPENDIX G

PROPOSED BUDGET

*Change to
Appendix G*

Year One - Planning Phase

Consulting Fees and Part-time Secretarial Support	\$ 50,000
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Year Two - Implementation Phase

League Executive and Part-time Secretarial Support	\$ 70,000
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Operating Expenses	20,000
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Program Development	20,000
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Board Support	<u>5,000</u>
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Sub-total	<u>115,000</u>
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TOTAL	<u>\$165,000</u>
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APPENDIX A
TASK FORCE MEMBERS
AND
BACKGROUND MATERIAL

ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE TASK FORCE

Note: The following list contains the names, addresses, phone numbers, and organizations represented by those persons appointed to the Task Force by the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation (MAEF) Board of Directors:

- | | | | |
|----|--|--|---|
| 1. | Carol F. Ackerson
800 Center Street
New Ulm, MN 56075
W.# 507/359-8420
H.# 507/354-4889 | Teacher | MEA |
| 2. | Orval J. Bies
2621 Fair Oak Avenue
P. O. Box 309
Anoka, MN 55303
W.# 612/427-5250
H.# 612/427-3716 | Executive Director | MN State H.S. League |
| 3. | Donald P. Carlson
Lakewood Acres
Walker, MN 56484
W.# 218/547-1311
H.# 218/547-3489 | Principal | MASSP |
| 4. | Dr. James E. Cole
2241 148th Lane, N.E.
Ham Lake, MN 55304
W.# 612/755-8220
H.# 612/434-4521 | Secondary Education
Director | Anoka-Hennepin
Independent
School District |
| 5. | Dr. Ronald Jandura
1582 Cottonwood Road
St. Cloud, MN 56301
W.# 612/253-9333
H.# 612/255-0550 | Superintendent,
St. Cloud Public
Schools | Programs of Excel-
lence Advisory
Committee |
| 6. | Lynne Jorganson
5205 3rd Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55419
H.# 612/825-0708
(Business Address
3131 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55407)
W.# 612/627-2508 | Teacher | MFT |
| 7. | Ann M. LaVoy
Naytahwaush, MN 56566
W.# 218/983-3285
H.# 218/935-5798 | School Board Member | Mahnomen Independent
School District #432 |

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|--|
| 8. | Kwame McDonald
1304 Marshall Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104
W.# 612/297-1222
H.# 612/642-9111 | Executive Director | Governor's
Council on Youth |
| 9. | Vivian Jenkins Nelsen
1025 Thomas Avenue No.
Minneapolis, MN 55411
W.# 612/376-2221
H.# 612/522-1469 | Administrator,
H.H.H. Institute
of Public Affairs | MAEF |
| 10. | Representative Ken Nelson
4201 Garfield Avenue So.
Minneapolis, MN 55409
W.# 612/296-4244
H.# 612/825-6667 | Legislator | |
| 11. | Jean Olson
2029 East Superior St.
Duluth, MN 55818
W.# 218/722-8364
H.# 218/722-9364 | Chair, MN School
Boards Association | MAEF |
| 12. | Representative Sally Olsen
3307 Decatur Lane
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
W.# 612/296-3964
H.# 612/933-1433 | Legislator | MAEF |
| 13. | George T. Peper
Route 4, Box 261A
Willmar, MN 56201
W.# 612/235-4414
H.# 612/235-1049 | Teacher | MEA |
| 14. | Dr. Bennett Trochilil
810 Fourth Avenue So.
Moorhead, MN 56560
W.# 218/236-6400 | Superintendent
Moorhead Public
Schools | MN State Advisory
Committee for
North Central
Association |

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Support Staff:

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------------|
| 1. | Todd Lefko
1528 Grantham Street
St. Paul, MN 55108
H.# 612/645-4944 | Task Force Coordinator |
| 2. | Toyse A. Kyle, Executive Director
Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation (MAEF)
Capitol Square Building, Room #751
550 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101
W.# 612/297-1875
H.# 612/454-1963 | |

BACKGROUND MATERIALS

Wendell O. Erickson

District 27B
Rock-Pipestone-Nobles-Murray-
Lincoln-Lyon Counties

Committees:

Education, Chairman
Education Finance Division
Higher Education Division
Agriculture
Appropriations
Education Division
Budget
Transportation

Legislative Commission on Public Education
Education Commission of the States
Permanent School Fund Advisory Committee



Minnesota House of Representatives

David M. Jennings, Speaker

April 30, 1986

Vivian Jenkins Nelson, Executive Director
Academic Excellence Foundation
Capitol Square Building, Room 751
550 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Vivian:

The 1985 Legislature directed the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation to study the possibility of establishing an academic high school league. The foundation's Academic League Task Force recommended that the academic league be associated with the existing State High School League. In discussions with legislators and others, the foundation concluded that the relationship between the existing High School League programs and the proposed academic league programs needed to be discussed further.

Consistent with this, the 1986 Legislature extended the foundation's Academic League Task Force until December 31, 1986. We would urge all of you to work together to further develop this proposal to bring a recommendation back to the 1987 Legislature.

We appreciate your interest in this topic and want to thank you for your efforts in this area.

Sincerely,

WENDELL ERICKSON, Chairman
House Education Committee

WE/JP:mcp

JIM PEHLER, Chairman
Senate Education Committee

ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE TASK FORCE DISCUSSION

July 8, 1986
7:15 a.m.
Minnesota Club

Present: Vivian Jenkins Nelsen, Susan O'Brien, Ken Nelson
Dan Skoog, Orv Bies, Todd Lefko

The issue of 1986 Legislative action, extending the life of the Academic High School League Task Force, was discussed. It was determined that the intent of the legislation was to more fully develop the ideas with the Task Force Report. The issue of whether more than one letter had gone from Wendell Erickson and James Pehler to various groups was raised. Ken Nelson said he would look into the possibility.

Orv Bies discussed the work of the Minnesota State High School League and potential internal changes required to bring this concept to reality within his organization. He suggested the five year goal might allow for corporate sponsorship to cover activity costs.

Roles for the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, the Educational Cooperative Service Units and other groups currently involved in activities were discussed. It was thought that any program would have differing impacts upon various organizations. Orv Bies discussed the work of the Texas High School League and their work in academic competition as a potential model. In Texas all competition is conducted at the same time in one location.

The issue of the decision-making process for the Task Force was discussed. The possibility of developing a request for a proposal, to be answered by potential service deliverers was discussed. Ken Nelson suggested this might be valuable depending upon how clearly the goals of a League could be articulated. He felt it would be good if a consensus could be developed as to suggestions for Legislative action.

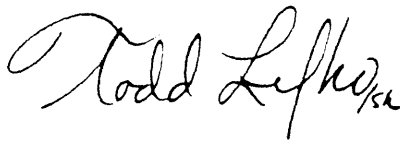
The group suggested involvement of the existing Task Force in the hearing process. The ECSU's had offered staff assistance for the hearings. Todd was to call Les Martisko to explore a possible relationship between MAEF and ECSU's to widen the base for the hearings. Ken and Vivian suggested the hearings would be most valuable if they were designed to receive different information than that gathered from the first survey. It was suggested that Todd develop a list of potential issues to be discussed at the next meeting.

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It was decided that four hearings would be held in: St. Cloud, New Ulm, Moorhead, and Duluth. Staff was directed to work with the ECSUs and local members of the Task Force to set hearing dates in the mid-September to mid-October period. It was decided to include a representative of the ECSUs in the next meeting.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, July 29, 1986, at the Humphrey Institute at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Todd Lefko".

Todd Lefko

ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE TASK FORCE

Tuesday, July 29, 1986

7:30 a.m. Room 300

Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Agenda
3. Minutes
4. Questions for hearings
5. Discussion of hearing process
6. Work plan for Task Force
7. Other Issues
8. Adjournment

Enclosures

1. Minutes of July 8
2. Map of Humphrey Institute
3. Proposed questions

A-2

ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE TASK FORCE DISCUSSION

Room 300 Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs
July 29, 1986
7:30 a.m.

Present: Vivian Jenkins Nelsen, Susan O'Brien, Todd Lefko,
Ken Nelson, Orv Bies, Les Martisko

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. The minutes were approved as presented.

Statewide hearings on an Academic High School League were established as follows:

Mankato	Monday, October 6, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Franklin School
Moorhead	Tuesday, October 7, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Town Site Center (Board Room)
Duluth	Tuesday, October 14, 3:00-5:00 p.m. School Board Auditorium
St. Cloud	Thursday, October 23, 5:00-7:00 p.m. 628 Roosevelt Road (Board Room)

Letters would be prepared by the MAEF office to be sent on Ken Nelson's letterhead to the following lists: MAEF and the Educational Cooperative Service Units. Contact would be made with State High School League, the Humphrey Institute, the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Minnesota Association of School Administrators for inclusion of notice in their mailings. Notice would be placed in the State Register. Press releases would be prepared by the MAEF office to be sent to newspapers throughout the State announcing the hearings.

Guide sheets for Hearing Chairs would be prepared by the MAEF office listing needs for recorders, and establishing suggested rules for the proceedings. Task Force members would be personally contacted to encourage participation in hearings.

Changes were made in the letter to be sent to potential hearing participants.

A full Task Force meeting was set for Saturday, November 15, 1986, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The possibility of meeting at the Humphrey Institute was to be explored.

Discussion was held as to the form and content of the final report. Issues of length and single or multiple recommendations were considered, as well as incentives to encourage collaborative action among present and future program participants.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Lefko

Ken Nelson

District 62A
Southwest Minneapolis

Committees:

Crime and Family Law
Family Law Subcommittee
Education
Education Finance Division
Local and Urban Affairs
Metropolitan Affairs Subcommittee

Legislative Commission on Public Education



**Minnesota
House of
Representatives**

TO: Superintendents, Building Principals, Teachers
Students, Parents, Education Organization Leaders

FROM: Representative Ken Nelson, Chair
Academic High School League Task Force

DATE: September, 1986

RE: A Request for Information

The 1985 Legislature established a Task Force to make recommendations to the 1986 Legislature on the needs, potential structure, and program for a proposed Academic High School League. As per legislative direction, Task Force staff and membership has been organized by the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.

The 1986 Legislature extended the Task Force's life until December 31, 1986 to further clarify potential relationships between the existing High School League programs and the proposed academic league.

A tentative working definition for an Academic High School League is "a state-wide entity designed to coordinate the range of academic competition/cooperation and recognition activities."

We seek your comments and ideas in testimony during the October hearings, or please send written comments, if you are unable to attend. Testimony of students and parents is encouraged. Some of the potential issues, upon which we seek comments follow.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing State High School League?
2. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation? The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation currently delivers in partnership with other organizations, fourteen programs, such as the Knowledge Bowl.
3. Should a consortium be developed as a policy setting Board, with delivery of programs through existing or new organizations?
4. What suggestions would you make to the organizations for structure and delivery of programs?

FUNCTIONS

5. What would you conceive to be the primary functions of a prospective statewide Academic League? Some suggestions have been policy, rule and regulation setting, program and activity coordinating body, and an information clearinghouse on programs, operation, and quality.

RELATED ISSUES

6. Which schools should be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League--all K-12, 7-12, or 9-12?
7. Should private schools be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League?
8. What is the best way for a proposed Minnesota Academic League to work closely with existing programs such as Knowledge Bowl, science competition, Spelling Bee, etc? Should all activities be operated by a proposed League?
9. How should activities be delivered? (ECSU, Minnesota State High School League, MAEF, consortium, etc.)
10. How can we best strengthen the area of academic recognition and support?
11. What additional incentives for non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed?

To encourage input from throughout the State, a hearing will be held in your area on the issues. Hearings will be:

Mankato	Monday, October 6 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Franklin School (Auditorium) N. 2nd and Lafayette Street	Carol Ackerson Chair
Moorhead	Tuesday, October 7 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Town Site Center 810 4th Avenue South	Ben Trochlil Chair
Duluth	Tuesday, October 14 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Old Central High	Jean Olson Chair
St. Cloud	Thursday, October 23 - 5:00-7:00 p.m. Administration Office 628 Roosevelt Road	Ron Jandura Chair

The Task Force reported to the 1986 Legislature. Their recommendations include:

1. That a statewide policy body (Advisory Council) on academic competition and cooperation be established under the Minnesota State High School League, with membership from the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation and other organizations.
2. That this new entity place primary emphasis upon academic development.
3. Modification of the existing policy structure of the Minnesota State High School League to add representation from the proposed Advisory Council to the Board of Directors and the Representative Assembly.
4. That the Minnesota State High School League be sensitive to the existence and capabilities of existing programs and seek to work closely with them.

We welcome and need your input and those of your constituents. Should you desire further information, or wish to provide testimony during the hearing, please contact either Susan O'Brien at (612) 297-1875, or Todd Lefko at (612) 645-4944. A sign-up sheet will be available at the hearing for those wishing to provide testimony who have not made their intentions known beforehand.

KN/SO/sk

POTENTIAL ISSUES

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing State High School League?
2. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation? The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation currently delivers in partnership with other organizations, fourteen programs, such as the Knowledge Bowl.
3. Should a consortium be developed as a policy-setting Board, with delivery of programs through existing or new organizations?
4. What suggestions would you make to the organizations for structure and delivery of programs?

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5. What would you conceive to be the primary functions of a prospective statewide Academic League? Some suggestions have been policy, rule and regulation setting, program and activity coordinating body, and an information clearinghouse on programs, operation, and quality.

RELATED ISSUES

6. Which schools should be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League--all K-12, 7-12, or 9-12?
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9. How should activities be delivered? (ECSU, Minnesota State High School League, MAEF, consortium, etc.)
10. How can we best strengthen the area of academic recognition and support?
11. What additional incentives for non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed?

SAMPLE AGENDA

HEARING ON ACADEMIC SCHOOL LEAGUE

St. Paul
Room 2, Capitol
October 30, 1986
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Call to Order - Representative Ken Nelson
Chair

Statement on Background

Testimony

Adjournment

The Hearing Record will remain open until November 1 for further comments. Those wishing to submit written testimony, please send it to Ms. Susan O'Brien Executive Director, Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, 751 Capitol Square Building, 550 Cedar St. Paul, MN 55101.

Statement for Chair of Hearings

The 1985 Legislature established a Task Force to make recommendations to the 1986 Legislature on the needs, potential structure, and program for a proposed Academic School League. Task Force staff and membership has been organized by the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.

The Task Force's mission statement included the following:

We believe the development of our most precious resource, the potential of our youth, will greatly enhance the future of our state.

We believe that a process must be developed, closely related to the formal academic program, which allows for continued academic growth outside the classroom. This growth may come from experiences which are both competitive and cooperative in nature.

A statewide mechanism must be developed to enhance all students' educational experiences through improved processes of cooperation, competition and recognition of academic progress and achievement.

This new process should seek to ensure coordination of current and potential program activity, to utilize scarce resources of staff and student time, increase support for current recognition activities, increase the utilization of new technologies, and maximize participation in achievement programs by students in all ability levels.

The Task Force reported to the 1986 Legislature. Their recommendations include:

1. That a statewide policy body (Advisory Council) on academic competition and cooperation be established under the Minnesota State High School League to add representation from the proposed Advisory Council to the Board of Directors and the Representative Assembly.
2. That this new entity place primary emphasis upon academic development.
3. Modification of the existing policy structure of the Minnesota State High School League to add representation from the proposed Advisory Council to the Board of Directors and the Representative Assembly.
4. That the Minnesota State High School League be sensitive to the existence and capabilities of existing programs and seek to work closely with them.

The 1986 Legislature extended the Task Force's life until December 31, 1986 to further clarify potential relationships between the existing High School League programs and the proposed academic league.

Some of the potential issues have been distributed, both within announcements of this hearing, and at the beginning of this meeting. If anyone wishes a copy of potential issues, there are more available at the back of this room.

Academic league gets educators' support

By SHELLEY BEAUDRY
Times Staff Writer

A state academic school league is long overdue.

That was the opinion of educators and parents who testified at a hearing Thursday in St. Cloud on whether to establish one.

But they disagreed about who should govern such an organization.

The 1985 Legislature charged a task force to take public testimony and to recommend whether a league is needed to coordinate academic competition.

The task force, organized by the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation (MAEF), also will make recommendations to the Legislature on who should run the program.

A suggestion to make the academic league part of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHL) received mixed reviews Thursday. The high school league governs athletic competition and academic competition such as drama and debate.

"We feel that the high school league has a number of activities already, and merging the proposed academic league with the existing league would tend to reduce the effectiveness in both areas of concentration," said Dean Skallerud, who represented the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA).

Skallerud said the principals' association, however, would favor establishing the proposed league under the Academic Excellence Foundation, which already provides several academic competition events such as the Academic Decathlon. He said the foundation could work with a consortium of professional education groups, art coordinating boards, state agencies and private organizations.

But Holdingford Superintendent of Schools Roger Doucet disagreed, saying an academic league should be created under the umbrella of the athletic league.

Doucet said he represented the views of his school district, Minnesota High School League District 19A and the Central Minnesota Athletic Conference.

"We're not opposed to the consortium approach," he said. "The (high school league) could work hand and hand with the foundation, the ECSUs (Educational Cooperative Service Unit), and other delivery organizations."

Fri., Oct. 24, 1986/ Daily Times, St. Cloud, Minn / 1C

Those who testified at the St. Cloud hearing agreed that any academic league would have to guarantee quality and equal access among students and school districts.

They said private schools should be included and share the costs. They also said competition should be available for all students, kindergarten to 12th grade.

Richard Hart, a St. Cloud pediatrician and parent, said he even would encourage offering such programs to preschool children. However, he said, new programs should concentrate on the problem-solving and high-level thinking skills, rather than memorization and reiterating facts.

"And (the programs) should encourage teamwork and cooperation rather than competition," Hart said.

Meg Lindberg, a parent representative from the St. Cloud school district's academic achievement advisory council, said cooperative games should be emphasized at the elementary level, introducing competition at the junior high level.

"We recommend that the programs be developed after assessing the students' needs and that the league select programs that will promote the largest number of student participation," she said.

Annandale High School principal Steve Niklaus agreed with the proposal to allow the athletic league to govern the proposed academic league. However, he added, fairness and equity among school districts must be assured.

"If the competition isn't under some strong leadership and there is not equity and fairness in the competition itself, then there is going to be a lot of bitterness and a lot of bad taste in school people's mouths."

An academic league could be governed by the Minnesota Secondary Association of School Principals, said Ed Johnson, assistant principal at St. Cloud Technical High School. He is the coordinator of Tech's student council organization, which is sponsored by that association.

"I suggest that the money that the Minnesota High School League earns through state competition really belongs to the students in Minnesota," he said. "Therefore, if they are really con-

cerned about students ... some of this money earned by the MSHL could be converted for used by the Minnesota Secondary School Principal Association for use in academic competition."

Public hearings on the proposed league were held earlier this month in Mankato, Moorhead and Duluth.

Results of the hearings will be presented in report at 10 a.m. on Nov. 15 in room 300 at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute, Minneapolis.

In December, the MAEF will present that report to state legislators.

PUBLIC RESPONSES

APPENDIX B



MINNESOTA ADULT LITERACY CAMPAIGN

September 18, 1986

GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

John B. Davis, Jr., Chair
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Minnesota AFL CIO

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Retired Publisher
St. Paul Pioneer Press &
Dispatch

Rose Herrera Hamerlinck
Minnesota Higher Education
Coordinating Board

Stephen W. Hansen,
Senior Vice President
Personnel
B. Dalton Bookseller

Roger Head
Minnesota Indian
Affairs Council

Ronald M. Hubbs,
Retired Chairman
The Saint Paul Companies

Lint M. Kawamura
State Planning Agency

Emily Anne Staples
Spring Hill Center

Paul A. Verret,
President
The Saint Paul
Foundation

Representative Ken Nelson
317 State Office Building
St. Paul,
Minnesota 55155

Dear Representative Nelson:

I appreciated the opportunity to accompany the House's Subcommittee on Adult Literacy on the tour of literacy programs which was conducted on September 16th. I applaud the effort to try to get first-hand information about the problem of functional illiteracy in Minnesota in this way. I am sorry you were not able to attend the tour.

As a Governor's appointed task force, our organization will conduct two activities over the next few months which will be of interest to you. We are currently gathering information about all of the literacy programs statewide in a survey which we have asked the Wilder Foundation to conduct. With this information and the input of each of the provider groups in the state, we will be developing a long range plan which will be submitted to the Governor in January of 1987. I know that you will be interested in using the information from our survey and our long range plan as you prepare your committee's report. Please feel free to contact me or my office for any help we can be to the committee.

Again, thank you for your interest in this very important issue. I look forward to working with each of you over the next several months.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Pearson
Executive Director

PDP:pr



BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

8900 Portland Avenue
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

LEILA ANDERSON
Superintendent of Schools

October 9, 1986

The Honorable Ken Nelson
Representative, District 62A
Minnesota House of Representatives
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Comments Regarding Academic High School League

Dear Representative Nelson:

Our administrative cabinet members and I reviewed your information and questions on structure and governance, functions and related issues on the proposed "Academic High School League." I also had an opportunity to discuss these issues with our West Metro Superintendents' Association. After reading the information and sharing thoughts with others, I submit the following comments:

- Academic excellence needs to be emphasized as much as if not more than sports and extracurricular activities. A structure should not prevent local districts from having that authority.
- If extracurricular academic activities are to be offered, coordination is needed. Let's not create another structure but rather use the operational structure we have experienced through the High School League.
- Concern is registered about mandates versus voluntary and financial implications.
- Include some of the present opportunities (Knowledge Bowl, Spelling Bee, etc.) in considering high school league structure.

Thank you for asking for input.

Sincerely,

Leila Anderson
Superintendent of Schools
ph

MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL
MINNETONKA, MINNESOTA

TO: Lake Conference Junior and Senior High Principals
FROM: Amy W. Mook, Principal - Minnetonka High School *AWM*
RE: Follow-Up on Academic High School League
DATE: September 25, 1986

When I called Ken Nelson's office to get more information regarding his four upcoming hearings, I was referred to Susan O'Brien (297-1875), Executive Director of the Academic League. She mentioned that the reason there was no hearing in the Twin Cities was that one had been held last spring. G. David Knutson, Jim Cabalka, Dick Maas and I don't remember that notification, do you?

Anyway, Susan (or Todd Lefko) have agreed to be in attendance at the October 22nd Lake Conference meeting. She will answer our questions and listen to our concerns. Unfortunately this can not be considered a formal hearing and so she still needs our written comments. Her address is:

Susan O'Brien
550 Cedar Street
Capitol Square Building
Room 751
St. Paul, MN 55101

As a refresher to our October meeting, it might be helpful to review Don Myer's (the Region 6AA Minnesota State High School League representative) recent letter and Ken Nelson's September letter. They provide questions under consideration for structure, functions and related issues.

Thanks to Edina for allowing us the opportunity to discuss this briefly (15 minutes)!

mg

cc: Susan O'Brien
Don Myers
✓ Ken Nelson

P. A. BAIN, Superintendent

J. ABBOTT
Director of
Personnel Services

E. GANGENESS
Director of
Instructional Services

G. WELTE
Director of
Business Services

September 25, 1986

Senator Ken Nelson
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Nelson:

In response to your request for information regarding a proposed Academic High School League, I would like to submit the following comments.

In my opinion, the Academic League should definitely be included as a unit within the structure of the Minnesota State High School League. Because the MSHL is already the governing body for athletics, speech, debate, music, etc. it seems logical to include the proposed Academic League rather than formulate an entirely new governing body. In fact, I would recommend that the Minnesota State High School League be the only recognized organization for any kind of inter-scholastic competition in the State of Minnesota.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the task force. If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Bain, Ed.D.
Superintendent

vn

HUTCHINSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 423
HUTCHINSON, MINNESOTA 55350

TO: Representative Ken Nelson, Chair
Academic High School League Task Force

FROM: Vince Ross, Senior High School Principal *VR*

DATE: October 10, 1986

RE: Information concerning Academic High School League

On behalf of the Board of Education and Administration of School District 423, Hutchinson, MN, the following response to your request for information is offered and will correspond to the eleven (11) items under STRUCTURE and GOVERNANCE, FUNCTIONS and RELATED ISSUES found in the mailing dated September 1, 1986. (pp. 1-2) (Attached)

STRUCTURE and GOVERNANCE: (#1-4)

1. Yes, included as a unit within the existing MSHSL. (A management system is now in place)
2. No, unless it would function within the existing MSHSL.
3. Yes, included in the existing MSHSL.
4. Utilize the sub-region/region format for Class AA schools and the district format for Class A schools as presently established in the MSHSL. If a limited number of schools participate - use a one class system.

FUNCTIONS: (#5)

5. To foster and encourage academic challenges in addition to those previously suggested: policy, rule and regulation settings, program and activity coordination, and an information clearing house on programs, operations and quality. Control is needed so that growth is organized and positive.

RELATED ISSUES: (#6-11)

6. 9-12 only - at least in the initial development stage and alignment.
7. Yes - include private schools according to A, AA. (As done now within the MSHSL)
8. All academic programs should be operated within a division of the MSHSL. Time should be allowed for planning.
9. Via a division of the MSHSL (not ECSU)
10. Follow-through with recommendations that have been outlined and proposed by the Task Force concerning the competitive aspect of academic programs and activities. (p. 3 #1-4)
11. Not sure - however, much of this should be facilitated at the local level with suggestions/options provided through the MSHSL.

DISTRICT OFFICES
30 Glen Street North
Phone (612) 587-2860

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Roberts Road
Phone (612) 587-2151

AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
200 Century Avenue
Phone (612) 587-3636

HIGH SCHOOL VOCATIONAL CENTER
980 2nd Avenue Southeast
Phone (612) 587-4910

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Roberts Road
Phone (612) 587-2854

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
100 Glen Street
Phone (612) 587-2837

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

3

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Judy Hovde, Vice-Chairman
Jeanor Jacobs, Clerk
Annis Tommerdahl, Treasurer
Charles Anderson, Director
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Amy Kaiser, Director

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 24

Lake Park, Minnesota 56554

Gene Halvorson
Superintendent
Phone (218) 238-5914
Secretary's Office (218) 238-5915

Alan B. Foley
Secondary School Principal
Office Phone (218) 238-5916

Richard Hanson
Elementary School Supervisor
Office Phone (218) 238-5919 or 238-5915

October 14, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson, Chair
Academic High School League Task Force
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Nelson:

Since I was unable to attend the Task Force hearing in Moorhead I would like to provide my comment by letter. I will relate my comments by the number of the information item used on your September 1986 "Request for Information".

1. If as much attention would be given to academic competition as athletic competition by the State High School League I would prefer this system. However, since I believe this to be unlikely I feel that academic competition would be better served under the direction of an organization such as the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.
2. Yes, the League should be a unit within the Academic Excellence Foundation.
3. Yes, any consortium formed should be policy setting. The programs could be delivered through new organizations of schools divided along the same lines as the existing MSHSL districts and regions or through the ECSU's.
4. I would prefer the delivery of the programs through our ECSU system in cooperation with the Academic Excellence Foundation. I believe these agencies would give academic competition the best attention.
5. I perceive the Academic League's function to be similar to that of the MSHSL, to set policy, determine program and schedule events, etc..
6. It should include some programs for students grades K-12. Statewide competitions could be limited to older students.
7. Yes, private schools should be included.

8. I would like to see as many of these activities as possible under the Academic League's jurisdiction. This would result in better scheduling and coordination.

9. I think at the current time they would be best delivered through ECSU.

10. I think we can strengthen academic recognition and support through publicising the good things that are happening around the state in academics. An Academic League would help to keep academic accomplishments in the news. Right now schools are often judged by the quality of their athletic programs. Academic competition would gain recognition for quality educational programs and exceptional students. Both are long overdue.

11. I hope that an Academic League could convince the business community of the state to provide funding to offer recognition programs and enrichment programs that would operate in conjunction with the competitions.

I am pleased that academic competition is being considered. I hope it can achieve the same level of recognition that winning athletic teams receive. We need more public recognition of quality programs and people in academics.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan B. Foley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Alan B. Foley

ABF/le



MINNESOTA COUNCIL FOR THE GIFTED AND TALENTED
5701 Normandale Road
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55424
Telephone: (612) 927-9546

TO: The Academic High School League Task Force
FROM: The Minnesota Council for Gifted and Talented
DATE: September 30, 1986
RE: The proposed Minnesota Academic League

The Minnesota Council for Gifted and Talented strongly supports the concept of a Minnesota Academic League. Such a league would provide new opportunities for many students to engage in well organized academic competitions and endeavors and to gain recognition for their participation much as students do now in the State High School League.

There are benefits and problems in including the proposed Minnesota Academic League as a unit within the existing State High School League. It would be beneficial to include academic and sports activities under one umbrella. Both kinds of activities would share equally in recognition and importance. There also would be an economy of effort by not having two administrative hierarchies duplicating similar organizational tasks. MCGT does feel, however, that many additional organizations and disciplines would need representation on the board to help in making informed policy decisions. Also some rules that are appropriate in governing athletic events would not be appropriate for academic events and these differences would have to be addressed.

MCGT would like to see the programs and competitions coordinated by and run through the area ECSU's. Among the recommendations made by the Minnesota State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented and approved by the 1986 Legislature, was that each ECSU should establish a Gifted Education Advisory Council composed of representatives of each school district in the ECSU. These advisory councils would be natural regional coordinating bodies and would strengthen local participation. ECSU representatives could also sit on the board.

We feel the Academic League should reach into the elementary grades as well as including the secondary level. Competitions such as the Odyssey of the Mind and the Spelling Bee already include elementary age children and are good examples that many academic contests or games are appropriate at this level.

MCGT also feels that private schools should be included in the league. The Academic League should truly be a statewide organization designed to benefit all of our students.

Pediatrician— I have been impressed with the several programs enacted in the State of Minnesota directed toward children with special needs.

—chapter 1

—head start

—preschool screening programs

—Early Childhood find program

—community based diagnostic clinics

Development of an Academic High School League as an organizational unit for coordination of existing programs and development of appropriate new academically stimulating programs should be applauded. The program needs to be accomplished without disturbing the structure of the excellent existing programs. Development of new programs need to stress problem solving, and stimulating high level thought processes. They should encourage teamwork and cooperative measures rather than competition.

I do however see a problem with the proposed development:

—By the time children have reached High School many of the truly creative or "gifted" children have already lost interest. Any enrichment program should therefore be started early in the child's academic life. Let us briefly look at the development of a gifted child who is not identified early. I consider such an individual as a handicapped child (child with special needs)

They are aware by age 5 that they are different — often feel they are bad because they think differently than others Throughout school (in the traditional mode) they can get their work done quickly and without much effort. They just do it but do not learn to problem solve. Often they are then just given more busy work rather than enrichment type work. This induces boredom and decreased interest.

They develop low self-esteem
By Jr. High School they have become underachievers
By High School they have a significantly higher drop out rate.
Increased chemical abuse as well as suicide rate.

In short I feel that the Proposed Academic High School League

should be a culmination of a series of programs which start in the kindergarten or even preschool level.

If revenues are to be expended, I feel they should be distributed equally over the child's prime learning years rather than near the end in a competitive arena.

TRF

Zeh and LaBree
Thief River Falls, Minnesota 56701
218-681-2700

Superintendent

Leo A. Ruberto, Ph.D.

Assistant to the Superintendent

Frank Hamerlinck

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218-681-5424**

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Terry Soine,
Principal

Mike Novak,
Assistant Principal

Dick Kotschevar,
Center School Director

Wilk Middle School

... Milt Hoff,
Principal

Bill Hahne,
Assistant Principal

**Knox & Mark Twain
Elementary Schools**

Glenn Espe,
Principal

**Northrop & Washington
Elementary Schools**

Bill Desrocher,
Principal

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Jerry Prickett,
Supervisor

Business Office

Harry Nelson,
Manager

Community Education

Jane Mackenroth,
Director

Food Services

Kathryn Kinsman,
Supervisor

Transportation

Fred Mykleby,
Supervisor

Ray Vigstol
Mechanics Foreman

October 20, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson, Chair
Academic High School League Task Force
317 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Representative Nelson:

This correspondence reflects personal opinion comments from our school district and ideas generated at a meeting of the area superintendents in Warroad on September 24, 1986.

The group at Warroad was unanimous in support of the concept that the Minnesota State High School League be the governing unit of the Academic League. This position was taken after informal discussion, pro and con, concerning the issue.

The question posed, in our mind, is: should the Minnesota Academic High School League operate under the Minnesota State High School League? Generally, you will find that the comments will support the concept, although there are many unanswered questions that could change opinions at a later date.

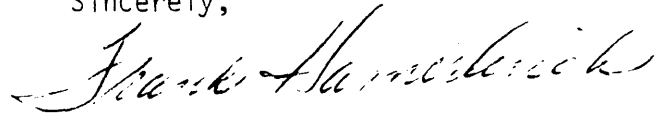
One of the first reasons given would be the credibility of the Minnesota State High School League in most communities. Parents, students, and school personnel are accustomed to working with the League at local, district, regional, and state levels. It is felt that the structure and organization is functional and can deliver the desired programs that would accomodate all students.

It is felt that combining would unite community and school. People would not have to choose activities they would support. There would be a positive interrelationship between academics and present activities of the League. This relationship could be clarified and strengthened as it relates to the research which indicates that success in life places an added emphasis on extra-curricular participation.

Another point was that competitive academics should operate with rules and regulations that do not polarize either group. Topics here to be considered are the scheduling of activities which could be coordinated and given equal value at all levels for all concerned. It is difficult to do this with a multiple organizational structure.

It is our feeling also, that the competitiveness should be developed on a state-wide level to include all schools into one class and that it be confined to grades 9-12. This could create some problems because some of the competition right now in the academic area does go down into the elementary level. We are not too sure that this is a good idea and whether it might be considered exploitation of students at the elementary level. The problem of national competition would also have to be addressed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frank P. Hamerlinck". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Frank P. Hamerlinck
Assistant to the Superintendent

FPH/br

911 Cottonwood Street
Grand Forks, ND 58201
October 17, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson, Chair
Academic High School League Task Force
Minnesota House of Representatives
St. Paul, MN


RE: Information about the High School Academic League

I would like more information concerning the Academic High School League. Specifically, I would like to know who was instrumental in forming the league, how it came to be part of the legislative duties, any other history, and any present on-going activities that are of interest and worth.

The concept is very exciting. Do other states have this type of task force? It's such an excellent idea, one would think that every state would establish programs such as this for the academically talented.

Thank you for sending me this information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jill Foster".

Jill Foster

Crosby-Ironton Public Schools

INDEPENDENT CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 182

Crosby, Minnesota 56441

CROSBY-IRONTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
CROSBY-IRONTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY

WARREN SCHMIDT, Superintendent

IRONTON ELEMENTARY
DEERWOOD ELEMENTARY
EMILY ELEMENTARY

October 6, 1986

Ken Nelson
Education Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Nelson:

We, the undersigned, support the Task Force Recommendation to establish an Advisory Council on Academic Competition and Cooperation under the Minnesota State High School League.

Name

School District

Position

An Equal Opportunity Employer

13

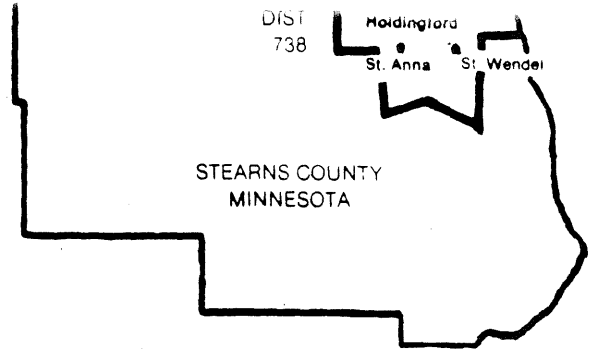
INDEPENDENT DISTRICT 738
Holdingford, Minnesota 56340

ROGER DOUCET
Superintendent
746-2196

DR. STEPHEN BENSON
Secondary Principal
746-2221

WALTER WILSON
Elementary Principal
746-2232

BILL GALLIPO
Dean & Activities Director
746-2221



September 23, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
Chair, Academic High School League Task Force
170 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Nelson,

Your recent communication soliciting information about the possible formation of an Academic High School League was discussed by the member schools of the Central Minnesota Conference (CMC) at their September 17 administrator's meeting. The eight member schools include: Becker, Big Lake, Eden Valley/Watkins, Kimball, Holdingford, Maple Lake, Sartell, and Saint Johns Prep.

Our census recommendation to your task force is one of strong support for an Academic High School League, organized as a separate unit within the existing Minnesota High School League (MSHSL).

The only further recommendation we suggest is that the new academic unit of the MSHSL enjoy what we termed "peer status" with the existing athletic unit of the MSHSL. The new academic unit should have an advisory support and governance structure, policies, rules, eligibility criteria, competitive and tournament opportunities, and the overall attention to quality that the MSHSL has provided to Minnesota schools for many years in the realm of athletics (including music, drama, speech and debate).

The CMC has actively supported the concept of academic competition between member schools. While organized primarily for athletic competition, we have sponsored CMC Speech tournaments for several years. More recently, we have included CMC Knowledge Bowl contests to our range of conference sponsored opportunities for students.

Thank you for your attention in this important educational issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Doucet'.

Superintendent Roger Doucet
Holdingford Public Schools
1986-87 Chairman, Central Minnesota Conference

SEP 24

✓ cc: Supt. Ron Jandura, Chair
October 23 Hearing

HOLDINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INDEPENDENT DISTRICT 738

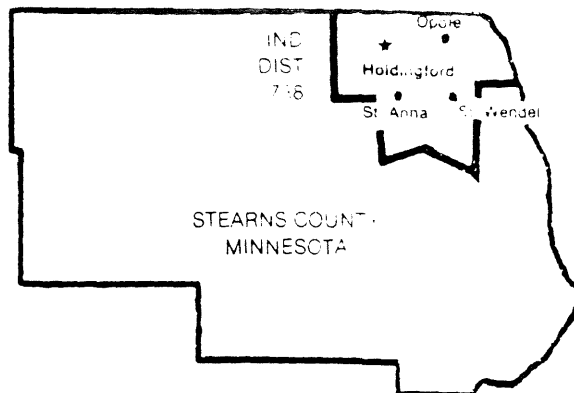
Holdingford, Minnesota 56340

ROGER DOUCET
Superintendent
746-2196

DR. STEPHEN BENSON
Secondary Principal
746-2221

WALTER WILSON
Elementary Principal
746-2221

BILL GALLIPO
Dean & Activities Director
746-2221



September 25, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
Chair, Academic High School League Task Force
170 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Nelson,

Your recent communication soliciting information about the possible formation of an Academic High School League was discussed by the member schools of MSHSL District 19A at their September 24 board and administrator meeting. The member schools of District 19A include: Albany, Becker, Big Lake, Grey Eagle, Holdingford, Royalton, Saint Johns Prep, Saint Cloud Cathedral, Sartell, Swanville, and Upsala.

The consensus recommendation to your task force by the District 19A school board representatives and administrators is one of support for an Academic High School League, organized as a separate unit within the existing Minnesota High School League (MSHSL). The new unit should have an equivalent relationship to the "athletic unit" and should have advisory support, a governance structure, policies, rules, eligibility criteria, competitive and tournament opportunities, and the overall attention to quality that the MSHSL has provided to Minnesota schools for many years.

[A similar discussion and identical recommendation was recently submitted to your task force by myself on behalf of the Central Minnesota Conference consisting of several of the above schools plus Eden Valley/Watkins, Kimball, and Maple Lake.]

Thank you for your attention in this important educational issue.

Sincerely

Superintendent Roger Doucet
Holdingford Public Schools

✓ cc: Supt. Ron Jandura, Chair
October 23 Hearing at St. Cloud

HOLDINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INDEPENDENT DISTRICT 738

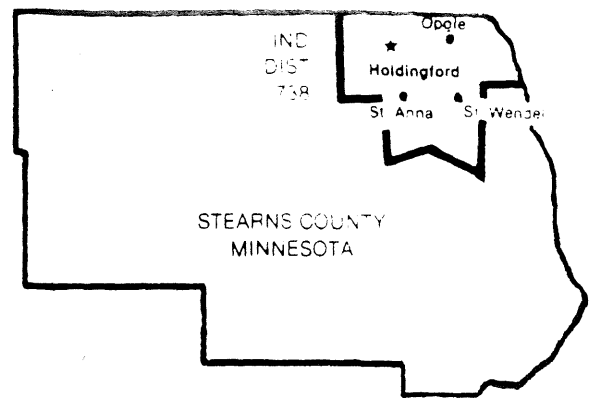
Holdingford, Minnesota 56340

ROGER DOUCET
Superintendent
746-2196

DR. STEPHEN BENSON
Secondary Principal
746-2221

WALTER WILSON
Elementary Principal
746-2232

BILL GALLIPO
Dean & Activities Director
746-2221



September 23, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
Chair, Academic High School League Task Force
170 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Nelson,

Regarding your recent communication soliciting information about the possible formation of an Academic High School League, I submit the following individual responses from the Holdingford Public Schools to your specific set of questions.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. Yes. The proposed Minnesota Academic League should be a unit within the existing State High School League (MSHSL).
2. No. The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, the Minnesota Department of Education, Educational Cooperative Service Units, and other cooperating organizations, may still wish and be needed to help facilitate Minnesota Academic League activities. However, we believe a single governing agency (MSHSL) will provide the consistency, uniform rules and policies to help ensure overall program quality.
3. A policy setting board, and other advisory and coordinating functions, should dovetail with or parallel the existing structure within the MSHSL.
4. Structure and delivery of programs should parallel the existing MSHSL organizational arrangement.

FUNCTIONS

5. The primary functions of the proposed Minnesota Academic League should parallel those functions of the existing MSHSL in the realm of athletics. The proposed Minnesota Academic League, in our opinion, should incorporate the existing music, speech, drama and debate activities into its unit. The MSHSL would then have two parallel units with comparable roles and status; one in the area of academics, the other in the area of athletics.

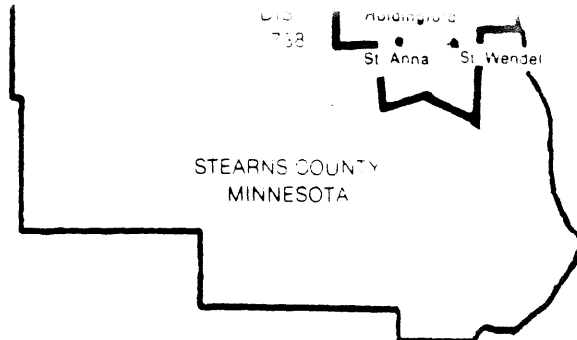
INDEPENDENT DISTRICT 738
Holdingford, Minnesota 56340

ROGER DOUCET
Superintendent
746-2196

DR. STEPHEN BENSON
Secondary Principal
746-2221

WALTER WILSON
Elementary Principal
746-2232

BILL GALLIPO
Dean & Activities Director
746-2221




RELATED ISSUES

6. We suggest the grade range included to be Grades 7 - 12. An exception may be granted for unique programs such as the Spelling Bee which does include students in grades 5 & 6 as well as 7 & 8.
7. Private schools, of course, should be included.
8. Existing programs may still be facilitated by organizations such as the Educational Cooperative Service Units, the proposed Minnesota Department of Education, the Academic Excellence Foundation and other sponsoring organizations. However, we believe it is in the best interests of overall quality, consistency, governance, rules, policy, etc. that a single organization such as the proposed Minnesota Academic League be established. Whether or not "all activities" should be operated by a proposed league can best be answered by the membership of the proposed Minnesota Academic League through its rule making and governance structure, similar to the manner in which the MSHSL determines whether or not an athletic event such as synchronized swimming shall be a MSHSL sponsored event.
9. Academic activities may be delivered as determined by the proposed Minnesota Academic League. That may include existing delivery modes or alternative modes as determined by proposed Minnesota Academic League policy.
10. We can strengthen academic recognition and support by doing a first class job and through implementation of uniform rules and policies. Existing academic competitions and recognition programs, albeit well intentioned, are too splintered and exhibit great variability in quality.
11. No response

Thank you for your efforts in this matter.

Sincerely


Superintendent Roger Doucet
Holdingford Public Schools

cc: Supt. Ron Jandura, Chair
October 23 Hearing at St. Cloud



Lake Superior School District No. 381

405 Fourth Avenue
TWO HARBORS, MN 55616
218-834-5141

Elmer J. Frahm
Superintendent of Schools

Dwight C. Moe
Administrative Assistant

October 28, 1986

Ms. Susan O'Brien
Executive Director
Minnesota Academic
Excellence Foundation
751 Capitol Square Building
55 Cedar
St. Paul, MN. 55101

Dear Ms. O'Brien:

I attended the hearing on the Academic High School League in Duluth on October 14, 1986. I would like to use this means of submitting my testimony.

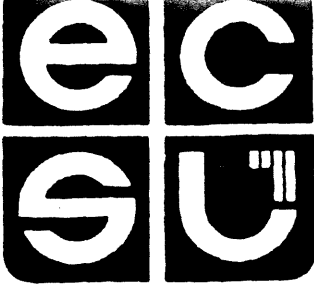
A Northeast Minnesota educator newly transferred from Western Minnesota, the testimony given last week left me with the impression that the "haves" - those with successfully operating academic competitions - are satisfied with the structure and governance available through the ECSUS and other agencies. The "have nots" - those lacking in successfully operating academic competitions - were not evident in the testimony, and probably, were not present at the hearing. It would seem to me that the "have nots" would be less satisfied with the present structure and governance, because what they are missing is not the organization, with which the ECSUS and other agencies do a fine job, but instead the financial assistance and the legitimization that the endorsement of the High School League would offer. The "have nots" simply are without the impetus to get programs going and to keep them running.

Academic competition does bring recognition to students for gifts, other than the athletic ones currently recognized. I find them a valuable asset to a school system moving toward excellence, if run in a cooperative, healthy spirit. But in order for all Minnesota students to benefit, a state unit such as the High School League, must be involved as a clearinghouse and a coordinating body.

Sincerely,

Sandra J. Block
Director of Instruction

SJB/pr



*"Serving One
Hundred Districts"*

**Central Minnesota
Educational Cooperative Service Unit**

"Providing Partnerships For The 80's"

Education Building / Suite A-127 / St. Cloud State University / St. Cloud, MN 56301 / (612) 255-3236

Dr. Robert C. Cavanna, Executive Director

TESTIMONY GIVEN
ON BEHALF OF THE
CENTRAL MINNESOTA
E.C.S.U.

to

The Academic
High School League
Task Force

23 October 1986

St. Cloud District
D.A.O.
St. Cloud, MN

23 October 1986

Dr. Jandura, Ms. O'Brien and members of the Academic High School League Task Force:

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you on such an important topic as the need for an improved process to foster, recognize and reward academic achievement across the State of Minnesota in all our school districts. In your document dated February 1, 1986, "A Report to the Minnesota Legislature and the MAEF on the Feasibility of Establishing an Academic High School League," there is a page devoted to the ECSUs involvement in academic competitions across the State. There are some errors and omissions in that document that I would like to address this afternoon.

- 1) Every ECSU in the State coordinates and facilitates the Spelling Bee, Knowledge Bowl and Inventors Fair.
- 2) Every ECSU provides services in these areas of academic competition - *ECSU's own copyright* service delivery does not vary as far as the program model!
- 3) Our organizational focus is regional but it is in place and from the testimony you will hear (or have heard) it is working well and being very effective.
- 4) Every ECSU places great emphasis upon staff-teacher relationships. Our Coordinators work directly with classroom teachers in providing word lists, knowledge Bowl questions and Inventors' Fair direction and suggestions.
- 5) Funding for these programs has never been an issue since the member districts support it through a fee or membership dues. Each ECSU has personnel that specifically deal with these areas. In our Central Minnesota ECSU, we have a Spelling Bee, Knowledge Bowl and Inventors' Fair Coordinator who works directly and closely with our participating school districts.
- 6) Participation in these academic contests is voluntary as is participating in Speech, Drama and One Act Play competition in school districts across the State. Program levels of service to participating districts in the ECSUs is not limited or different from one Region to another. If a member district participates, it receives coordinating and technical assistance just simply because it's involved in the program.

Our ECSU serves close to 100 districts, reaching 20 to 30,000 students, in these competitions. All the ECSUs across the State serve equally as large numbers of students. We are not interested in becoming a governing or regulatory body or agency. That's not our Mission! Our Mission though is providing cost-effective services to our member schools, their students, teachers and administrators. We are a neutral agency serving all educators in all capacities.

Let us continue to provide these services whether it be under the umbrella of a MSHSL State-wide body or the MAEF. State-wide coordination, uniformity and potential program activity will only enhance the ECSUs' regional efforts in these areas. In fact, a consortia of organizations such as the PTA, MESPA, MASSP, and MAEF, could make up an Academic High School League.

In any case, we agree that a "state-wide mechanism must be developed to enhance all students' educational experiences through improved processes of cooperation, competition and recognition of academic progress and achievement." This would ensure continuation of these worthwhile child-centered activities, strengthen the ones already in existence and provide resources for possible state-wide programs such as "Odyssey of the Mind" and the Academic Decathlon. We believe that the ECSUs have done and are doing a good job in sponsoring and coordinating both academic competitions and recognition in their Regions. The Central Minnesota ECSU would welcome and be willing to work with any consortia of organizations that constituted an Academic High School League. This would not only strengthen existing programs but it would ensure future programs, visibility, funding, and recognition in achievement programs by students of all ability levels.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Robert C. Cavanna, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Central Minnesota ECSU

ECSU - 5

EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE SERVICE UNIT - FIVE

HCR 3, Box 15 - Staples, Minnesota 56479 - (218) 894-1930

Member Ron Bjerga introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ECSU-5's CONTINUING
TO PROVIDE FOR THE DELIVERY
OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS IN REGION FIVE.

WHEREAS, The Educational Cooperative Service Unit-Five exists to serve the needs of its member school districts, and

WHEREAS, the member districts have indicated a desire for ECSU-5 to continue to provide for the delivery of academic programs such as Knowledge Bowl, Spelling Bee, and Inventors' Fair, and

WHEREAS, the member districts have also indicated a desire for ECSU-5 to initiate the delivery of academic programs such as Elementary Knowledge Building Program Junior High Knowledge Bowl, the Rural Knowledge Bowl, the Academic Decathlon, the Writers' Fair, and the Citizen Bee, and

WHEREAS, ECSU-5 has been extremely successful in providing for these types of academic programs without getting involved in the governance of the programs,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of ECSU-5 that support be given to ECSU-5 continuing to work with other educational agencies to provide for the delivery of Academic Programs in Region Five.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by member Liz Westergren and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

Ron Bjerga, Ray Garland, Jul Ann Meech, Liz Westergren, Hazel Aho

and the following voted against the same:

Marilee Hickey - abstained

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted this
29th day September, 1986.



ECSU-5 Board of Directors Clerk

Minnetonka Public Schools



We're working hard, working well.

October 1, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson, Chairman
Academic High School League Task Force
Minnesota House of Representatives
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: REACTIONS TO ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Dear Ken:

I asked our principals and curriculum educators to react in writing to your letter of inquiry which was received on September 9, 1986. This is an important subject with long term implications. I wanted to respond with the additional insight and professional opinion of work associates. Thus, my remarks below reflect a team of eight educators. Remarkably, their thoughts are very parallel or identical with one another.

1. **YES**, the proposed Minnesota Academic League should be included as a unit within the existing State High School League.

The MSHSL already has the organizational structure, working mechanisms, and cadre of decision-makers in place. Communication channels are open and known.

Despite criticism which has recently been levied against the league for its off season policies, the organization is sound, highly respected by professionals, and very able to handle the additional mission charge, if so assigned.

To form another agency would be unnecessary duplication and additional wasteful bureaucracy.

2. **NO**, the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation has neither the experience, organization, prestige, nor confidence of people within the educational community as yet.

There is high merit having the MSHSL handle both the athletic and (more of the) non-athletic co-curricular type of activities. They are already deeply involved in music.

The unity of both activities -- athletics and other co-curricular academic activities -- being under one structure will bring these two schools of thinking much closer together. In the future, representatives to the MSHSL would come from both the athletic and/or the academic fields, each having a salutary impact on the other.

Moreover, schools which may not excel in sports may well do superior work in the Academic League activities. School size is less a factor in brainpower than in physical size which plays such a role in sports.

Last, many schools who cannot obtain or hold top caliber athletic coaches do have top caliber academic teachers who can work with students in academic league activities. In brief, all schools are placed more on par in their relationships with one another if both sports and academic league activity are combined within one umbrella organization.

3. **NO**, for reasons cited above.

People in the school community are overwhelmed with multiple groups and agencies, each asking for their own time, representation, and space in the order of things. The proposed Minnesota Academic League is a good idea, but it can succeed, indeed flourish, within the existing MSHSL.

4. Utilize the very same school divisions as now exist within the MSHSL.

Funding can occur with state assistance or by local initiative, as is now true for sport activities.

5. Once legislative mandate is given to the MSHSL to encompass the mission set forth for the statewide Academic League, the people within the League can handle the whole thing, including local, regional, and state competitions.

Communication lines are already in place, meetings are held regularly, and the flow of information will automatically move to points where it is needed.

6. Include only grades 9-12 within the proposed Academic League at this point in time.

High profile, competitive activities are now associated with older students, 9-12. These young people are closer to the adult world where such competition is every day fact of life.

Let younger children grow and mature a bit before yet another pressure experience is laid on them.

If selected activities have such merit that they should serve young youth, then broaden the age span for those selected activities, only.

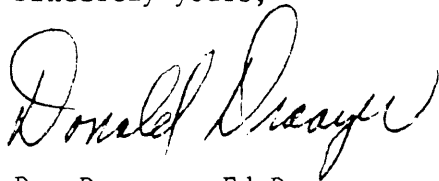
Representative Ken Nelson
October 1, 1986
Page 3

7. **YES**, include private schools within a proposed Academic League on the same basis as they are included within the sports league.
8. **YES**, encompass all the multi-district activities relative to academic competition within the State High School League.
9. MSHSL has a proven track record and is the best, state-wide organization to pick up this new mission.
10. State-wide competition will strengthen academic recognition and support.

The trick will be to find areas of competition that truly reflect academic achievement and promote positive learning experiences.

11. A state grant to the MSHSL, phased out over several years, should encourage planners and developers to do their best in offering new academic experiences for youth. A local categorical aid to this end, based upon student membership, would also help.

Sincerely yours,



Don Draayer, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Barb Devlin
Amy Mook
Dale Rusch
Mary Griffin
Steven Boyle
C. J. Anderson
John Hruby

Independent School District No. 710

COOK HIGH SCHOOL -- NO. 114

ROY JARVELA, Principal

COOK, MINNESOTA 55723

Representative Ken Nelson
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

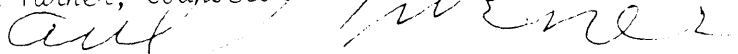
Dear Representative Nelson,

I think it is a welcome idea to have a centralized governance of the Knowledge Bowl at the state headquarters. That is the source of financial assistance. It must be evident to the state offices that Northeastern Minnesota Knowledge Bowl is well organized and is doing an admirable work of inspiring the academics in our high schools. Competition among these schools is beginning to equal the interest in athletics. This is a bit of an overstatement. However, at least, now students who participate in the Knowledge Bowl are now held in high esteem by their fellow students. Great pride is taken by the whole student body when their Knowledge Bowl team wins. They are proud of their bright and studious students!

Please allow the individual sections of the state to run their operation as efficiently as they have been and aid this project with an increase in the budget. This naturally is always needed. I making this plea just in case an autocrat becomes the head of the whole operation and decides to dictate policies to the detriment of the already organized divisions.

Sincerely,

Paul Turner, Counselor and Knowledge Bowl Coach



26.

Park Senior High School

South Washington County Schools
8040 80th Street South
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
(612) 459-5571

David H. Peterson, Principal

Rodney Thorsell, Assistant Principal

Laura Kay Allen, Assistant Principal

Karen A. Norell, Assistant Principal

October 3, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson, Chair
Academic High School League Task Force
District 62A
Southwest Minneapolis
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Representative Nelson,

I am supportive of an Academic High School League providing leadership throughout the State of Minnesota. The logistics of this sort of a league implementation in the high school, in the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation or in a separate entity are something I would be eager to pursue.

Here in South Washington County we have implemented an award for Academic Excellence by means of a "letter", identical to our athletic letter.

I am enclosing a brochure.

Please notify me of the action that is taken on this. Thank you.

Laura Kay Allen

Laura Kay Allen
Assistant Principal

cc: David H. Peterson
Park Sr. High Principal



MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

807 NORTHEAST BROADWAY, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55413-2398

WILLIAM C. PHILLIPS
Deputy Superintendent

Telephone 612/627-2012

October 13, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson, Chair
Academic High School League Task Force
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Representative Nelson:

This letter is in response to a request for information pertaining to a proposed Academic High School League, as outlined in a memo to Superintendents dated September, 1986.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

- 1) *Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing State High School League?*

Yes, because of the structure and representation consisting of board members, superintendents and other administrative personnel.

- 2) *Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation? The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation currently delivers in partnership with other organizations, fourteen programs, such as the Knowledge Bowl.*

No. In order to ensure the ongoing success of the Minnesota Academic League, its governance should be patterned after the State High School League.

- 3) *Should a consortium be developed as a policy setting Board, with delivery of programs through existing or new organizations?*

If the proposed Minnesota Academic League becomes a unit of the State High School League there would be no need for a consortium to develop policies.

- 4) *What suggestions would you make to the organizations for structure and delivery of programs?*

Organizations should share plans with the unit within the State High School League in charge of the Minnesota Academic League so that discussions can take place to maximize the educational value and to ensure equity among students and districts.

FUNCTIONS

- 5) *What would you conceive to be the primary functions of a prospective statewide Academic League? Some suggestions have been policy, rule and regulation setting, program and activity coordinating body, and an information clearinghouse on programs, operation, and quality.*

The primary function of a State Academic League would be to ensure educational value of events and to address equity.

RELATED ISSUE

- 6) *Which schools should be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League -- all K-12, 7-12, or 9-12?*

Perhaps the proposed Minnesota Academic League could be confined to 7-12 schools initially and K-6 be left to local communities.

- 7) *Should private schools be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League?*

More information is needed.

- 8) *What is the best way for a proposed Minnesota Academic League to work closely with existing programs such as Knowledge Bowl, science competition, Spelling Bee, etc.? Should all activities be operated by a proposed League?*

If a proposed Minnesota Academic League becomes a unit of the State High School League and the governance is in the hands of school personnel and school board members, it should operate all activities.

- 9) *How should activities be delivered? (ECSU, Minnesota State High School League, MAEF, consortium, etc.)*

The Minnesota Academic League, as a unit with the State High School League, should determine how the activities become available to students and school districts.

- 10) *How can we best strengthen the area of academic recognition and support?*

More academic recognition and support will have to be the responsibility of the local school district.

- 11) *What additional incentives for non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed?*

Once the structure of an Academic League as a unit of the State High School League is established, additional non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed in the same manner that present State High School League activities are developed.

Sincerely,



William C. Phillips
Deputy Superintendent

TO: REPRESENTATIVE KEN NELSON, CHAIRMAN
Academic High School League Task Force
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

ANNUAL FALL MEETING

September 24, 1986

Staples High School

After a delicious meatball dinner served in the high school cafeteria, Chairman H. Lyle Jones called the meeting to order. Introductions of new people were made by respective schools, instructions were given to the activity directors and room assignments were made for each group.

1. All schools were present
2. Dan Froemming was elected to a 3 year term and the following are Committee members:

H. Lyle Jones - Chairman	Term expires 1987
Jul Ann Meech - Vice Chairman	Term expires 1987
Larry Foley - Director	Term expires 1988
Dan Froemming - Director	Term expires 1989

3. The Financial Report was given by the secretary-treasurer
4. The Audit Report was given by James Madsen
5. The following schools have not returned their activity registration forms for 1986-87:

Deer Creek - Henning - Menahga - Pillager - Pine River

6. Pine River moved and Pequot Lakes seconded to recommend to the District Committee that the semi-finals and finals of the Boys' Basketball Tournament be held at Brainerd High School on March 12 & 14, 1987. The following vote by schools was taken (two votes per school):

14 NO 9 YES

7. After a lengthy discussion concerning having academic competition on a MSHSL level the following recommendation was made:

Harvey Kraabel moved and Dan Froemming seconded to recommend to the Task Force Committee to join the Academic League into MSHSL activities with a separate division having its own set of rules and regulations relating to academic competition. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

John Conzemius, Sec.-Treas.
District 24 - M.S.H.S.L.
204 S.W. Nixon
Wadena, MN 56482
(218) 631-3813

H. Lyle Jones, Chairman
District 24 - M.S.H.S.L.
P.O. Box 268
Motley, MN 56466
(218) 352-6315

TOTINOGRACE

September 26, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Nelson:

I am unable to attend the Academic Competition Task Force Hearings but I do support the M.S.H.S.L. as the agency that will coordinate academic competition.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Murphy
Kathleen M. Murphy
Principal

KMM:md

P. O. Box 335
Hill City, MN 55748

ean Olson, Chairman
Legislative Task Force Meeting October 14
Duluth, MN

Dear Ms. Olson:

We are happy to learn of the effort to coordinate academic activities.

We would like to support the NE/ECSU as the continuing host of the Knowledge Bowl program in our area and the Minnesota ECSU's as statewide providers of the program.

Our school has participated in the program sponsored by NE/ECSU for five years, and we have found their sponsorship efficient, fair, and facilitative. The program has grown in the number of participating schools and in the addition of a consolation round in our regional competition.

We are sure that the NE/ECSU staff and the staffs of the other ECSU's will be cooperative with whatever governance body is established to coordinate the many academic competition, cooperation, and recognition activities now being developed.

Very truly yours,

Bernice Elwell
Knowledge Bowl Coach
Hill City Public School

Floodwood School

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 698 — FLOODWOOD, MINNESOTA 55736
(218) 476-2285



September 25, 1986

Leonard H. Sargent, Executive Director
NE MN ECSU
P. O. Box 1287
Virginia, MN 55792

Dear Len:

I am writing in support of the NE/ECSU continuing to host the Knowledge Bowl program. The efficiency and effectiveness of the NE/ECSU in hosting this program in the past has been the prime reason for its success.

I would agree that a separate state league committee that would act as a policy setting organization would be acceptable, but I would strongly recommend that the actual delivery of this program remain the responsibility of the ECSU.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Steve", is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Stephen E. Anderson
Superintendent

SEA:ss

FRED MAJESKI
Senior High School Principal
Phone 537-0551

DOUGLAS KODET
Middle School Principal
Phone 532-2265

BILL SWOPE
East Side Elementary Principal
Phone 532-2582

LARRY BERGHUIS
West Side Elementary Principal
Phone 532-6424

MARSHALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent School District No. 413
401 South Saratoga Street
MARSHALL, MINNESOTA 56258

JERALD J. HUBER, Ed. D.
Superintendent
Phone 537-0555

DUANE D. NEUHARTH
Business Manager
Phone 537-0555

September 30, 1986

Carol Ackerson
Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation
New Ulm Senior High School
New Ulm, MN 56073

Dear Carol:

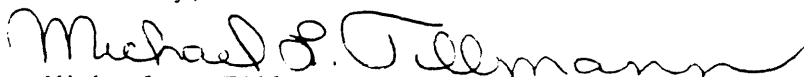
As I am not able to attend the "Open Hearings" on academic competition, I wish to submit a written statement. I hope that you are the right person to send this to, or that you can forward it to the proper party. I coach the Knowledge Bowl and the Future Problem-Solving Bowl teams at Marshall currently, as well as the one act play competition, and am a former member of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota State High School League.

In looking at academic competition--and the many forms which it has taken recently in both our area and the nation--I believe that there does need to be some single organizing agency in Minnesota which provides consistent, reasonable, and fair coordination of these programs. Currently, it is difficult to know WHO is in actual charge of the programs and how valid they are as educational activities. There are also several which duplicate efforts.

I am firmly convinced that the Minnesota State High School League is the best organizing agency of such activities in our state and that it has already in place a system of competition structures which could well meet the needs of these "bowls" and contests and events, insure quality control, and provide excellent leadership and analysis of their educational benefits. I have very firm faith in the League and its staff, and know that they would, as always, consult with current program agencies and conduct a comprehensive study of all programs before "consolidating them" under the High School League total program. At the same time, I believe that adding the academic competitions to the High School League would enhance the League's total educational service program by expanding their already excellent fine arts and athletic programs to academic competitions as well.

I would encourage any decision-making agency to choose the Minnesota State High School League as governing agent for academic competitions in our high schools.

Sincerely,



Michael L. Tillmann
Director of Enrichment Education

cc: Southwest/West Central ECSU
Skip Peltier

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

34



Independent School District No. 152

Townsite Centre - 810 South 4th Avenue

Moorhead, Minnesota 56560

October 7, 1986

To whom it may concern:

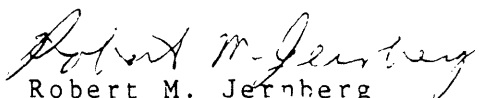
This letter is written referring to the concept of an Academic High School League. I feel that it is important that we pursue this issue for a variety of reasons: An Academic High School League would allow students to improve basic skills, improve human relations and other communication skills, and would allow students opportunities for leadership.

At this time we find many students who have high academic abilities but who are not pursuing athletic endeavors or involved in music find limited opportunities. An Academic High School League could allow these students an area to utilize their knowledge and expertise, expand upon it, and find ways of achieving rewards of recognition.

There are many fine programs such as: Academic Decathlon, Knowledge Bowl, mathematic meets, mock trial, etc., which could be enhanced to give students the same developmental and leadership skills that are now afforded through the Minnesota High School League. I advocate Academic High School League be a part of the Minnesota State High School League.

I strongly endorse the concept of Academic High School League and would recommend that this area be pursued in an attempt to find a number of additional opportunities for participation while being sensitive to the existence and capabilities of existing endeavors and would urge that the Minnesota Legislature endorse the program with adequate funding.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Jernberg
Ass't. Supt. for Instruction

RMJ:jjh

ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE

INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

518

September 30, 1986

Dale G. Jensen, Ed. D.
Superintendent
E.W. Gerstner
Dir. of Business Affairs

Phone 507-372-2172
1117 Marine Avenue, P.O. Box 878
WORTHINGTON, MINNESOTA 56187

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Representative Ken Nelson, Chairman
Academic High School League Task Force
Minnesota House of Representatives
Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation
751 Capitol Square Bldg., 550 Cedar St.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Representative Nelson,

In response to your request for written comments concerning the future of the Academic High School League we have the following to offer since we will not be able to attend.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing State High School League?

Undecided as to whether or not MAL should be a unit of the State High School League. In any case it should be established so that it is not a restrictive organization.

2. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation? The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation currently delivers in partnership with other organizations, fourteen programs, such as the Knowledge Bowl.

Undecided as to whether or not MAL should be a unit of the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.

3. Should a consortium be developed as a policy setting Board, with delivery of programs through existing or new organizations?

Undecided

4. What suggestions would you make to the organizations for structure and delivery of programs?

Whatever policies are established, those policies should not prevent or curtail a student's pursuit of academic goals.

FUNCTIONS

5. What would you conceive to be the primary functions of a prospective statewide Academic League? Some suggestions have been policy, rule and regulation setting, program and activity coordinating body, and an information clearinghouse on programs, operation, and quality.

Primary functions may include establishing a calendar of events sanctioning activities, setting up qualifying rounds for state competition.

RELATED ISSUES

6. Which schools should be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League--all K-12, 7-12, or 9-12?

9-12 graders should be included.

7. Should private schools be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League?

Private schools should be included but also under same rules as public schools.

8. What is the best way for a proposed Minnesota Academic League to work closely with existing programs such as Knowledge Bowl, science competition, Spelling Bee, etc.? Should all activities be operated by a proposed League?

No specific recommendations but they should work closely together and not be overly restrictive.

9. How should activities be delivered? (ECSU, Minnesota State High School League, MAEF, consortium, etc.)

Undecided as to how activities should be delivered.

10. How can we best strengthen the area of academic recognition and support?

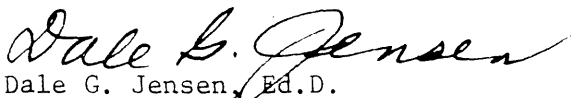
In order to support academic programs-participate, have state level competition, use money to support it.

11. What additional incentives for non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed?

Additional incentives - give graduation credit, put on transcript, be part of the programs.

If more information is needed, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

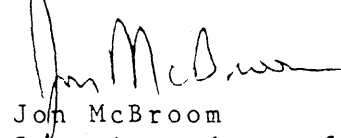

Dale G. Jensen, Ed.D.

Superintendent

Another concern is that, if we are going to have competition on an academic level, it should be totally voluntary. Taking certain contests and construing that they have something to say about the overall academic prowess of the school district or to compare school districts on the basis of some contests is just as inappropriate as comparing a total athletic program and the opportunity for students on the basis of the final score of a football game. Proper perspective is going to have to be maintained and having voluntary participation determined by the local school district, I think, will be the key to whether something like this will continue to have a positive effect on school districts in the state of Minnesota.

I respectfully appreciate the opportunity to make my comments to the task force. I wish you good luck in your investigation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jon McBroom", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon McBroom
Superintendent of Schools

JM:sc

LAPORTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent School District No. 306, Hubbard County

LAPORTE, MINNESOTA 56461

Phone 218 - 224-2288

Administration

DANIEL BROOKS,
Superintendent/Secondary Principal
SHARON LEMBKE,
Elementary Principal

Board of Education

LYLE ROBINSON, Chairman
JAMES DAY, Vice-Chairman
MARCIA TYSVER, Treasurer
DAVID JOHNSON, Director
FRANCIS LEMKE, Director
LEONA LYONS, Director
SHARON SHUSTER, Clerk

September 10, 1986

Rep. Ken Nelson, Chairman
Academic High School League Task Force
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

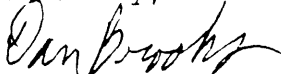
Dear Mr. Nelson:

I have been trying to follow the work of this task force and would like to submit the following:

1. If there is to be a statewide entity which is designed to coordinate a wide range of academic competition/cooperation and recognition activities, and I believe that there should be, then I propose that the structure of the MSHSL should be modified to include these activities. It is my opinion that both curricular and extra-curricular activities could benefit from the harmony that could be fostered if all of these activities were well coordinated.
2. I would suggest that the functions of this agency include; general policies, rules and regulations, activity coordination, and information dissemination.
3. I suggest that the governance be limited to grades 7-12 including private schools that are interested in participating.
4. I would suggest that all existing programs including; math contests, science competitions, spelling bees, etc. be operated under the structure of the league.
5. While the ECSU's could be used to coordinate activities on a regional level I do not feel that they have the ability to operate effectively statewide.

An agency with statewide governance abilities is needed to ensure that equality in these academic activities is available to all of the students in our state.

Sincerely,



Dan Brooks
Superintendent

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Crosby-Ironton Public Schools

INDEPENDENT CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 182

Crosby, Minnesota 56441

CROSBY-IRONTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
CROSBY-IRONTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY

WARREN SCHMIDT, Superintendent

IRONTON ELEMENTARY
DEERWOOD ELEMENTARY
EMILY ELEMENTARY

September 10, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
Chairman, Academic High School
League Task Force
Minnesota House of Representatives
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Representative Nelson:

I am in receipt of your letter seeking input into the Academic High School League.

I would like to submit the enclosed letter as being part of the written testimony in regard to the Academic High School League.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time and energy to provide us with this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Warren Schmidt
Superintendent of Schools

WS:vg
Encl.

Crosby-Ironton Public Schools

INDEPENDENT CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 182

Crosby, Minnesota 56441

CROSBY-IRONTON SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
CROSBY-IRONTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY

WARREN SCHMIDT, Superintendent

IRONTON ELEMENTARY
DEERWOOD ELEMENTARY
EMILY ELEMENTARY

September 10, 1986

Gentlemen:

I would like to thank the members of the committee for inviting school personnel an opportunity to submit their input into the concept of an Academic High School.

I, personally, think the concept is deserving of much thought and consideration.

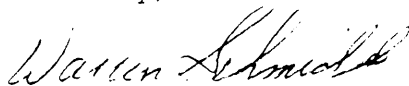
We presently have an existing unit in the Minnesota State High School League that is a very capable organization to handle the proposed Academic High School League. The various schools throughout the State are quite familiar with the present High School League. The schools all have representatives at all levels representing the various interests, and the addition of an academic interest would be a rather smooth transition.

The placing of the Minnesota Academic League within another body of the educational complex, or creating another level of interest in our present system, will be very difficult in Independent School District No. 182. Our available personnel is very limited and the public's interest is usually self-motivated, if visible at all. Developing a consortium as the policy setting Board only creates another level of governance that in my opinion is not warranted. We already have an existing organization that is very capable of handling the policy making decisions. In addition, the organization has proven practices that have withstood the test of time and excellence.

In conclusion, I personally welcome the thought of an Academic High School and I firmly believe the current Minnesota State High School League has the expertise and personnel to make the program a success.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Sincerely,



Warren Schmidt
Superintendent of Schools

WS:vg

Ken Nelson

District 62A
Southwest Minneapolis

Committees:

Crime and Family Law
Family Law Subcommittee

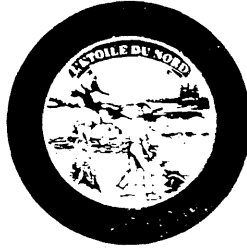
Education

Education nce Division

Local and U. Affairs

Metropolitan Affairs Subcommittee

Legislative Commission on Public Education



Minnesota House of Representatives

Duane J. Rafteseth

Supt. of Schools
Hawley Public Schools
Hawley, MN 56549

TO: Superintendents, Building Principals, Teachers
Students, Parents, Education Organization Leaders

FROM: Representative Ken Nelson, Chair *KN*
Academic High School League Task Force

DATE: September, 1986

RE: A Request for Information

The 1985 Legislature established a Task Force to make recommendations to the 1986 Legislature on the needs, potential structure, and program for a proposed Academic High School League. As per legislative direction, Task Force staff and membership has been organized by the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.

The 1986 Legislature extended the Task Force's life until December 31, 1986 to further clarify potential relationships between the existing High School League programs and the proposed academic league.

A tentative working definition for an Academic High School League is "a state-wide entity designed to coordinate the range of academic competition/cooperation and recognition activities."

We seek your comments and ideas in testimony during the October hearings, or please send written comments, if you are unable to attend. Testimony of students and parents is encouraged. Some of the potential issues, upon which we seek comments follow.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing State High School League? *No*

2. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation? The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation currently delivers in partnership with other organizations, fourteen programs, such as the Knowledge Bowl. *yes*

3. Should a consortium be developed as a policy setting Board, with delivery of programs through existing or new organizations? *Start new board*

4. What suggestions would you make to the organizations for structure and delivery of programs? *The board must have teacher, student, labor, and business representation.*

FUNCTIONS

5. What would you conceive to be the primary functions of a prospective statewide Academic League? Some suggestions have been policy, rule and regulation setting, program and activity coordinating body, and an information clearinghouse on programs, operation, and quality.

*Set policy
rules in
programs
activities
evaluate*

RELATED ISSUES

6. Which schools should be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League--all K-12, 7-12, or 9-12?
7. Should private schools be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League?
8. What is the best way for a proposed Minnesota Academic League to work closely with existing programs such as Knowledge Bowl, science competition, Spelling Bee, etc.? Should all activities be operated by a proposed League?
9. How should activities be delivered? (ECSU, Minnesota State High School League, MAEF, consortium, etc.)
10. How can we best strengthen the area of academic recognition and support?
11. What additional incentives for non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed?

yes

*all of these
should be in
one league.*

*through regis
programs and med*

To encourage input from throughout the State, a hearing will be held in your area on the issues. Hearings will be:

Mankato	Monday, October 6 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Franklin School (Auditorium) N. 2nd and Lafayette Street	Carol Ackerson Chair
Moorhead	Tuesday, October 7 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Town Site Center 810 4th Avenue South	Ben Trochlil Chair
Duluth	Tuesday, October 14 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Old Central High	Jean Olson Chair
St. Cloud	Thursday, October 23 - 5:00-7:00 p.m. Administration Office 628 Roosevelt Road	Ron Jandura Chair

96

October 31, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
4201 Garfield Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Dear Representative Nelson:

The Minnesota Legislature in 1985 authorized a study on gifted programs throughout the state. The results of this Gifted Program Study were presented on February 5, 1986 to the Legislature. Goal IX reads, "To establish an Academic Secondary School League."

Upon receiving your request for information on the Academic High School League, and with Goal IX in mind, the Minnesota Advisory Committee on Gifted has some comments and questions about such a League.

- Currently, some statewide gifted activities run from grades three or four through grade twelve. How would these fit into and Academic High School League? Could it be the Minnesota Academic League?
- The word "activity", rather than "competition", seems to cover a broader range of offerings (such as the Inventors Fair).
- Coordination of on-going activities would be of higher priority than regulation and management by an Academic League. This way, current sponsors of activities could be kept.
- How will participation in national competitions be handled?
- How restrictive would policies be?, i.e., the MHSL has some residency requirements that would be exclusionary, prohibiting participation by some students. Would those restrictions need to apply for academic activities?
- What role can the Academic Excellence Foundation play?
- Clarification is needed of the activities included in a Minnesota Academic League, and how they are selected for such inclusion.
- Would districts be limited to participating only in Minnesota Academic League functions?

- Will registrations procedures be by team (school) or individuals?
- How can a Minnesota Academic League utilize such existing regional resources as ECSU's, Intermediate Districts, etc.?
- Some services envisioned for the Minnesota Academic League are: inservice training; community and communication networks for academic activities; a clearinghouse to avoid conflicting or competing schedules; provide information to school districts; and to recruit community volunteers.

The Minnesota Advisory Committee on Gifted Feels that an Academic League is important. We also feel that there are many questions to be answered before the Academic League can be a catalyst in promoting excellence in education. Please let us know if MACG can provide you with any assistance.

Sincerely,

Lucie Taylor,
Chair, MACG

enclosure
cc:Hertz, MACG

Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

1910 West County Road B, Suite 109
St. Paul, Minnesota 55113
Telephone (612) 636-8366

Phillip L. Tenney, *Executive Director*
Roger J. Aronson, *Attorney*
Ardis A. Kyker, *Administrative Assistant*

Howard M. Wergeland, *President*
William J. Snyder, *President-Elect*
Christopher R. Wagner, *Secretary*
Donald G. Hovland, *Coordinator*
Donald N. Carlson, *Past President*

November 6, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
House of Representatives
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ken

Our Executive Committee met on Wednesday, October 29, 1986. One of the items on our agenda was the Minnesota High School Academic League. Some of the committee members were in attendance at hearings being held across the state and reported that they heard testimony against the Minnesota State High School League incorporating with the Academic League. Testimony indicated that the feeling was one of fear that the Academic League would get "second billing" to all the sporting events and would not get the attention and recognition it should have.

Our Executive Committee wanted me to let you know that the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals is still interested in sponsoring the Academic High School League and would give it the attention it should have and make it a league that other states would be envious of. We are responsible for the Minnesota Association of Student Councils and the Minnesota Association of Honor Societies. The Academic League would be very compatible with these two organizations and would be a natural meld.

Ed Johnson, Assistant Principal at St. Cloud Technical High School, works with us on the state level with student council and feels so strongly about the Academic League not being a part of the High School League that he has written me a letter and testified at St. Cloud at the hearing on October 23, 1986. I have enclosed a copy of his letter.



AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

1910 West County Road B, Suite 109, St. Paul, Minnesota 55113

Representative Ken Nelson

November 6, 1986

Page 2

Please keep us in mind and consider us when the final decision is made.

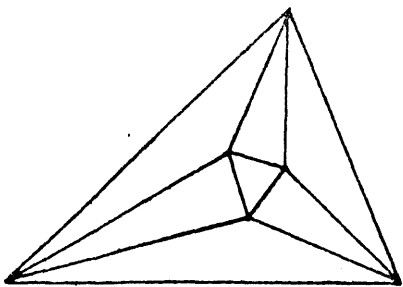
Thanks Ken.

Sincerely

Phillip L. Tenney
Executive Director

dls

cc: Roger Aronson



Minnesota State High School Mathematics League

*Wayne Roberts, Director
Macalester College
St. Paul, MN 55105
(612) 696-6337*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Ken Nelson

FROM: Wayne Roberts

DATE: 31 October 1986

RE: Possible formation of a state academic league

I appreciated the opportunity to speak at the hearing you conducted at the Capital on October 30. Here is a more careful statement than I was able to give orally.

The Board of Directors of the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League naturally takes a lively interest in your efforts to form an umbrella organization for academic leagues in our state. We started our league with four teams in 1980-81, motivated by a desire to see Minnesota's very best (say the state's top 25) students of mathematics improve their scores on the American High School Mathematics Examination (AHSME).

The AHSME has a 35 year history as one reliable way to identify those who will provide scientific leadership in our country; it serves as the first screening that leads to selecting the 7 students that will represent the USA in the International Mathematical Olympiad; and it is designed to stimulate and reward with a sense of accomplishment the over 400,000 students (usually about 12,500 from Minnesota) who take it annually. Evidence suggests that the top students from our area do NOT do as well as they might on this examination. It also suggests that the students who do very well on AHSME and then go on to the benefits accompanying this honor most frequently come from states with established mathematics leagues. We have from the beginning modelled our Minnesota League after these successful examples.

With financial support from Sperry, the Blandin Foundation, and the Bush Foundation, as well as minor grants from several members of the Minnesota High Tech Council and the State Department of Education, our league has grown very quickly. In the 1985-86 academic year we had 114 school teams organized into 14 divisions around the state. Teams compete against each other in 5 regularly scheduled meets, and in 1985 we held our second state tournament. We have held three summer conferences for our teacher/coaches.

The Executive Committee of the league has since its inception been made up of David Dye, Mathematics Specialist in the State Department of Education; Judy Halverson and then Jack Sorteberg, Presidents of the Minnesota Council of Teachers of Mathematics; Kathy Trier and Roger Sadlowsky, representatives from the coordinators of the league; and Professor Wayne Roberts of Macalester College who serves as Director of the league. This group, with the counsel of the League's Board of Directors, has compiled the following list of potential benefits and possible concerns relating to the proposed organization of Academic Leagues.

Potential Benefits

1. We suppose that information we now seek as we need it from the State Department of Education might come to us in a systematic way: This includes:
 - o current names of principals, addresses of schools
 - o programs funded by the legislature for which we are eligible
2. Schedule coordination: meets, tournament, teacher/coach meetings.
3. The league might make available an information booklet about academic leagues for principals, school board members wanting to know something about us (our credibility, the number of participating schools, our management of financial resources) or how to get in touch with us.
4. Enhanced communication between leagues. We, for example, must in the face of expiring foundation support, soon set league membership fees. We would very much like to know what fees are charged by other academic leagues.

Potential Problems

1. We once considered becoming members of the Minnesota High School League. We were told that we would run the risk of violating their rules against inter-state competition because of the way we gear activities to AHSME. The problem might be exacerbated by our sending an all-star team to the American Regions Mathematics League (ARML).
2. Government agencies formed to serve multiple organizations frequently generate rules and additional overhead for the members being served. We are currently able to be very responsive to our coaches and member schools, and we are very proud of our low operating expenses.
3. We are sharply focused on highly gifted students in a specific discipline. Though minority groups from Southeast Asia do very well in our competitions, other minority groups are not so well represented as we would wish; and though our record of having females comprise 25% of the participants is generally high for secondary mathematics programs, it again falls short of widely shared goals. While anxious to do anything we can to stimulate the participation of under-represented groups, we would not be happy to find our selves under pressure to make changes in our program to satisfy what an outside observer might see as an equity issue. We are trying to raise performance levels of our very best students of mathematics, whoever they may be, so that they compare favorably with those in other parts of the country.

Robert D. Carlin
2013 Stevens Ave. S.
Mpls., Mn.
55404
Nov 26, 1986

Dear Committee Members:

I called a couple of months ago,
and was told to write a letter of my
position. Please find enclosed the letter
& also the letter I am going to send to
all of the schools in Mn. to make
the optimum sense of them, please read
the letter to your committee first followed
by the letter to the school boards. I
have sent copies of these letters to
Governor Perpich.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Carlin

2013 Stevens Ave.
Mpls., Mn.

55404

October 1, 1986

Governor's Committee on Academic Excellence:

The Governor expressed as one of his goals to upgrade the 'Academic quality' of the schools in Minnesota, to create sort of a 'National Mecca' of academically skilled people to attract businesses & companies to locate in Minnesota due to Minnesota's vast reservoir of qualified people.

How can this goal be attained, if all the emphasis, prestige, & glory is given to the physical activities, such as football, basketball, track, wrestling, & tennis etc.?

Toward meeting this goal I would like to see Minnesota become known as the State of the 'Thinking Youth', or the State where we care as much about our youths 'Thinking Power' as their 'Physical Power'.

I believe that chess could be used as a symbol of our dedication to academic excellence, much as the Russians use it as their symbol of supposed intellectual superiority over the West.

Aside from the spirit of competitiveness, team cooperation, & sportsmanship, which chess has just the same as the 'Physical sports', the physical sports trains the body & gives our youth mere skills, while chess trains the mind & teaches them to think. The physical sports teach our youth how to expand the limits of their bodies, chess teaches our youth how to expand their minds to the outer limits; and isn't that what education is all about?

THE BENEFITS OF PLAYING CHESS:

Most subjects in school teach you facts, and the main faculty involved for the student to make a good grade is memory, but chess teaches a person how to think logically & correctly. Concerning many subjects & areas in life, a person may have false ideas or use faulty reasoning, & though you may argue & try to persuade differently, nothing gets resolved. But in chess, if your ideas & reasoning are wrong, you lose, and will continue to lose, until you modify or change them, You can't coast through chess with false concepts, as many people seem to be able to do concerning other things in life.

Chess teaches a person to be able to recognize, calculate, & juggle the many long & complicated actualities, possibilities, & probabilities, that are all going on at the same time on the board, & then after sifting through this maze, to arrive at a decisive & concrete plan to achieve his goal. Doesn't this sound like a quality that businesses would desire in a future employee? Not only does it imbibe this quality, but through playing many games, a person becomes used to making difficult but good decisions in extremely complicated circumstances, in adverse conditions while being put under as much pressure as possible by his adversary, all within the severe limitations of the clock. And the more one plays, the more confidence a person accrues in himself & his abilities. Isn't this the type of person that a company would want, to hone an edge over the competition?

Chess teaches a person when to be aggressive & try to expand & accumulate, and when to consolidate his gains & defend & hold what is now his.

Chess teaches a person how to survive (if possible) under the most adverse circumstances (while there is breath, there is life).

A person learns in chess, just as in life, that everything has a price. It's a trade off. For every strength, there comes a weakness. For example: In life, if you get a tan, you may get adoring glances for your looks, but you also run the risk of skin cancer. If you buy a home in the country, you may get peace & quiet, & privacy, but you have farther to go for shopping, or to the hospital in an emergency. If we want nuclear energy, we have nuclear waste, etc. It's all a trade-off. Chess teaches a person that to succeed one must take necessary risks. Chess teaches how to distinguish the better or best risk, when more than one option is available, & to always take the risk, no matter how great, if it is the only option for survival. Or when to avoid risk when the risk or price is too great for the gain, or when the desired results can be obtained without risk.

I could go on & on about the obvious virtues of chess (if it were up to me, I would make it a required subject for life in general), but I think that you get my gist.

Scientific studies have been done that strongly indicate (I hesitate to use the word prove) that students that play chess, as a whole, get much better grades than those that do not.

With these things in mind, & considering what the goals of education are supposed to be, I would think that chess would be given a much higher priority than football or basketball, etc. Yet rather than being given the status it deserves. Chess, as things now stand, can only dream of even obtaining equal status, and in fact has to struggle even to have its existence acknowledged. Some schools (which I could name) have refused to give permission for the students to have a Chess Club, even when asked by a large number of their own students who were interested!!

What I am trying to propose is that chess be upgraded to at least the level of one of the physical sports, if not higher, & to have a higher emphasis placed upon it. If we are really serious about emphasizing the intellectual development of our youth.

As far as two possible objections: The interest in it, & the cost, these are easily dealt with.

INTEREST:

As concerning the interest, I think that most people are under a misconception as to the age & type of people that are interested in chess, as well to its popularity. I think that they envision a few crotchty old men with long gray beards & pot-bellies in a secluded room drapped with cob-webs. But in fact, I have been to hundreds of tournaments, & though the range of participants covers all age groups, a large majority of players are young people, and many of them have an healthy, outdoors-like, athletic look. I think it would surprise a lot of people.

When I go to restaurants or outside to a park & play. I almost

always have a crowd gather, asking questions & wanting to play.

I have discovered that the interest & acceptance is there, it's just a matter of orientation, emphasis, & opportunity. Where I went to High School in Michigan 18 years ago, the H.S. had had a club for a number of years, & had usually run about 6-8 members & played about 2-3 matches a year with 2-3 other schools. After I got into playing & organizing, the club went up to about 45 members, & the team played about 10 matches a year. Then for 11th. grade I went down to Ohio (where I started that school's first Chess Club), & the Club in Michigan went down to 5 people & only played 2 matches the whole year. My senior year, I returned to Mich. & got the club back up even higher than before, to 58 members. I wanted to try to get chess up-graded & to get more money for our club, & to have our team, which was once again the Upper Peninsula Champions, sent down to Detroit, to the State H.S. Championship. Our Advisor said: Absolutely not. So I went to the Principal, & he said: Absolutely not. So, I went to the Superintendent of Schools, & he said: Absolutely not. So, I went to the School Board to get chess accepted as a sport, to get more funding, & to be sent down state. The School Board said: But of course, no problem to all three things. I had mentioned that the Chess Club which has 58 members, only got a \$50 activity fee each year, while the Ski Team, which only had 12 members, got \$1500 a year (Remember, this was 15 years ago).

Our team was the first team ever to come out of the Upper Peninsula & play in the State H.S. Championship down State. Out

of over 100 teams, ours came 3rd. I was the only one on the team that had ever played in a real tournament before.

The point of this story is that from my experience (not just the one in the story above). All the successful Clubs that I have seen have rotated around one major personality (I used to play as many as 20 people at the same time, or 5-6 people at the same time blindfolded, it builds interest & excitement.), & when that person leaves the program dies, much as what happened when I left for one year. I don't believe that this is unique to chess. If you would remove the coach from football & let the players train & drill themselves, the lack of discipline & professionalism would destroy the quality & interest, & doom the Program. Quality sparks interest. Just as poor quality make people lose interest, such as the interest of the fans of a team that is doing poorly. All that is necessary to keep a successful program going is: either to make sure that a central personality stays or is replaced by another, or to retain a hired professional. Similar to a football or basketball coach. Several School could share one.

The other major point of my story is that, in my H.S. Chess Club in Michigan, from a club of 6-8 people sprang a club of 58 people (the most popular Club in the School), as soon as a little quality & enthusiasm was injected into the club (enthusiasm is contagious). Think what might have happened if that quality had continued for a few more years. The interest is already out there, it merely needs a solid focal point, just as when Bobby Fisher became the World Champion, the United States Chess Federation grew

from about 35,000 members to about 125,000 members. In some Countries of the world, Chess is the National Sport. The Castle Chess Club in St. Paul, is currently the most active Chess Club in the United States. This year a Minnesota team is the National Jr. H.S. Champion - 8th. grade & under division, & another Minnesota team finished 2nd. in the 9th. grade division. In Scholastic Chess, Minnesota has long been a 'National Powerhouse'. Again, the interest is out there, in fact it is here, it just needs a solid focal point!!

COST:

Now as to the cost. Chess would most probably be about the most inexpensive sport that a school could endeavor to sponsor. (To do it right). Club Tournament Chess Sets & Board are less than \$10 a piece. Chess Clocks (one for every two players) 15-25 dollars a piece. These are one time expenses, for equipment should last at least 5 years, & then only need partial replacement. The major expenses would be: hiring a qualified instructor, travel expenses, a playing site (which should be minimal, use of a room or cafeteria in the school building), chess books, & United States Chess Federation (U.S.C.F.) memberships (for the team, or maybe they could pay their own). Finally a small miscellaneous incentive fund (that could be a joint fund for all the schools in an area, or provided by the state) to provide chess books, trophies, & U.S.C.F. memberships to promising young players that win inter-school tournaments. Also if the schools were serious about the program, they could for instance, get together & hire a National Master in an area (such as the Twin Cities area) to hold sem-

inars & workshop training sessions in a single location, available to the players of all the area High Schools. (there could be a traveling Master for the more rural areas). This could be a joint venture, or maybe the State might even pick up the tab? I would also give Sports Letters & recognition to outstanding players. The Colleges, and especially the State University & Colleges, should establish Scholarship Funds for Chess.

Many Schools already do much of this. They have already bought equipment, they pay an advisor & the travel expenses, and provide a site. So that the only difference initially would be a change of policy concerning whom they hire to run the club, with the addition of funds to hire a qualified person (again, several schools could share the expense of 1 person) (The difference wouldn't be that much from what is already provided for an advisor, in fact it could even be the same or cheaper if several schools shared one Professional between them!), also the funds to sponsor more tournaments (even here maybe the State or private Corporations might help). The main thing is to conduct a concerted pro-Chess publicity campaign in each school. Make Chess the 'In Thing'.

If you view the positive potential that a full fledged Chess program could effect on our youth. Increasing their Problem Solving ability, increasing their attention span, increasing their ability to make decisions, improving their grades & raising their academic achievements, vastly improving their desirability to prospective employers, keeping them off the streets, & basically working right in with the whole philosophy & purpose of education. If

you consider the impact that the symbolism of a well-publicized
'Chess Powerhouse' State could have on potential investors in the
State of Minnesota. If you can spend the kind of money that is
spent on the Physical Sports, which shouldn't be given near the
priority of Chess when you consider the goals of education. The
kind of money it takes to build a football field or swimming pool,
& then their maintenance. Then I say that you should find the
money somehow, even if it has to come out of the budgets of some
of these other sports. (It would be such a low fraction of their
expense, that they probably wouldn't even notice).

The only reason that I can see for Football & Basketball etc.,
being given a higher priority than Chess, is to create an income
producer for the school, & high profile is given them, because of
the interest the Colleges & Universities have in the income that
their Football & Basketball programs will produce when made suc-
cessful by the recruits they will receive, that are trained & sup-
plied by well funded H.S. programs.

Producing income & entertaining the general populace is not
the goal nor the purpose of education. Not that anything is wrong
with either. It's just that they should not be given a higher
priority over those activities that do fit those goals & purposes
of education. And to do so, & in doing so, to orient our youth
away from those higher activities, constitutes a betrayal by us
to the goal of education & a betrayal of the trust that the youth
have placed in us to guide them & to set an example.

I think that if some of the major corporations were warmed up

to the idea & could be shown the positive impact upon future employees, that they may be willing to make donations or grants to Chess programs in the State. Maybe the State itself might contribute. It would make an excellent symbol of Minnesota's commitment to Academic Excellence.

The Castle Chess Club also has offered its facilities to the State free of charge on certain days of the week, if the State would sponsor tournaments for youth & students. They sounded amenable, but then did nothing. The offer still stands. The Castle is willing to help work with the Schools as much as is possible with advice & in locating good players for instructors etc.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert D Carlin

Robert D. Carlin

National Master

2013 Stevens Avenue
Mpls., Mn.

55404

October 15, 1986

Dear School Board Members:

Due to a recent series of events a certain circumstance has come to light, about which an inquiry should be made about, discussed, and confronted by the various school boards in Minnesota.

I am a National Master in chess. Last year, a couple of my chess friends were hired by schools to teach & train their chess teams. At the beginning of this year, I called most of the schools in the Mn. H.S. Chess League to inquire about the possibility. I was amazed by the various responses. Some merely said; "we already have a faculty advisor". Since I was calling the schools with chess programs, that kind of response was self-evident: that they probably had someone overseeing it. One school rather rudely said, "we have an English teacher, Mr. X running it; he has always run it, and he will always run it. We don't need or want anyone else!! Thank-you, and 'good-day'." At one school the man in charge of hiring the Chess-person (I don't know whether it should be referred to as Chess teacher, advisor, instructor, or Coach.) said: he was indeed looking for someone, but that hiring policy was first; any member of the staff is entitled to grab the position if they so desired; if none of them want it, then they ask the outside person who did it last year, & if he doesn't want it, then they can ask someone new. I spoke to a chess advisor at one school who told me that what he knew about chess you could fit into a thimble.

At one school, they said they were to interview a person that afternoon. I knew the person; he's a nice enough person, and a good organizer, but he's only a class B player.

Whether I get hired by any of these schools is irrelevant. The point of this letter is the attitude & off-handedness in which they treat their Chess programs. It has been relegated to a fourth class activity by most schools. It has been taken care of with as much relish & enthusiasm as someone doing their laundry--- you know, it sort of has to be done, but its a bother---. The position of running the Chess Club or team has been denegraded to the level of a baby-sitter & used in a spoils system as an easy, do-nothing job, for any staff member who needs a little bit of extra cash. (Not to put down any of the teachers, who were good enough to spend the time, when no-one else was available). Having a faculty advisor, is not the same thing, as being instructed & prepared by a National Master. Some schools have gone as far as to refuse students who wanted a club, permission to have one.

I have been in contact with the Governor's Commission on Academic Excellence concerning the upgrading of Chess in the Schools & State, and I am preparing a written presentation of my position for them. Please find a copy enclosed.

For now, I would like the School Boards to vote to recognize Chess as a sport, with status at least equal to the other sports, and to express their committment to a solid chess program. To omit doing so sends a message to our youth, that there are rewards for spending their spare time indulging in physical

sports & activities, and none for spending their spare time in cerebral pursuits (such as chess), other than to be looked upon as 'Nerds', social 'Outcast's, & 'Eggheads'. No wonder our youth spend most of their leisure time milling about on street corners, screaming & yelling at each other between shoves & pushes, trying to become socially acceptable via the current, time proven, publicly endorsed method of showing one's adeptness at physically intimidating & dominating others. This is what they are being shown, and has been made the 'In thing', by the great emphasis we put on the physical contact sports, as well as the great rewards that we reserve for those who excel in them. We must quit implying to our youth that the way to solve problems is to get tougher & nastier than everyone else instead of smarter. We must change the image of reading, studying, researching, & other intellectual pursuits. We must make being smart the 'In Thing', and make it 'Socially Acceptable' to solve one's problems with one's mind, rather than with one's fist. If you think that 'Society' already tells them that, & then look around you at the results of those lectures, then I would have to say that what society gives out it's rewards & honors for, evidently rings out louder and truer to our youth, than their hollow words. I think that chess would be an excellent tool to spearhead a 'Change' in a new direction. If you are truly committed to the highest development of our youth, then I beg you to give my words serious consideration.

Thank you for listening,

Robert D. Carlin

National Master

Robert D. Carlin

P.S.

You could set up a committee to study cost, work out the details of how much you are going to be willing to put into such a program, where the funding will come from, & to explore possibilities of collaboration with the State. The results of this committee could be voted on at a later meeting.

At the very least, the policy of giving any staff member the privilege of having first option of grabbing the chess club position, even when there is a much more qualified person available, should be changed. What is best for the students, should take precedence over 'keeping it in the family'.

As to cost, if you can't afford chess, then you certainly shouldn't be spending money on activities that are on a much lower level than chess (such as football, basketball, & swimming, etc.). Activities which are much lower when compared to the goals, aims, and entire purpose of education (those goals over which, you have been placed as guardians). Especially when any one of those programs probably cost at least 10 times what a full-fledged Chess Program would cost!!

Montgomery-Lonsdale Public Schools

Independent School District No. 394

P.O. Box 29

101 - 2nd Street N.E.

Montgomery, Minnesota 56069

Telephones: Area Code - 612
Superintendent: 364-7940
High School Principal: 364-5252
Activities Director: 364-7755
Elementary Principal: 364-7404

October 7, 1986

Ms. Susan O'Brien
Executive Director
Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation
751 Capitol Square Building, 550 Cedar
St. Paul, Mn. 55101

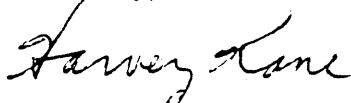
Dear Ms. O'Brien:

The Minnesota Academic League represents an idea whose time has come. I am writing this letter to express my strong support for the establishment of the Academic League because I feel it is high time that we provide incentives and recognition for academic achievement on a par with athletics and other extra curricular activities.

Concerning the matter of structure and governance, I do not feel that either the Minnesota State High School League or the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation in present form should be given control of the Academic League. The problem with the M.S.H.S.L. is one of focus. It would be hard to establish academics as the primary focus in an organization whose history centers around athletics and other "minor" activities. My concern about the M.A.E.F. is that it lacks the grass roots democratic organization necessary to ensure that Academic League activities are planned and organized exclusively for the benefit of students. I hope the Legislature will provide for a totally new organization that will have academics as the primary focus and will include grass roots democratic representatives from all public and private schools. If either the M.S.H.S.L. or the M.A.E.F. is given control of the Academic League, the Legislature should directly provide for necessary changes in whichever organization is chosen.

Thank you for consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,



Harvey Kane
Superintendent

HK/dc

cc: Sen Clarence Purfurst
Rep. Robert Vanasek

An Equal Opportunity Employer



Ken Nelson

District 62A
Southwest Minneapolis

Committees:

Crime and Family Law
Family Law Subcommittee
Education
Education Finance Division
Local and Urban Affairs
Metropolitan Affairs Subcommittee

Legislative Commission on Public Education



**Minnesota
House of
Representatives**

RECEIVED SEP 11 1986

TO: Superintendents, Building Principals, Teachers
Students, Parents, Education Organization Leaders

FROM: Representative Ken Nelson, Chair *KN*
Academic High School League Task Force

DATE: September, 1986

RE: A Request for Information

The 1985 Legislature established a Task Force to make recommendations to the 1986 Legislature on the needs, potential structure, and program for a proposed Academic High School League. As per legislative direction, Task Force staff and membership has been organized by the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.

The 1986 Legislature extended the Task Force's life until December 31, 1986 to further clarify potential relationships between the existing High School League programs and the proposed academic league.

A tentative working definition for an Academic High School League is "a state-wide entity designed to coordinate the range of academic competition/cooperation and recognition activities."

We seek your comments and ideas in testimony during the October hearings, or please send written comments, if you are unable to attend. Testimony of students and parents is encouraged. Some of the potential issues, upon which we seek comments follow.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing State High School League? *No opinion*
2. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation? The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation currently delivers in partnership with other organizations, fourteen programs, such as the Knowledge Bowl. *No. Opinion but I slightly favor this route*
3. Should a consortium be developed as a policy setting Board, with delivery of programs through existing or new organizations? *Yes we don't need more meetings because of new organization*
4. What suggestions would you make to the organizations for structure and delivery of programs? *Use H.S. League governance format.*

FUNCTIONS

5. What would you conceive to be the primary functions of a prospective statewide Academic League? Some suggestions have been policy, rule and regulation setting, program and activity coordinating body, and an information clearinghouse on programs, operation, and quality.

RELATED ISSUES

6. Which schools should be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League--all K-12, 7-12, or 9-12? *9-12*
7. Should private schools be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League? *yes*
8. What is the best way for a proposed Minnesota Academic League to work closely with existing programs such as Knowledge Bowl, science competition, Spelling Bee, etc.? Should all activities be operated by a proposed League? *yes*
9. How should activities be delivered? (ECSU, Minnesota State High School League, MAEF, consortium, etc.) *High School League or separate structure*
10. How can we best strengthen the area of academic recognition and support? *Letters, State Champs, School Trophies etc*
11. What additional incentives for non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed?
Programs should be competitive

To encourage input from throughout the State, a hearing will be held in your area on the issues. Hearings will be:

Mankato	Monday, October 6 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Franklin School (Auditorium) N. 2nd and Lafayette Street	Carol Ackerson Chair
Moorhead	Tuesday, October 7 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Town Site Center 810 4th Avenue South	Ben Trochlil Chair
Duluth	Tuesday, October 14 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Old Central High	Jean Olson Chair
St. Cloud	Thursday, October 23 - 5:00-7:00 p.m. Administration Office 628 Roosevelt Road	Ron Jandura Chair

Harmony Area Schools

P.F. TORNOW, SUPERINTENDENT
507-886-6464
Harmony, Minnesota 55939

Jan Curiskis
Sec. Principal
507-886-6464

Margaret McKernan
Elem. Principal
507-886-5722

September 16, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson, Chair
Academic High School League Task Force
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

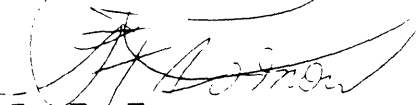
Dear Rep. Nelson:

In regards to your request for information concerning the Academic High School League, please let me respond to your questions as follows:

1. Yes, include the Minnesota Academic League as part of the MSHSL
2. I would believe that the most appropriate place for the Academic High School League would be as a part of the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.
3. Please establish a consortium to develop policy and procedures for the delivery of programs.
4. I believe that the structure and delivery of the programs would be left in the hands of the consortium and they would determine appropriate procedures.
5. I would believe that the most appropriate function of the Academic League would be a program and activity coordinating body and an informational clearinghouse on programs.
6. Schools to be included in the Academic League would be K-12.
7. Private schools should not be included since they have a very selective body as determined by financial conditions, recruitment, etc.
8. All activities mentioned should be under the control and direction of the Academic League.
9. ECSU's would seem to represent an excellent way to deliver the activities and would also serve to keep them on a regional basis.
10. In just a few words, we need RECOGNITION for academic areas and EXCELLENCE in these areas.
11. The main item would be RECOGNITION, followed by trophies and other types of awards. It is time that we recognized that academic areas are the real reasons that school exist.

I will not be able to attend any of the hearings, however, if you would desire futher input from me, please feel free to call me. I would also be very willing to serve on any committes that might be established or serve in any capacity. I really feel strongly about an Academic League.

Sincere yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "P. F. Tornow", written over a horizontal line.

P. F. Tornow
Superintendent of Schools

pft



Minnesota House of Representatives

TO: Superintendents, Building Principals, Teachers
Students, Parents, Education Organization Leaders

FROM: Representative Ken Nelson, Chair *KN*
Academic High School League Task Force

DATE: September, 1986

RE: A Request for Information

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A tentative working definition for an Academic High School League is "a state-wide entity designed to coordinate the range of academic competition/cooperation and recognition activities."

We seek your comments and ideas in testimony during the October hearings, or please send written comments, if you are unable to attend. Testimony of students and parents is encouraged. Some of the potential issues, upon which we seek comments follow.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing State High School League? *NO*
2. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation? The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation currently delivers in partnership with other organizations, fourteen programs, such as the Knowledge Bowl. *yes*
3. Should a consortium be developed as a policy setting Board, with delivery of programs through existing or new organizations? *yes*
4. What suggestions would you make to the organizations for structure and delivery of programs? *Like the math league structure*

Like the math league structure

FUNCTIONS

5. What would you conceive to be the primary functions of a prospective statewide Academic League? Some suggestions have been policy, rule and regulation setting, program and activity coordinating body, and an information clearinghouse on programs, operation, and quality. *To oversee the program*

RELATED ISSUES

6. Which schools should be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League--all K-12, ~~7-12~~, or 9-12? *9-12*
7. Should private schools be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League? *yes*
8. What is the best way for a proposed Minnesota Academic League to work closely with existing programs such as Knowledge Bowl, science competition, Spelling Bee, etc? Should all activities be operated by a proposed League?
9. How should activities be delivered? (ECSU, Minnesota State High School League, MAEF, consortium, etc.)
10. How can we best strengthen the area of academic recognition and support? *Publicity Honors & Awards etc*
11. What additional incentives for non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed? *Scholarships Recognition*

To encourage input from throughout the State, a hearing will be held in your area on the issues. Hearings will be:

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St. Cloud	Thursday, October 23 - 5:00-7:00 p.m. Administration Office 628 Roosevelt Road	Ron Jandura Chair

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent District No. 85
12 South Burns Avenue
Springfield, MN 56087

BOARD OF EDUCATION
DENNIS YOUNGERBERG, Chairman
G. D. WEEDMAN, Clerk
ROBERT R. BELLING, Treasurer
THOMAS ANDERSON
LENNIS ARNDT
JOHN MUELLER
GILBERT SCHMITZ

ROBERT T. CARRUTHERS, Superintendent
DAVID CHRISTENSON, High School Principal
JOHN E. DeZEEUW, Elementary Principal

2

MINNESOTA ACADEMIC LEAGUE

Purpose

- to place primary emphasis on academic development
- to develop non-competitive, cooperative contests and events in an academic area
- to promote recognition for those who achieve outstanding levels in academic areas
- to offer advice and guidance to the legislature on K-12 academics
- to encourage funding of academic opportunities for all Minnesota residents
- to encourage continued Community and Adult Education programs
- to work with other organization to promote 100% literacy in Minnesota
- to work hand-in-hand with the Minnesota State Department of Education

Organization

- separate but equal and parallel to the Minnesota State High School League
- one adult and one student representative from each school district in the state
- one representative from each district to the regional committee
- two representatives from each region to the state committee
- districts, regional and state designations will be the same as for sports omitting distinction between class A and AA
- board of directors - 7 members - 4 from education (1-elementary, 1-secondary, 1-post-secondary, 1-parochial), 1 from business community, 1 from legislature-education committee, 1 from Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation
- board appointed by State Department of Education for 4 year terms, others elected at each level for 2 year terms

Functions

- to promote academic excellence at all levels of education in Minnesota (public and private)
- to work with the State Department of Education to set guidelines for academic excellence for Minnesota schools
- to promote recognition at the local, district, regional and state levels for those who achieve well in academic areas
- to develop programs to show off Minnesota's academic excellence to other states nationwide and to other countries, worldwide
- to examine the programs of other state and countries and recommend those found superior to be tested on a trial basis in Minnesota

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent District No. 85
12 South Burns Avenue
Springfield, MN 56087

BOARD OF EDUCATION
DENNIS YOUNGERBERG, Chairman
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ROBERT R. BELLING, Treasurer
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JOHN MUELLER
GILBERT SCHMITZ

ROBERT T. CARRUTHERS, Superintendent
DAVID CHRISTENSON, High School Principal
JOHN E. DeZEEUW, Elementary Principal

3

- Functions cont. -to act as a clearing house for information on academic excellence
 -to act as a coordinating body for academics and academic excellence and recognition on a state wide basis
- Powers -to identify and offer encouragement, consultants and program materials to those school districts who are not offering a program of academic excellence or who do not recognize excellence as it occurs in staff or student activities
 -offer information and advice to the legislature on programs, laws and funding for academics in public and private schools in Minnesota
 -work with the State Department of Education on all areas of academic excellence
- Financing -establish a yearly budget
 -funded through the state legislature
 -allow for donations from private sources ie. industry, grants, fellowships, scholarships....

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 31

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA 56601

(218) 751-2160

P. A. BAIN, Superintendent

J. ABBOTT

Director of
Personnel Services

E. GANGENESS

Director of
Instructional Services

G. WELTE

Director of
Business Services

September 25, 1986

Senator Ken Nelson
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

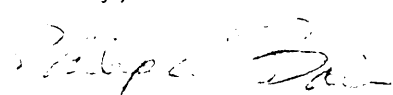
Dear Senator Nelson:

In response to your request for information regarding a proposed Academic High School League, I would like to submit the following comments.

In my opinion, the Academic League should definitely be included as a unit within the structure of the Minnesota State High School League. Because the MSHL is already the governing body for athletics, speech, debate, music, etc. it seems logical to include the proposed Academic League rather than formulate an entirely new governing body. In fact, I would recommend that the Minnesota State High School League be the only recognized organization for any kind of inter-scholastic competition in the State of Minnesota.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the task force. If you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Philip A. Bain, Ed.D.
Superintendent

vn

HOPKINS
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
1001 HIGHWAY 7
HOPKINS, MINNESOTA 55343

SCHOOL BOARD

Chairperson:
George Holthus

Vice Chairperson:
William Soules

Treasurer:
Beverly Gromek

Directors:
Barbara Hise
Carole Kylo
David Uhrich
Peg Woellner

Clerk:
John Young

Superintendent:
Arthur Bruning

18 September 1986

The Honorable Ken Nelson
Minnesota State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55103

Your Honor,

I am writing this letter to you in regard to the upcoming hearings about a proposed Academic League for the state of Minnesota. I understand that there are no hearings scheduled to be held in the metropolitan area.

Since 65% of all of the high school students in the state of Minnesota live in the Metro area, I believe that it would be inappropriate for none of the hearings to be scheduled within that geographic area. I do hope that you will reconsider the proposed schedule of hearings and set at least one hearing date and place for a Metro site. Certainly the metropolitan school districts will be affected by the outcome of those hearings.

Public hearings are supposed to allow the public to have access to their elected officials so that they may provide input for the decision making process. Rather than making it difficult for 65% of the population of our state to give their input, I would think that it would be better to provide a public forum closer to these people so that they too can be heard.

Thank you for giving this matter your consideration.
I will look forward to your decision.

Sincerely,



David Uhrich
Director
Hopkins School District # 270

Northfield Public Schools

301 Union Street • Northfield, Minn. 55057 • 507-663-0610

September 16, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
Academic High School League Task Force
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

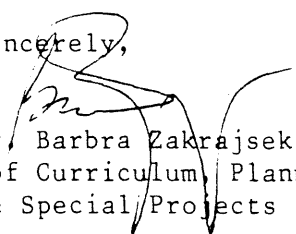
Dear Representative Nelson,

We have recently read your request for information regarding a task force organized by the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation. The Superintendent in Northfield, the high school principal and I have discussed the possibilities of a Minnesota Academic League. I would like to express our interest in such a league and present some of the positive reasons why we feel such a league would be beneficial.

1. It would be nice to see all of the various academic initiatives (i.e. Knowledge Bowl, Academic Decathlon etc.) come under one umbrella for the purpose of organization.
2. We would welcome superintendent and principal involvement in organizing, scheduling, and controlling the various initiatives.
3. It would seem that an organization already available to us, like the Minnesota State High School League, might be a very appropriate way to handle the above needs.

Thank you for your consideration of this as well as for your requests for our input.

Sincerely,


Dr. Barbra Zakrajsek, Director
of Curriculum, Planning
& Special Projects

BZ:mh

cc: Stan Mack
Bill Gasho

Independent School District No. 417

TRACY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Tracy, Minnesota 56175

HAROLD B. REMME
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
TELEPHONE: 507-629-4222

JAMES B. CREAGER
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
TELEPHONE: 507-629-4223

TERRY HERMANSON
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL
TELEPHONE: 507-629-4220

September 16, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
317 State Office Building
St. Paul MN 55155

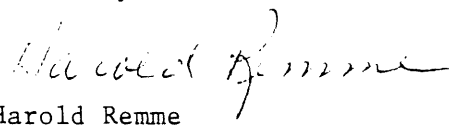
Dear Representative Nelson:

I am writing this letter to provide input to you regarding the proposed Academic High School League as a Superintendent of Schools at Tracy, MN. I am supportive of the concept of an Academic High School League program to govern competition in the academic area.

I favor the Academic League being incorporated into the High School League structure because that will provide a stable framework for the functions of the Academical League. The Minnesota State High School League has proven and established policy and rule making procedures. I believe the Academic League should be open to all schools that presently participate in the State High School League. The High School League structure provides the best median for delivery of activities as well as governance.

If you should have any questions relating to this matter, please contact me at your earliest convenience. My telephone number is 507-629-4222.

Sincerely,


Harold Remme
Superintendent

HBR:pms





MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

SOUTHWEST SECONDARY SCHOOL
3414 West 47th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55410-1798

September 17, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ken:

I recently received notice of the Academic Competition Task Force hearings scheduled around the state. I just wanted to drop you a note endorsing the concept that the Minnesota State High School League take a strong pro-active role in seeking academic competition as a League activity similar to that of athletics, music, drama and forensics.

My experience with the League in athletics has been one of fairness and support in making sure that high schools in our state offer the best possible program for youngsters. I believe the League with its background of information and credibility would enhance the visibility that academic competition deserves.

Sincerely,

Harlan Anderson
Principal

HA:nm

cc: Mr. Donald A. Meyers, Board of Directors
of the Minnesota State High School League

JOHN METCALF JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

2250 DIFFLEY ROAD
BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA 55337

PHONE: (612) 887-7276

191 BURNSVILLE
EAGAN
SAVAGE

September 17, 1986

The Honorable Ken Nelson
House of Representatives
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Your "Request for information" dated September, 1986 has been received. In an attempt to be supportive of the basic thrust of an Academic High School League I have several comments to offer. I will also comment on several of the eleven statements on which you requested responses.

First of all, the effort to establish a league or forum for recognizing effort and achievement in academics is strongly supported. It is my firm belief that the excellence and effort among students is extant within the state. It is also my conviction that we can do a better job of recognizing them, therefore the need.

When it comes to the "potential structure, and program for a proposed Academic High School League," I am not quite so certain in providing suggestions.

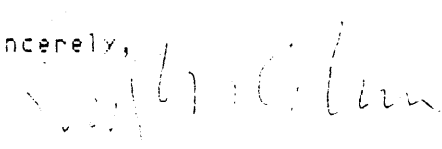
At this point, I shall attempt to comment on your points 1 through 11.

1. Yes. However the establishing guidelines or rules would have to be worded so that the primacy of the Academic League would be recognized in those functions for which it is chartered. (Another way of saying this: I am not sure of what other existing organization could assume the Academic League duties.)
2. See statement above. If the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation assumed responsibility for the Academic League functions, would that diminish or derogate its present role and functions?
3. A consortium should be developed to act as a policy-setting board.
4. No comment at this time.
5. Primary function: To recognize academic and co-curricular (non-athletic) excellence in legitimate and salutary ways.
6. Include 6-12 grades.
7. Include private schools.

8. No comment at this time.
9. See item #1 above.
10. By recognizing and rewarding legitimately at local and state levels.
11. No comment at this time.

It is my intention as dialogue develops and as more information becomes available to offer firmer suggestions for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Rudolph P. DeLuca, Principal

Ken Nelson

District 62A
Southwest Minneapolis

Committees:

Crime and Family Law

Family Law Subcommittee

Education

Education Finance Division

Local and Metropolitan Affairs

Metropolitan Affairs Subcommittee

Legislative Commission on Public Education



Minnesota House of Representatives

TO: Superintendents, Building Principals, Teachers
Students, Parents, Education Organization Leaders

FROM: Representative Ken Nelson, Chair *KN*
Academic High School League Task Force

DATE: September, 1986

RE: A Request for Information

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STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing State High School League? *yes*
2. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation? The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation currently delivers in partnership with other organizations, fourteen programs, such as the Knowledge Bowl. *No - Not both 1 + 2; one or the other*
3. Should a consortium be developed as a policy setting Board, with delivery of programs through existing or new organizations? *Yes - Existing organizations*
4. What suggestions would you make to the organizations for structure and delivery of programs? *MSA should assume responsibility for structure and rule setting*

Reply to ☐ 317 State Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

☐ 4201 Garfield Ave. S. Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

Office (612) 296-4244

Home (612) 825-6667

FUNCTIONS

5. What would you conceive to be the primary functions of a prospective statewide Academic League? Some suggestions have been policy, rule and regulation setting, program and activity coordinating body, and an information clearinghouse on programs, operation, and quality. *Concur with the suggestions. Planned activities ~~for~~ existing events such as spelling bees, math clubs + meets, Science fairs, etc.*

RELATED ISSUES

6. Which schools should be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League--all K-12, 7-12, or 9-12? *7-12*
7. Should private schools be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League? *Yes*
8. What is the best way for a proposed Minnesota Academic League to work closely with existing programs such as Knowledge Bowl, science competition, Spelling Bee, etc? Should all activities be operated by a proposed League? *Yes by assuming responsibility or through coordination*
9. How should activities be delivered? (ECSU, Minnesota State High School League, MAEF, consortium, etc.) *MS HSL Districts and Regions.*
10. How can we best strengthen the area of academic recognition and support? *Press releases to public, Bulletins to schools, etc.*
11. What additional incentives for non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed?

To encourage input from throughout the State, a hearing will be held in your area on the issues. Hearings will be:

Mankato	Monday, October 6 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Franklin School (Auditorium) N. 2nd and Lafayette Street	Carol Ackerson Chair
Moorhead	Tuesday, October 7 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Town Site Center 810 4th Avenue South	Ben Trochlil Chair
Duluth	Tuesday, October 14 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Old Central High	Jean Olson Chair
St. Cloud	Thursday, October 23 - 5:00-7:00 p.m. Administration Office 628 Roosevelt Road	Ron Jandura Chair

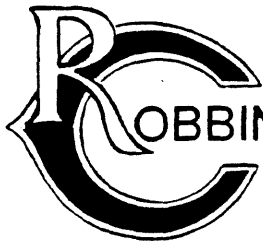
The Task Force reported to the 1986 Legislature. Their recommendations include:

1. That a statewide policy body (Advisory Council) on academic competition and cooperation be established under the Minnesota State High School League, with membership from the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation and other organizations. *Support This Approach.*
2. That this new entity place primary emphasis upon academic development. *Good!*
3. Modification of the existing policy structure of the Minnesota State High School League to add representation from the proposed Advisory Council to the Board of Directors and the Representative Assembly. *Good!*
4. That the Minnesota State High School League be sensitive to the existence and capabilities of existing programs and seek to work closely with them. *Good!*

We welcome and need your input and those of your constituents. Should you desire further information, or wish to provide testimony during the hearing, please contact either Susan O'Brien at (612) 297-1875, or Todd Lefko at (612) 645-4944. A sign-up sheet will be available at the hearing for those wishing to provide testimony who have not made their intentions known beforehand.

KN/SO/sk

56



ROBBINSDALE COOPER SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 281

8230 47TH AVENUE NORTH

NEW HOPE, MINNESOTA 55428

G. DAVID KNUTSON

PRINCIPAL

TELEPHONE - 533 - 2551

September 18, 1986

"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

Representative Ken Nelson
Minnesota House of Representatives
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Academic High School League Task Force

Dear Representative Nelson:

As chairperson of the Lake Conference Principals Association,* I have been instructed on behalf of the membership to communicate the following to you.

We thank you for your interest in and support of public education in the State of Minnesota. Your efforts in the areas of family law, education, local and urban affairs, and public education are most appreciated by all who deal daily with the concerns and needs of each of these groups.

The principals of the Lake Conference represent some of the finest schools and communities in the State of Minnesota. We are, therefore, vitally interested in all matters that touch the schools and communities that we represent. One such matter is the proposed Academic High School League. We note with favor the hearing dates scheduled for Mankato, Moorhead, Duluth and St. Cloud.

Our organization, the Lake Conference Principals' Association, hereby requests that you schedule at least one hearing for the metro area. From the standpoint of total state student enrollment, the metro area comprises 50 percent of all secondary students. One could suggest that metro principals could travel to one of the hearing sites already scheduled. We believe this would be an unwarranted, counterproductive use of our time. Finally, we believe that the concerns, interests, and needs of the metro schools and the 185,000 secondary students they represent would best be met by the Task Force on the Academic High School League scheduling a hearing in the metro area.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

G. David Knutson

Principal of Robbinsdale Cooper High School

c: Phillip Tenney, Executive Director, MASSP
Dr. Amy Mook, Principal, Minnetonka High School
and Chairperson, H.D. MASSP
Susan O'Brien, Executive Director Academic League

September 18, 1986
Representative Ken Nelson
Page 2

*** LAKE CONFERENCE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION**

Apple Valley High School
Bloomington Jefferson High School
Bloomington Kennedy High School
Burnsville High School
Eden Prairie High School
Edina High School
Hopkins High School
Minnetonka High School
Osseo High School
Park Center High School
Richfield High School
Robbinsdale Armstrong High School
Robbinsdale Cooper High School
Rosemount High School
St. Louis Park High School
Wayzata High School

HOLDINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INDEPENDENT DISTRICT 738

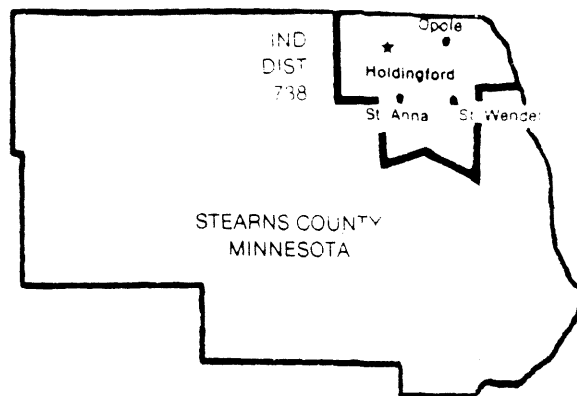
Holdingford, Minnesota 56340

ROGER DOUCET
Superintendent
746

DR. STEPHEN BENSON
Secondary Principal
746-2221

WALTER J. DON
Elementary Principal
746-2232

BILL GALLIPO
Dean & Activities Director
746-2221



September 23, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
Chair, Academic High School League Task Force
170 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Nelson,

Regarding your recent communication soliciting information about the possible formation of an Academic High School League, I submit the following individual responses from the Holdingford Public Schools to your specific set of questions.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. Yes. The proposed Minnesota Academic League should be a unit within the existing State High School League (MSHSL).
2. No. The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, the Minnesota Department of Education, Educational Cooperative Service Units, and other cooperating organizations, may still wish and be needed to help facilitate Minnesota Academic League activities. However, we believe a single governing agency (MSHSL) will provide the consistency, uniform rules and policies to help ensure overall program quality.
3. A policy setting board, and other advisory and coordinating functions, should dovetail with or parallel the existing structure within the MSHSL.
4. Structure and delivery of programs should parallel the existing MSHSL organizational arrangement.

FUNCTIONS

5. The primary functions of the proposed Minnesota Academic League should parallel those functions of the existing MSHSL in the realm of athletics. The proposed Minnesota Academic League, in our opinion, should incorporate the existing music, speech, drama and debate activities into its unit. The MSHSL would then have two parallel units with comparable roles and status; one in the area of academics, the other in the area of athletics.

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HOLDINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INDEPENDENT DISTRICT 738

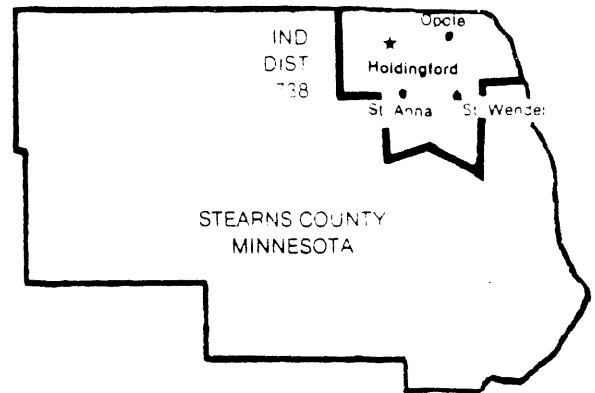
Holdingford, Minnesota 56340

ROGER DOUCET
Superintendent
746-2196

DR. STEPHEN BENSON
Secondary Principal
746-2221

WALTER WILSON
Elementary Principal
746-2232

BILL GALLIPO
Dean & Activities Director
746-2221



RELATED ISSUES

6. We suggest the grade range included to be Grades 7 - 12. An exception may be granted for unique programs such as the Spelling Bee which does include students in grades 5 & 6 as well as 7 & 8.
7. Private schools, of course, should be included.
8. Existing programs may still be facilitated by organizations such as the Educational Cooperative Service Units, the proposed Minnesota Department of Education, the Academic Excellence Foundation and other sponsoring organizations. However, we believe it is in the best interests of overall quality, consistency, governance, rules, policy, etc. that a single organization such as the proposed Minnesota Academic League be established. Whether or not "all activities" should be operated by a proposed league can best be answered by the membership of the proposed Minnesota Academic League through its rule making and governance structure, similar to the manner in which the MSHSL determines whether or not an athletic event such as synchronized swimming shall be a MSHSL sponsored event.
9. Academic activities may be delivered as determined by the proposed Minnesota Academic League. That may include existing delivery modes or alternative modes as determined by proposed Minnesota Academic League policy.
10. We can strengthen academic recognition and support by doing a first class job and through implementation of uniform rules and policies. Existing academic competitions and recognition programs, albeit well intentioned, are too splintered and exhibit great variability in quality.
11. No response

Thank you for your efforts in this matter.

Sincerely

Superintendent Roger Doucet
Holdingford Public Schools

cc: Supt. Ron Jandura, Chair
October 23 Hearing at St. Cloud

66

HOLDINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INDEPENDENT DISTRICT 738

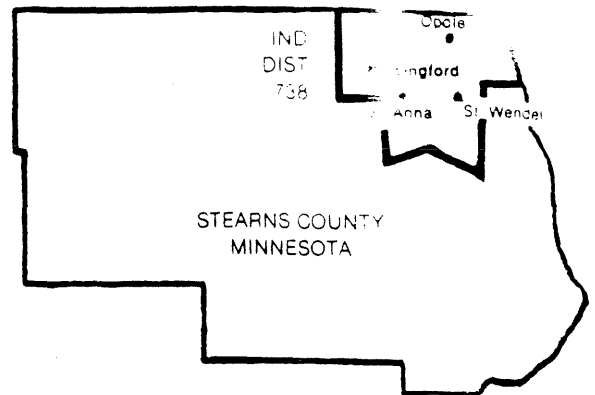
Holdingford, Minnesota 56340

ROGER DOUCET
Superintendent
746-2196

DR. STEPHEN BENSON
Secondary Principal
746-2221

WALTER WILSON
Elementary Principal
746-2232

BILL GALLIPO
Dean & Activities Director
746-2221



September 23, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
Chair, Academic High School League Task Force
170 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Nelson,

Your recent communication soliciting information about the possible formation of an Academic High School League was discussed by the member schools of the Central Minnesota Conference (CMC) at their September 17 administrator's meeting. The eight member schools include: Becker, Big Lake, Eden Valley/Watkins, Kimball, Holdingford, Maple Lake, Sartell, and Saint Johns Prep.

Our census recommendation to your task force is one of strong support for an Academic High School League, organized as a separate unit within the existing Minnesota High School League (MSHSL).

The only further recommendation we suggest is that the new academic unit of the MSHSL enjoy what we termed "peer status" with the existing athletic unit of the MSHSL. The new academic unit should have an advisory support and governance structure, policies, rules, eligibility criteria, competitive and tournament opportunities, and the overall attention to quality that the MSHSL has provided to Minnesota schools for many years in the realm of athletics (including music, drama, speech and debate).

The CMC has actively supported the concept of academic competition between member schools. While organized primarily for athletic competition, we have sponsored CMC Speech tournaments for several years. More recently, we have included CMC Knowledge Bowl contests to our range of conference sponsored opportunities for students.

Thank you for your attention in this important educational issue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Doucet'.

Superintendent Roger Doucet
Holdingford Public Schools
1986-87 Chairman, Central Minnesota Conference

cc: Supt. Ron Jandura, Chair
October 23 Hearing at St. Cloud

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INDEPENDENT DISTRICT NO. 390

ADMINISTRATION

Al Edwards
Superintendent
Elementary Principal
Don Ruud
Secondary Principal
Calvin Troxel
Athletic Director

LAKE OF THE WOODS SCHOOL

P.O. Box 310
Baudette, Minnesota 56623
Phone: 218-634-2735

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jerry Pieper, Jr., Chairman
Roger Knutson, Vice-Chairman
Donavon Smith, Treasurer
Rita Krause, Clerk
Ron Streed, Director
Arleen Slick, Director

September 11, 1986

Ken Nelson, Chairman
Academic High School League Task Force
Minnesota House of Representatives
St. Paul, Minnesota
55101

Dear Representative Nelson:

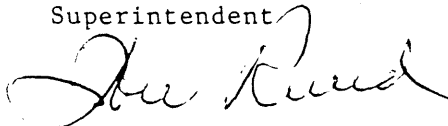
Our school administration has the following responses to your request for information:

1. Please separate the academic league from the High School League.
2. Yes, the academic league should be a unit of the excellence foundation.
3. No comment on a consortium for a board.
4. No comment.
5. We would prefer that the league be a coordinating agency & not be a regulatory agency.
6. Include Grades 7-12.
7. Include private schools.
8. All activities should be operated by one league.
9. Deliver the services through ECSU's.

Sincerely,



Allen Edwards
Superintendent



Don Ruud
High School Principal

6-2-

MINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL
MINNETONKA, MINNESOTA

TO: Lake Conference Junior and Senior High Principals
FROM: Amy W. Mook, Principal - Minnetonka High School *AWM*
RE: Follow-Up on Academic High School League
DATE: September 25, 1986

When I called Ken Nelson's office to get more information regarding his four upcoming hearings, I was referred to Susan O'Brien (297-1875), Executive Director of the Academic League. She mentioned that the reason there was no hearing in the Twin Cities was that one had been held last spring. G. David Knutson, Jim Cabalka, Dick Maas and I don't remember that notification, do you?

Anyway, Susan (or Todd Lefko) have agreed to be in attendance at the October 22nd Lake Conference meeting. She will answer our questions and listen to our concerns. Unfortunately this can not be considered a formal hearing and so she still needs our written comments. Her address is:

Susan O'Brien
550 Cedar Street
Capitol Square Building
Room 751
St. Paul, MN 55101

As a refresher to our October meeting, it might be helpful to review Don Myer's (the Region 6AA Minnesota State High School League representative) recent letter and Ken Nelson's September letter. They provide questions under consideration for structure, functions and related issues.

Thanks to Edina for allowing us the opportunity to discuss this briefly (15 minutes)!

mg

cc: ✓ Susan O'Brien
Don Myers
Ken Nelson

BRUCE RIMSTAD,
Business Manager

MAXIE ZIWISKY,
Community Service Director

TERESA DANNER,
Food Service Director

JAMES NELSON,
Reading Director

PRINCETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICT OFFICE

606 South Third Street

PRINCETON, MINNESOTA 55371

WALDO D. LARSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
612-389-2422

WALDO D. LARSON
Superintendent
JERRY ANDERSON
Assistant Superintendent
ROBERT ANDERSON
Assistant Superintendent
TIMOTHY W. HELM
Assistant Superintendent
FRED HAYES
Assistant Superintendent
PETER JENSEN
Assistant Superintendent
JOEL MINKS
Assistant Superintendent

September 25, 1986

Ms. Susan O'Brien, Executive Director
Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation
751 Capitol Square Building
550 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Ms. O'Brien:

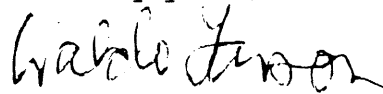
Congratulations on your appointment as the executive director of the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation! You have a significant challenge in providing leadership to this exciting foundation.

Please accept this letter as testimony regarding the hearing proposed for the creation of an academic league. I totally endorse the concept of academic competition and am excited to see our students participate in the Knowledge Bowl, Problem-Solving Bowl, Math League, and Mock Trial competition. We do not need another league from the state level. Let me suggest very strongly that the academic league be folded into the Minnesota State High School League. Let us not create another league with differing standards so our students become confused by a double standard that may be created. Why can't the High School League be an umbrella for academics, fine arts, and athletics?

Princeton is a member of the Rum River Conference, and we are undertaking as a conference the organization of academic competition in our fine arts division. I think we will have a workable model, and I urge the task force to consider their recommendation to be cooperation with the State High School League and not to create a separate entity.

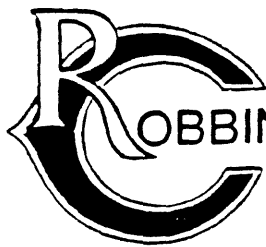
My apologies for not being able to attend the public hearings, and I applaud the efforts of the foundation in addressing these critical issues.

Sincerely yours,



Waldo D. Larson
Superintendent of Schools

WDL/caa



ROBBINSDALE COOPER SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 281

8230 47TH AVENUE NORTH
NEW HOPE, MINNESOTA 55428

G. DAVID KNUTSON
PRINCIPAL
TELEPHONE - 533 - 2551

September 18, 1986

"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

Representative Ken Nelson
Minnesota House of Representatives
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Academic High School League Task Force

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Thank you!

Sincerely,

G. David Knutson
Principal of Robbinsdale Cooper High School

c: Phillip Tenney, Executive Director, MASSP
Dr. Amy Mook, Principal, Minnetonka High School
and Chairperson, H.D. MASSP
✓ Susan O'Brien, Executive Director Academic League

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September 18, 1986
Representative Ken Nelson
Page 2

*** LAKE CONFERENCE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION**

Apple Valley High School
Bloomington Jefferson High School
Bloomington Kennedy High School
Burnsville High School
Eden Prairie High School
Edina High School
Hopkins High School
Minnetonka High School
Osseo High School
Park Center High School
Richfield High School
Robbinsdale Armstrong High School
Robbinsdale Cooper High School
Rosemount High School
St. Louis Park High School
Wayzata High School

Independent School District No. 199

9875 Inver Grove Trail East
Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota 55075

Jimley Senior High
2920 80th Street E.

Inver Grove Hts. Junior High
8167 Cahill Avenue E.

Hilltop Elementary
3201 68th Street E.

Inver Grove Elementary
4100 66th Street E.

Salem Hills Elementary
5899 Babcock Trail E.

South Grove Elementary
7650 Clayton Avenue E.

September 17, 1986

Task Force on Academic Excellence
Minnesota State Department of Education
550 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Task Force:

Relative to the potential of academic competition in the State of Minnesota, I wish to go on record as being supportive of that concept.

It is my understanding that, in those academic arenas where competition has been made available to school students, the achievement levels of those students have risen. Further, my perception over several years of experience is that students' self concepts are improved with participation in various forms of academic competition.

Good luck in securing information during your upcoming four hearings statewide. Also, if I can be of any help or support in completing this task, please refer your questions or requests directly back to me.

Sincerely,



Kirby A. Lehman
Superintendent

KAL/mw:cpt



Minnesota House of Representatives

Madison Public School

Virgil Likness, Supt.

316 4th Street

Madison, MN 56256

TO: Superintendents, Building Principals, Teachers
Students, Parents, Education Organization Leaders

FROM: Representative Ken Nelson, Chair *KN*
Academic High School League Task Force

DATE: September, 1986

RE: A Request for Information

The 1985 Legislature established a Task Force to make recommendations to the 1986 Legislature on the needs, potential structure, and program for a proposed Academic High School League. As per legislative direction, Task Force staff and membership has been organized by the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.

The 1986 Legislature extended the Task Force's life until December 31, 1986 to further clarify potential relationships between the existing High School League programs and the proposed academic league.

A tentative working definition for an Academic High School League is "a state-wide entity designed to coordinate the range of academic competition/cooperation and recognition activities."

We seek your comments and ideas in testimony during the October hearings, or please send written comments, if you are unable to attend. Testimony of students and parents is encouraged. Some of the potential issues, upon which we seek comments follow.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing State High School League? *Perhaps - This question needs more information*
2. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation? The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation currently delivers in partnership with other organizations, fourteen programs, such as the Knowledge Bowl. *Perhaps - I think this negates further conversation*
3. Should a consortium be developed as a policy setting Board, with delivery of programs through existing or new organizations? *Sounds like a good idea initially*
4. What suggestions would you make to the organizations for structure and delivery of programs?

*Determine where we are at -
" where we wish to go -
set goals to get there -*

6.8

FUNCTIONS

5. What would you conceive to be the primary functions of a prospective statewide Academic League? Some suggestions have been policy, rule and regulation setting, program and activity coordinating body, and an information clearinghouse on programs, operation, and quality.

A combination & collaboration of the above plus #4 response

RELATED ISSUES

6. Which schools should be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League--all K-12, 7-12, or 9-12?
7. Should private schools be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League? *Yes*

8. What is the best way for a proposed Minnesota Academic League to work closely with existing programs such as Knowledge Bowl, science competition, Spelling Bee, etc.? Should all activities be operated by a proposed League?

9. How should activities be delivered? (ECSU, Minnesota State High School League, MAEF, consortium, etc.)

10. How can we best strengthen the area of academic recognition and support?

11. What additional incentives for non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed?

Not necessarily - Maybe some schools have better programs - Similar to and in cooperation - State Bd of Educ & Dept of Public Inst. Spend money for merit pay.

To encourage input from throughout the State, a hearing will be held in your area on the issues. Hearings will be:

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6-9

Ken Nelson

District 62A
Southwest Minneapolis

Committees:

Crime and Family Law
Family Law Subcommittee
Education
Education Finance Division
Local and Urban Affairs
Metropolitan Affairs Subcommittee

Legislative Commission on Public Education



Minnesota House of Representatives

TO: Superintendents, Building Principals, Teachers
Students, Parents, Education Organization Leaders

FROM: Representative Ken Nelson, Chair *KN*
Academic High School League Task Force

DATE: September, 1986

RE: A Request for Information

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STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing State High School League? *NO THERE NOT A STATE VOUCHERS AGENT*
2. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation? The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation currently delivers in partnership with other organizations, fourteen programs, such as the Knowledge Bowl. *YES*
3. Should a consortium be developed as a policy setting Board, with delivery of programs through existing or new organizations? *NO*
4. What suggestions would you make to the organizations for structure and delivery of programs?

FUNCTIONS

5. What would you conceive to be the primary functions of a prospective statewide Academic League? Some suggestions have been policy, rule and regulation setting, program and activity coordinating body, and an information clearinghouse on programs, operation, and quality. 2-12

RELATED ISSUES

6. Which schools should be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League--all K-12, 7-12, or 9-12?
7. Should private schools be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League? Yes
8. What is the best way for a proposed Minnesota Academic League to work closely with existing programs such as Knowledge Bowl, science competition, Spelling Bee, etc.? Should all activities be operated by a proposed League? Yes
9. How should activities be delivered? (ECSU, Minnesota State High School League, MAEF, consortium, etc.) ECSU
10. How can we best strengthen the area of academic recognition and support? Public Recognition
11. What additional incentives for non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed? Academic Scholarships, Publicity, Success

To encourage input from throughout the State, a hearing will be held in your area on the issues. Hearings will be:

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The Task Force reported to the 1986 Legislature. Their recommendations include:

1. That a statewide policy body (Advisory Council) on academic competition and cooperation be established under the Minnesota State High School League, with membership from the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation and other organizations.
2. That this new entity place primary emphasis upon academic development.
3. Modification of the existing policy structure of the Minnesota State High School League to add representation from the proposed Advisory Council to the Board of Directors and the Representative Assembly.
4. That the Minnesota State High School League be sensitive to the existence and capabilities of existing programs and seek to work closely with them.

We welcome and need your input and those of your constituents. Should you desire further information, or wish to provide testimony during the hearing, please contact either Susan O'Brien at (612) 297-1875, or Todd Lefko at (612) 645-4944. A sign-up sheet will be available at the hearing for those wishing to provide testimony who have not made their intentions known beforehand.

KN/SO/sk

RUSSELL ROBINSON
High School Principal

JAMES S. LAMONT
Superintendent

DORIS LENIUS
Chairman

JERRY JOHNSON
Elementary Principal

DUANE ZITZOW
Clerk

LARLYS JACOBSON
Ass't. H.S. Principal

JON BACHMANN
Treasurer

DENNIS ANDERSON
Activities Director

ANDERS FETT
Business Manager

Frazee-Vergas Public Schools

*Independent School District No. 23
Box 186
Frazee, Minnesota 56544*

September 10, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
317 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN. 55155

Dear Sir,

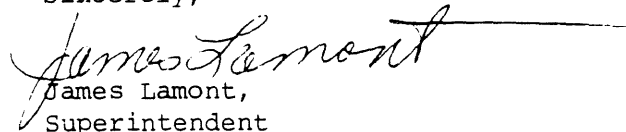
As an educator I am in accord with the effort to create an Academic League. The competitive spirit is in most of us, the desire to best an opponent runs strong in us all. What better way than in the area of academics can we build on this competitive spirit.

I believe that the format followed by the High School League for athletics is a viable format to follow. I am not sure that the inclusion as a part of the M.S.H.S.L. would provide or allow the impetus needed to get the M.A.H.S.L. moving as rapidly as I would like.

If assurances could be made that proper emphasis could be brought to bear, then the most expedient method would be as a part of the M.S.H.L.

I am ready to support and participate in this activity and plan to participate in the Moorhead meeting.

Sincerely,


James Lamont,
Superintendent



LITCHFIELD SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

901 Gilman Avenue North

LITCHFIELD, MINNESOTA 55355

Phone: (612) 693-2424

September 11, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

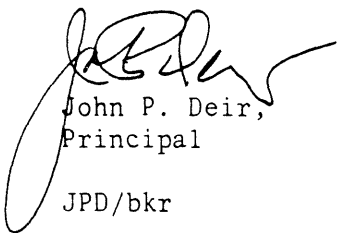
Dear Representative Nelson,

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the scheduled hearings regarding the proposed Academic High School League. However, I would like to make a comment or two about this proposal.

It is very important to me, as a principal, to have any proposed Academic High School League operate as a unit of the Minnesota State High School League. I feel that the MSHSL sponsorship would legitimize academic competition, would provide tested regulations or policy for competition and would allow high school personnel a voice in its operation. Placing the academic competition in an ECSU would signal a quick demise - they are too caught up in their own bureaucratic games. Using any other organizations would allow academic competition to remain an obscure, insignificant activity. If we are to recognize academic competition as an activity that enhances the educational process, let us put it on a par with athletics, speech and drama.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



John P. Deir,
Principal

JPD/bkr

14

MOTLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 483

MOTLEY, MINNESOTA 56466

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Harold Tholl, Chairman
Brenda Anderson, Vice-Chairman
Edward Jordahl, Treasurer
Marie Smith, Clerk
Ronald Bjerga, Director
Gregory Frisk, Director

ADMINISTRATION
H. LYLE JONES, Superintendent
Telephone (218) 352-6315
ROBERT E. KOLL, Principal K-12
Telephone (218) 352-6471
BUSINESS OFFICE
Telephone (218) 352-6315

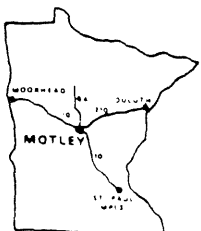
September 10, 1986

TO: REPRESENTATIVE KEN NELSON, CHAIR
Academic High School League Task Force
FM: H. Lyle Jones *H. Lyle Jones*
RE: REQUESTED INFORMATION

I wish to respond in general to your questions about the Academic High School League. In my opinion we certainly do not need "another" organizational structure. We have enough fragmentation in Education. We need to keep things together.

The Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) policies and programs have been developed and maintained over the past several years. They are excellent and are working well. The Academic High school League needs to be part of the already functional MSHSL. Placing the academic programs and the athletic programs under one leadership, would help to develop balance. All these activities need to be coordinated so we do not continue to place undue pressures on our young people. We continue to schedule more and more activities for our students, thus it is crucial that the activities be coordinated to ensure proper balance.

To change public opinion about the importance of academics needs to start with our "kids." Kids need to know that their leaders are cooperating and that we have not separated academics and athletics. How we truly change public opinion about "Baseball, Apple Pie and Chevrolet", I am not sure. I feel we need to stay in the same camp and surround athletic activities with academic activities in an effort to keep it part of the "whole child."



Ken Nelson

District 62A
Southwest Minneapolis

Committees:

Crime and Family Law
Family Law Subcommittee
Education
Education Finance Division
Local and Urban Affairs
Metropolitan Affairs Subcommittee

Legislative Commission on Public Education



Minnesota House of Representatives

TO: Superintendents, Building Principals, Teachers
Students, Parents, Education Organization Leaders

FROM: Representative Ken Nelson, Chair *KN*
Academic High School League Task Force

DATE: September, 1986

RE: A Request for Information

The 1985 Legislature established a Task Force to make recommendations to the 1986 Legislature on the needs, potential structure, and program for a proposed Academic High School League. As per legislative direction, Task Force staff and membership has been organized by the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.

The 1986 Legislature extended the Task Force's life until December 31, 1986 to further clarify potential relationships between the existing High School League programs and the proposed academic league.

A tentative working definition for an Academic High School League is "a state-wide entity designed to coordinate the range of academic competition/cooperation and recognition activities."

We seek your comments and ideas in testimony during the October hearings, or please send written comments, if you are unable to attend. Testimony of students and parents is encouraged. Some of the potential issues, upon which we seek comments follow.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing State High School League? *no*
2. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation? The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation currently delivers in partnership with other organizations, fourteen programs, such as the Knowledge Bowl. *yes*
3. Should a consortium be developed as a policy setting Board, with delivery of programs through existing or new organizations? *yes*
4. What suggestions would you make to the organizations for structure and delivery of programs? *Be organized on 7 thru 9 10 thru 12 bases*

FUNCTIONS

5. What would you conceive to be the primary functions of a prospective statewide Academic League? Some suggestions have been policy, rule and regulation setting, program and activity coordinating body, and an information clearinghouse on programs, operation, and quality.

5
Areas suggested should meet desires of league operations

RELATED ISSUES

6. Which schools should be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League--all K-12, 7-12, or 9-12?
7. Should private schools be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League?
8. What is the best way for a proposed Minnesota Academic League to work closely with existing programs such as Knowledge Bowl, science competition, Spelling Bee, etc.? Should all activities be operated by a proposed League?
9. How should activities be delivered? (ECSU, Minnesota State High School League, MAEF, consortium, etc.)
10. How can we best strengthen the area of academic recognition and support?
11. What additional incentives for non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed?

6- 7- thru 9
10 thru 12

7 yes
etc Academic

8 yes
Function and Facilitate Schedule Concerns

9 Consortium
3) ECSU

10 Organization and Academic Support

11 Things that would lead to opportunities for growth for any student

To encourage input from throughout the State, a hearing will be held in your area on the issues. Hearings will be:

Mankato	Monday, October 6 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Franklin School (Auditorium) N. 2nd and Lafayette Street	Carol Ackerson Chair
Moorhead	Tuesday, October 7 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Town Site Center 810 4th Avenue South	Ben Trochlil Chair
Duluth	Tuesday, October 14 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Old Central High	Jean Olson Chair
St. Cloud	Thursday, October 23 - 5:00-7:00 p.m. Administration Office 628 Roosevelt Road	Ron Jandura Chair

The Task Force reported to the 1986 Legislature. Their recommendations include:

1. That a statewide policy body (Advisory Council) on academic competition and cooperation be established under the Minnesota State High School League, with membership from the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation and other organizations.
2. That this new entity place primary emphasis upon academic development.
3. Modification of the existing policy structure of the Minnesota State High School League to add representation from the proposed Advisory Council to the Board of Directors and the Representative Assembly.
4. That the Minnesota State High School League be sensitive to the existence and capabilities of existing programs and seek to work closely with them.

We welcome and need your input and those of your constituents. Should you desire further information, or wish to provide testimony during the hearing, please contact either Susan O'Brien at (612) 297-1875, or Todd Lefko at (612) 645-4944. A sign-up sheet will be available at the hearing for those wishing to provide testimony who have not made their intentions known beforehand.

KN/SO/sk

*Am opposed to involving the
high school league in any "Academic
League" Academic Standards that
present M.S.H.S.L. have much to be
desired.*

*S. Fickensen,
Dove City
Dove City.
Principal
High School
Minnesota
56243*



Minnesota House of Representatives

TO: Superintendents, Building Principals, Teachers
Students, Parents, Education Organization Leaders

FROM: Representative Ken Nelson, Chair *KN*
Academic High School League Task Force

DATE: September, 1986

RE: A Request for Information

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We seek your comments and ideas in testimony during the October hearings, or please send written comments, if you are unable to attend. Testimony of students and parents is encouraged. Some of the potential issues, upon which we seek comments follow.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing State High School League? *Yes*
2. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation? The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation currently delivers in partnership with other organizations, fourteen programs, such as the Knowledge Bowl. *Co-sponsor the type of relationships.*
3. Should a consortium be developed as a policy setting Board, with delivery of programs through existing or new organizations?
4. What suggestions would you make to the organizations for structure and delivery of programs? *Work w/ ECSU's or Area Units*

FUNCTIONS

5. What would you conceive to be the primary functions of a prospective statewide Academic League? Some suggestions have been policy, rule and regulation setting, program and activity coordinating body, and an information clearinghouse on programs, operation, and quality.

Selling representative standards and interpreting relative value of the measures

RELATED ISSUES

6. Which schools should be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League--all K-12, 7-12, or 9-12?

the unit of

7. Should private schools be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League?

Yes - need additional statistical support

8. What is the best way for a proposed Minnesota Academic League to work closely with existing programs such as Knowledge Bowl, science competition, Spelling Bee, etc? Should all activities be operated by a proposed League?

No - should be cooperatives, or co-sponsored

9. How should activities be delivered? (ECSU, Minnesota State High School League, MAEF, Consortium, etc.)

10. How can we best strengthen the area of academic recognition and support?

On accurate and regular reporting and analysis of performance

11. What additional incentives for non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed?

access to series or aid to expand cooperative projects

To encourage input from throughout the State, a hearing will be held in your area on the issues. Hearings will be:

Mankato **Monday, October 6 - 3:00-5:00 p.m.**
Franklin School (Auditorium)
N. 2nd and Lafayette Street

Carol Ackerson
Chair

Mike

Moorhead **Tuesday, October 7 - 3:00-5:00 p.m.**
Town Site Center
810 4th Avenue South

Ben Trochlil
Chair

Gaylord
JOHN E. FREDERICKSON
500 Court - P.O. Box 189
GAYLORD, MN - 56044

Duluth **Tuesday, October 14 - 3:00-5:00 p.m.**
Old Central High

Jean Olson
Chair

St. Cloud **Thursday, October 23 - 5:00-7:00 p.m.**
Administration Office
628 Roosevelt Road

Ron Jandura
Chair

SC



Independent School District 316

Coleraine, Minnesota 55722

September 11, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Representative Nelson:

Since I will be unable to attend the hearings on an Academic High School League, I am submitting my reactions on the enclosed copy of your memo. In summary, I wholeheartedly support an Academic High School League and hope the 1987 Legislature will pass implementing legislation regarding it.

Good luck with your efforts!

Sincerely,

Ronald Maertens Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

RM:Jc

Ken Nelson

District 62A
Southwest Minneapolis

Committees:

Crime and Family Law

Family Law Subcommittee

Education

Education Finance Division

Local and Urban Affairs

Metropolitan Affairs Subcommittee

Legislative Commission on Public Education



Minnesota House of Representatives

TO: Superintendents, Building Principals, Teachers
Students, Parents, Education Organization Leaders

FROM: Representative Ken Nelson, Chair *KN*
Academic High School League Task Force

DATE: September, 1986

RE: A Request for Information

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We seek your comments and ideas in testimony during the October hearings, or please send written comments, if you are unable to attend. Testimony of students and parents is encouraged. Some of the potential issues, upon which we seek comments follow.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

1. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing State High School League? — *no*
2. Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation? The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation currently delivers in partnership with other organizations, fourteen programs, such as the Knowledge Bowl. — *yes*
3. Should a consortium be developed as a policy setting Board, with delivery of programs through existing or new organizations? — *no*
4. What suggestions would you make to the organizations for structure and delivery of programs? — *see "related issues"*

FUNCTIONS

5. What would you conceive to be the primary functions of a prospective statewide Academic League? Some suggestions have been policy, rule and regulation setting, program and activity coordinating body, and an information clearinghouse on programs, operation, and quality. } *yes*

RELATED ISSUES

6. Which schools should be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League--all K-12, 7-12, or 9-12? *K-12*
7. Should private schools be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League? *no*
8. What is the best way for a proposed Minnesota Academic League to work closely with existing programs such as Knowledge Bowl, science competition, Spelling Bee, etc? Should all activities be operated by a proposed League? *yes*
9. How should activities be delivered? (ECSU, Minnesota State High School League, MAEF, consortium, etc.) *ECSU and/or MAEF*
10. How can we best strengthen the area of academic recognition and support? *provide many activities and publicize results*
11. What additional incentives for non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed? *academic* *letter*

To encourage input from throughout the State, a hearing will be held in your area on the issues. Hearings will be:

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Moorhead	Tuesday, October 7 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Town Site Center 810 4th Avenue South	Ben Trochlil Chair
Duluth <i>MAEA</i>	Tuesday, October 14 - 3:00-5:00 p.m. Old Central High	Jean Olson Chair
St. Cloud	Thursday, October 23 - 5:00-7:00 p.m. Administration Office 628 Roosevelt Road	Ron Jandura Chair

Rush City Area Schools

Tim Eklund
High School Principal

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 139

Rush City, Minnesota 55069
Jon McBroom, Superintendent

Mrs. Martha W. Ward
Elementary Principal

September 12, 1986

Representative Ken Nelson, Chair
Academic High School League Task Force
317 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Please accept the following information as comment to the academic high school league task force. I believe that some sort of competition on the academic level should be available to the school districts in the state of Minnesota. I would support the development of the activity. We have a number of related opportunities available now that are working reasonable well, but, I think, further competition could be made available.

My first concern is that we need a single voice directing these activities. Too often there are so many different committees and persons responsible for dealing with activities it puts a great deal of stress upon the school district to keep up with everything. One voice, one organization, one structure, would in my opinion be more advantageous to school districts in trying to participate in these activities. The communication question alone is important. I would think that the present high school league could provide a structure for academic competition. My concern is that the league presently is very busy doing the things it is already doing with drama, speech, athletics, music, etc. If more program is expected of them, someone is going to have to pay for that because they are going to have to enlarge their staff and their structure. I don't believe we can expect the athletic ticket sales from state tournaments to carry the load. Someone is going to have to pay to have this sort of an increased competitive level.

82/

HEARING MINUTES

APPENDIX C

21

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE HEARING
October 6, 1986
Franklin School Auditorium
Mankato, MN

Carol Ackerson called the hearing to order at 3:00 p.m. A review of the Academic Excellence Task Force was given. The guidelines and recommendations made by this group were listed.

The hearing was open for testimony.

Daniel Coughlan, representing Loyola School, felt that the athletic should be separated from the academic. Private schools should be included in the Academic Excellence League. His personal experience related that academic competitions are very beneficial for those students who are not involved.

Dee Steele, St. Peter, stressed the importance of academic competitions as a teacher and a coach of academic competitions for 12 years. In representing the principals from her school, basic guidelines should be established for athletic and academic competitions. The main structure is already in place through the Athletic High School League and was felt there was no need to duplicate the service. Schools should be kept in classes so that schools of comparable size compete with each other. As a coach, equal status should be given to academic competitions to promote a team effort rather than on an individual basis. If a fee were established, this might be too much of a burden for schools. These competitions promote creativity. Being recognized is great for students. Letters and jackets can also be earned.

Ralph Miller, Fairmont, supports an academic league to include the athletic league. The athletic structure has served well in the past. To separate them would create conflicts in dates, funding, etc. in the schools. Academic individuals could receive necessary attention by the legislature creating guidelines and funding along with these guidelines.

John Rath, Luverne, was interested in what the High School League's reaction is to accommodating the academic league? If this is done, will it take away programs? Also, the facilitation of the athletic league handling the academic league will take a great deal of time.

Gene Lindahl, Morristown, expressed that the Math League just learned about the incorporating of the academic league with the athletic league. The Math League receives funding from private corporation and in the future may have to charge the schools that are involved.

Michael Menzel, Knowledge Kwest, Inc., suggested that a governing unit is needed; but the competitions be run separately. The State High School League should consider that this provides knowledge, creativity, and team work. It must be promoted. Rules and guidelines are needed.

0-1

Tony Talanczyk, Montgomery school board member, feels that the academic league should be separate from the athletic league.

Don Ostrum, St. Peter, questioned whether the State High School League rules could be used for the academic league? Could there be lack of interest on the part of the State High School League? It was reported that the State High School League does accommodate the fine arts very well and that they do have separate rules. It has been a positive experience. The fine arts are also allowed to go on to national competition.

Sr. Diane Scholten, Academy for Holy Angels, would like the private schools to be included and that the size of school be considered in competition.

John Barnett, Mankato West High School, spoke that the Academic Decathlon championship has done great things for their school district. He felt that eligibility requirements and the use of private funding should be carefully considered. A clearinghouse or controlling body is needed. All students should be eligible. Schools do not pressure exerted from private foundations due to funding source. This might effect the quality.

Harry Stock, New Ulm Principal, opposes the merging of the academic and athletic league. K-12 should be included.

Chuck Handlon, Montgomery-Lonsdale, wants to do what is best for the majority of the students and that all students should be eligible to be involved.

Martin Wiltgen, Mankato West School, cautions against the unfair advantage due to private funding. Also, the timelines should not be so rigid to conflict with national competition. Participation should not be limited because of rigid rules.

Dick Hanson, Waseca, supports academic competition. There is a need for an organization to manage. He also supports the State High School League and feels that a clearinghouse is needed.

Jon Falgren, Austin, suggested that if seasons were used this would give students more opportunity to participate in several activities. Should practice time be limited? K-12 should be included.

Dee Steele, St. Peter, felt that rules should be flexible to meet national competition rules. It should start in elementary school so that creativity and learning can be started.

John Fredericksen, Gaylord, supports strongly incorporating leagues.

Mark Piepho, state representative, supports more emphasis being placed on academics in schools.

Susan O'Brien discussed the background of the Academic High School League.

It was established by the legislature in 1983 for grades K-12 to promote excellence. Grants were given to academic competition. The Academic High School League is in charge of the task force and setting up hearings. They funded the Governors Scholar Program and put out the 101 Ways to Academic Excellence book.

The results of the hearings will be submitted to the task force by November 15, 1986. They will make recommendations to the Academic Excellence Foundation by December 10, 1986, that will be taken to the legislature in February or March.

Skip Peders, Minnesota State High School League, reported that there are six fine arts programs included in the Minnesota State High School League. Revenue to operate the league is collected from state tournaments.

Carol Ackerson, moderator, encouraged all to contact their legislators on the issue of the Academic High School League.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE HEARING

October 6, 1986

Mankato, MN

C-4

1. Robert Fossum	Henderson
2. Michael Menzel	Knowledge Kwest, Inc.
3. Janet Baker	Chaska
4. Chuck Achten	Chaska
5. Skip Peters	Minnesota State High School League
6. Polly Reikowski	Apple Valley
7. Elizabeth Splitzer	Mayer Lutheran
8. Katy Hallberg	Prior Lake
9. Dale Brandsay	Bricelyn
10. Ed Jones	Delavan
11. Rich Lorenz	New Richland-Hartland
12. Bob Key	Sleepy Eye
13. Jon Falgren	Austin
14. Tony Talanczyk	Montgomery
15. Harvey Kane	Montgomery-Lonsdale
16. Dan Couglan	Loyola, Mankato
17. Florence Ostrom	St. Peter
18. Don Ostrom	St. Peter
19. Dee Steele	St. Peter
20. Marge Carlson	St. Peter
21. Diane Scholten	A.H.A., Minneapolis
22. Ken Nichols	Lakeville
23. Clint Peterson	Tracy
24. John Muturex	So. St. Paul
25. Pete Veldman	So. St. Paul
26. Michael Kuntz	Jackson
27. Ralph Miller	Fairmont
28. Gene Lindahl	Morristown
29. John Oys	Morristown
30. John Rath	Luverne
31. Barb Golle	Luverne
32. Ken Ogi	Pipestone
33. Verle Conner	Pipestone
34. Martin Wiltgen	Mankato
35. Chuck Handlon	Montgomery-Lonsdale
36. Kathryn Folland	Madelia
37. John Barnett	Mankato West
38. Gordon Hakes	Mankato West
39. J. Rea Schwendinger	Mankato
40. Laura James	St. Clair
41. Dick Hansen	Waseca
42. Bob Nelson	Mankato
43. Harry Stock	New Ulm
44. John E. Fredericksen	Gaylord
45. Mark Piepho	Mankato
46. Diane Jewison	Mankato Loyola

1-6

Hearing on Academic School League - Moorhead
Minutes
October 7, 1986 (3:00 - 5:00 p.m.)

1. The meeting was attended by 39 area people, including parents, teachers, administrators, and legislators.
2. Bennett Trochil, Superintendent, and Member of Academic School League Task Force, called the meeting to order.
3. Susan O'Brien, Executive Director, Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, previewed the agenda.
4. Todd Lefko, consultant with the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, reviewed:
 - 4.1 background of the proposal made by the Task Force to clarify potential relationships between the existing High School League programs and the proposed Academic League
 - 4.2 structure, content and governance issue
 - 4.3 functions of the prospective statewide Academic League
5. Comments and ideas were presented by several people in attendance on the following issues (tape is available):
 - 5.1 Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing State High School League?
 - 5.2 Should a proposed Minnesota Academic League be included as a unit within the existing Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation?
 - 5.3 Should a consortium be developed as a policy setting Board, with delivery of programs through existing or new organizations?
 - 5.4 What suggestions would you make to the organizations for structure and delivery of programs?
 - 5.5 Which schools should be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League--all K-12, 7-12, or 9-12?
 - 5.6 Should private schools be included in a proposed Minnesota Academic League?
 - 5.7 What is the best way for a proposed Minnesota Academic League to work closely with existing programs?
 - 5.8 How should activities be delivered?
 - 5.9 How can we best strengthen the area of academic recognition and support?
 - 5.10 What additional incentives for non-competitive, cooperative contests, events and recognition programs can be developed?
6. Dave Stead, Associate Director of the Minnesota State High School League, explained the position of the League and their willingness to cooperate with the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.
7. The consensus of the audience indicated support of the proposed Academic League.
8. The Task Force will make recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature by the end of December.

Recorder: Ruth Geraghty

78-6-31

Robert Sauer

[Handwritten signature]

ORGANIZATION

PARENT

WISV - MUSIC

WISV 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF

WISV 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF

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WISV 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF

NAME
D.L. STELZER
Bar Taffelberg
JON CARLSON
Mary Campbell
John Campbell
Dr. Graham Scherer
Amy Ann Nelson
T.C. Richardson
Larry Byrnes
Paul Jensen, 617

ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE HEARING *

October 14, 1986

Old Central High School, Duluth, Minnesota

Jean Olson called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M. Susan O'Brien, Executive Director of Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation, gave an overview of the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation and its role in promoting academic excellence. Jean Olson reviewed the background of the Academic Excellence Task Force and the recommendations it made to the 1986 Legislature. The hearing was opened for testimony.

Judy Byce - representing the QWL group at Central High:

- Believes academic recognition needed;
- Is concerned about comparison of three high schools;
- Feels there is a need for activities that bring kids together;
- Feels there is too much pressure already on high-achieving kids;
- Believes that for many students, competition is not a value taught at home.

Warren Bender - representing East High School, Spanish teacher, Knowledge Bowl coach:

- Feels Minnesota State High School League support is not necessary;
- Feels season is too short;
- Believes E.C.S.U. has done a good job and should continue.

Roger Gordon - Principal, Washburn Elementary School:

- Believes M.S.H.S.L. is for athletics;
- Is in favor of consortia such as:
 - Art Coordinating Board
 - Professional educational groups (i.e. Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association)
 - Private Partnership
 - State Agency
 - Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation

Len Sargent - North East E.C.S.U. Director

- E.C.S.U. does manage some programs; i.e., Knowledge Bowl, Spelling Bee.
- Feels E.C.S.U. doesn't have the capability to deliver all academic programs.

(cont'd.)

(Len Sargent - cont'd.)

- Would like to continue delivering programs they are now delivering;
- Feels the academic high school league should be local or regional.

Roy Schuman - representing Duluth East, math teacher and math team coach:

- Feels the 130 schools and 17 divisions are an administrative nightmare;
- Is against the M.S.H.S.L.;
- Wants to send a team to the east coast for national competition ;
- Feels athletics and academics go hand-in-hand;
- Is against schools or teachers being measured.

John McKee - Principal, Duluth Cathedral:

- Has promoted math team, Knowledge Bowl and feels "what we have works."
- Is in favor of private schools being included, if re-structured.

Dick Wallin - Director of Secondary Education, Duluth:

- Feels athletics is extra-curricular;
- Wonders if Academic League would cut kids out of competition;
- Concerned we might perpetuate win/lose concept;
- Questions whether we should be judging one school against another;
- Feels rules of M.S.H.S.L. are cumbersome.
- Questions raised:
 - How will League support school effectiveness concept?
 - Do we want to put resources into win/lose?
 - Will it develop and reinforce skills adaptable for 21st Century?
 - How will critical thinking skills be affected?
 - Who will be coaches?
 - Where will funds for supplies, travel, etc. come from: Local?...State?
- Would like academic excellence recognized at the district and regional levels with private help.

Ed Beckers - representing Chilsolm, Knowledge Bowl coach:

- Started with Knowledge Bowl last year;
- Feels enthusiasm of kids is great...would hate to see it cut by a large organization;
- Against many rules;
- In favor of status quo;
- Feels M.S.H.S.L. not needed at this time.

Susan Karp - representing Cloquet, Gifted Ed. Coordinator, Coach of Odyssey of the Mind, Future Problem Solving, Spelling Bee, Knowledge Bowl:

- Questions raised regarding:
 - conflicting dates of events;
 - some sponsored by private funds;
 - school size not considered;
 - basis on which scholarships offered;
 - national competition;
 - funding for travel expenses;
 - possibility of volunteer coaches (unpaid);
 - process of recruitment of kids.
- Is in favor of E.C.S.U.

Gordon Kline - Principal, Two Harbors

- Wants Academic League run by separate organization;
- Feels M.S.H.S.L. has enough responsibility;
- Feels Academic League should evolve;
- Would like to see European Model used; i.e. academics is focus of the schools.

Orv Bies - Executive Director, M.S.H.S.L.

- Gave an overview of the League;
- Stated that the League doesn't covet academic competition but will take it on if member schools so desire.

* A complete tape of the Hearing is available at the Foundation office, 751 Capitol Square Building, 550 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101. Phone: 612/297-1875.

10/31/86

Duluth, Oct 14, 1986

Name

Lita Varter

Ed L. Becker

Judy Byr

Gordon Klein

Chris Tward

Sandy Block

Warren Becker

Ray Zorn

Ron Schuy

Mary F. Jordan

Karen Jordan

Monica Kutach - Sargent

Janie K. Olson

Susan Karp

Pat Carey

June Ransom

Dick Wallin

Loy Schuman

John McKee

Jon Jonsson

Fred Gustafson

Al Murray

Organization

Food Scholastic Organs - Theholm
Knowledge Bowl - Chisholm
Central H. S.

Two Harbors H.S.

St. Lawrence H.S.

ISD 381

ISD #709 - Knowledge Bowl

ISD 709

Duluth Schools

ISD 709 - Ordean Jr.

Washburn Elem

ISD 706

ISD 709

ISD 94

Morse Lake H.S.

ISD #709 (Duluth)

ISD #709 - DIRECTOR

ISD #709 - teacher

Duluth Cathedral School

ISD 709 Principal

ISD 709 Art Curriculum

ISD 709 - Social Studies
specialist.

PLEASE SIGN BELOW IF YOU WISH TO TESTIFY

Michael Oct, 14, 1982

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Judy Byr
1000 8th Street, N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Gregory Boudier have to leave by 4 pm
Ken Sargent
NE/CSSA

Ken Sargent
1000 8th Street, N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Dick Loebl #709-150

Ed Peters
1000 8th Street, N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87102
Susan Karp
1000 8th Street, N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Al K. DeHoe
1000 8th Street, N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87102
SS715

ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE HEARING

District Administration Building
District 742 Community Schools
St. Cloud, Minnesota

October 23, 1986
5:00 p.m.

- Ron Jandura We're going to try to get started now if you wouldn't mind. I'd like to first of all thank you for coming and welcome you to St. Cloud. I'm Ron Jandura, I'm Superintendent here. Again, I'd like to extend a welcome - feel free to help yourself to coffee. I'd like to first of all take care of a few introductions and then we'll get on with the hearing. Senator Pehler has been gracious enough to join us for the afternoon and I suspect will be here for a few questions and answers. Todd, would you like to introduce yourself?
- Todd Lefko I'm Todd Lefko, and I'm the consultant for the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation working on this project.
- Susan O'Brien I'm Susan O'Brien, the Executive Director of the Academic Excellence Foundation.
- Jim Pehler I'm Jim Pehler and I serve as a Board Member of the Academic Excellence Foundation. It's nice to be able to come into a home meeting for a change.
- Ron Jandura In the way of background - this group has been meeting for the past approximately 12 months examining the question as to whether or not there should be a State organization to coordinate the wide variety of academic competitions that seem to be emerging throughout the State. The discussions have been lively. A number of options have been identified. I think to the credit of people testifying, we have representative balance between competition and cooperation. We're talking competition, that I think would be termed healthy competition, and I think the spirit is there that if competition brings out the best in people, academic competition could do the same and should be encouraged and coordinated. Many local districts have taken steps to establish positions to help coordinate academic competitions and the question remains, "should this happen on an organized basis, state-wide and, of so, what options should be considered and what options have merit and practicality." What I'd like to do is ask those of you who wish to testify to step up to the front table, there are two chairs, and hopefully, we can have a person testify and then when that person's completed, the next person on the list would be ready to go. We're not going to restrict ourself to time unless it becomes

In response to No. 5 -- I agree with all the primary functions that you've listed. It would be very important that the quality of the programs be maintained, but also allow for a large number of students to feel success.

In response to question no. 6 -- We definitely support a K-12 program.

No. 7 -- Yes, we would feel that private schools could be included, but we would also want them to share proportionately in whatever costs were incurred.

No. 8 -- We'd like it to serve as a clearinghouse for existing programs, solicit new programs from local, state, and private sectors, avoid the watering down concept that the League possibly could have some control over the program they would endorse.

No. 9 -- We support the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation with a consortium approach and certainly would not be in favor of the State High School League.

No. 10 -- Provide the opportunities to achieve and to be recognized. Recognize achievement at levels of ability whenever possible, including students in special education. Provide funding incentives when necessary.

No. 11 -- Recognition does not always have to be elaborate in nature. I refer again to some of the successes that I will leave with you involved with the Arts in Academic Awards. These are not heavy-duty, but they're something that lets kids feel good about themselves and it's something that can be incorporated in most any district.

I'd like to thank you very much for the time and I'll leave the documents with you.

Ron Jandura

Thank you. Would you please identify yourself also when you speak. We'll do a transcription of the tape and that way we'll know who the speaker was. John Janetta will be following Hank. Steve from Annandale would be next then.

Hank
Libbesmeyer

I'm Hank Libbesmeyer, High School Principal at New London-Spicer High School. I'm basing my comments on conversations with various people around the area in education. Also - my own personal feelings. First of all, I think the High School League is doing an excellent job in regulating and delivering contests and activities in the areas of athletics, music, drama, speech and music. However, I believe there are too many complexities and all the possible activities which could fall under the academic contest umbrella, and I'm not sure the High School League is flexible enough to manage

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has been suggested earlier. The High School League could work very well with the Academic Excellence Foundation and ECSU's and other delivery organizations. But, at least myself, personally, and also the schools within our athletic conference and District 19A feel that some sort of overall coordination umbrella is needed. We're coming from so many directions and its hard to keep up with what's going on. Quite frankly, we've noticed qualitative differences between programs we run ourselves and others that are on a more advanced level through the ECSU organization. As a specific example, and I don't mean to put anything down, just to make an observation, the Knowledge Bowl activities that we run within our own athletic conference were, I would typify them as knowledge or thinking bowls, creativity type of bowls, problem solving bowls. When our teams reached higher levels of competition, beyond their own athletic conference they found a little different philosophy. It was reported to me to be more like a Trivia Bowl or a Wheel of Fortune Bowl than Knowledge Bowl, and so some semblance of consistency of philosophy in delivery of these programs is what we'd be looking for. If this could be coordinated and facilitated through a coordinating branch of the High School League, so be it. Some sort of coordination is needed on a State-wide basis. For myself and the conference of District 19A, thank you.

Dr. Richard
Hart

I'm Dr. Richard Hart, I certainly appreciate the opportunity to be able to come forth and speak to you folks. As a practicing pediatrician in the community, I've taken a special interest in growth and development of children at both ends of the spectrum. I've had quite a bit of experience with the handicapped and the children with special needs. As a pediatrician, I have been quite impressed with several programs that have been enacted in the State of Minnesota directed toward children with special needs such as Chapter 1, Head Start, pre-school screening program, early childhood programs and, fairly recently, community based diagnostic clinics. Development of an Academic High School League as an organizational unit for coordination of existing programs and development of appropriate new academically stimulating programs should be applied. The program needs to be accomplished without disturbing the structure of the excellent existing programs. Development of new programs needs to stress problem solving and stimulation of high level thought processes. They should encourage team work and cooperative measures rather than competition. I do, however, see a problem with the proposed development. By the time children have reached high school, many of them who are truly creative or gifted children have already lost interest. Any enrichment program should, therefore, be started early in the child's academic life. Let us briefly look at the development of a gifted child who is not

A second point would be to emphasize cooperative efforts at the elementary level rather than competitive efforts. Introducing competitive efforts at the junior high level would be more appropriate along with continued cooperative effort.

Thirdly, a support program within the regular school program is needed to encourage students to take part in cooperative ventures or competitive contests as Dr. Hart has alluded to. All of a sudden we have a population of students who are underachievers and by junior high we have lost those students. We do have students who have personality makeups that exhibit high motivation and the drive to excel and do their best and this type of student is often the type of student who is recognized in competitive situations where the underachiever is likely to not even participate in this, so we're not tapping the potential, we are just rewarding the motivation of students. So all of these students must be encouraged and supported in their early years to develop and maintain high levels of interest and achievement. In formulating a menu of recognized state competitions and cooperative experiences, two things to consider are the programs that are selected to be placed in the menu. Are they developed first and then the search for the students completed? Or are the needs of the students considered first and then developing competitions and cooperative efforts based on their needs considered? Also selecting those programs which enable the highest amount of student participation is recommended. Some of those programs that were mentioned as worthwhile were the science fairs, inventors fairs, olympics of the mind, which are creativity contests, knowledge bowls, mathematics leagues, and future problem solving leagues. Programs selected by the league should be developmental and progress accordingly to the higher ability achievement at each grade level so that as each grade progresses they should become more complex and different and not all the same every year. There were some recommendations made that would encourage separation of the after school league activities and the general education programs offered during the regular school day. The question here was related to the additional responsibilities which are required of the teaching staff and the volunteers who are already trying to make changes and differences in their curriculum programs. There was a lot of feeling toward school districts addressing academic recognition through recognition of each student's abilities and potential and developing these to the highest level possible.

Some of the ideas they had for determining a vehicle through which cooperative and competitive programs could be promoted--they had some comments. They said that every child should have equal access to the

Jan Czech One problem is that sports get all the attention. Academic activities don't. No one really cares about that kind of stuff at our school.

Todd Lefko In your school, what would make the non-academic things get more attention.

Jan Czech Not much. We had two people go to state last year in academic areas and neither one of them were any more popular after they went to state even though they happened to be the only two who went to state from our school in athletic or academic things. It's kind of weird because our football team was 0 and 8 and they got more attention than the two people who went to state.

Todd Lefko What I would appreciate if you could give some thought because a lot of places there are things like athletic letters that go out to people who participate or honor rolls or special assemblies or banquets. There are a lot of things that are being done across the state. I would appreciate it if you could talk to some of your friends and just talk about this and then send us a note before November 1 to our office in St. Paul and we'd appreciate it if you would just give this some thought. Okay?

Jan Czech Okay.

Ryan Anderson My name is Ryan Anderson and I'm a seventh grader from Washington Middle School in Brainerd, Minnesota. I'm representing the Inventors Fair. I really enjoyed it because it gave me a really good challenge with a purpose and you could build whatever you wanted as long as it was really creative. I really liked it and I know that a lot of my friends liked it too.

Todd Lefko How many kids were involved?

Ryan Anderson Our whole sixth grade class.

Todd Lefko How did your teacher get everybody to want to participate?

Ryan Anderson It was in the announcements one day. She kept mentioning it day after day. When the day came everybody had something.

No. 5 -- Funding for these programs has never been an issue since the member districts support it through a fee or membership dues. Each ECSU has personnel that specifically deal with these areas. In our Central Minnesota ECSU, we have a Spelling Bee, Knowledge Bowl and Inventor's Fair coordinator who works directly and closely with our participating school districts.

No. 6 -- Participation in these academic contests is voluntary as is participating in speech, drama, and one-act play competition in school districts across the State. Program levels of service to participating districts in the ECSU's is not limited or different from one region to another. If a member district participates, it receives coordinating and technical assistance just simply because it's involved in the program. Our ECSU serves close to 100 districts reaching 20-30,000 students in these competitions. All the ECSU's across the State serve equally as large numbers of students. We are not interested in becoming a governing or regulatory body or agency. That's not our mission. Our mission, though, is providing cost effective services to our member schools, their students, teachers, and administrators. We are a neutral agency serving all educators in all capacities. Let us continue to provide these services, whether it be under the umbrella of a Minnesota State High School League state-wide body or the MAEF. State-wide coordination, uniformity, and potential program activity will only enhance the ECSU's regional efforts in these areas. In fact the consortium of organizations, such as the PTA, the Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association, the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals, and the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation could make up an Academic High School League. In any case, we agree that a state-wide mechanism must be developed to enhance all students' educational experiences through improved processes of cooperation, competition, and recognition of academic progress and achievement. This would ensure a continuation of these worthwhile child-centered activities, strengthen the ones already in existence, and provide resources for possible state-wide programs such as Olympics of the Mind, and the Academic Decathlon. We believe that the ECSU's have done and are doing a good job in sponsoring and coordinating both academic competitions and recognition in their regions. The Central Minnesota ECSU would welcome and be willing to work with any consortium of organizations that constituted an Academic High School League. This would not only strengthen existing programs, but it would ensure future programs, visibility, funding, and recognition and achievement programs by students of all ability levels. Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

everybody in, because we were only allowed at that time to have two teams of five people, and we had 20 some people which constitutes half of one of our classes trying to get into that program. So I'd be welcome to any questions that you have.

Todd Lefko Kevin, what grade are you in now?

Kevin Boyles I'm a freshman at _____ Community College.

Todd Lefko You talked about the idea of the extra students that wanted to participate. Did anybody think about ways that you could use the same kind of concept within the school so that other people could participate too?

Kevin Boyles In our school, we developed sort of an intramural system. We had open practices in which anybody who wanted to come in and sit down behind a Knowledge Bowl tape and start shooting answers out was free to do so and a lot of times kids would see how it worked and a lot of times kids would just fade into the background when they decided they really didn't want to compete at something like that. Otherwise, we'd take a carload of observers to the meets with us and then since we were allowed an alternate, if anybody happened to really want to go to the meet, we'd take another one and rotate the alternates.

Todd Lefko What grade are you starting the programs in now?

Kevin Boyles In our school, the Knowledge Bowl is basically open to 10th through 12th graders, but as I understand it the ECSU's are beginning a junior high level Knowledge Bowl.

Todd Lefko Are you doing any other programs like this besides Knowledge Bowl in the schools?

Kevin Boyles In our particular school, we didn't. No. We had to pull teeth to get the School Board to do anything. They're an incredibly conservative group. In fact, I was the captain in Knowledge Bowl last year, and the other two seniors and I went on to throw out the Student Council and we started our own student government and we fought the School Board for three months to do that.

Todd Lefko The second year, did you get a lot more support from the School Board?

Kevin Boyles Yes, the School Board was real good. They would give us money to go eat, we'd get a lunch break at the meets, and they'd give us money, they'd pay for our transportation to go there and then, of course, ECSU funded all the activities that took place at the meets.

Todd Lefko If you were starting a program new and you were trying to get a School Board to become excited about something,

will come as the awareness of the community towards academic competition does. However, if the academic competition isn't under some strong leadership, and there's not equity and fairness in the competition itself, then there's going to be a lot of bitterness, a lot of bad taste in school people's mouth, and they're going to just jump ship on this. So I really feel that the High School League at the present time is the one who has fought through all the battles and the wars with fairness, fair play, equity, and they would be in the best position to assume this. If not, if some other new organization does take it on, they're going to have to go through a lot of the similar battles which the High School League has fought. Also, the jocks will be pointing back and forth with academic competition, the rules need to be the same for everyone also. Students are keenly aware of what rules that the students presently have under the High School League and these same rules I would think would have to go for academic competition and with one governing body, I think that would be present. So, I guess that in summation, I would just like to say that I hope that someone does take charge on this so that it can develop into a real viable organization.

Todd Lefko

We had a suggestion last week up in Moorhead. Somebody stood up and they talked about the idea that in certain contests small schools were at a disadvantage because you might have one or two extremely bright people but the question was that they got in competition with Fergus Falls and Fergus Falls had a large number of extremely bright kids. We got into a discussion about relationship of knowledge and recall activities as opposed to creativity activities. They talked about the idea of a two tier system or two league system. Do you feel like Annandale or some of the other smaller schools are at a disadvantage.

Steve Nicklaus

Right. The school that I was at prior to coming to Annandale--we were at a disadvantage at times competing with bigger schools. Why? Because as this thing evolves into stronger and stronger groups they are going to have to compete at night. You can no longer have students continually running out of school during the school day to go to academic competition. It will have to compete in the evening, just as the athletics do. As a result, the smaller schools will have to make some decisions. There is not time for students to do it all. The larger schools, I do think, are going to have an advantage and a larger pool to draw from. Right now as the competition is done during the school day, I think it is fairly equitable. With competition during the school day - why it is done that way now is because a lot of schools want to get into this. It doesn't have a dignity yet that it needs. As a result of getting into this, there is a salary schedule for all of your

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Susan O'Brien So at the invitational level you say questions too should be provided.

Steve Nicklaus They should be.

Ron Jandura Thanks Steve. The next two presenters are Ed Johnson, who I think is out recruiting top math students so be careful, Steve, and Cheryl.

Ed Johnson My name is Ed Johnson, I'm Assistant Principal at Tech High School in St. Cloud. I'm also State Coordinator of the Student Council Association that is sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals. I was not prepared or did not have the potential issue sheet in front of me to tell you what I thought in various forms here. However, I wrote a letter to Phil Tenney after a telephone conversation and Phil Tenney is the Executive Director of the Principal's Association for the State of Minnesota. I was real concerned because of the fact that for 30 years we have had a student council organization that has been sponsored by the principals. Now we have the honor society that is sponsored by the principals. I've just felt that all of a sudden we were going to have some academic competition now and that was going to be with a different group. We were going to have the State High School League regulating part of it, and here again an organization that has been active for 30 years is left out in the cold. It appears to me that student councils and honor societies are as much a part of any academic program in the State of Minnesota as anything else we are going to create. I, for one, feel that we over the years have not gotten our due. Therefore, I wrote a letter to Phil. I'll share with you portions of that and I have to say that I'll put the paper away from me a little bit, I forgot my glasses.

This letter was to Phil Tenney, September 26, 1986:

Dear Phil: As you recall I telephoned you on September 23 to find out the position the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals was taking on the issue of academic competition placement within the State High School League. It was my intention to find out from you whether the Principal's Association was going to support the Minnesota State High School League being assigned academic competition. During the course of our conversation you asked that I put into writing my concerns relative to the final placement of such an outstanding student activity for high school students. First, I have some real concerns with the Minnesota State High School League being responsible for academic competition. I believe the State High School League as it is now structured is geared toward athletic competition. I don't believe that music, drama, one-act play, band, or cheerleading are given the same priority. At the present time, we have an eligibility form that

standards that the State High School League would have or the Excellence Foundation.

Basically, I guess what I'm doing is throwing out some other issues for you to think about and when you put it in there you do have some organizations that are out there at the present time that are still left out in the cold or will continue to be with one sponsoring group, and also to let you think about whether the band and the orchestra and those things should be with the State High School League or, in fact, with a new organization if you intend to have one.

Todd Lefko

The Task Force had extremely strong representation from MASSP in terms of McMiller and Don Carlson earlier who raised a number of these issues in an outstanding way and I think that part of the questions that we got into were the questions of structure and content both, and the relationship with existing programs too. I think that people recognize that MASSP which, frankly, is our co-sponsor for the Governor's scholar and have done a number of things very well with us, has provided a lot of . . . The question starts to come up and this is something that we worked through and discussed and I'm not sure we came to a brilliant resolution on it, was that you have a number of outstanding programs, how do you insure creativity and participation from as wide a scale as possible, not to be exclusive but really to try and encourage as many people to come in and bring in their own special creativity and drive to it, and the kinds of things you've done with the Student Councils, I think, were one of those issues that came up, and I think that's one of those things that the State Legislature . . . the reason we're here today was basically because of Jim Pehler and a couple of others who said there are so many other things that have to be resolved like the questions you've raised that this needs further study and we have to go another 6 months and it's on his letter that we're doing these state-wide sessions. So you've raised a number of basic points.

Ed Johnson

I believe Mr. Tenney would be open to more discussion on that because he told me to come to this meeting and express . . .

Ron Jandura

Thanks Ed.

Susan O'Brien

Can I ask one more question? Could you see that principals remaining involved and the sponsorship organization just as the ECSU's could maintain the . . . of their activities coming under the umbrella of an organization such as the High School League that has, is representing different kinds of groups. Can we pull together these various groups within that.

Ed Johnson

I see no reason why it can't happen, but I believe then that the same emphasis has to be given for that as

I've encouraged most of these academic competitions in our school. Raymond is a school that probably averages about 25 students per grade and Clara City probably 30-35. We're not big schools, but it's been something that some of our students have finally gotten to participate in when athletics originally was really the only choice that they had and I'm very happy to see most of the academic competition that's been promoted. I do seek a Minnesota Athletic League, because I think we need a body to coordinate, possibly sanction, I would guess since school started, I have gotten 5 to 10 different academic type competitions whether it be trial competition, you know what I mean. I'm beginning to wonder if every company or every group of teachers hasn't started some sort of competition, so I'm wondering if we eventually have to sanction some of these and regulate them. Too much of a good thing maybe is happening. I also find from experience working with what I have done that we certainly run into a lot of conflicts with activities, either athletics or music or drama, and in some cases, have been denied the right to participate because some of our students are in another competition such as athletics, so I would like to see something organized to prevent the duplication of activities at the same time if possible. I realize there is only so many given times, but I dislike seeing kids have to pick between athletics and academics in a small school. Like I said, too many activities may be coming. Are we exploiting some of our students? Are some of these companies, and I don't have any particular ones in mind, but are any of these companies who are financing these competitions in a private manner in any way exploiting our students, and are these companies benefiting in any way besides publicity on these competitions. Does World Book, for example, use our students in academic decathlon in any way to promote their product. I'm not saying it's bad or good, but look into it. I guess I have more questions than answers for you. I would encourage an academic league because I think if we have too many organizations handling all of this, we certainly have a duplication of work. Could one organization efficiently run a number of competitions because they know how to do it? And I also encourage an academic league because I think we need to set state-wide standards and policies such as what are levels of competition, do we need regulations to determine eligibility such as smoking, drinking, etc. Maybe a state-wide organization could set that. I seek a separate Minnesota Academic League. I feel that adding this to the current High School League would be giving academics a second place at this time. I seek a separate Minnesota High School League. I also do so because I feel that some regulated and sanctioned private fund raising may be necessary for some of our academic competitions. If this is not allowed, such as World Book or our rural Knowledge Bowl, or some

of the difficulties comes in terms of a) the burnout factors, b) the idea of the amount of time, and c) the question of how to encourage other types, other teachers to gain participation and relationships within these. We try to think about, especially in small schools, where you may only have one person for the whole district whose doing these things, how would you suggest sort of fighting the burnout factor and increasing the number of, how would you . . .

Cheryl Retrum

I'd like to see a little bit more money in the system to pay me for what I do. Some teachers who coach Knowledge Bowl spend a great deal of time, their own time without pay, for doing that, and they can look at the coach who takes the basketball team for 2 hours after school getting paid to do it, and they're putting in 2 hours of time and not getting paid in most schools, at least in the ones I know of, they're not getting paid, so perhaps that, seeing the value of it. I think you look at competitions in what subject area they go to, like current events is a social studies type of thing. Citizens' Bee is a social studies type of thing. Knowledge Bowl takes all areas, of course. But the math people do the math competitions. The English teachers do some of the writing contests or spelling bees. I think in our school, for the number of things we do. Another teacher does help me with Knowledge Bowl. Another teacher helps me with the current events. I'm not in charge of decathalon. I just help with the social studies preparation of it. I suppose we do Citizen's Bee, being that's mostly social studies, I'll get more involved with that. I don't see it too badly, because obviously I couldn't coach a math team. I wouldn't do good at it. I think if you're going to have a math team, you'll have a math teacher.

Ron Jandura

Thank you. Ellen Siewart and then Joe Farry.

Ellen Siewart

I'm Ellen Siewart. I'm in a school even smaller than Raymond. We usually graduate between 25 and 30. We've got a couple classes coming up that are super tiny, but a couple of years ago, we had Knowledge Bowl teams that went to State and finished 6th and 5th and 4th and such, and so we can do well. The small school does have an opportunity in a competition like this to do well. I don't see the concern with "A" and "AA" competitions because I've watched it with schools this small. I have very few concerns here. I've just got a few things that I was thinking about on the way up and I must apologize since I missed the introduction, I may have missed explanations for some of these things, so feel free and cut in and tell me that that's already been decided.

I believe music and speech, since I'm a speech coach, function with the same State High School League rules. If I have one of my students caught smoking, they do not

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students and a method for encouraging greater participation by teachers, administrators and the public. I would just like to ask some broader philosophical questions and offer some reflections. It is suggested here that interscholastic competition, the introduction of competition will be this vehicle. My first observation is looking at it from the standpoint of children, and I've had three children in the local St. Cloud High Schools, one graduated in 1981 and 1983 and one is there now, so I have some perspective on this. Competition, it seems to me, is a function of personality, not a creativity. If we're trying to get to the creative student, and I would suggest particularly in the larger high schools, is competition the way to really attract them? 2) Competition, particularly interscholastic competition, very quickly becomes competition among institutions in which teams, groups replace individuals as the focus. Not only do we change the focus from the individual to groups, we become concerned about rules, rules of eligibility, fair play, and all of that. What happens to the individual? And yet, it may be, given where we are right now, that interscholastic competition is the only way to make a break-through in terms of educating all of our students with all of their talents. If that's the case, then the next question is the models for organizing that competition. As I say, I know nothing about the existing structures, just some general observations. Athletics may be the best model we have because athletics has proved to be the one area where we've been able to provide personalized training rewarding those with best ability, offering in effect elite education. We hire coaches, we provide transportation, we say the best athlete should get the best assistant from the school district. That sounds enticing on one side. It also is a delivery system where we reward coaches, or teachers, we have ways of providing for transportation and support and we have ways of organizing things. So the attractiveness there I can understand, but let's look at the negative side. Interscholastic athletics has killed intramurals. If you're not good enough to make the team, why keep playing. It seems to me that one of the dangers of stressing this as the model is that those who aren't able to make Knowledge Bowl or whatever team were developing, what happens to them, and we're aimed here at trying to get at everyone, I would hope. And so while I can understand the motivation for using this, and I would recognize the practicality of it, I would also suggest the difficulty. Another program I'm familiar with is the music programs where we provide music education for everyone, but only those with real ability try out for all-state band or all-state choir, but that doesn't mean that if I can't make all-state choir, I still can't play my trombone for 3 years. Therefore, I come not necessarily with any answers, but questions as a parent, and wondering if we

elements in them, and I think the thing that we hoped was that could you establish a structure that would try and ensure emphasis upon the sets of models, not just competition, but would really try to be creative and push in those areas that would start to see it going throughout the curriculum and seen as an individual relationship that might come out, and there are certain benefits in team aspects that could utilize these things, and if there's a part I think that we need for the development on that, that is obviously the area, and no state has really developed a marvelous model yet on this.

Joe Farry

Perhaps the issue I see, the unintended consequence of this model is that the key person in all of this is still the teacher, and when you designate teachers and give them release time or some kind of reward system which is the model of the high school football coach, you're not taking over the Knowledge Bowl team. I'm wondering if that's really the way you want your best teachers to devote their energies. Because you develop award systems that say if you do this, you can get a class off.

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We don't take classes off.

Joe Farry

If I were a teacher, and it was raised earlier by one of the teachers and if the football coach gets time off, why don't I. If we're going to build this up into a major concern and the local papers are going to be covering the Knowledge Bowl and they're going to be lamenting, we just lost 5 in a row, the School Boards are going to start saying, we've got to do something about this, and if I were a teacher and I'd teach at a different level than this level, but I'm smart enough to know that if you can always associate yourself with the football coach, you're doing all right in terms of trying to get leverage, and so I'm wondering do you want to have that as a reward system.

Todd Lefko

I guess the question becomes the incentive system all the way through. You know, it's not just for, is there a win-win basically for the school district, as such, the school board recognize the idea of the administration, the teachers, the support staff and the students. Can you build something which is reinforcing which has the feedback groups all the way through. There was one suggestion one time that if you're a successful Knowledge Bowl coach long enough, then you can become football coach.

Ron Jandura

Thank you very much. John Janotta . . .

John Janotta

My name is John Janotta and I'm the High School Principal at Paynesville and the comments that I'm bringing up are basically my own feelings and thoughts

through MASSP. It would be so much clearer vision of what is going on if it was done through the league because most activities administrators deal with the league and we are familiar with that. To bring in all these other things to complicate--this is the way they do it and this is the way they do it, etc. I have to thoroughly try to understand what is going on and it has been a very difficult process. I have a very personal bias against calling things non-athletic activities. It just makes me ill. Speech, drama, spelling bee, citizens bee, I don't care what you call it. They are not non-athletic activities. That immediately puts athletic activities up here and everything else is secondary underneath. I think they ought to be recognized as student activities and sports activities. Something has to be done with the jargon or language so that we get a clear picture that things are not non-athletic, they are a viable activity that deserves the recognition of sports. They just aren't the same thing but they deserve the same recognition and awards that sports. I don't think that the league gives secondary priority to speech, drama, music, and one-act play. I think it is done by the individual school districts. If you look at the amount of money given to the individual school districts toward those programs it is very inferior. The administration of those programs is sort of done on whoever wants to do it and nobody oversees them. By the time you get up to the league, the league is trying to understand what is going on there too. They don't understand because nobody at the school district level knows what is going on. I don't think it is a lack of priority. I sit on the Fine Arts Council of the Minnesota High School League and it is not those people who lack the priority to make those things secondary, it comes right down to the local school boards and what precedent or importance they give to those activities and I think that you have to be careful with academic competition on how much the school district is going to support that also. We have a debate within our school, I think I have a debate with my principal, about where does all of this academic competition fit in. He says it comes in after school, and I said well what about the person that is out for Yearbook or the person that is out for a sport. How can they come to Knowledge Bowl practice when they are in something else. Well, they just have to kind of fit it in or have some different students. I guess if it is academic competition I think we should adapt something either along the gifted program line or something like the revolving door where students would be selected and they would have enough time during the school day where they would prepare for some of these competitions and possibly, Monday nights would be reserved for evening competitions so that they wouldn't conflict with sports activities or church on Wednesday nights. Personally I have problems with the Science Fair and the National Honor Society things because I don't have a clear vision

risk takers. If they haven't tried it when they are younger, they don't by the time they are in high school. Focus on academic excellence that we reward some kind of academic development is really important. We do need help to have that focus and we need some coordination. I'm concerned about the access and that we insure access to all students whether it is geographic. I applaud your efforts tonight and other nights to go around the state. I know its easier to look at the metro if you're from the metro. I really applaud your coming to non-metro and a non-metro location to have one of your hearings. In terms of access, if you don't have it during the school day then you're depending upon parents that are able, or interested, or have extra time, or specific talents. I think both public and nonpublic schools ought to be considered and included equally in terms of that access. As I look at our more able learners, mentors and I look at the research, mentors have been vital and very important. So you need to have some kind of recruiting incentives for both teachers and community. Media can be really helpful there. I see the kind of recognition that they are able to give businesses that allow release time for some of their employees. I'm concerned about funding. If you wait for a local school district or a parent to be able to reimburse, then it is not accessible for all students. I'm glad to see that there is some importance being placed on academic areas and not just athletic. Maybe as you're suggesting we could call athletics non-academic. I have a suggestion in terms of being able to recognize that special recognition for all able learners--you can look at gains, look at their improvement, not just look at the top ten or top fifteen. Look at the gains students have made. You can also include special needs children. If we have an emphasis on creative problem solving, ask the kids to help us come up with that incentive. Choosing their letter or emblem or choose a way of giving them an incentive. I think it is really important that we look at emphasizing problem solving, creativity, and higher level thinking skills. That can and should be built into our regular curriculum--not just a creativity hour or so on. I think arriving at our communication skills--I'm just embarrassed that we talk about just doing speeches or a debate coach. Writing and communication is so vital to our current society and that can be built into any and all content areas. The competition, I'm real worried about and I guess that's how I'm concerned about joining the High School League. Cooperative verses the competitive--the competitive nature is one of my concerns. If you look at our delinquent or prison populations, etc. they are really some high ability, some high potential learners that have dropped out. I think you need to look at targeting--maybe not totally, but targeting some of that energy and time to recruiting underachieving students.

the delivery. ECSU's are not at all interested in the governance of these programs, even though we are in some cases forced to govern them. You can see in the testimony of Steve Nicklaus, the principal from Annandale, earlier that when school districts crossed over ECSU boundaries, they found unfair competition because one of the ECSU's had already asked the questions to one of the teams. The answer to that is to make sure that it is regulated. ECSU's have been doing that as much as possible but, of course, they haven't been allowed to control and we don't want to control those kinds of activities. I think the governing board should do that. We are in the business of delivery of educational products. That is what we do best, that is what we do full-time, that is what we are trained to do and we all have people who are ready and willing to do that. The High School League, of course, has districts that are set up that are run by administrators and even the MASSP and MASA follow those same district boundaries. The problem is that in our ECSU, for example, we have four different high school league districts everywhere from one school district in a district to twelve. Even twelve school systems in one district is not large enough to have a spelling bee, for example. It may be large enough for Knowledge Bowl, but I think in the long run a regional system would be better and you have a regional system in place in the State that is functioning quite well. The third big question, of course, is competition. Should these programs run and be based on competition? The answer to that is that we have two kinds of educational programs in the State--curricular and co-curricular, or whatever else you want to call them. Both have competition right now. One is overt and one is covert. The curricular programs, I think no one who has ever been in the classroom would deny that kids compete with one another. No more needs to be said on that. The co-curricular programs, I think competition is healthy. No one will deny also that co-curricular programs are set up based as football is, on the ability to train kids or teach kids for their future life in the world. By that I mean, you can talk to a coach and he'll say that football builds character. What they are really saying is that football prepares students for real life situations. Things such as taking orders, working with others, and getting up when you're knocked down and going back and doing your very best again. I think if we keep in mind that competition can and should be a part of a student's education, even though it is in an unreal situation, that we are preparing these students for what lies after the twelfth grade. Very few people would deny the need for that kind of competition and the desire for a very basic human need for that kind of activity. Thank you for your time.

Ron Jandura

Anyone else?

you can count on Sartell High School, I think, to cooperate with whatever model comes up. I think most schools would do that.

Ron Jandura

Any other comments?

Jack Weaver

My name is Jack Weaver. I teach at Rocori High School in Cold Spring. I didn't plan on testifying before the body but I just want to make a couple of comments. I heard a lot of people talk about their concern about competition and the competitive aspect, but I think that is a little bit overdone. Ultimately there is always going to be some competition. I think the over-riding thing we need look at is the good that is going to come to the student from participation. The reason I'm here tonight is that I'm going to get involved with the Minnesota Math League. We're starting a Central Minnesota division. I'm going to be the coach. I've coached athletics for a long time. I've not been so excited about something for a lot of years as I'm getting fired up about this Math League. I look at it as a way that students are going to develop problem solving techniques that they would never develop in a classroom. It's an opportunity for students and not just that super bright math student, but any kid who I can get involved in this program, I'm going to help him become a better problem solver. You can't put a price tag on that kind of thing. It's all in how people approach the problem. If I just said, boy, we're going to get the best eight kids in our schools and we're going to go out and whip everybody in mathematics. I think that is the wrong approach. I'm going to get as many kids in my school to participate in this thing and have better problem solvers. I think it is just how you approach it. You can have good competition and bad competition. It all depends on the people involved. I think the overwhelming majority of the people are going to be constructive.

Todd Lefko

I should mention that the results of the hearings are being tabulated and put in the form of a report. At the present time the Task Force will get together in Room 300 at the Humphrey Institute on Saturday, November 15, from 10:00 to 1:00. At that point, we will develop Task Force recommendations and send them to the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation which during December will make a determination and recommendations to the Legislature. It will go back to the education committees that requested further action and my suspicion, Jim, would probably February or March we'll start to see some sort of action coming out of the recommendations or coming out of this process. That is basically what is happening over the next five months in terms of the process.

Ron Jandura

With that, I would like to thank those of you who stayed. It's been a very informative evening and thank you.

MINNESOTA ACADEMIC HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE TASK FORCE

Minutes of Hearing
Thursday, October 30, 1986
4:00 P.M.
Room 112 - State Capitol Building

Members Present: Ken Nelson, Chair; Vivian Jenkins Nelsen, Dr. Ron Jandura; Dr. James Cole; Lynne Jorgenson; Orv Bies; Susan O'Brien, Executive Director, Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation; Todd Lefko, Consultant.

Chair Ken Nelson called the hearing to order at 4:00 P.M. Mr. Nelson presented background on the concept of an Academic High School League and the work of the Task Force. Vivian Jenkins Nelsen provided an overview of the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.

Amy Felice of the Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented testified that the Council sought a regionalized information base; did not want any unit providing heavy regulation and suggested that differing areas of the state might benefit from organizing programs in different ways. Vivian Jenkins Nelsen asked Ms. Felice how we can equitably distribute opportunities to all segments of the population. Ms. Felice replied that we need staff development to increase awareness of the needs of gifted students and that we must view the issues as not that of elitism, but of a continuum of opportunity for all. She felt we needed to develop a means through the system by which the students' best efforts could be rewarded.

Rep. Nelson suggested a model from his work with United Way where youth followed through on tasks, were taught citizenship skills and were measured against themselves. This resulted in recognition, achievement and a trust process beneficial to all.

Jayne Holmberg represented a consortium of recognition programs for the gifted and spoke of the sheer numbers of programs and the potential for an exclusionary aspect. She also stated a dislike of policy setting by

anybody and a fear of overregulation by others. Ms. Jenkins Nelsen asked her what to do with groups who have not valued competition as a cultural priority. Ms. Holmberg suggested that some program, such as Odyssey of the Mind, can be utilized as noncompetitive materials in both programs and classrooms.

Professor Wayne Roberts of Macalester College, St. Paul, described the growth of the Math League which is now in 155 schools. The Math League has been funded by private contributions. When Prof. Roberts approached the Minnesota State High School League, he was told to stay away because of national competition.

Jessica Wiley, Minnesota Educators of the Gifted and Talented, said that people wanted to continue their own groups. She also supported inclusion of elementary programs and asked if fees would be an issue with the Minnesota State High School League. She also wanted to ensure that students didn't lose their enthusiasm for computer-related programs.

Paul Anderson, director of the Future Problem Solving Program, asked how we can utilize networks in existence to accomplish our purpose. He felt there was no one panacea program for all participants. He also suggested that everyone who finishes Future Problem Solving is a winner.

G. David Knutson, Principal at Robbinsdale and representing Lake County Principal's Association, supported the Minnesota State High School League as an Academic League location because of the quality of MSHSL's programs and because of funding problems if the program were developed separately.

Jerry Mansergh, Metro Educational Cooperative Service Unit, stated that we need to systematically classify existing competitive programs

according to who is delivering them, what their purposes are, the ages and grade levels being served and the levels of thinking skills required for participation. He also raised the issue of national competition and said any program should not limit the possibility of national relationships. Mr. Mansergh also stated that any governance structure required participation by staff and teachers and felt that the E.C.S.U represents such a model. He also felt strongly that any program required a staff development and curriculum development aspect.

Bill Kelty asked if the programs were market driven. He feared losing autonomy of the programs to a central authority and felt any adopted institution should coordinate dates, assist in fund-raising efforts and in staff development and training.

Paul Durand from Brooklyn Center suggested the need for a central location for information about programs. Terry Rooney, a member of the White Bear School Board stated his opposition to mandated programs and their effects on budgets already pressured.

Pete Brown, Spring Lake Park Athletic Director, expressed support for the Minnesota State High School League and stated that any organization will inherit some of the rules developed over 50 years of rule development. He felt that what was needed was the coordination of dates and assistance with fundraising.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

151 Todd Lefko

Todd Lefko

APPENDIX D
TASK FORCE OVERVIEW

APPENDIX D
TASK FORCE OVERVIEW

The Task Force strongly believes that the central issues raised by consideration of a Minnesota Academic League focus upon the quality of programs as learning processes, and the ability to provide academic incentives to all students.

The Task Force believes strongly in developing excellence within all programs, be they academic or athletic. Focus should not be placed on the development of one aspect of extracurricular development, but rather the assurance that all aspects of student experience be positive and rewarding.

The Task Force believes that both competitive and cooperative elements must be considered in program delivery. Additional consideration should be given to the relationship between grade level and effects of competitive programming. Programs focused upon cooperative approaches should be stressed in elementary schools with additional competitive aspects increased with grade progression.

The Task Force determined that central focus must be maintained upon the ability to deliver a quality program for as wide a range of students as possible. Other elements in consideration include potential for financial support, flexibility of rules, ability to work with existing organizations, representativeness of governance structures relative to teachers, parents, administrators, students and educational organizations, and pressures upon existing school resources.

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE RESOLUTION

APPENDIX E

12/11/86

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

"BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Directors of the Minnesota State High School League, having attended the Academic League Task Force hearings and having read and discussed the Report to the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation on the Feasibility of Establishing an Academic League (November 1986), agree that we:

1. Support the effort the members of the Task Force have expended in the process of gathering feedback and information throughout the state: and,
2. Affirm the conclusions reached by the Task Force; and,
3. Wish to go on record as supporting the decision to form a statewide K-12 academic competition policy body as a consortium which will be established under the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this statement of support be communicated to the Task Force and to the Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation by the executive staff members of the MSHSL.

It is also our intention to accept any invitation which may be forwarded for one or several of the MSHSL Board of Directors or members of our Executive Staff to serve as liaisons to the consortium and to be included in the policy forming group for that consortium.

Finally, the MSHSL recognizes the importance of the work to be done by the consortium and intends to cooperate with those efforts in any way necessary. As members of the MSHSL Board of Directors, we offer our support and appreciation of your efforts."

APPENDIX F
TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

APPENDIX F

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations should be fully reviewed by the Minnesota State Academic League:

1. That special attention be given to inclusion of reward and incentive programs for special education students.
2. That there be developed a priority of programs which include an emphasis on creativity, problem solving and thinking skills.
3. That there be increased development and utilization of technological systems to alleviate problems of distance and travel expense.
4. That programs featuring cooperation be stressed in elementary grades.
5. That research be developed to increase the use of peer incentives for broadened student participation in programs.
6. That school boards consider academic recognition, incentive and competition programs as essential elements of their school investments.
7. That programs be emphasized which focus upon broad participation.
8. That development of intramural scholastic programs be undertaken and that attempts to relate programs to classroom activities be emphasized.
9. That special emphasis be given to development of public relations programs, both state-wide and on a community level, to increase knowledge of and support for programs of excellence.
10. That a process be developed to determine program adoption the criteria of which should include school district interest, ability to include large numbers of students, relationship to state learning goals, and program costs.
11. That there be an increased usage of incentives such as 'letters' for academic achievement as well as awards assemblies, news releases, 'letter' jackets and placement of activities on school transcripts.
12. That program elements for an academic league include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Setting policy;
 - b. Providing a clearing house on program quality and development;
 - c. Offering advice and guidance to the Legislature on K-12 academics;
 - d. Encouraging funding of academic opportunities for all Minnesota residents;
 - e. Developing non-competitive, cooperative contests and events in the academic arena;

- f. Working with the Department of Education to set guidelines for academic excellence;
 - g. Developing programs to exhibit Minnesota's academic excellence to other states and countries;
 - h. Examining programs of other states and countries and recommending that those found superior be tested in Minnesota;
 - i. Acting as a coordinating body for academic excellence and recognition on a statewide basis;
 - j. Offering encouragement, consultation and program materials to school districts throughout the State.
 - k. Establishing eligibility criteria for program participation; Providing training to coaches, judges and others involved in league operation;
 - l. Developing and operating scholastic competitions;
 - m. Developing a yearly budget and assisting in the fund raising required to attain the goals of the league;
 - n. Developing a calendar for programs and assisting in program coordination;
 - o. Studying the possibility of development of seasons for the various competitions to increase participation and the program's potential;
 - p. Conducting research as to the program's effectiveness.
13. That there be a study of the relationship between school size and program success. The possibility of two-class competitions should be considered if it can be shown that smaller schools are at a disadvantage in some areas.
14. That the equity issues relating to travel expenses for schools in Greater Minnesota be studied by the academic league.
15. That programs be considered which view "all schools as winners". Competitions should be discouraged which seek to serve as measures of school or teacher quality.
16. That the effect of length of program season be studied by the academic league to determine its impact upon participants.
17. That participation of all schools, both public and private, be included in academic league programs.
18. That additional incentives be studied by the academic league with consideration given to suggestions offered by students.
19. That Legislative support be given for development costs associated with the league. Also, that continuing costs should be covered by school district fees as well as private support.
20. That there be a study of programs which stress recall as opposed to those emphasizing creativity or reasoning skills with recommendations as to required differences in program organization.
21. That the use of volunteers as coaches and whether all coaches need be certified be studied.
22. That participants serving as coaches be reimbursed equivalent to that received by coaches in other extracurricular programs.

PROPOSED BUDGET

APPENDIX G

APPENDIX G

PROPOSED BUDGET

Year One - Planning Phase

Consulting Fees and Part-time Secretarial Support	\$ 50,000
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Year Two - Implementation Phase

League Executive and Part-time Secretarial Support	\$ 70,000
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Operating Expenses	20,000
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Program Development	20,000
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Board Support	<u>5,000</u>
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Sub-total	<u>115,000</u>
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TOTAL	<u>\$165,000</u>
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