

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

UHSAA Office

Thursday, December 8, 2022

9:00 AM

Those in attendance: Marilyn Richards, Belinda Johnson, Jeffrey Nielsen, 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. Minutes: Jeanne Widerburg.

1. **Welcome and Chair Business:** Chair Holmes welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He welcomed school and district representatives to the meeting. He said the board is made up of people trying to do the right thing. We can't please everyone. Everyone tries to look at the process in an unbiased way. Over 10 years ago, Mr. Holmes was involved in this process and it was discussed who was going to San Juan and Grand County and the regions. He stated then that regions need to take turns. He assumes North Summit will be placed in that region and he plans to live up to the commitment to take their turn. There are some things that need to be done that are not comfortable. Travel is an issue for all of us. Today is the great and dreadful day. Each school will have two minutes for their presentations.

A. Reverence/Thought: Mr. Thomas shared his opportunity to raise triplets. The three have served LDS missions. His daughter served in China and she expressed how people stared and took pictures of her because she has blond hair and blue eyes. They have discussed a lot about diversity and inclusiveness. She has given him good things to think about as he interacts with students at his school. He said he had a trans student move to his school and he called him in to talk about how he wanted to be addressed. The student said he was non-binary and spent a few minutes explaining it to Mr. Thomas. Afterwards, they shook hands and the student said the conversation had done more for him in 10 minutes than with any principal he has had. The student thanked him. Mr. Thomas' thought was when we look at others, it is our job to be empathetic, compassionate and understanding as best as possible. In these entrusted positions we hold, we have the responsibility to treat everyone as equal and equitable as we can. He then offered a prayer.

B. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Thought: Mr. Bergeson led the members in the pledge of allegiance.

C. Approval of Board Agenda:

**MOTION:** Mr. Wood made the motion to approve the Board Agenda. Mr. Bergeson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. **Realignment:** Mr. Cuff reviewed realignment materials (pp. 77-80). Mr. Cuff has forwarded all information sent from member schools and districts to board members. In the meeting materials, the Timetable is moving forward. The next meeting will be a Zoom meeting for the Public Hearing on Wednesday, December 14, at 7:00 pm. Information will be sent to districts and member schools on Monday with instructions to sign up. On Thursday, December 15, at 10:00 am, the BOT will make the second consideration of schools in regions and establish the realignment. Schools will still have the opportunity to present in January to move up a

classification sport by sport or activity by activity. The RPI Ratings were distributed to the members. He reviewed the factors in breaking bubble school ties. (1) Presentation; (2) Geography; and (3) RPI. Mr. Oglesby will be running the technology, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Cluff are participating by Zoom. The staff presented their proposal for region assignments. Some schools have not been assigned to allow for board members to make the decision.

The proposed Regions were displayed and board members held discussion.

6A: Lehi in 6A

5A: Add Cedar Valley, Region 7

4A: Logan, Region 11

3A: Canyon View, Region 12

**MOTION:** Mr. Nielsen made the motion to accept the 1<sup>st</sup> consideration of region assignment for the 2023-2025 realignment. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Football Alignment:**

5A: Orem, Region 6

4A: Logan, leave in 4A

2A: Emery, South Sevier (in case Grand County moves to independent)

Mr. Jackson said 8-Player Football is building excitement. Colorado has over 40 schools playing 8-player football. He feels there will be enough Utah schools to make a viable tournament. Gunnison played 8-player football for one year to make a viable tournament for 2022. There will not be exceptions with 1A 11-Player to move to 8-Player this year because there are enough viable teams in 8-Player. 2A schools can play 8-Player if they have not had football previously. Mr. Jackson said 8-Player was designed for any new 1A or 2A schools picking up football for at least one alignment. An 8-Player school would be reevaluated after two years and they could request to move up to 11-Player.

Mr. Jackson reported Grand County had requested to play 8-Player football. With the current structure, they would need to be independent to play 8-Player. They would not qualify for a post season play off. Mr. Cuff said he talked with Grand County's principal at today's meeting and they are interested in independent status. Mr. Holmes mentioned concern that they don't want all struggling football schools to jump to 8-Player because then we discourage the schools who fit the original qualifications.

**MOTION:** Mr. Nielsen made the motion to amend the first consideration of region assignments for 4A. They moved Park City and Uintah to Region 10 and Stansbury and Tooele to Region 8. Mr. McDaniel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bergeson made the motion to accept the first consideration for football regions. Mr. Lund seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bergeson made the motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10. The next meeting Wednesday, December 14, at 7 pm for public hearing and then Thursday, December 15 at 10:00 am.

## **Presentations from Bubble/Tied Schools:**

**Taylorsville:** Principal Liddell requested that Taylorsville go to 5A. They want natural rivalries from same district schools and for geographic and easy transportation. Guy Mackay, AD, supports the request.

**Lehi:** Mr. Cuff said Lehi requested 5A on their form. If placed in 6A, they would prefer not to be with Skyridge.

**Cedar Valley:** Mr. Cuff said Cedar Valley requested 5A on their form.

**Clearfield:** Principal Chris Keime said they are requesting a 5A placement with a northern 5A region. Demographics, community circumstances, age of facilities are some reasons for the request. It is felt it would improve the competitive balance and experience for their students.

**Northridge:** Principal Jason Smith said they feel 5A classification is a better fit for their school. They have a transient population of 13%, 8% on fee waivers and 4% are classified military from Hill Air Force Base and they typically leave after one year. They have a 28% chronic absent rate and the student population is not engaged in extra-curricular activities. 3% of their population is classified as homeless and continues to rise. Many students have jobs to support their families. They have a low success factor.

**West:** Principal Jared Wright said they are the smallest 6A school on the bubble and they would request 5A to be placed in a region with East and Highland. They have over 55% free and reduced. Missy Withers, District AD and Title IX, supports 5A with a region with East and Highland.

**Roy:** Principal Mike Martini stated their preference is 5A classification in Region 5 with Bonneville. Mike Puzey, AD, said they have a high transient population and military students from Hill Air Force Base. Region 5 will help with travel. Westfield HS will open in 2024-2025 and will reduce their enrollment. Superintendent Butters and School Board support this request.

**West Jordan:** Carlson Boudreaux, AD, said a move to 5A will help their school. They have socio-economic issues and their enrollment numbers continue to dwindle. They would choose not to be included with their district region.

**Cyprus:** Principal Robert McDaniel said they would propose a 5A placement based on RPI, lowest in state finishes in non RPI sports, economics (49%), preference, geography and rivalries. Granite District has five schools consistently in bottom of all success factors, socio-economics and they would fit well together. Cyprus, Hunter, Kearns, Granger and Taylorsville combined in a region would meet the needs of geography, preference and rivalries.

**Hunter:** Principal Ryan Oaks said they would request 5A. Enrollment numbers, RPI, participation rates, and socio-economics would support their request for 5A in a district region. A district region would provide similar skill levels.

**Wasatch:** Paul Sweat, superintendent, said they would request 5A. He also shared Wasatch District is building a new school and will end up with two 4A schools next alignment. 5A also gives them a little better travel scenario.

**Maple Mountain:** Mr. Cuff said Maple Mountain requested 5A classification on their form.

**Corner Canyon:** Mr. Cuff said Corner Canyon requested 6A classification on their form.

**Timpview:** Mr. Cuff said Timpview requested 5A on their form.

**Kearns:** Principal Danny Stirland and Matt Richards, AD, requested 5A. They chose 6A last realignment to be in Region 2. They are struggling with participation numbers and can't fill all team rosters. The socio-economics of the student population is well over 50% for economically-disadvantage. They would support being in Region 5 with Granite District schools.

**Highland:** Principal Jeremy Chatterton said they would petition to stay at 5A. They would like to stay in a region with district schools for natural rivalries. Missy Withers, District AD, feels it best for students to bring all the district school into one region.

**Hillcrest:** Principal Gregory Leavitt requested 4A classification in a central 4A region. They are happy to travel to Uintah.

**Olympus:** Principal Jen Christensen requested 5A classification. They would like to stay in the same region area. They have had close rivalries and they are able to compete.

**Cottonwood:** Mr. Robert McDaniel, Cyprus' principal, said they have requested 4A. Because of the AIMES Charter school, their enrollment reflects an increase in students. Very few of those students participate in athletics. Cottonwood benefits in performing arts because of AIMES, but not in athletics.

**Payson:** Mr. Cuff said Payson requested 5A on their form to remain with district schools.

**Woods Cross:** Mr. Cuff said Woods Cross requested 5A to be with district schools – Bountiful and Viewmont.

**Skyline:** Principal Jen Christensen from Olympus indicated she had communicated with Skyline and they requested 5A.

**Salem Hills:** Mr. Cuff said Salem Hills requested 5A to remain with district schools.

**Viewmont:** Assistant Principal Haydn Call and Jeff Emery, AD, requested 5A classification in Region 5. They like being with rivalry district schools. They are in the middle of the pack, but can be competitive in 5A.

**Spanish Fork:** Mr. Cuff said Spanish Fork requested 5A to remain with district schools on their form.

**Mountain View:** Mr. Cuff said Mountain View requested 4A with district schools Timpanogos and Orem.

**Stansbury:** Mr. Cuff said Stansbury requested 4A with Tooele on their form.

**Uintah:** Mr. Holmes reported their superintendent requested 4A classification.

**Provo:** Principal Jarod Sites said they are requesting to remain 4A. They might engage in conversation for 5A football.

**East:** Principal Pam Pedersen said they would request 5A classification. She stated they have lost 10% of their enrollment since October 1. Skip Lowe, AD, said they have traditionally had 5A numbers and hope that there is a trend of increased enrollment. They would like to have all district schools in same region. They would like to stay with Skyline, Olympus, and Brighton because of the great rivalries.

**Bountiful:** Mr. Cuff said Bountiful requested 5A with district schools on their form.

**Timpanogos:** Mr. Cluff said Timpanogos requested 4A with Orem and Mountain View on their form.

**Dixie:** Dixie has requested to stay 4A

**Bonneville:** Principal Richard Murray said they would request 5A, Region 5. The reasons for the request are for travel and natural rivalries. Other schools in the district are remaining 5A. There will be a new high school in 2024-2025. The boundaries in the district may have adjustments. Weber District sent a letter with the information.

**Ridgeline:** Principal Doug Snow said they would request 4A with their natural rivalries with district schools.

**Murray:** Principal Quinn Linde said Murray is unique being a singular school district in Salt Lake County. There have been major changes to the demographics. They would like to build hope and feel that can happen if they are in a central region in 4A. They need to be with similar sized schools.

**Jordan:** It was reported that Jordan would request 4A.

**Crimson Cliffs:** Mr. Darin Thomas reported Crimson Cliffs requested 4A.

**Mountain Crest:** Mr. Cuff reported Mountain Crest requested 4A with Cache Valley schools.

**Logan:** Principal Daryl Guymon said they would request 3A classification. Mitchell Argyle, AD, said they have surveyed students, coaches and parents and the coaches feel it would be in the best interest of students if they would be assigned to 3A. Logan is a Title I schools with 47% free and reduced lunch. Tryout numbers are very low. For the past two years, they have not filled a JV football team.

**Canyon View:** Mr. Mike Hudson, assistant principal and AD, said they are requesting to remain in 3A. They don't feel they will dominate 3A and the students believe they will be successful in 3A.

**Layton Christian:** Mr. Greg Miller said they would request to stay in 3A with the exception of football in 2A. They are asking that basketball and soccer remain in 4A and will continue to petition to go up if they win a state title.

**Grand County:** Principal Todd Thompson stated Grand County has not been competitive in 3A. The students are choosing to not participate. It is difficult to keep them in school when they can make \$20 at a job. Cost of living is at an all time high. They are requesting to be assigned to 2A. 30% percent of the studentbody is playing multiple sports. They would like to play 8-player football.

**ALA:** Mr. Cuff read a statement from ALA requesting 2A and placed with rivals such as Maeser and Merit.

**South Sevier:** Principal Brett Beagley said they are requesting 2A with their natural rivalries. They feel they can be competitive in 2A.

**San Juan:** Mr. Cuff said San Juan has requested 2A on their form.

**Millard:** Mr. Blaine Burraston, AD, said they would request 2A classification for everything except 1A football. It leaves them with their natural rivalries.

**Karl. G. Maeser:** Mr. Jared Norris, AD, said they would request 2A and current region because it is a good fit. They struggled in 3A.

**Panguitch:** Mr. Cuff said Panguitch requested 1A. on their form.

**Rich:** Principal Weston Taylor said they would request 1A. Best placement for their students.

**Altamont:** Mr. Cuff said Altamont requested 1A on their form.

#### **Football Bubble Schools:**

**Providence Hall:** Mr. Nate Marshall said they would request to stay in 2A football. Their football program started two years ago. 2A would be a better fit for them.

**Emery:** Superintendent and Mr. Stillson, Assistant Principal, tried to make the meeting, but due to weather, returned home. They are requesting Emery be in the 2A classification for football. The team struggles and 2A has brought excitement back into their program. They have fewer injuries in 2A.

**San Juan:** Mr. Cuff said San Juan requested 2A football on their form.

**Millard:** Mr. Cuff said Millard requested 1A football on their form.

#### **Non-Bubble Schools asking for placement in higher classification:**

**Orem:** Mr. Cuff said they have requested 5A football and 4A everything else.

**Intermountain Christian:** Head of School Gabe Pethtel and Ryan Behmer, AD, said they would request to move up to the 2A classification. Their enrollment is small, but they feel their

enrollment will be increasing and their competitive play. 2A will help them with travel costs. The school has surveyed students, coaches and parents and they are very supportive for 2A.

**Free and Reduced Lunch Schools:**

**Whitehorse:** Mr. Cuff said Whitehorse has requested 1A and 8-player football.

**Ben Lomond/Ogden:** Principal Shauna Haney and Principal Steve Poll presented together. They would request to remain in 3A classification. They have found success and would like to continue building their programs. They have unique challenges with chronic absenteeism. Ogden has three homeless shelters within their boundaries. Being 3A has changed the culture of their schools and the belief that students can compete at the lower classification. They would like to continue building on their success.

**Granger:** Assistant Principal Jeff Jackson said they would request 5A classification. They would like to help students find success.