

**UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026 @ THE UHSAA OFFICES 9:00 AM**

**Attendees:** Chair Luke Rasmussen, Mr. Bryce Dunford, Ms. Gina Butters, Mr. Josh LeRoy, Ms. Michelle Barber, Mr. Burke Staheli, Mr. Steve Gordon, Mr. David Warren, Mr. Mitchell Glazier, Mr. Jason Young, Mr. Devin Smith, Mr. Zack McKee, Mr. Nathan Marshall, Mr. Alex Salvo, (for Mr. Patrick Lambert), Mr. Rob Cuff, Mr. Jeff Cluff, Mr. Brenan Jackson, Ms. Jan Whittaker, Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs, Mr. Chris Shipman. **Excused:** Carol Lear and Patrick Lambert. **Minutes:** Jennifer Thomas.

**1. Welcome & Chair Business**

**A. Chair's general observations:** Chair Luke Rasmussen welcomed the board.

**B. Reverence/thought:** Mr. Bryce Dunford said he was thinking of the people they each represent; the students. They can potentially change the world with what educators teach them. He shared the poem "If" by Rudyard Kipling and then offered a prayer.

**C. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Thought:** Mr. Steve Gordon expressed his enthusiasm for the upcoming Olympics, noting his appreciation for the athletes' background stories and the unifying effect the event has on the nation. He emphasized the value of providing students with opportunities to perform the National Anthem, either instrumentally or vocally, describing it as a meaningful experience. Mr. Gordon encouraged all to demonstrate and share their patriotism with others.

**D. Approval of Board Agenda:** Chair Rasmussen asked if there were any questions on the agenda. There were none.

**MOTION:** Mr. David Warren made a motion to approve the board agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Gordon. The motion carried.

**E. Approval of Minutes:**

1. November 19, 2025

**MOTION:** Mr. Jason Young made a motion to approve the board minutes from the previous meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Nathan Marshall. The motion carried.

**F. Board Meeting Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**2. Executive Committee Meeting Report:**

**A. January 14, 2026, meeting:** Mr. Devin Smith shared details of the Executive Committee meeting held on January 14, 2026.

**3. USBE Report:** Ms. Carol Lear was excused.

**4. Legislative Report:** Political Consultants Mr. Dave Spatafore and Ms. Ashley Spatafore provided a report about current items in the legislature, including the bill regarding moratoriums and practice hours.

**MOTION:** Ms. Michelle Barber recommended a no stance to the JLC, citing they would rather it be member driven, but if the bill passes, they appreciate the concessions. It was seconded by Mitchell Glazier. The motion carried.

**5. Fall Activities Report:**

- A. Fall Results:** Mr. Rob Cuff referred the board to the fall state champions list included in the agenda materials and congratulated all the winners.
- B. Financial Report:** Mr. Cuff provided the fall gross revenue report, sport by sport. Overall, the budget has been exceeded.

**6. UHSAA Calendar**

- A. 2025-2026:** Mr. Cluff shared that the website is best place to find the calendar and pointed out that it is constantly changing. He recommended the board refer to UHSAA website for changes and updates throughout the year
- B. 2026-2027:** This calendar is also up and running. It contains the dates of the championships. He encouraged the board to attend the winter state championships.

**7. UHSAA Items**

- A. Coaches Credentials:** Mr. Cluff provided a reminder that the spring deadline is in March. 26,000 credentials are produced annually. The board was encouraged to wear their credentials at the state tournaments.
- B. Ejection Report:** Mr. Cluff provided a sheet that had a comparison of fall sports. He said ejections went down overall.
- C. Officials Update:** Registrations are up overall. Only two sports are low on officials: Girls Lacrosse and Softball. New officials get scholarships and this has encouraged them and allowed for the increase.
- D. Sportsmanship Items**
  - 1. Sportsmanship/Gold Star Coach Award:** Several sportsmanship initiatives occur each year. Each school is encouraged to nominate a coach from their school.
- F. Women in Sports Day:** This will be held on February 3, 2026, and will be held at the Delta Center. All schools are asked to send at least five female athletes. All are invited, not just women. It starts at 8:00 a.m. The CEO, Karissa Niehoff, from the NFHS will be the keynote speaker.
- G. Coaches Certification:** Mr. Brenan Jackson referred the board to the attached materials that has the NFHSLearn link provided for courses to certify coaches.
- H. UHSAA Summer Moratorium:** It will be held June 29-July 5, 2026: This is a whole school moratorium.
- I. Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Report (SMAC):** The committee, chaired by Dr. Karl Wenig, meets several times a year to discuss national and state developments. Hannah Randall from the American Heart Association was introduced. She is proposing to add an annual requirement for schools to practice Emergency Action Plans for all activities. She is working with the State Board of Education to add the requirement to the current state rule that would standardize policies with national best practices.

- J. **Academic All-State:** Mr. Chris Shipman shared that Academic All-State is currently open for all winter sports. It will close on February 3, 2026.
- K. **Unified Sports:** 210 teams are participating and it is underway. Their final tournament will be at the Delta Center on March 16, 2026.
- L. **UHSAA Student Leadership Conferences:** Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs explained that the conferences are continuing to occur across the state.

8. **New member school applications:**

A. **New school applications for 2026-27**

- 1. **Mountain Valley School:** (1:42:30) Their accreditation has been completed and so they are requesting membership in mid-alignment. They prefer 2A, region 16. They will accept region 17 also, if that is what the board decides. They would like to participate in boys' and girls' basketball and are looking at potentially adding track & cross country, softball and volleyball in the future.

**MOTION:** Mr. Alex Salvo made a motion to approve the Mountain Valley School for independent status. 2A, Region 16. Mr. David Warren seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- 2. **Deer Creek High School:** The numbers are based on 3 grades at 960. Both schools sit within the numbers of 3A. They would like to have both schools in the same classification if possible. They are hoping for both schools to be 4A. They would like to be in 3A for football.

**MOTION:** Mr. Gordon made a motion to approve Deer Creek to participate in 4A, Region 8, for all sports It was seconded by Mr. David Warren. The motion carried.

- B. **Wasatch High School Request:** The numbers are based on 3 grades at 999. In mid-year alignment, they can only go down one classification, so they would hope for 4A.

**MOTION:** Mr. Staheli to move 4A, Region 8, for one year in all sports. It was seconded by Jason Young. The motion carried.

9. **Realignment 2027-2029:**

- A. **Timetable:** Mr. Cuff referred the board to the timeline provided in the materials.
- B. **Format and Procedures:** Mr. Cuff shared that the UHSAA staff met with Aaron Brough from the Utah Data Research Center. Mr. Marshall shared a spreadsheet outlining factors used in previous realignments and possible factors that could be used in the upcoming realignment.
- C. **Discussion Item/Action Item:** The board discussed potential factors that will be considered for the upcoming realignment.

- 10. **Legal Report:** Mr. Mark Van Wagoner shared that no decision has been made on the F-1 visa case.

- 11. **UHSAA Executive Session:** Chair Rasmussen turned the time over to Mr. Cuff who announced his retirement at the end of the school year. Chair Rasmussen asked the board to volunteer if they want to be

part of a small committee to be part of the search committee. There will be a one-month transition period if possible. Mr. Cuff will continue as Executive Director until August 1, 2026.

**Search Committee Volunteers:** Luke Rasmussen, Michelle Barber, Gina Butters, Nate Marshall, Zack McKee, Burke Staheli, Everett Kelepolo, and Jim Crosbie.

**12. For the Good of the Order:**

**A. BOT Election Results:** Mr. Dunford was elected as the 6A School Board representative. Mr. Ron Nielsen was elected as the 1A School Board representative. The terms ending on June 30 are Mr. Rasmussen, Superintendent at Ogden School District and 2A principal Mr. Smith

**B. UHSAA Circle of Fame:** There are two inductees this year: Mr. Joe Pereira and Ms. Kendra Tomsic.

**C. UHSAA Super Fans:**

1A: From Telos – Rachel Parrish

2A: From Millard HS – Grayden Worley

3A: From Juab HS – Donni Pay

4A: From Green Canyon HS – Terry Godfrey

5A: From Roy – Paul “Tex” and Lynnette Hancock

6A: From Westlake – Angela Webb

**D. Spirit of Sport Award/Heart of the Arts Awards**

**Spirit of Sport:** Ramiro Mendoza – Gunnison Valley HS

**Heart of the Arts:** Kamrie Sundwall – Spanish Fork HS

**MOTION:** Mr. McKee made a motion to approve the selections for Super Fans, Spirit of Sport and Heart of the Arts Awards. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**MOTION:** Mr. Dunford made a motion to end the meeting. It was seconded by Mr. McKee. The motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: March 26, 2026, at Sleepy Ridge Golf Course