

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
UHSAA Office
Thursday, November 17, 2022
9:00 AM

Those in attendance: Marilyn Richards, Belinda Johnson, Gary Olson, Dave Lund, Cory Anderson, Paul Sweat, Larry Bergeson, Jerre Holmes, Robert McDaniel, Darin Thomas, Jim Wood, Bryan Durst, Greg Miller, Brent Strate, Rob Cuff, Jeff Cluff, Brenan Jackson, Jon Oglesby and Jan Whittaker. Excused: Jeffrey Nielsen. Minutes: Jeanne Widerburg.

1. **Welcome and Chair Business:** Chair Holmes welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance and service to student athletes in Utah. He excused Jeffrey Nielsen and thanked Teri Rhodes for filling in for him.

A. Reverence/Thought: Mr. Sweat said as he looks around the room, he feels many of the members have spent a lifetime in high school activities and education in general. He hopes that members approach the decision-making process with a level of reverence. He acknowledges high school activities are very emotional and sometimes it gets out of hand. But decisions need to be made with a level of reverence because they have been given a sacred trust to represent the students of Utah. He then offered a prayer.

B. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Thought: Mr. Olson honored his father who was soon turning 91-years old and was a veteran of the Korean War. He recently participated in the Utah Honor Flight. Mr. Olson appreciated most schools having a Veteran's Day celebration and remembrance. His father stepped on Korean ground as an 18-year-old boy and within twelve days he was in battle. He was wounded upon the first shell and he carried shrapnel in his wrist and ankle his whole life. One of Mr. Olson's distant cynical family members mentioned that the Utah Honor Flight was quite an honor for only 12 days of service. Mr. Olson said he would be happy to supply them with the name of his father's buddies that were killed during those twelve days. Even one day of service represents sacrifice for men and women veterans. His father had a great opposition to the thought that "our vote doesn't count." Our vote does count in our great democracy. Mr. Olson paid tribute to veterans who served and sacrificed and continue to do so. He then led members in the pledge of allegiance.

C. Approval of Minutes – August 18, 2022 (summary on UHSAA website):

MOTION: Mr. Anderson made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2022. Mr. Bergeson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

D. Approval of Board Agenda: Mr. Holmes asked members for their approval to discuss items 1-3 on the agenda and then skip to item 10 for the realignment discussion.

MOTION: Mr. Wood made the motion to approve the agenda with the change of discussing items 1-3 on the agenda and skipping to item 10 on realignment. Mr. Lund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. **USBE Report:** Mr. Strate said he appreciates the connection between high school activities and the USBE. The School Board has a program called, "Portrait of a Graduate." He was visiting with a foreign exchange student and they were discussing activities and sports. In the

country the student was from, there was no connection between educational institutions and athletic competitions. Mr. Strate thought about that and feels that is one of the great things we have. It provides an opportunity for every student in Utah to be involved and actively engaged. It is extremely expensive to participate in the student's foreign country. Mr. Strate applauds the educational institutions and the UHSAA for working together and connecting.

One of the points from "Portrait of a Graduate" is hard work and resilience. Most of the athletes that played football this year did not win the state championship. It's not about the championship, it's about hard work, setting goals and working to achieve them. They might fall short, but their resilience will bring them back.

3. Executive Committee Meeting Reports:

A. October 5, 2022, Meeting (summary on UHSAA website): Meeting reported by Mr. Wood.

- Ready Reference Calendar
- 2022-2023 Calendar was reviewed
- 53 Football Endowment Games were held
- Schools were encouraged to participate in Unified Sports
- Coach Certification – districts are responsible
- Mr. Hunter provided UIAAA report
- Summer Moratorium is June 28 – July 4. Adjustments by entire school.
- Nominations for DSA and Super Fan Awards were due on November 1
- Mr. Van Wagoner provided a legal report
- Sportsmanship Items – Student Leaderships
- Emerging Sports – Survey due in October
- Officials Update
- Realignment Update
- Shot Clock discussion
- Sports Initiative for Service
- Articles from the NFHS

B. November 9, 2022, Meeting (summary on UHSAA website):

- Ready Reference Calendar
- Football Endowment Games (53), revenue was \$115K
- Fall Activity Review
- 2022-2023 Calendar
- Mr. Hunter reported on NIAAA and UIAAA
- Spirit of Sport and Heart of the Arts Award applications due on January 15
- Sportsmanship -Video competition and Gold Star Coach Award
- Emerging Sports – Esports
- Certified Coaches on RMC
- Boys Soccer semifinals will be held at the Zion's Bank Stadium
- Coaches' Credentials
- Officials Update
- Mr. Van Wagoner provided a legal report

- Shot clock discussion and decision to use where available for season and will be used for post season
- 2022 Distinguished Service Award recipients were announced and approved

4. Football Endowment Games Report: Mr. Cuff reported there were 53 football endowment games compared to 44 games in 2008. The revenue the UHSAA received was over \$115K. This revenue goes to the UHSAA Foundation and comes back to schools in the form of reimbursement for catastrophic premiums. This year, schools will be reimbursed 50% of their catastrophic premium.

MOTION: Mr. Olson made the motion to move the Football Endowment revenue, \$115,418.70, to the UHSAA Foundation. Mr. Lund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. Fall Activities Report:

A. Boys Golf and Volleyball: Ms. Whittaker reported on golf. There were several changes to golf this year. There was a running leader board so scores could be updated across the state. An active coaches' association has been started and head coaches were required to do a rules clinic. She said the talent level across the state is tremendous.

The 3A/4A volleyball tournament was moved to the weekend at UVU and 1A/2A to SVC. Next year, all classifications will be back at UVU. This will be a two-year rotation. Ms. Whittaker reported there were new courts at UVU.

B. Girls' Soccer and Football: Mr. Jackson reported soccer went well. Rio Tinto's America First Stadium was not available so the tournaments were held at Zions Bank Stadium. He said it was a great venue for soccer with future football possibilities.

The 5A/6A football championships will be held the following day at the University of Utah. Members were invited to attend the event. 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A were held last weekend at Utah Tech and the 8-Player football final was played at SUU.

C. Girls Tennis and Cross Country: Mr. Oglesby reported on tennis. There was considerable concern at the beginning of the season. It was determined to use the UTR for tennis which was tennis' version of the RPI. He said it worked well and the matches were good competition.

Cross Country was held at the Regional Athletic Complex. There were great crowds and Utah produces some of the best distant runners in the nation. He gave credit to the coaches' association who worked tirelessly preparing and marking the course to provide the runners a great experience. It was pointed out that a group of coaches feel strongly that the championship should be on a different course. Conversations will continue, but next year's event will be at RAC.

D. 1A and 2A Fall Baseball: Mr. Cluff reported that the second 2A fall baseball championship was held this year. 1A was held at Snow Canyon HS and 2A was held at SLCC Cate Field. He thanked Mr. Bergeson for their school district's support to play at Snow Canyon. It's the prefect size for 1A.

6. Calendar:

A. 2022-23 Calendar (pp. 51-54): Mr. Oglesby reminded members that the online UHSAA website and calendar is the very best resource. He encouraged members to contact directors with any concerns. A change was made the previous day for the moratorium for fall sports. The first day is from Thanksgiving Day to ends on New Year's Day.

B. 2023-24 Tentative Calendar: Mr. Oglesby stated the tentative calendar should be out in January for approval.

7. UHSAA Items:

A. Spirit of Sport Award and Heart of the Arts Award applications will be due January 15. These two awards are for a coach, advisor or student that has overcome more than the average adversity. Mr. Cuff asked members to send him names and a brief description of their situation. The Awards Committee will then choose a state winner and then they will be submitted for national recognition.

B. Christmas Moratorium (December 21-25): Mr. Jackson reported that there have been 25 schools requesting a Christmas Moratorium adjustment. They can adjust for individual sports, but it must be five consecutive days and include December 25.

C. Summer Moratorium (June 28 – July 4): Schools must adjust for the entire school if they make an adjustment request.

D. Coaches' Certification (p. 55): Mr. Jackson pointed out the NFHSlearn.com is a great resource for new coaches and parents. If approved by the district, there are many NFHS training courses for coaches to become certified.

E. Coaches' Credentials: Mr. Cluff feels like the number of certified coaches continues to increase. Winter credential deadline is Friday, November 18. Schools should receive those credentials mid-December. The credential is not sport specific.

F. Officiating Update: Mr. Cluff reported the Utah Sports Hall of Fame and the UHSAA will be honoring officials on January 23. Seventeen officials will be inducted into the Hall of Honor.

Utah is trying to tackle the national trend of reduction of officials. He feels we have been successful in the past, but it has finally hit Utah and we are seeing a decline in the number of officials. A recruitment effort was held at Snow College and thirty officials were recruited for the rural areas. Another one was held in St. George and fifteen officials signed up and a baseball recruiting event that was held at the UHSAA Office and several signed up. We are trying to create interest, but it takes time for officials to become proficient. Please reach out and help recruit officials especially in the rural areas. It is a great second job. The contract with game officials for game fees has expired so negotiations will begin soon.

G. Sportsmanship Items:

(1) School Video Competition: Ms. Whittaker announced the winners of the Sportsmanship Video Competition. Winners will receive a \$1000 scholarship:

- 1A Valley HS
- 2A Enterprise HS
- 3A Grantsville HS
- 4A Bear River HS
- 5A Maple Mountain HS
- 6A Roy HS

(2) Gold Star Coach Award: This is the second year of the award. The intention of the award is to recognize coaches who positively influence and change the lives of the students. Every school is asked to submit one name of a coach who is making a difference. They will receive a certificate from UHSAA and schools are asked to recognize the coach at their schools. A female and male coach will be chosen for classification winners. The applications are due December 1.

H. UHSAA Student Leadership Conferences: Ms. Whittaker reported the conferences are done on a region basis. She has attended many of the conferences and feels the regions are working hard to promote sportsmanship. Mr. Lund asked if the UHSAA has a policy to help temper parents from going after coaches and officials after a contest. He reported they are seeing many problems. Ms. Whittaker said many schools are holding parent meetings, which seems to help. The yellow and red cards for fans have been helpful for some schools. It is a problem around the state. Mr. Cuff said page 55 refers to the NFHS Learning Center. There are specific topics for parents. Parent meetings before the season begins to show the video could be helpful. He mentioned a recreation league has added to their policy that if a parent is ejected, their child goes too. Mr. Lund said it is so difficult to find coaches and then parents act poorly against them. Same issue for officials. Mr. Thomas said their district applies the philosophy that participation is a privilege not a right. Two dads were notified if their behavior didn't improve, they would be told they could not attend. Mr. Cuff suggested another incentive to get parents to the parent meeting would be to sit their athlete for the first two contests. It is a problem and one that needs to be improved to retain our officials and coaches. The NFHS is sponsoring a national campaign on, "Bench Bad Behavior."

I. Emerging Sports Report (p. 56): Ms. Whittaker reported on the results of the survey. Schools were asked to fill out a list of any sport their students participate outside of UHSAA sanctioned activities. Sports under consideration are Boys' and Girls' Mountain Biking and Boys' and Girls' Esports. Mountain Biking has an established club organization and they are not interested in being sanctioned at this time. The Emerging Sports Committee is not giving a recommendation to sanction Mountain Biking. Mr. Bergeson said they have huge numbers of participants. The Emerging Sports Committee and Executive Committee have discussed the need for sanctioning consideration to have an outside, governing organization present to provide more specific information.

Esports has many schools participating and it has been discussed to consider it on an activity level instead of a sport level. A coaches' association has recently been developed and they made a presentation to the Executive Committee. The EC encouraged them to coordinate and be prepared to present a detailed plan in March. Mr. Bergeson said some of the difficulty is the platform. It is one of the fastest growing activities/sports in the world.

J. Unified Sports (UHSAA/SOUT): Mr. Oglesby reported the unified soccer tournament was a great success. It was held at the Rio Tinto's America First Stadium. He noted we are appreciative of the partnership we have with USOUT and First Lady Cox. We are seeing a

massive growth in K-12 school participation. The state unified basketball tournament will be held at Weber State University and is tentatively set for March 6-7. The unified track meets have been held for several years, but this year, there will be non-scoring heats held at the state track meet for unified track. The students will be unified with the entire school population. Over 50 high schools have some presence in at least one unified activity. Swimming is working with USOUT as well to incorporate unified swimming at that state tournament. This is a great expansion of opportunity for these students and a great advocate for them and their families. Ms. Johnson thanked the staff for their work in this area. Mr. Sweat thinks adding it to the state tournament is the right thing to do because the students are feeling special and included in their schools. He recognizes there are other marginalized groups that need help, but unified sports have been great in Utah.

Mr. Cuff said this would be a great topic for the UHSAA to present to the USBE. He felt First Lady Cox and Mr. Oglesby could join him along with some of the participants of the program. Mr. Strate said he would look for the opportunity to present to the USBE.

K. **Basketball Shot Clock Update:** Mr. Oglesby reported the Executive Committee voted to approve moving forward with the shot clock. There have been concerns that some schools have not been equipped with shot clocks in a timely manner. He thanked Mr. Cluff for his efforts in training officials and schools regarding shot clocks. Mr. Cluff said some clarifications were added as a result of some issues that the rules didn't specify. They have been sent to the schools. The video from NFHS regarding the shot clock should be viewed by every operator, administrator and coach. There is also a four-minute video provided by the high school basketball officials' association with additional clarifications. If schools have working shot clocks, they are required to be used for varsity games. Sub-varsity is optional, but many are using the shot clock. Mr. Cluff said if the clocks become inoperable, they are no longer used.

The 35-point mercy rule has been implemented this year for the first time. Teams play three complete quarters and then in the fourth quarter the mercy rule begins. The clock only stops for three reasons: an official's time out; free throws are taken and a charged team time out. The staff is working with officials to resolve any issues.

L. **Academic All-State Windows (p. 57):** Mr. Oglesby said the window will be opening soon for winter season and activities for Academic All-State.

8. **BOT Elections Update:** Mr. Cuff reported elections will be held at the USBA Conference in January. Ms. Richards and Mr. Anderson's terms will expire June 30. Letters will be sent to the districts involved regarding the elections. Three members are leaving their school boards in January. Ms. Johnson, Mr. Olson and Mr. Anderson will have their school districts determine who their replacement is until their term has expired. Mr. Bergeson is retiring and his term ends June 30. The superintendents will determine the representative. Mr. Wood's term is ending and his position will be filled by a 2A district principal and will be determined by the Executive Committee. The USBE determines their position on the BOT annually.

9. **New Member School Applications:** Mr. Cuff reported there were no new school membership applications.

10. **Realignment 2023-2025:** Mr. Cuff welcomed members of the gallery and thanked them for their attendance. He appreciates their support, hard work and relationships with the UHSAA Staff and Board.

A. Timetable (p. 59): Mr. Cuff said today's meeting kicks off the realignment process. Format and procedures were determined and included in the UHSAA Handbook, Article 5 of the Constitution and By-Laws. The BOT will adhere to those format and procedures as they move forward with the realignment. Format and procedures were approved last May after two meetings of consideration and a public hearing. The realignment meeting calendar was set at the last meeting.

December 8 at 10:00 am: In person meeting to hear from bubble/tied schools with their preference as to classification. First consideration of regions will be determined.

December 14 at 7:00 pm: Public Hearing via Zoom. Information will be sent to member schools and superintendents and districts. A link will be provided.

December 15 at 10:00 am: In person meeting to establish the realignment for 2023-2025.

January 19 at 9:00 am: In person meeting where schools will be allowed to petition to move up a classification sport by sport.

B. Timeline: Today's meeting objective is to place schools in an initial classification placement according to enrollment. Original bubble schools will be determined and published. The bubble schools will be invited to the December 8 meeting to present their preference. The criteria to resolve the ties on bubble schools will be:

(1) Primary factor – Success Factor using RPI ratings.

a. Football – fall 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022

b. Overall, for team sports: fall 2019, 2020 and 2021; spring 2021 and 2022; and winter 2020, 2021 and 2022

c. Region and state finish in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 for non RPI sports such as cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track and field and wrestling.

(2) Geography and rivalries

(3) Preference of school

C. Schools by District, Private Schools and Charter Schools (pp. 61-67): Mr. Cuff provided a list of district high schools by district and their principals; charter schools and principals; and private schools and principals. There are ten UHSAA member schools that do not participate in sports. These ten schools will be placed into regions and classifications on December 8.

D. Discussion:

(1) Fall Baseball: Mr. Cluff reported the Executive Committee was presented with a proposal to combine the 1A and 2A Fall Baseball for one championship in the fall. The EC recommended the proposal to the BOT. Schools need to choose one season to participate.

MOTION: Mr. Durst made the motion to approve the proposal to combine 1A and 2A Fall Baseball and hold one championship. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. Motion carried.

(2) 8-Player Football: Mr. Jackson reported Utah held its first 8-Player football championship. It was a great experience for the students. Other schools have committed to picking up 8-Player football and the EC recommended to keep 8-Player football moving forward.

(3) Girls' and Boys' Soccer: Mr. Kim Bailey, Parowan HS Principal, made a presentation regarding girls' and boys' soccer. He acknowledged his presentation was from his perspective and there are other perspectives. He wants to generate discussion. As a

representative of his school and parents, he feels a need to speak out on the inequity of fair play in soccer. He thinks the numbers speak for themselves. The chances of a public school team winning a soccer championship is about 0. He talked with other 2A and 3A regions, of those that responded, 100% were on board requesting a change (he did not hear from 4 schools). His proposal is to have a 2A public and 2A private soccer division. He said it is difficult to play urban schools with artificial turf because it becomes a different game. The BOT had received his proposal. Mr. Anderson asked if this problem is only in soccer. Mr. Bailey said it is a problem in tennis and other sports suffer. He felt this was an opportunity to discuss one sport. He doesn't want to point fingers. One sport is his reality. Mr. Cuff asked Mr. Bailey if his proposal was for after the realignment is over. After January, we can see if teams move up. He suggested the proposal could be looked at after the realignment. Mr. Durst asked if it was a private school issue or just a matter of success factor. Mr. Bailey pointed out that a charter with a specific sports or activity emphasis is a magnet system for students and should be placed in a higher classification. Mr. Miller said it sounds easy to put private schools in their own classification, but that would mean ignoring ratios and success factors. It needs to be equitable everywhere.

Mr. Holmes thanked Mr. Bailey for presenting and he felt his main goal was to open discussions. After the realignment is finalized, we can come back to the discussion what can or should post-season look like. Mr. Holmes asked Mr. Cuff to include it on the next Executive Committee meeting agenda. Mr. Lund said he appreciated his perspectives and there are others with the same perspective. He appreciated his proposal. Mr. Cluff said that during the format and procedure discussion for this alignment, a survey was sent to member schools to look at different scenarios to possibly address this particular issue. Overwhelmingly, it was in support of the process by which was chosen. Some adjustments were made this year and now schools are allowed to petition to move up a classification. Mr. Cuff said it would be put on the EC agenda in January and their recommendation will come back to the BOT in January. Mr. Bailey was invited to attend the January 11 meeting.

Mr. Cuff said another anonymous proposal was sent. No one requested to discuss the proposal.

E. Letter to Districts and Schools (p. 68): Mr. Cuff stated that principals and superintendents received a letter to provide for them the timeline of realignment.

F. Format and Procedures (pp. 69-70): Mr. Cuff reviewed the materials on format and procedures that were finalized in May.

G. Placement of Member Schools into Classifications: Mr. Cuff said once the first consideration of placement of member schools into classifications was determined, it will be sent to schools and the media. Everything is transparent. After the finish of the last realignment, the staff was asked to experiment with numbers from two years ago to create something to give the BOT more flexibility in determining between classifications. The staff has a proposal to start. They have tried to equalize the number of schools in regions and ratios as consistent as possible. They were asked to create more bubble schools and that was included with the format and procedures by increasing to 10%. It has made a difference in flexibility, but now will be a tougher job for the BOT because there are many more bubble schools. There are very few non-bubble schools in 5A. The numbers were displayed without the names of schools. The proposal with number of schools: 6A – 23; 5A – 25; 4A – 25; 3A – 21; 2A - 25; and 1A – 29. Mr. Cuff reviewed the reasons for the numbers chosen. Board Members can change the numbers if they would like, but it must be done before the school names are displayed. Other number combinations were tried, but the first proposal was best ratios. Mr. Cluff pointed out

that Weber School District will have a new high school mid-alignment. Mr. Cuff said according to format and procedures, it will be addressed at mid-alignment.

MOTION: Mr. Bergeson made the motion to accept the proposed placement of member schools into classifications. The numbers were: 6A – 23; 5A – 25; 4A – 25; 3A – 21; 2A – 25; and 1A – 29. Mr. Sweat seconded the motion. Mr. Wood stated it was difficult to know about 1A without school names because many of the 1A schools don't participate in all sports/activities. The staff said they had taken that into consideration for 1A. Motion carried unanimously.

School Names were revealed. The information will be made available to schools and media later today.

Staff proposal was shown to members for football. The proposal numbers of schools in classifications were: 6A – 23; 5A- 25; 4A – 25; 3A – 12; 2A – 10; and 1A – 10. Current 8-Player football was not factored into the numbers.

MOTION: Mr. Lund made the motion to approve the football proposal. The numbers were: 6A – 23; 5A- 25; 4A – 25; 3A – 12; 2A – 10; and 1A – 10. Mr. Bergeson seconded the motion. The numbers provide flexibility, but there will be tough decisions to be made with bubble schools. Motion carried unanimously.

11. **Legal Report:** Mr. Van Wagoner presented a legal report to the Board.

12. **For the Good of the Order:** Mr. Cuff reported Utah has over 100,000 participants with 30,000 of those students participating in performing arts activities. Utah is the 17th state to sanction boys' volleyball.

A. NFHS Hall of Fame: Mr. Cuff pointed out the eight individuals that have been NFHS Hall of Fame recipients from Utah. This year, it was his honor to present those awards as the NFHS President. Notah Begay, professional golfer from New Mexico and recipient of the award this year, delivered a stirring speech on behalf of all the inductees. Mr. Cuff included a copy with the meeting information.

B. Bench Bad Behavior Campaign (p. 74): NFHS Article highlighting student athlete responses regarding sportsmanship.

C. UHSAA Distinguished Service Award Winners (p. 75): Mr. Cuff reported the 2022 Distinguished Service Award Recipients that were approved by the Executive Committee. The EC will have a luncheon in January to honor the recipients.

Mr. Cuff thanked the members for their diligence and the time in preparation for the realignment.

Chair Holmes thanked the staff for their advance preparations for the realignment process. It has been helpful and members are further ahead with the realignment.

MOTION: Mr. Olson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next meeting: December 8 at 10:00 am at the UHSAA Office.