

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**  
**UHSAA OFFICE – May 6, 2025 @ 9:00 A.M.**

**Attendees:** Jerre Holmes, Bryce Dunford, Amber Shill, Burke Staheli, David Warren, Zack McKee, Luke Rasmussen, Jason Smith, Mike Mees Bryan Durst, Alex Salvo, (attending for Patrick Lambert), Carol Lear, Rob Cuff, Jeff Cluff, Brenan Jackson, Jan Whittaker, Missy Mackay-Whiteurs and Chris Shipman. **Excused:** Paul Sweat, Devin Smith, Ian Adams, Steve Marsing and Jennifer Thomas

**1. Welcome & Chair Business:**

- A. Chair's general observations:** Chair Jerre Holmes welcomed the board and thanked them for their attendance. He asked to speak for the group to pass on their condolences to Ms. Jan Whittaker for the recent loss of her mother.
- B. Reverence/thought:** Mr. Mike Mees shared that 9 seniors were invited to their school for a special dinner. It is called the principal's dinner. The students invited are seniors that have made it to graduation while having special challenges and trials. They were invited to bring people who had helped and influenced them as they overcame these challenges. This underlined how important others are in our lives to help us as we go through this world and how important the school environment and activities are to help with that also. He then offered a prayer.
- C. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic thought:** Ms. Amber Shill discussed how she attended the National School Board Conference in Boston about ten years ago, and while there, she was able to visit the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. She shared a quote by Robert F. Kennedy that said: *"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and those ripples build to currents which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."* Each of us in our position can do good. We can help our students and fellow employees and as we do that, we can send out ripples of good across our communities. She then led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- D. Acknowledge outgoing BOT members:** Chair Holmes thanked each member for their service. Each member present said a few remarks.
  - 1. Amber Shill – 5A School Board
  - 2. Ian Adams – 2A School Board
  - 3. Paul Sweat – 5A/6A Superintendent
  - 4. Jerre Holmes – 1A/2A Superintendent
  - 5. Jason Smith – 5A/6A Principal
  - 6. Mike Mees – 3A/4A Principal
  - 7. Bryan Durst – Charter Schools

Mr. Cuff then spoke for a few minutes about Chair Holmes and thanked him for his years of service as the board chair.

**E. Approval of Board Agenda**

**MOTION:** Mr. David Warren made a motion to approve the current board agenda. Mr. Burke Staheli seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**F. Approval of Minutes**

- 1. March 26, 2025, meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jason Smith made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Amber Shill seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**G. Board Meeting Public Comment:** None.

2. **USBE Report:** Ms. Carol Lear provided a USBE report. She shared that the state board supports UHSAA and is appreciative of the job the board is doing.

Mr. Cuff introduced Brandon Riley, General Manager of UHSAA Sports Properties. Mr. Riley then introduced himself and explained his love of high school sports and his vision and goals to highlight high school sports and bring it's positive impact to more people through more corporate sponsorships.

3. **Executive Committee Meeting Report:** Mr. Jason Smith provided a meeting summary of the previous Executive Committee meeting which was held on April 23, 2025.
4. **2025-26 Meeting Schedule for Boards:** Mr. Rob Cuff referenced a sheet in the meeting materials that had the proposed meeting dates for the upcoming school year and asked the board to check and make sure the dates worked for the majority, reminding them they can always send a replacement in the case of a conflict.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bryce Dunford made a motion to approve the Board of Trustees meeting schedule for the upcoming school year. Mr. Warren seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5. **Activities Report:**

- A. **Solo & Ensemble Music Festivals:** Mr. Brenan Jackson shared that the festivals were held on April 26, 2025, at Provo and Woods Cross High Schools. About 2,000 students participated at each site and certificates and medals have been mailed out to each of the schools that qualified for the awards.
- B. **Theatre:** Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs explained that it was another great year in theatre. She then announced the winners in each classification.
- C. **Speech & Debate:** Mr. Chris Shipman announced the winners of state Forensics in each classification and congratulated the winners.
- D. **Esports Update:** Ms. Jan Whittaker shared that Esports was sanctioned as an activity and the season will be held from January through mid-April. Play Versus will be used as the platform and is free to the schools. The competitions will be held online, with the final championships being held in person. A college venue is still being finalized. Ken Garff will be running a parallel season and will have their competition season from late fall to early winter. They also have a grant that schools can apply for that will give them \$1,500 to go to whatever needs they have in their Esports programs.

6. **UHSAA Calendar:**

- A. **Review of 2024-25 & 2025-26 Calendars:** Mr. Cluff explained that the two calendars are always evolving with tweaks and changes being made, so please refer to the UHSAA website often. He also reminded the board that there was a copy of the upcoming events happening over the next several weeks and he encouraged the board to attend the events and present trophies to the schools.

7. **Constitution and By-Laws Committee Report:** Mr. Cuff/Mr. Mark Van Wagoner reminded the board that a motion was made in the March 26<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to support changes for both transgender

participation and student visa eligibility. The Executive Committee then reviewed the changes on April 23<sup>rd</sup> in their meeting and no changes were proposed. The board was asked if there were any questions or issues with that motion.

**MOTION:** It was proposed that the board sustain the action taken at the previous meeting: Mr. Durst made a motion to support changes to transgender participation. Mr. Rasmussen seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Bryce Dunford made a motion to support the changes to student visa eligibility. Mr. Patrick Lambert seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Dunford moved that they sustain the action taken at the previous meeting. Mr. Zack McKee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

8. **Legal Report:** Mr. Van Wagoner provided a legal report to the Board of Trustees.

9. **Sportsmanship Items:**

A. **2025 School Sportsmanship Award Applications:** Ms. Whittaker reminded the board that they are due May 26, 2025. She encouraged all schools to participate so they can get a star to put on their banner in their gym.

B. **Criteria for Award:** The criteria is on the UHSAA website.

C. **Gold Star Coach Award:** Every school is asked to nominate an outstanding coach that is changing the lives of students and doing great things at their school. The classification Gold Star Coach Awards were recently given for both female and male coaches. The winners are listed on the UHSAA website.

10. **Staff Items**

A. **Student Leadership Conferences:** Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs shared that these will be held in the Fall by Regions. On August 19, 2025, the Department of Veterans and Military Affairs will be hosting out at Dugway and representatives from each region can attend and be trained, which will then allow them to do a conference themselves with their regions.

B. **Cheer Safety Clinics 2026:** This year they will still be held through Risk Management. For the future, there is a committee of six principals and three coaches that will be figuring out what cheer safety clinics will look like in future years. There will be a report in the August meeting related to this.

C. **SMAC Report:** Mr. Jackson shared that the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, which is made up of doctors, athletic trainers, mental health experts and physical therapists had a long meeting to go over important issues related to sports medicine. The PPE is being updated with some new information related to medical and national pediatric changes. Air quality issues have been left up to districts on how they want to handle poor air quality. The new air quality monitors being located at events sites have allowed for real time information and predictions that have allowed the districts to make decisions on cancelling games. More information related to air quality will be coming next year.

D. **Coaches' Certification:** NFHSLearn.com is a great resource to use for training. There are only four CPR courses that are approved by the state school board/superintendent. This year a couple of schools in Utah have used their Emergency Action Plans and had their AED devices easily accessible, which has played a role in saving lives.

- E. **UHSAA Summer Moratorium:** It will be held from June 30-July 6. The deadline to request a change to the moratorium for their entire school is May 30, 2025. The time was turned over to Mr. Warren, who had concerns regarding the moratorium. He requested that the board look at potentially adding another week of moratorium sometime in the summer to give coaches, student athletes and families the opportunity to go on vacation and have more time off from athletics. It was proposed that the item is discussed in the August Executive Committee meeting and the committee then take it back to their schools for discussion. It then can be further discussed in the August Board of Trustees meeting and then decided upon in the board meeting held in November.
- F. **Academic All-State:** Mr. Shipman shared that all certificates were being prepared and would be mailed out soon.
- G. **Unified Sports:** Mr. Shipman explained that the Special Olympics went in a little different direction and didn't run in the region meet but held a separate track meet for all their teams that included events they would be running in the state meet, as well as other events they do in their track meets during the summer. However, they want to continue to run during the state track meet to get more exposure. They will run at the beginning of each day on Thursday and Friday.
- H. **UHSAA Ticketing and Football Endowment Games:** Mr. Cluff reminded the Board that the ticket amount has changed, and this will be in effect starting with the first football endowment game next season. There are several endowment games being played at neutral sites this year, which is unusual. It will be a test to see if it still works to fulfill the objective of the endowment games.
- I. **Coaches Credentials:** Mr. Cluff provided an update on the spring credentials, which will be sent out over the next couple of days. There was a delay due to UPS losing the first batch of spring credentials, but over all the credentialing has been a positive thing.
- J. **Officiating Update:** Mr. Cluff announced that officiating is up 10% over last year, which is 340 more officials registered. Sportsmanship has continued to be an issue, and solutions are being worked on to try and get back to an attitude of education-based activities and sports and focusing on the three elements of sportsmanship: The parents, officials and coaches. They must work together to create a culture of sportsmanship.

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

**MOTION:** Mr. Warren made a motion to approve the insurance rates for the upcoming school year. Mr. Rasmussen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- 12. **Board of Trustees Terms 2025-26:** Mr. Cuff shared that the Board will look a lot different in August. Every open position is now filled. Ms. Michelle Barber from Davis School District will be the 5A School Board representative. Mr. Mitchell Glazier from Kane School District will be the 2A School Board representative. Ms. Gina Butters, Superintendent of Weber School District will fill Mr. Paul Sweat's position as the 5A/6A Superintendent representative, and Mr. Jason Young will be the 1A/2A Superintendent representative, taking the place of Mr. Jerre Holmes. In addition, Mr. Josh LeRoy from Cyprus High School will be the 5A/6A Principal representative in place of Mr. Jason Smith and Steve Gordon from Emery High School will take the place of Mr. Mike Mees as the 3A/4A Principal

representative. The charter schools recently had an election in the UHSAA office and voted to have Mr. Nathan Marshall from Providence Hall as their representative, and Mr. Bryan Durst will be moving to the Executive Committee.

13. **Executive Committee Terms 2025-26:** Mr. Cuff then went through the list of principals who are assigned as regions chairs for the 2025-26 school year.

14. **Election for BOT Leadership Positions 2025-26:**

**MOTION:** Mr. Warren nominated Mr. Rasmussen to be the new Board of Trustees Chairman. It was seconded by Mr. Staheli. The motion carried.

15. **For the Good of The Order:** Mr. Cuff referred the board to an article entitled Meeting the Needs of student athletes and recommended that they read the article.