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State Board of Education to discuss graduation credit for high school sports

By SHIRLEY JINKINS

syjinkins@star-telegram.com

Elective graduation credits for student-athletes could be closer to reality after this week's State Board of Education sessions.

The 15 board members will meet Tuesday through Friday in Austin.

Craig Agnew, a coach and parent from Brenham, submitted a petition this year requesting that up to four credits for athletics be added to the list of elective credits for high school graduation. In May, the board's instruction committee began seeking input from school officials throughout the state on the matter, and in July the survey results were presented to the board.

The board will decide this week whether to begin designing course options for graduation credit for athletics.

Currently, student-athletes can earn two credits for their sports participation, which count as the health and P.E. requirements for graduation.

Students in band, choir, orchestra, drama and other student activities may count four years of participation as academic electives toward graduation requirements.

Other board business

Committee discussions will include potential changes to high school graduation plans.

The board is expected to act on:

College readiness standards for middle- and high school mathematics. House Bill 1, passed in 2006 by the 79th Legislature, requires college readiness standards to be incorporated in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in the state's school curricula.

New reading and math TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) performance standards for grades three through 8 to conform to a new assessment model. The Legislature has mandated a vertical scale to track each student's progress from one grade level to the next.

The board is expected to approve additional open-enrollment charter schools for the 2009-10 school year.

State Board of Education meeting dates for 2009

January 22-23

March 26-27

May 21-22

July 16-17

September 17-18

November 19-20