

**UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025
9:00 AM @UHSAA Offices**

Attendees: Jerre Holmes, Bryce Dunford, Burke Staheli, David Warren, Zack McKee, Paul Sweat, Luke Rasmussen, Mike Mees, Devin Smith, Bryan Durst, Patrick Lambert, Carol Lear. **Excused:** Amber Shill, Ian Adams, Jason Smith. **Minutes:** Jennifer Thomas

1. Welcome & Chair Business:

A. Chair's general observations: Chair Jerre Holmes welcomed the board and thanked them for going through the alignment process.

B. Welcome New BOT Members:

1. Ian Adams – Millard SD – 2A School Board
2. Bryce Dunford - Jordan SD - 6A School Board
3. Carol Lear – State School Board Representative

Chair Holmes welcomed the new members of the board and introduced them. He also welcomed Ms. Michelle Barber, a Davis School District board member, who will be a new board member in July 2025.

C. Reverence/thought: Mr. Patrick Lambert shared that Catholic Nuns and Monks live in communities. Mr. Lambert connects with the Jesuits the most, as they have a focus on education and inclusivity. They bring themselves into the presence of God and then think about the previous 24 hours. He shared his reflection related to the student athletes that he oversees. He tries to be focused on being a source of comfort and stability to his students and he encouraged the board to do the same. He then provided a prayer.

D. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic thought: Mr. Burke Staheli said that he tried to find something that combines sports and patriotism. As a coach he wore #4 for Lou Gehrig, who held the record for most games played before it was broken by Cal Ripkin. Mr. Staheli then shared a recording of Lou Gehrig's statement from Yankee Stadium. Mr. Staheli pointed out that Lou Gehrig accepted his fate with courage and faced adversity with strength. His impact carried far beyond the baseball field. He then spoke about Coach Lynn Christensen, who was a coach in the St George area. He passed away recently, right before a surprise party was planned for him. Coach Christensen was a great coach who also had a big impact on those around him. He and Lou Gehrig are great examples of Americans who lived positive lives that have had a profound impact on others. Mr. Staheli then led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Approval of Board Agenda:

MOTION: Mr. David Warren made a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Mr. Devin Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

F. Approval of Minutes of December 19, 2024:

MOTION: Mr. Zack McKee made a motion to approve the board meeting minutes from the last meeting on December 19, 2024. Mr. Patrick Lambert seconded the motion. The motion carried.

G. Updated Handbook on website: Mr. Cuff reminded the board that anytime the Executive Committee makes decisions that change the handbook, it is updated. It is a fluid document that changes often.

H. Board Meeting Public Comment: A parent from Skyridge HS provided comments about the new region. Mr. Todd Dawson, Principal of Lone Peak HS and Executive Committee member was in attendance and was asked to speak.

2. Executive Committee Meeting Report:

A. Mr. Cuff provided a synopsis of the Executive Committee meeting that was held on January 15, 2025.

3. USBE Report: Ms. Carol Lear shared that she is excited to be on the board, and hopes to contribute in a meaningful way. She is hoping that the USBE will work with UHSAA to help control what is being proposed in the legislature.

4. Legislative Report: UHSAA Political Consultants Dave & Ashley Spatafore provided a brief update on a few bills that could affect the schools and UHSAA.

5. Fall Activities Report:

A. Fall Results: Mr. Cuff referred the board to the list of state champions provided in the meeting materials.

B. Fall Financial Report: Mr. Cuff provided an update on the revenue brought in for the fall activities. Gross revenue was less than last year, but consistent with previous years. He then provided the totals sport by sport.

6. UHSAA Calendar:

A. 2024-2025: This calendar can be found on the UHSAA website. Mr. Jeff Cluff pointed out that a few changes were made to some championship dates in Softball.

B. 2025-2026: Most changes have been made to this calendar with boys' golf and volleyball and also fall start dates. He encouraged the board to refer to UHSAA website for changes and updates throughout the year.

7. UHSAA Items:

A. Credentials: Mr. Cluff shared that UHSAA has distributed over 25,000 credentials. It is going well overall. The next deadline is February 1 for Spring sports.

B. Ejection Report: Mr. Cluff referred the board to the ejection report update. Progress is being made regarding ejections. The majority happen in boys' sports. Of the 78 ejections so far, 30 are slur related ejections. This is down from 45 the previous year. He expressed appreciation to the board for their efforts to work on this,. With fewer ejections it is moving in the right direction.

- C. Sportsmanship Items:**
- 1. Sportsmanship/Gold Star Coach Award:** The committee has created several different initiatives to help with sportsmanship. The Gold Star Coach is an award that can encourage this. Every school is asked to nominate a coach for this award.
- D. Drill Team Items:** Ms. Jan Whittaker invited everyone to attend the upcoming state drill finals. Next year will be the first year with co-ed drill.
- E. Women in Sports Day (Feb 19):** This is in coordination with UIAAA. They are asking all schools to send five female student athletes.
- F. Coaches Certification:** Mr. Brenan Jackson shared that the NFHS offers free certification courses. Fundamentals of coaching is required only one time, the others are yearly.
- G. UHSAA Summer Moratorium:** This will occur on June 30-July 6, 2025. The form has been provided. Schools can elect to change this, but it must be school-wide, not sport by sport. Sport by sport adjustments are only allowed over the Christmas holidays.
- H. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Report:** A concussion protocol sheet from the UHSAA Handbook was provided to discuss the current policy R277-605, which currently requires training for concussions yearly for all coaches, trainers and administrators. Many schools are not in compliance with R277-605, as their administrators aren't trained. They are usually not on the field or court and don't need to be included as part of the required training. Revised verbiage was provided on the protocol sheet, which does not require administrators to do the yearly concussion training.
- MOTION:** Mr. Bryan Durst made a motion to remove administrative personnel from the concussion training in the UHSAA Handbook. Mr. David Warren seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- I. Boys Soccer Items:** Ejections are still an issue in boys' soccer. A discussion was held in the past to not punish all boys' soccer for certain teams getting ejected. Efforts were made to make it more school specific. There has been a reduction in red cards, so it was discussed to allow one game back to the boys' soccer contest limitations, while adding serious foul play to the two-game suspension. A document was sent out to all boys' soccer schools, so they can acknowledge the penalties for ejections. The ejections are only related to serious foul play, (violent conduct and language).
- J. Football Items:** Sites are still being finalized for next year.
- K. Academic All-State:** Mr. Chris Shipman shared that the winter sports and activities window is still open. It will close on February 4, 2025.
- L. Unified Sports:** The unified basketball tournament will be held on March 28, 2025.
- M. Cheer Safety Clinics:** Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs explained that she is working on making sure the cost of the cheer clinics will be put on the school fee schedules for the future.

- N. **UHSAA Student Leadership Conferences:** Military leadership at Hill Feld and Camp Williams have offered to hold conferences at their locations.
- O. **Swim Items:** Mr. Steve Marsing said that with BYU in the Big 12, the state tournament will need to be moved to one week later in 2026. It also appears that next year there will be enough swimmers to make up the required 8 teams in 2A to have a 1-day state tournament on Thursday, February 12, 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Warren made a motion to approve a 2A state swimming tournament in 2025-26. Mr. Devin Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

8. Realignment 2025-2027:

- A. **Classifications and Regions:** Mr. Cuff explained that it needs to be determined what factors will be used in the next realignment. A discussion ensued on potential factors and changes to format and procedures for the next realignment.

9. Legal Report: Mr. Mark Van Wagoner shared a legal update with the board.

10. For the Good of the Order

- A. **BOT Election Results:** Mr. Cuff shared the results of the recent election for 2A and 5A board members, which were held at Little America on January 10, 2025. Also, the current term for Charter School Representative is ending and the election will take place on April 22, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. The term of the 5A-6A Superintendent is also ending. This will be discussed at the next Superintendents Association meeting. Mr. Cuff also announced that the 3A-4A Principal board member is retiring, so a 3A principal will be chosen to serve on the board beginning in July 2025.
- B. **UHSAA Circle of Fame:** Mr. Cuff announced the three winners for this year.
- C. **UHSAA Super Fans:** He then announced the six Super Fan recipients.
- D. **Spirit of Sport Award/Heart of the Arts:** The committee chose one student for each award and Mr. Cuff announced the two students.

All award winners will be honored at one of the winter state tournaments and at an awards luncheon, which will be held in conjunction with the Board of Trustees meeting on March 26, 2026.

MOTION: Mr. Staheli made a motion to approve the winners of the above awards. Mr. Luke Rasmussen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

MOTION: Mr. Paul Sweat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. McKee. The motion carried.