

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

UHSAA Office

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

9:00 AM

**Those in attendance:** Jerre Holmes, Marilyn Richards, Amber Shill, Jeffrey Nielsen, David Warren, Dave Lund, Zack McKee, Luke Rasmussen, Todd Quarnberg Mike Mees, Jade Shepherd, Bryan Durst, Craig Morris, Brent Strate. **Excused:** Mr. Paul Sweat. (Mr. Ryan Bishop attended for him).

**Minutes:** Jennifer Thomas.

1. **Welcome & Chair Business:** Chair Mr. Jerre Holmes welcomed the board and guests.
  - A. **Chair's general observations:** Chair Holmes explained the order of business for the meeting.
  - B. **Reverence/thought:** Mr. Jeffrey Nielsen shared that it is the end of his tenure on the board. He thanked the board for the opportunity to serve. His seven children went through Cache School District and had a great experience. He believes that they learned the most through sports and activities made possible through their school district. The adversity that came through those experiences prepared them for life. He shared that there are too many people to thank for what they taught his children. He then provided a prayer to start the meeting.
  - C. **Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic thought:** Mr. Jade Shepherd referenced a talk that took place around the Fourth of July in 1986 by Ronald Reagan. Reagan spoke about all the celebrations going on and shared what was going on before the Declaration of Independence was signed. Seven young men pledged their lives to freedom. John Hancock wrote his signature in a large font so that King George would see his signature without his glasses. The successors to these brave men are just as brave and willing to serve. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson ran for president, and this caused a bitter feud. However, later in their lives they got back together and spoke about their shared history and the final thoughts of two old men. They were both fighting for freedom, and this brought them back together. They died on the same day, within hours of each other on a Fourth of July. Reagan also shared that it falls to us to continue this legacy. Mr. Shepherd then led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
  - D. **Acknowledge outgoing BOT members:** Chair Holmes acknowledged each outgoing board member and gave them a few minutes to speak.
    1. Jeffrey Nielsen – 4A School Board
    2. Todd Quarnberg – 5A/6A Principal
    3. Jade Shepherd – 1A/2A Principal
    4. Craig Morris – Private Schools
  - E. **Approval of Board Agenda:**

**MOTION:** Ms. Marilyn Richards made a motion to approve the current board agenda with the caveat that at 12:30 the insurance representative would need to be called no matter what took place in the agenda. Mr. David Warren seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**F. Approval of Minutes:** March 28, 2024 meeting (summary on UHSAA website)

**MOTION:** Mr. Zack McKee made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. It was seconded by Ms. Amber Shill. The motion carried.

**G. Board Meeting Public Comment:**

**Judge Memorial.** Representative Mr. Patrick Thurman spoke about the impact of the potential changes regarding F-1 visas. He requested no changes are made during the time the investigation is ongoing. He also requested that current F-1 students be grandfathered in. He also provided a handout that outlined the points he shared with the board.

Gabe, a student, shared his experience of the sacrifice his family made to send him to America and his desire to experience all opportunities available to him. He was named the most inspirational player on his lacrosse team. He also just scored a goal for the first time. He asked the board not to take this opportunity away.

Joel and Julie Alstrom hosted a F-1 student from Nigeria who was attending Juan Diego in the spring of 2015. They got a plan together to get him on track to graduate. He received tutoring and help from the school and by his senior year he was on the honor roll. He received a scholarship to Weber State University. He was able to get his degree and is now working on his master's degree. They asked that other F-1 students be allowed to continue to participate.

Katie works with students at the private catholic schools in Utah. She shared that the United States provides international visas to encourage good relations internationally. International students come here to improve their lives and experience life in the United States.

**St. Joseph** – Coach Alex Salvo shared his story of being a F-1 student. He came to the United States in 1988 as a student. Soccer was his passion and life in Chile. He shared the impact it has had on his life to move to the United States. He is now the vice-principal at St. Joseph and coaches' girls' soccer. He was the national coach of the year in 2013. When he was on the UHSAA executive board, none of the rules were perfect and needed some tweaks. He believes that the proposal on the table today is not the solution to needed tweaks to the F-1 visa rule. He suggested the UHSAA hire someone to review their applications to make sure they are legitimate and that private schools pay a fee to cover the cost of the hire. The current changes to the transfer rule will profoundly affect the small private schools. He asked that they don't punish the many for the mistakes of the few.

Daniel is a F-1 visa student from Brazil. Sports have helped him adjust and find a routine. He plays soccer. It has made him feel he was part of the community. He also tried football for the first time. He is speaking for himself and all other F-1 students in saying they are just trying to have a better life.

Gabriel read a letter from a friend named Gustov. Gustov shared his desire to come to the United States to learn the language and experience life. Gabriel then shared his own experience with sports and how it has enriched his experience.

*Juan Diego* stated that Judge Memorial spoke for them also.

**Layton Christian Academy (LCA).** Mr. Chris Crowder shared that he is new to all of this and a lot of changes are being made at LCA. They are working to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Due to their many ongoing changes, they would welcome time to finish making the changes. Anna a LCA student from Brazil then spoke and explained that she applied to different schools around the country and was accepted to LCA. Sports have always been a part of her life. She requested they consider the viewpoint of international students and why they are coming here.

**Mount Vernon Academy.** Mr. Mike Lambson said that all private schools are not created equal. Mount Vernon Academy has been a member of UHSAA for 47 years and has had over 1,200 international students over the years. Their student population each year is around 70 kids, and half are usually international students. He explained that in Mount Vernon, F-1's do not play a large role in their success in sports. Mr. Lambson recommended they hold off to give time to troubleshoot for a different solution.

**Intermountain Christian.** Mr. Adam Peek, who was the varsity basketball coach last year, only won 3 games. He is also a parent, and his son plays at Judge Memorial. In addition, he is a host parent for F-1 students. He wants his son to get better, not have them change rules so his son is no longer competing with international students.

2. **USBE Report:** Mr. Brent Strate referenced the story of Frederick Douglass. His owner found out his wife was teaching Frederick Douglass, who was one of their slaves, and he told her to stop because it would make him discontented. This helped Frederick Douglass understand that his pathway to freedom was education.
3. **Executive Committee Meeting Report:** Mr. Craig Morris provided a report on the meeting which occurred on April 24, 2024.
4. **2024-25 Meeting Schedule for Boards:** Mr. Rob Cuff referenced the Board to the meeting schedule. He asked them to review the dates to see if there are any conflicts. He pointed out there would be additional meetings between Thanksgiving and Christmas related to the realignment.

**MOTION:** Mr. Luke Rasmussen made a motion to approve the Board of Trustees' calendar for 2024-25. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5. **Activities Report: UHSAA Staff**
  - A. **Speech and Debate:** Mr. Chris Shipman provided the list of winners in each classification and congratulated them.
  - B. **Theatre:** Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs shared the winners in each classification and her positive experience attending the tournaments.

- C. **Solo & Ensemble Music Festivals:** Mr. Brenan Jackson explained there were two sites. One in Woods Cross for the north and one in Provo in the south. There were over 3,000 participants. He thanked the high schools and districts for allowing them to use their facilities.
- 6. **UHSAA Calendar:**
  - A. **Review of 2023-24 Calendar:** The best place to find the calendar is on the UHSAA website. The agenda also includes the calendar. It is always changing so the website is the best location to get updates.
  - B. **Review of 2024-25 Calendar:** It is also on the website.
- 7. **Constitution and By-Laws Committee Report:** Mr. Cuff shared the changes to the scholastic rule.

**MOTION:** Mr. Warren made a motion to approve the changes to the scholastic rule. Mr. Nielsen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Mark Van Wagoner presented the changes to the transfer rule. The transfer rule needs to be self-enforced. He outlined the specific changes. The board had a discussion on several points and asked for modification to the Anti-Bullying exception.

**MOTION:** Mr. Morris made a motion to approve changes to the Transfer Rule and to remove the parts of the harassment and bullying (c,d,e,f,) and replace it with a general language that an investigation has been completed. Mr. Bryan Durst Seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Van Wagoner then outlined the changes to the student visa eligibility. Mr. Morris asked for discussion on possibly implementing a one-year sub-varsity limit on F-1 students, then allowing them to participate in varsity after that first year. Lengthy discussion ensued on these potential changes.

**MOTION:** Mr. Dave Lund made a motion to approve the changes to the student visa eligibility rule. Mr. Strate seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Morris abstained.

**MOTION:** Mr. Morris made the motion to amend the student visa eligibility to grandfather current F-1 juniors and allow participation in their senior year. Ms. Shill seconded the motion. The motion did not pass.

- 8. **Realignment 2025-2027:** Mr. Cuff shared the realignment timetable for 2025-2027 and the procedure criteria for alignment as adopted by the board of trustees.

**MOTION:** Ms. Richards made a motion for a first consideration of changes to the alignment procedures. Mr. Quarnberg seconded the motion. The motion carried.

9. **Sportsmanship Items:** Ms. Jan Whittaker reminded the board that the 2024 School Sportsmanship Award Applications are due by May 27, 2024. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year for this award. She encouraged schools to apply.
10. **Staff Items:**
- A. **Student Leadership Conference:** Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs shared that the conferences will be held in the fall by regions. She encouraged schools to send the name of their specialist.
  - B. **Cheer Items:** Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs reported a hearing was held regarding the scoring of cheer at the state meet.
  - C. **Boys Soccer Update:** Mr. Jackson shared that a couple of years ago, boys' soccer was put on probation and lost 2 games. Two weeks ago, there were 84 red ejections. There are currently around 120 due to some bench clearing incidents.
  - D. **SMAC Report:** Mr Jackson explained that changes have been approved for concussion protocols. The emergency action plans for after-school activities are being encouraged.
  - E. **Coaches' Certification:** This has gone really well this year.
  - F. **UHSAA Summer Moratorium:** Mr. Jackson reminded the board that it must be a whole school moratorium. There have been some schools that have boys' basketball tournaments with college recruiters during summer moratorium and they would like to be allowed to play in those tournaments.  
  

**MOTION:** Mr. Lund made a motion to allow impacted boys' basketball teams, that are attending summer tournaments with college scouts, to change their moratorium for their sport only for this year. Mr. Shepherd seconded the motion. The motion carried.
  - G. **Academic All-State:** Mr. Shipman shared that the grace period is ending soon. Nominations need to be submitted by Monday.
  - H. **Unified Sports:** Mr. Shipman is working with Ms. Teri Davis at USBE and Special Olympics to develop a curriculum to give their students credit for working in PE and Unified sports.
  - I. **Football Endowment Games:** Mr. Jeff Cluff provided a reminder that we will continue to do post season ticketing through GoFan.
  - J. **Coaches Credentials:** Mr. Cluff provided a reminder to use your credentials at the post-season tournament.
  - K. **Officials Update:** Almost 200 first time officials were scholarshipped for this year. It was very successful.

- L. Officials Pay Scale Committee Report:** The Executive Committee has passed the proposal on to the board for their approval. It would be a \$5.00 increase for the 2024-25 school year. A \$3.00 increase each year after that.

**MOTION:** Mr. Ryan Bishop made a motion to approve the proposed officials raise. Ms. Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- M. Sports Seasons Committee Report:** Ms. Whittaker shared that the recommendation was made to make no change in boys' soccer, to move boys' volleyball to the fall in the new realignment and to shorten the swim season to finish before Christmas break. The executive committee asked for a survey to go out through ADEC before a decision is made.

- 11. Insurance Report:** Dissinger Reed Insurance: Ms. Mindee Holmes presented the updated insurance rates for the upcoming school year.

**MOTION:** Mr. McKee made the motion to approve the insurance rates for this upcoming year. Mr. Strate seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- 12. Election for BOT Leadership Positions 2024-25:** Mr. Cuff asked for nominations for the Board of Trustees Chair.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bishop nominated Mr. Holmes again for Chair. Mr. McKee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**MOTION:** Ms. Shill nominated Ms. Richards as a vice-chair. It was seconded by Mr. Lund. The motion carried.

- 13. For the Good of The Order:** Mr. Cuff referred the board to the article entitled Partnerships of Success.

**MOTION:** Ms. Richards made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lund seconded the motion. The motion carried.