

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
UHSAA Office
Thursday, November 16, 2023
9:00 AM

Those in attendance: Jerre Holmes, Marilyn Richards, Amber Shill, Jeffrey Nielsen, David Warren, David Lund, Zack McKee, Paul Sweat, Luke Rasmussen, Todd Quarnberg, Mike Mees, Jade Shepherd, Bryan Durst, Craig Morris, Brent Strate.

Minutes: Jennifer Thomas

- 1. Welcome & Chair Business:** Mr. Jerre Holmes publicly thanked the staff for handling all that has been thrown at them the last couple of weeks. They have been resilient and done a great job. This reminded him that what we teach and preach in our schools, to our students, will help them in their lives as they face challenges in the future. The people that work with UHSAA, whether it is the staff, board or committee, they are all here for the right reasons.

Reverence/Thought: Mr. David Warren shared that he lost his father a month ago today. This has made him reflect on his association with UHSAA. As he looks around the UHSAA boardroom, he can see the picture of his father and other people he knows from the Circle of Fame. They all have something in common and he also sees that in the Board of Trustees. All want to provide a safe and good environment for students to compete in athletics and activities. All are here to benefit kids. That is something Mr. Warren learned from his father, and he expressed gratitude for this.

Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Thought: Mr. Dave Lund explained that the first time he ever listened to a patriotic thought it was a Veterans Day speech by Ronald Reagan. It is important to remember that those that died for us were trying to bring peace to our nation. We should never forget those that sacrificed on our behalf.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Brent Strate made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Approval of Board Agenda:

MOTION: Mr. Zack McKee motioned to add that the Board of Trustees meeting today is a public meeting, which would allow attendees to participate actively in the meeting. Mr. Strate seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- 2. USBE Report:** Mr. Strate explained that in 1905 football was in trouble. President Roosevelt made changes to save it. Rules protect us, both in the game and in life. Mr. Strate received a call from another Board member and they discussed the entire structure of UHSAA. The rules and procedures are in place, and it is organized to function and protect others. UHSAA follows their policies to a T. It is done honestly and is willing to adjust as the world changes.

3. Executive Committee Meeting Reports:

- A. October 4, 2023 meeting:** Mr. Jade Shepherd gave the details of the Executive Committee meeting which was held on October 4, 2023.

- B. November 8, 2023 meeting:** Mr. Craig Morris gave the details of the Executive Committee meeting which was held on November 8, 2023.

4. Football Endowment Games Report:

- A. Number of Games Held was 53 (44 games in 2008):** The football endowment games brought in \$166,132.31. It happened because all ticketing was handled through GoFan. The endowment games for basketball were discontinued, still allowing the game to be kept on the schedule. Basketball has 23 games each season. Next fall those who didn't host the football endowment game will likely host. Mr. Jeff Cluff will continue giving webinars to train schools on GoFan. It was good news all the way around. All schools benefit from the endowment games, whether they participate or not.

MOTION: Mr. Warren made a motion to move the endowment money from the UHSAA ledger to the endowment fund. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5. Fall Activities Report:

- A. Boys Golf & Volleyball:** All volleyball was at UVU. Next year 1A & 2A will go back to the Sevier Valley Center. The only issue encountered this year was how long the matches lasted. Feedback from the board is requested to make some changes. Possibilities include removing consolation or modifying consolation to 2 out of 3 to shorten the time. Ms. Jan Whittaker then announced the winners in each class. She also shared that boys' volleyball is getting ready to participate in the spring.

Golf went well with the help of the PGA. Ms. Whittaker announced the winners in each class.

- B. Girls Soccer & Football:** Mr. Jackson shared that they are right in the middle of the state playoffs for football. The semi-finals of the smaller classes were held at Zion's Bank Stadium and it went well overall. The only issues were parking, so in future years they have agreed to not double book the stadium area. The finals were held at SUU. Mr. Jackson then shared the winners in each class up to 3A. Tomorrow the 4A, 5A and 6A football finals will be held at University of Utah.

Girls' soccer also went well. Mr. Jackson shared the winners in each classification and gave a comparison with the RPI.

- 1. Invitation to BOT for Football Finals Tomorrow:** Mr. Cuff invited all Board members to attend the football finals tomorrow.

- C. Girls Tennis:** Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs shared that the tennis tournament went well overall and the UTR is working well. She then announced the winners in each class.

- D. Cross Country:** State cross country was held at the Regional Athletic Center and went very smoothly. The security was very diligent out front. There are some small logistical changes needed, but there has already been a meeting with the Cross-Country Association to try and smooth those out. Mr. Todd Quarnberg gave positive feedback on the event. Mr. Mike Mees asked if the Sugar House Park would be an option in the future. Mr. Shipman shared that the event has outgrown the park.

- E. 1A Baseball:** Mr. Jeff Cluff feels that we should be playing baseball in the fall and football in the spring. There was only one day of bad weather during fall baseball, and adjustments were made on locations. Ms. Kim Monkres at Snow Canyon in St. George and Mr. Kevin Dustin at SLCC allowed

UHSAA to use their venues. Mr. Cluff expressed gratitude to them. He then announced the winners in each class.

6. Calendar:

- A. 2023-24 Calendar:** This is an evolving document, so please refer to UHSAA website for changes and updates throughout the year
- B. 2024-25 Tentative Calendar:** It is coming soon. The target date to have this is January, 2024.

7. UHSAA Items:

- A. Spirit of Sport Award:** Mr. Cuff shared that they are looking for nominees from the different areas of the state. The deadline is January 15, 2024.
- B. Heart of the Arts Award:** Mr. Cuff shared that they are looking for nominees from the different areas of the state. The deadline is January 15, 2024.
- C. Summer Moratorium** (June 28-July 4). This is a whole school moratorium.
- D. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Report (SMAC):** We have great representation at the national level through Mr. Karl Weenig. The concussion protocols will be uploaded shortly.
- E. Boys Soccer Probation:** As this was looked at, the recommendations of the Soccer Association were considered. The decision was made that if the player received a violent conduct red card they would be suspended for the rest of that game and two additional games. If they continue to get ejected more times during the season, they will be removed from the team. If the coach has a team that continues to get violent conduct red cards, they will not be allowed to coach in the state tournament. They are putting the responsibility back on the head coach.
- F. Coaches Credentials:** Yesterday was the deadline for winter sports. The credentials should be sent to the schools in December/January.
- G. Officiating Update:** We are doing well with the promotion of allowing first-time officials to have a waived registration fee. We are looking for 700 officials for basketball and we currently have 685.
- H. Aktivate:** Mr. Clair Anderson from Aktivate presented information and answered any questions the Board had. Mr. Dave Spatafore shared the legislation that states the birth certificate must be provided to the school. That is statute. The decision was made to handle these situations on a case-by-case basis.
- I. Sportsmanship Items:**
 - School Video Competition:** The winners have been chosen.

UHSAA Student Leadership Conferences: Every region was asked to run a student leadership conference. They should be going on right now.

- J. Emerging Sports Report:** Ms. Whittaker referred the board to the meeting handout that was provided. All data has been compiled. She explained the process of how an emerging sport can reach the criteria for sanctioning. The current sports are Esports and Mountain Biking. At this point the emerging sport under consideration is Esports. A committee was formed to make decisions on the factors related to Esports. Mr. Tom Sherwood and Mr. Troy Harmon were invited to present regarding the status of Esports. They want it to be sanctioned as an activity. The provided a handout that provided quotes from coaches around the country about how it has benefited the students in their

schools. The company Play Versus has offered their platform to all high school students for free. Esports is hoping to be sanctioned by the 2025-26 school year with a spring season.

MOTION: Mr. Morris made a motion to sanction Esports for the 2025-26 school year. Ms. Amber Shill seconded the motion. The motion carried.

K. Drill Team Items: The executive committee has been asked to decide whether drill teams should become a co-ed sport. Ms. Whittaker shared that there is no real competitive advantage to having male students on the drill team and they wouldn't make a separate category. The Executive Committee has brought this back to their regions to get feedback. A decision needs to be made in January 2024.

L. Sports Seasons Committee Report: A committee has been formed and met to discuss inequality in the balance of sports seasons and how many sports are in each season. Soccer, volleyball and swimming were discussed. A survey was sent out on this. Once the survey results are in the committee will meet again to discuss.

M. Swim Items: A discussion ensued on what constitutes a swim team. It was decided that it is at least four members. If 2A teams have eight or more teams with four or more members, team trophies will be presented to them.

MOTION: Mr. Dave Lund made a motion to allow the 2A teams to receive a first and second place trophy during the state 3A swim meet if they meet the threshold of having eight or more teams with four or more members. Mr. Jeffrey Nielsen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Unified swimmers will also swim at the state tournament. The deadline for schools to let Mr. Marsing know they have Unified swimmers is December 1, 2023.

N. Unified Sports (UHSAA/SOUT): Unified sports is growing rapidly within the schools.

O. Academic All-State Windows: Winter sports deadlines were provided.

P. Softball Items: Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs referred the board to page 68, which contains a proposal by Mr. Kelly Holman. The 1A and 2A schools met and decided they don't want the proposal. They are asking all 1A schools to declare whether they are going to play or not by December 15, 2023. If they don't get enough schools (at least 8) they will stay the same.

8. BOT Elections Update:

A. January Elections: Mr. Cuff referred the board to the provided materials. There are two board members that will be up for re-election. Mr. Cuff will send a letter to all district superintendents so they can discuss in their board meetings. The staff will run the elections during the meeting.

9. New member school applications:

A. New school applications for 2024-25: Mr. Cuff welcomed the representatives for the two schools.

1. Vanguard Academy: Charles Reynolds, the principal of Vanguard academy introduced his fellow staff members that joined him. He then gave the background on Vanguard Academy. They have students from 7-12 grade. Their total enrollment is 500, high school is 386. They have been approved to add 50 more students next year. They have been in operation for seven years. Their cross country has been very successful and so they feel it is time for them to compete in

the UHSAA. They have a strong focus on STEM and music. They are also a concurrent enrollment school. He then explained what athletic facilities are available to them.

The board discussed the application of Vanguard Academy. A site visit by UHSAA is needed. Their facilities are all offsite.

MOTION: Mr. Morris made a motion to table this school until the next meeting. Mr. Nielsen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. West Field High School: The assistant director at Weber SD shared details about the high school, which is in the process of being built. They are estimating they will start with a school population of around 1,400. They are hoping for 5A region 5. Fremont high school will be affected also. They will have more solid numbers by January 2024. Nothing will be finalized until the January meeting.

The Board discussed the application of West Field High School.

MOTION: Mr. Luke Rasmussen motioned to accept West Field high school as a UHSAA sanctioned school. Mr. Nielsen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

10. Realignment 2025-2027:

A. Competitive Equity Committee Report: There has been good discussion in this committee. They have discussed standard deviation and applying a multiple. They have also discussed adding points to the system. Mr. Nate Marshall was invited to share information on standard deviations with the Board. A Board discussion ensued on how to apply these factors fairly. Mr. Cuff shared that in January Mr. Marshall and Mr. Cluff will present again to the Executive Committee and have them make a recommendation on how to make the decision on how to best apply the findings to make it more equitable in future alignments.

11. For the Good of the Order:

A. Bench Bad Behavior Campaign: We encourage schools to use this. We are going into basketball season and then soccer season. Schools need to do their best to encourage good behavior. The coach is the central figure in helping to curb bad behavior.

B. UHSAA Distinguished Service Award Winners: A list was provided of the winners. They will be attending a luncheon with the Executive Committee in January.

MOTION: Mr. McKee made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion carried.