

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2024  
UHSAA OFFICE  
9:00 AM**

**Those in attendance:** Jerre Holmes, Marilyn Richards, Amber Shill, Burke Staheli, David Warren, Dave Lund, Zack McKee, Paul Sweat, Luke Rasmussen, Jason Smith, Mike Mees, Devin Smith, Bryan Durst, Brent Strate. **Excused:** Patrick Lambert (Mr. Alex Salvo attended in his place). **Minutes:** Jennifer Thomas

**1. Welcome & Chair Business**

**A. Chair's general observations:** Chair Jerre Holmes shared that he and a couple of others were just up at the legislature working on a few issues. He is grateful to be on a board where they see the big picture. He shared a picture of a student in his district that has special needs, and he goes into Chair Holmes' office every day. He is the only person that doesn't need to knock. Chair Holmes then showed a video of this student running in a unified track event. He wanted to underline that everything the board is doing is for things like this; students like the one in the video.

**B. Welcome new BOT members:** Chair Holmes then welcomed the new board members:

1. Burke Staheli – Washington SD – 4A School Board
2. Jason Smith – Northridge HS – 5A/6A Principal
3. Devin Smith – North Summit HS – 1A/2A Principal
4. Patrick Lambert – Judge Memorial Catholic HS – Private Schools

Mr. Rob Cuff presented an NFHS award to Jeff Cluff for his 10 years of outstanding service to UHSAA and the NFHS.

**C. 159 member schools:** This is the number of member schools for the 2024-25 school year.

**D. Reverence/thought:** Ms. Amber Shill shared her favorite quote *"Never doubt that a small, dedicated group of people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."* She said that being involved in education is an awesome opportunity and an awesome responsibility. She then provided a prayer.

**E. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic thought:** Mr. Zack McKee explained that he has been thinking about the privilege we each have to vote. As we sit on this board and choose to vote, we can make a difference. We are here to look at the big picture. It reminded him of his favorite war story from World War II. The allied forces were analyzing planes that were coming back and trying to decide where to put armor on the planes. The data points told them to put armor where the bullet holes were located, but one soldier pointed out that the only data they had were the planes coming back, not the planes that didn't return. He pointed out that the armor needed to go where the bullet holes weren't located. When they did this, more planes came back. We need to be a different voice; to question the group and to also question how we've always done or seen things. He then led the board in the Pledge.

**F. Minutes of May 1, 2024 meeting:** Chair Holmes presented the minutes from the previous meeting.

**MOTION:** Ms. Marilyn Richards made a motion to approve the previous board meeting minutes. Mr. David Warren seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**G. Approval of Board Agenda:**

**MOTION:** Mr. Brent Strate motioned to approve the board agenda. Mr. Dave Lund seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

2. **Executive Committee Meeting Report:** Mr. Rob Cuff Mr. Cuff provided a summary of the Executive Committee meeting held on August 7, 2024.

3. **USBE Report:** Mr. Strate reflected back on his week and thinking about what they are trying to do at USBE. They are advocating for things that will help kids. His wife is a principal at an elementary school and asked him to wear their mascot costume for their back-to-school night. He loved the experience of how excited the kids got. The committee, board and UHSAA staff all are good things happening in education. He hopes all will continue to move things forward this year and into the future.

4. **Audit Report:** Haynie & Company summarized the audit report and shared that there were no findings. They then asked the board if there were any questions. There were none.

**MOTION:** Mr. Warren made a motion to accept the budget report. Mr. Lund seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**MOTION:** Mr. Luke Rasmussen made the motion to close the meeting and go to a budget hearing. It was seconded by Ms. Richards. The motion carried.

\*\*\*\*\*PUBLIC HEARING\*\*\*\*\*

5. **UHSAA 2024-25 Budget:**

A. **Public Hearing:** Mr. Cuff outlined this year’s budget. He explained that in his last 16 years, only three years were not in the black and those were around Covid. He explained the Activities Revenue section and shared that we have made the most revenue in the 2023-24 year thus far. He then explained the Activities Expenses, Operating Revenue and the Operating Expenses. Mr. McKee asked what portion of the budget contained the TV rights and streaming. Mr. Cuff explained it was grouped in with the Sponsors/Licensing/Website. Chair Holmes asked if the GoFan ticketing charges are in line with most ticketing services and discussion ensued. It was then answered that it is in line with most ticketing services. Ms. Richards commented that the budget is very transparent and clear, and she appreciates this.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jason Smith motioned to approve the budget for the 2024-25 school year. Mr. Lund seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**MOTION:** Mr. McKee made a motion to end the budget hearing and go back to the regular meeting. Mr. Lund seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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6. **UHSAA Procedures and Materials:**

- A. **2024-25 meeting schedule:** There may be a conflict for the meeting in November with Football. The meeting will need to be changed to Tuesday, November 19.

**MOTION:** Mr. Burke Staheli made a motion to move the upcoming board meeting to Tuesday, November 19, 2024. Mr. McKee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

There will be additional meetings that need to be held for the alignment. Meeting two concerning the alignment will be held on Wednesday December 4 at 9:00 a.m. in person and will be a 3–4-hour meeting related to bubble schools. A Zoom meeting will then be held on Wednesday, December 11, at 6:30 p.m., which will allow schools to report/speak. There will then be an in-person meeting on December 12 at 9:00 a.m. The final meeting to establish the alignment will be held on Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in person at the UHSAA office.

**MOTION:** Mr. Warren motioned to hold four additional meetings related to the realignment. Mr. Luke Rasmussen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. **Reimbursement claims for meetings and tournament supervision:**

1. **Mileage:** This is reimbursed at .66 cents per mile. The board was asked to make sure the reimbursement is made out to the right person or the district if a school car is used.
2. **Meals:** Lunch will be provided during the meeting. If the board is traveling during breakfast or dinner, they can also be reimbursed.
3. **Lodging:** If a board member needs to leave before 7:00 a.m. in order to attend the board meeting on time, they can contact Mr. Cluff, and he will get them a hotel room for the night before the meeting.

- C. **Committee Assignments:** A list was provided of all the committee assignments. Mr. Cuff told the board that if they want to move committees, for any reason, to let him know.

- D. **UHSAA governance chart:** Ms. Jan Whittaker shared how legislation is presented and passed.

- E. **Personal information sheet:** Ms. Jennifer Thomas requested that the new board members fill out the sheet provided and return it to her at the end of the meeting.

- F. **State Passes:** These were handed out.

7. **UHSAA Items:**

- A. **Super Fan:** Mr. Cuff reminded the board that each school can nominate a Super Fan, and that the nomination form is due on November 1, 2024.

- B. **2024-25 Classifications and Regions:** Mr. Cuff shared the list of Executive Committee members and their terms.

- C. **About the UHSAA/NFHS:** The NFHS writes all the rules for high school sports. The UHSAA director and assistant directors serve on some of the NFHS committees: Mr. Jackson is on the football and music committees. Ms. Jan Whittaker serves on the Heart of the Arts

committee and the volleyball rules committee, Mr. Chris Shipman serves on the girls' lacrosse and wrestling rules committees, Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs is on the National Records Committee and Mr. Cuff serves on the Middle School Committee and the Summer Meeting Advisory Committee. The NFHS has 19,800 high schools and over 12 million participants nationwide, with nearly 8 million in high school sports alone. NFHS is a wonderful organization.

**8. Visits to Region Boards:**

**A. Staff Schedule for 2024-25:** Mr. Cuff referred the board to the list of regions and which UHSAA director was assigned to attend each region meeting. He also encouraged the board members to attend the region meetings.

**9. 2023-24 UHSAA Participation:** Ms. Whittaker shared that sports participation has increased, and activities participation has decreased a little.

**10. Sportsmanship Committee:** Ms. Whittaker shared that there have been fifteen years of the Sportsmanship "Raise the Bar" campaign. Mr. Jason Smith is on the committee and this committee meets twice a year. They are implementing a sportsmanship highlight to show positive experiences. The sportsmanship video competition is also still occurring. Ms. Whittaker just sent out an email related to this. The Gold Star Coach honors coaches around the state that are doing positive things. Each school can nominate one male and one female coach.

**11. Promoting High School Activities:** Mr. Jackson referred the board to an article that discusses the importance of athletics in predicting success in academics. Mr. Warren shared that he has heard ads about promoting sportsmanship in student athletics and he appreciates that it is being advertised.

**12. Academic All-State:** Mr. Chris Shipman explained that this award is given out after each season. It goes to seniors that have a high GPA/test score.

**13. UHSAA Items:**

**A. UHSAA Website:** Mr. Cluff reminded the board that the calendar is a resource that is constantly being updated and is constantly changing. If you find something that needs to be changed or is missing, contact Mr. Cluff and he or Curt Pettingill will take care of it. Mr. Josh Taylor is also involved in the background of the operation of the website.

**B. Social Media:** Audrey Barton is the part-time social media director. She posts UHSAA events to our social media. Currently there is a student of the week that is highlighted. Mr. Herbers also highlights an athlete of the week through PlayFly. UHSAA social media is going very well overall. Mr. Cluff shared that they are always looking for new ideas and encouraged schools to send anything of note their way. Mr. Warren also encouraged schools to do so, stating it is a good way to promote activities throughout the state.

**C. Aktivite – Athlete and Coach:** Register My Athlete is the student athlete registration and transfer portal. It is also used for coaches' certification.

**D. Electronic Programs:** UHSAA is one of the first associations to go to electronic programs. Surprisingly one challenge is getting team photos for the programs. Mr. Cluff encouraged all involved with schools to make sure the school team pictures are provided.

- E. **Yearly Results/Record Book:** Mr. Curt Pettingill is keeping up with this and does a fantastic job. Mr. Cluff encouraged all to go visit the record book.
14. **UHSAA Calendar:**
- A. **2024-25 calendar:** Mr. Cluff explained that this is an ever-changing document. He encouraged the board to refer to it often.
- B. **2025-26 tentative calendar:** This is coming soon.
- C. The board was encouraged to refer to UHSAA website for changes and updates throughout the year.
15. **Coaches Training**
- A. **This is a District/School Responsibility:** The courses can be taken through NFHSlearn.com
- B. **UHSAA Certification Checklist:** This is document is required for all principals to sign and send back to UHSAA. The eligibility list has been added to this checklist.
16. **UHSAA Credentials:** Mr. Cluff explained that each board member was provided with a credential that will allow them access to the UHSAA state tournaments. Mr. Cluff encouraged them to attend these tournaments if possible. UHSAA has worked hard to get credentials to all who need them. The progress with this has been good.
17. **Officials:**
- A. **Online registration and background checks:** Online registration and background checks have gone well. Over 1,400 were registered in July. Discounts were provided and early registration was encouraged. Recruiting is going well. UHSAA has partnered with RefReps in conjunction with the USBE. If anyone is interested in officiating, please encourage them to contact Mr. Cluff.
- B. **Arbiter Website:** There is a link through UHSAA website.
- C. **2024-25 pay scale:** This is also on the UHSAA Website.
18. **Staff Items:**
- A. **Compliance Training:** Mr. Cuff went over UHSAA compliance and what is required.
- B. **UHSAA Summits:** These were held at the beginning of August due to wanting to get ahead on training for the transfer rule. They went well and UHSAA appreciates everyone who attended.
- C. **Student Leadership Conferences:** Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs shared that there will be a student leadership training on September 6 at Jordan HS for the assigned sportsmanship representative for each region.
- D. **Show Up Sports Challenge (Service Initiative):** Schools are being asked to participate in the service challenge and to video it. Prizes can be earned.

- E. **Cheer Items:** Ms. Whittaker explained that the safety certification for cheer will no longer be required by Risk Management, and they won't pay for it, so it will need to be decided if schools want to continue with the certification and how to pay for it. Ms. Lori Rupp provided statistics and explained that injuries have been on the rise in cheerleading-related accidents in the last few years. She then explained the comprehensive coaches training that is provided. The clinics provided are live clinics. Testimonials were provided about the importance of the safety clinics from coaches and cheer athletes. After the presentation concluded, the board discussed if the cheer safety clinics would continue and who would pay for it. Mr. Smith asked that the Executive Committee take it back to their regions. The next step is to have Ms. Lexi Cunningham discuss this with the superintendents. They are having a meeting and state risk will be presenting there. In the October Executive Committee meeting, the committee members will be asked to take it back to their regions.
- F. **Esports Update:** Ms. Jan Whittaker shared that Play Versus will be the platform that will likely be used for the Esports and it will be free. There will be a pilot program this year in conjunction with Ken Garff to get schools excited about the upcoming season in 2025-26.
- G. **Summer Moratorium:** This will be held on June 30 – July 6. Mr. Warren received feedback from parents asking if the moratorium could be lengthened due to how busy students are in the summer. It was explained that it was originally two weeks, but it was determined by previous board members that it was too long, and so it was shortened to one week.
- H. **Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Report (SMAC):** Mr. Jackson shared that there will be a presentation about sports drinks that are causing issues when students use them due to the amount of caffeine in them. A dietician will be presenting to the EC at their next meeting.
- I. **Boys Soccer Probation:** In boys' soccer, violent conduct penalties have gone down, but serious foul play continues to be a problem and will be added to the two game suspension. Because everything else came down, boys' soccer received an additional game back but is still on probation.
- J. **Member School Requests:** Logan HS girls basketball and UMA Camp Williams baseball have asked to go independent for their upcoming season.

**MOTION:** Mr. Warren made the motion to allow Logan HS girls basketball and UMA Camp Williams baseball to go independent for the upcoming season. It was seconded by Ms. Richards. The motion carried.

- 19. **Legal report:** Mr. Mark Van Wagoner explained that the new transfer rule is causing some confusion, and they have been trying to resolve the confusion. Mr. Van Wagoner is hearing rumblings that there may be a lawsuit filed due to the change in the F-1 visas. Hearings on alleged recruiting will begin in about two weeks. He would like to create a sub-committee of three board members, on which he could report on all the above items.

**MOTION:** Ms. Richards made the motion to end the meeting and go into the public hearing. It was seconded by Mr. Lund. The motion carried.

\*\*\*\*\*PUBLIC HEARING\*\*\*\*\*

- 20. **Realignment 2025-2027:**

- A. **Public Comment:** Granger Principal Tyler Howe and Cyprus Principal Josh LeRoy inquired about the socioeconomic status of a school and wanted to know how much that status is taken into consideration. In the last realignment Granger went from 6A to 5A. They have about 3600+ kids. The challenge is that there is a huge student body, but a lot of transience. This causes challenges for success in athletics. Mr. LeRoy shared that the region is mostly westside Granite schools. Having Juan Diego’s boys’ team only in their region and not the girl’s team makes scheduling hard with basketball. They would prefer to have both teams if possible.
  
- B. **Format and Procedures:** Mr. Cuff outlined the timetable for the realignment proceedings. This has been looked at by both the committee and the board twice. He referred everyone to the handbook, pages 20-21. Interps & Guidelines – Alignment of Member Schools – B. Format for 2025-2027 Alignment of Schools as adopted by the Board of Trustees. He explained the free and reduced lunch considerations in general and for football. He then went over item C – Procedures for the 2025-2027 Alignment of Schools as adopted by the Board of Trustees. Mr. Nate Marshall from the Executive Board presented the factors for consideration for the realignment. Discussion ensued on how to apply the statistics to the realignment considerations.

**MOTION:** Mr. McKee made a motion to use a member school profile number as one of the factors to determine classification placement for tied schools. Ms. Shill seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**MOTION:** Mr. Rasmussen made a motion to approve the text that the Board of Trustees can resolve a tie and do so by using a member school profile number based on a success factor approved by the board, along with other factors, when determining classification placement. Ms. Strate seconded that motion. The motion carried.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bryan Durst made a motion to accept the format and procedures as a second reading. It was seconded by Mr. Paul Sweat. The motion carried.

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- 21. **Corporate Sponsorships (PlayFly) UHSAA Sports Properties:** Mr. Herbers introduced himself and encouraged the board to reach out to him via email if he has any questions.
  
- 22. **UHSAA Foundation:**
  - A. Mr. Cuff shared the names of the Committee Members: Jerry Bovee, Chair; Marilyn Richards (BOT); Chris Neddo, Belinda Johnson and Rex Thorton. The foundation continues to do well.
  
  - B. **Catastrophic Insurance:** – This is due on September 15. The Foundation will return this premium at 100% to all member schools.
  
  - C. **Endowment Football Games:** These continue to do well. We will have 55 games this year.

**MOTION:** Amber Lund made the motion to go into a closed finance meeting. Mr. Lund seconded the motion. The motion was unanimous.

**23. Finance Committee Items: Chair Marilyn Richards**

A Finance Committee Report/Staff Considerations: The earlier meeting was discussed with the board.

**MOTION:** Mr. Rasmussen made the motion to accept the staff consideration proposal from the Finance Committee as discussed. Mr. Lund seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**MOTION:** Mr. Warren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Shill seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.