

SABSA Minutes from Special Meeting 2.12.17

Call to order at 6:38. Board Members Present: Bates, Cannon, Bogucki, Clark, Stendahl, Dougherty.  
Members present: JR Bauman, Jerry Welch, Aaron Rosh, Jake Herlofsky

This was an emergency meeting called to discuss one item: There is a new "statewide" organization being called Minnesota Softball that is inviting us to join, (and leave the Suburban League and the MMFL).

We have been playing for years under MMFL (fall ball and state tournament), this has been our "statewide organization" up to now. The MMFL has been the statewide organization supporting the Suburban League (the League/'conference' we play in), and other Leagues/'conferences'.

There were apparently 4 significant Executive Board Members of the MMFL (Bill, Tom, Dan, and Brian). Three of them (Tom, Dan, and Brian) are splitting off and creating this new statewide organization, called Minnesota Softball. Currently Minnesota Softball is inviting leagues/'conferences' and teams to join their organization. Under this new scheme, Minnesota Softball has created a shell league/'conference' for the current members of the Suburban League – called Big West. All current Suburban League teams (like all St. Anthony teams) have the opportunity to become part of Big West.

There is a state-wide meeting on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> for Big West introduction to current Suburban League members.

Suburban League has a Directors meeting scheduled for Feb 15<sup>th</sup>.

Some questions to be brought up in the meetings:

- What kind of structure will it be?
- What will we then do with our 16/18U?
- If we stay with the Suburban League would the dates change? We are not sure who is going where.
- What will become of the MMFL?
- What will this mean for the state tournaments?

These questions bring up another issue: should we (STA) stay or should we try and move to Tri-County? This, instead of deciding between Suburban League continuation or a move to Big West, as we have been discussing our dissatisfaction of certain elements of the Suburban League since summer.

Discussion of pro's and cons were discussed at all levels (10U-18U).

After a lengthy discussion of pro's and con's, Danielle moved to petition Tri-County League to accept St. Anthony as a member Association. Seconded by Rossi. The motion passed, unanimously.

We will petition to become of Tri-County for the following reasons:

Reasons for petition:

- Growing disparity for surrounding teams geographically closest to us
- General level of competition (better in Tri-County)

- We are already working with Tri-County teams/schools in other sports (i.e. basketball)
- We're less on the fringe in Tri-County – close to a large number of Tri-County teams
- School district is split between Ramsey and Hennepin counties (Ramsey Co. being one of the three original counties in Tri-County).
- We have had a consistently higher number of teams – this inhibits us finding good opponents in Suburban/Big West, should be less of an issue for Tri-County.
- We already play with Mounds View and Roseville (Tri-County teams) during Fall Ball. IE: When under a statewide umbrella, we are already paired with many Tri-County teams. We typically haven't played against western metro teams in Fall Ball.

Kirsten and Danielle will accompany Al to the upcoming Minnesota Softball/Big West introductory meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02

Respectfully submitted, Natalie Dougherty, Secretary