

**UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday, November 19, 2024
@ UHSAA Offices
9:00 AM**

Board Members in Attendance: Jerre Holmes, Marilyn Richards, Amber Shill, Burke Staheli, David Warren, David Lund, Zack McKee, Paul Sweat, Luke Rasmussen, Jason Smith, Mike Mees, Devin Smith, Bryan Durst, Patrick Lambert, Brent Strate. **Minutes:** Jennifer Thomas

1. Welcome & Chair Business:

- A. Chair's General Observations:** Chair Jerre Holmes remarked that it was great to see everyone.
- B. Reverence/Thought:** Mr. David Lund shared that he is currently serving a mission and works with inmates in his community. 99% of the inmates have something in common – an addiction. They all recognize they can't get rid of it alone. They need help from a higher power. Prayer is an important part of life. He shared a quote by Bruce R McConkie from Hebrews that says we need to "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." He then offered a prayer.
- C. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Thought:** Mr. Mike Mees talked about the Veterans Day program he attended in Washington City. He rode the bus there with the band students at his high school and this gave him time to ask them about their knowledge and feelings about Veterans Day. He found overall they didn't know much about it. It made him realize we need to do more in our schools and communities to teach about it. One student remarked that there should be more than one day to celebrate, because the families that have a veteran think of them as a hero. Mr. Mees shared how Veterans Day came to be and that from 1775 – 1991 there have been almost 42 million service men and women. The total number of those that lost their lives in service of our country is also staggering. He then led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- D. Approval of Minutes:** August 22, 2024:

MOTION: Mr. Brent Strate made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Ms. Marilyn Richards. The motion carried.
- E. Approval of Board Agenda:**

MOTION: Mr. David Warren made the motion to approve the board agenda. It was seconded by Ms. Richards. The motion carried.
- F. Board Meeting Public Comment:** None.

- 2. USBE Report:** Mr. Brent Strate shared that he received an email from Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs regarding the Covey Institute in Logan and the student leadership conference for Region 11 & 12 that occurred. It is a positive that is going on in our state. He was also able to go to an elementary school and judge a Science Fair. He noticed a Covey leadership initiative there also. He pointed out #2 in the

Covey Initiative: “Begin with the end in mind.” His goal as a history teacher was to make sure the students learned how to be successful in the future. Great things are going on around the state.

3. Executive Committee Meeting Reports:

A. October 2, 2024 meeting: Mr. Devin Smith provided a summary of the EC meeting held in October.

B. November 13, 2024, meeting: Mr. Jason Smith provided a summary of the EC meeting held in November.

4. Football Endowment Games Report: Mr. Rob Cuff shared that the endowments games went well this year. The number of games held was 55, up from 44 games in 2008, and up two games from last year. The games were able to bring in over \$200,000, which is the most ever. These proceeds will be put in an account and then all schools will be paid back their Catastrophic Insurance premiums by the Foundation.

5. Fall Activities Report:

A. Boys Golf & Girls Volleyball: Ms. Jan Whittaker gave a report on golf. It was a great season. The partnership with the PGA is very appreciated as they are a great support and help get courses for the state tournaments. She announced the winners in each classification. In volleyball, the format was changed and it went well and helped with tournament management. Regions will discuss this and decide if they like it or want something different. She then announced the winners in each classification. Mr. Holmes gave a shout out to the directors and all they do running the tournaments.

B. Girls Soccer & Football: Mr. Brennan Jackson announced the winners in each classification for girls’ soccer. Football is finishing this Thursday with the 4A-6A finals. He announced the champions in the lower classifications. Panguitch would like to start having an 8-player football team, but they have three boys that have played at Beaver and those boys would like to continue playing on the team at Beaver HS.

MOTION: Mr. Jason Smith made a motion to allow the three football players who are currently Panguitch students, but playing at Beaver, to continue playing at Beaver until they graduate, even though 8 player football will start at Panguitch. Mr. Burke Staheli seconded the motion. The motion carried.

1. Mr. Jackson invited the board to the state football finals on Thursday.

C. Girls Tennis: Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs announced the winners in 3A-6A and said that the state tournament went well and she enjoyed interacting with the student athletes.

D. Cross Country: Mr. Chris Shipman explained that state cross country went back to Sugar House Park and split the event into two days. There were no parking problems and Highland HS had no issues. The coaches’ association did a great job setting everything up. The park was happy with how it was left afterwards. A BYU Olympian handed out awards. It went great overall. The winners in each classification were announced. Five teams in Utah were nationally ranked.

- E. **1A Baseball:** Mr. Jeff Cluff shared that double elimination was used for the first time in 1A. It was a great tournament. He announced the champion, and he thanked Kearns HS for hosting.

6. **UHSAA Calendar:**

- A. **2024-25 Calendar:** Mr. Cluff said it is always evolving. The best place to find the most up to date version is on the website.
- B. **2025-26 Tentative Calendar:** This is coming soon and should be up on the UHSAA Website soon.
- C. **Refer to UHSAA website for changes and updates throughout the year:** Baseball and Basketball locations have been finalized. In baseball, BYU will host 2A 5A & 6A. 3A will be at UVU and 4A at Utah Tech in St. George.

7. **UHSAA Items:**

- A. **Spirit of Sport Award:** Each school is requested to nominate someone who has experienced a large amount of adversity beyond normal. The deadline is January 15.
- B. **Heart of the Arts Award:** This is like the Spirit of Sport Award but is for a student that is involved in one of the arts. It is the same deadline as January 15. Both awards are then nominated to the NFHS.
- C. **Basketball Items:** Mr. Jackson announced the sites for state basketball. 1A/2A will be held at the Sevier Valley Center, 3A will be held at UVU, 4A at SUU and 5A/6A at the University of Utah.

MOTION: Mr. Lund made a motion to approve Layton Christian Academy's request to go independent in basketball. Mr. Zack McKee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- D. **Christmas Moratorium:** This is from December 22-26.
- E. **Summer Moratorium:** This is from June 30-July 6.
- F. **Coaches Certification:** NFHS Learn has been valuable to get coaches certified.
- G. **Coaches Credentials:** Mr. Cluff explained that the winter sports deadline for coaches to order credentials is November 20. Administrative credentials were extended to help facilitate bringing teams to the tournament. The system is going well overall. There are over 20,000 coaches credentialed each year. Thanks to the coaches and schools for helping with this process.
- H. **Officiating Update:** Over 7,000 basketball officials have been registered. Waiving the dues for the first year has worked well and officials seem to be returning the next year. The numbers are going in the right direction overall. The only sport that still lacks officials is lacrosse (both boys and girls).

I. Sportsmanship Items:

1. **School Video Competition:** Every school is asked to create a video that shows positive sportsmanship. The contest awards a \$1,000 scholarship to a winner in each classification.
2. **Gold Star Coach Award:** This is to recognize coaches that are making a difference in their schools. Each school is encouraged to nominate a coach.

J. Women In Sports Day: This will be held on February 19 and will promote participation in sports for female athletes. Each school is encouraged to send five female athletes to this. It will be a great celebration.

K. Unified Sports (UHSAA/SOUT): Mr. Shipman shared Unified soccer participation numbers with the board.

L. Academic All-State Windows: 967 students were honored. Winter activities start on January 6, 2025.

M. UHSAA Student Leadership Conferences: Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs shared that a packet was sent out to regions to help them run their student leadership conferences. Show up for Service was an initiative for student athletes to share what they are doing as service projects to make a difference in their communities. The four winners were invited to a Utah Jazz game and enjoyed the experience.

N. Cheer Items – Safety Clinics: Lexi Cunningham, Executive Director of the Superintendents Association, attended the meeting to decide how to handle future cheer safety clinics after Risk Management discontinues after July 1, 2025. Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs presented the two options that the Executive Committee proposed. It was discussed that the additional fee for safety clinics will need to be added to each school's fee schedule, so the schools can prepare for those girls who may not attend the camps with the team, but still need training. A memo will be prepared and sent to districts by the Association.

8. BOT Elections Update:

A. January Elections: There are 5A and a 2A school board positions opening up. In addition, Mr. Paul Sweat's term as the 5A/6A superintendent will end. Mr. Mike Mees is retiring, so there will need to be a 3A/4A principal appointed. Mr. Bryan Durst's term will also end, so the charter schools will vote for that representative in the spring.

9. New member school applications:

A. New school applications for 2025-26

1. **Deseret Peak High School:** Mr. Matt Parker and Athletic Directors Mr. Catham Beer and Ms. Andee Bouwhuis presented information about their school facilities, the expected student size, etc.

MOTION: Ms. Richards made a motion to accept Deseret Peak High School as a new UHSAA member school for fall 2025. Ms. Amber Shill seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. **Mountain Valley School:** Ms. Stacey Allred and Ms. Marcy Lavery presented information about their school.

MOTION: Mr. Luke Rasmussen made the motion to uphold the Executive Committee's decision to not approve Mountain Valley School for membership in UHSAA. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. The motion carried.

10. Realignment 2025-2027:

A. Schools by District, Private Schools and Charter Schools:

B Timetable: The first meeting is today. The second one is December 4, the third is December 11, the fourth December 12 and the last meeting is December 19.

C. Placement of Member Schools into Classifications: A discussion occurred to initially place member schools into classifications with only seeing enrollments and not seeing school names, starting with 6A and moving down to 1A.

MOTION: Mr. Bryan Durst made a motion to accept the configuration of schools as follows: 6A - 24, 5A - 26, 4A - 24, 3A - 18, 2A - 26, 1A - 31. Mr. Rasmussen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

FOOTBALL: 6A - 24, 5A - 26, 4A - 23, 3A - 13, 2A - 10, 1A - 9.

MOTION: Brent Strate made a motion to accept the configuration of football schools as follows: 6A - 24, 5A - 26, 4A - 23, 3A - 13, 2A - 10, 1A - 9. Dave Lund seconded the motion. The motion carried.

11. Legal Report: Mr. Mark Van Wagoner provided a legal report to the board.

12. For the Good of the Order:

A. Participation: Mr. Cuff referred the board to student participation and the increases in all the sports and activities nationwide.

B. Dangers of Energy Drinks: Mr. Cuff referred the board to the document regarding energy drinks. A position statement was put in the UHSAA handbook with a link to NFHS recommendations and guidelines.

C. UHSAA Distinguished Service Award Winners: The award selection committee met and recommended the people listed on the provided document. Mr. Cuff announced the selections and shared a little about each winner.

MOTION: Mr. Warren made a motion to accept the selected winners of the Distinguished Service Award. Mr. Lund seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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