

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Siempre

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

9:00 AM

Those in attendance: Marilyn Richards, April Torgerson, Larry Bergeson, Jerre Holmes, Robert McDaniel, Darin Thomas, Jim Wood, Bryan Durst, Craig Morris, Brent Strate, Rob Cuff, Jeff Cluff, Brenan Jackson, Jon Oglesby and Jan Whittaker. Excused: Kami Anderson, Jeffrey Nielsen, Dave Lund, David Warren and Paul Sweat. Minutes: Jeanne Widerburg.

1. **Welcome and Chair Business:** Chair Holmes welcomed everyone to the meeting. He excused Kami Anderson, Jeffrey Nielsen, Dave Lund, David Warren and Paul Sweat. A quorum was established.

A. Reverence/Thought: Ms. Richards said it was disheartening to think about the recent school shooting. She quoted the lyrics from Tim McGraw's song, "Humble and Kind." She feels it is a great message for these times. It emphasizes sportsmanship and kindness and that is where it starts. She then offered a prayer.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. McDaniel said the upcoming graduation for Cyprus will be the 11th he has attended, which included his own. He knows that patriotism does not just happen. As a young person two events shaped his patriotism. He was a product of the Cold War with Russia and his mom ran a Veteran's Day program at every elementary school where she taught. It was the biggest event at the school every year that he and his siblings would attend. He feels kids are not taught that way anymore. They are great kids, but they are not learning a lot about the country and the sacrifices made. He visited Fort Sam Houston which housed all the medical training for all branches of the military. There was a powerful feeling there and he thinks students are missing out on what this country has to offer. He is grateful to his mom who made that an important part of his life. He will always be patriotic to a country that has given so much to him. He then led the members in the pledge of allegiance.

C. Chairs' General Observations: Chair Holmes said the Veteran Day's assembly is his favorite every year. We need to teach students the importance of patriotism. He shared an experience that emphasized what the UHSAA does for students and its importance.

During Mr. Holmes' senior year in high school, his football coach left and started football at Rich HS. Ten years later, Mr. Holmes was hired to be the football and basketball coach. More importantly, he was an English teacher. His first year he had an exceptional group of seniors. They had a successful year and North Summit was their rival. They played each other in football three times that year including the state championship game. Seven of the twenty-two football team members on that championship field have perished. They have had tragedy after tragedy. The previous day, he lost his running back on that team. The team member (#24) was teaching in his chemistry class and he fell onto the floor and was gone. Mr. Holmes read his personal quote from the Deseret News after losing the championship game to North Summit, "These kids would have died for me today. I told them that life's going to stand up to them sometimes, but because of this football experience, they will know how to react." The quarterback sent a text after hearing of his teammate's passing, "I'm pretty shaken from all of this today. I hold so much of this time frame in life as sacred. It is a huge part of who I am today. How I deal with hardships. How I get up off the ground no matter what, staying down is never an option. These

were times and people that created powerful, sustainable life lessons. Three of these amazing men lost too soon. Let's hold all we hold dear a bit closer today. I am forever indebted to this group and the powerful short time we all had together." The text included a picture of the senior group and coaches and the article of the championship game. He went on to say, "This was a pivotal experience in life for me. The reason - because we lost. Life is more about loss than about winning. For me, being able to move on and rise up from loss has been a saving grace. Life is loss. Life is change. Such valuable life experiences we got to share together."

Their team beat Milford in the semifinals. The coach of that team, Brennan Jackson, called Mr. Holmes thirty-one years later to express his sorrow. Mr. Holmes feels parents and coaches should not have to bury their "kids." His point: what he learned from the phone call is that lessons are learned and remembered from activities that this organization provides. He will fight anyone who says that extra-curricular activities are not important, an extension of the classroom and not crucial in the structure and building of lives. Mr. Holmes believes strongly in what they do. It's about life's lessons. He thanked the members for being willing to serve and said it's worth it even with all the criticism and unfairness.

D. Approval of Board Agenda:

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

E. Approval of Minutes - January 19, 2023, Meeting (summary on UHSAA website):

MOTION: Ms. Richards made the motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2023. Ms. Torgerson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

F. Awards luncheon Protocol: Mr. Cuff went over the protocol for the Awards Luncheon. Today's luncheon is a highlight and he is sorry there are so many members missing. The recipients were honored at a state tournament and today is another chance to honor them.

G. Constitution By-Laws Committee Meeting: Mr. Cuff said the Constitution and By-Law Committee would be meeting on April 25 at noon. It is vital to hold a meeting to address the recent legislation. This Committee makes recommendations to the EC for further discussion and then to the BOT. If a By-Law is being changed it takes two meetings for a first and second consideration. Nine members of the BOT are on the Committee.

H. New Positions: Mr. Bergeson announced Darin Thomas had recently been appointed as the HR Director in the Washington County School District. Members congratulated him on his new position.

Mr. Holmes welcomed Craig Morris officially as a member of the BOT. He represents the private school members.

2. **USBE Report:** Mr. Strate said they survived another legislative session with some defining moments. He said he attended a performance of Les Misérables at Weber HS. He was pleasantly surprised that they had double cast the parts. In doing that, they created themselves a lot more work, but created great student relationships. He also saw on a school bulletin that they did not highlight just the star performer, but included the entire cast. He appreciated the inclusion of so many students. He realizes the benefit of students being involved. Education

speaks to the whole child and he feels the UHSAA is about the whole child. He reminded members of four areas of the USBE's Portrait of a Graduate: Hard work and resilience; honesty, integrity and responsibility; collaboration and teamwork; creativity and innovation. Mr. Strate said he corrects people when they say Utah High School Athletics Association because it is an Activities Association. It is much bigger.

3. Executive Committee Meeting Report: Mr. Wood reported the meeting of March 22, 2023.

- Ready Reference calendar
- List of winter state champions
- Basketball endowment game financial report
- Winter activities
- Ejections
- UIAAA – April Conference April 12-15
- Report from Diversity, Equity and Inclusions Committee by Mr. Kelepolo. He presented a proposal protocol of expectations for administrators and coaches to train students, parents and spectators, which will be included in the UHSAA Sportsmanship Handbook.
- Sportsmanship Items including Gold Star Coach Award
- Dare to Lead Student Leadership Conference – held in the fall by region or multi-region
- Sanctioning of Esports – favorable recommendation to BOT as a winter activity
- Unified Basketball Tournament
- Coach Certification
- Format changes to state wrestling tournament were approved
- Coach credentials were discussed and the importance of coaches wearing them at games
- Mr. Todd Quarnberg was approved as the 6A principal representative to the BOT
- Mr. Jade Shepherd was approved as the 2A principal representative to the BOT

4. Winter Activities Report:

A. Winter Results (pp. 115-116): Mr. Cuff provided a list of championship winners and congratulated them. He said it was fun to have Ms. Torgerson present the 1A girls' basketball championship trophy to her daughter who played for Wayne HS. Ms. Torgerson thanked the staff for giving her the opportunity.

B. Basketball Endowment Game Report: Mr. Cuff said over one hundred games were hosted and produced revenue of \$17,698.77. The football endowment produced over \$125,000 in 53 games. Football is played in the same week. Basketball is much harder to manage.

MOTION: Mr. Wood made the motion to move the basketball endowment game revenue to the UHSAA Foundation. Mr. Bergeson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Basketball: Mr. Oglesby said it was a great season with quality athletes, coaches and schools. Corner Canyon boys' basketball team and Lone Peak girls' basketball team have been invited to participate in a national tournament in Washington DC. There have been high profile sportsmanship issues during the season surrounding contests and fan base. Mr. Oglesby said they held a zoom call for every administrator in the state to request help for acceptable behavior at the state tournaments. He appreciated the positive response from school administrators. There

were some issues at the state tournaments, but he complimented the administrators for their positive call to action.

D. Wrestling: Mr. Jackson reported wrestling had a great season. The Executive Committee approved consideration of a combined 1A/2A girls' tournament. The 1A/2A boys and girls would be at SVC.

E. Drill Team: Ms. Whittaker reported drill team had a great tournament. 6A sold out. She feels the competition improves every year. The biggest complaint continues to be about judging, which is difficult because it is so subjective. There will be a new scoresheet, which will be caption scoring. A judge will focus on a single section of the score sheet. A few more schools have added a drill team program.

F. Cheer: Ms. Whittaker said this was the first year for competitive cheer. There were many challenges, but she feels overall everyone was pleased with the tournament. The Executive Committee discussed combining all girls and coed in 1A, 2A and 3A next year. It was felt the number of boys did not seem to create an advantage for teams. She is meeting with coaches to discuss their concerns and proposed changes.

G. Swimming: Mr. Marsing thanked Ms. Whittaker for her help in his first year as swim director. He appreciated BYU swim team and coaches who were great hosts. He felt the highlight of the meet was the participation of unified swimmers. The excitement surrounding their competition was incredible. Team members helped the unified swimmers and the unified swimmers were very excited to compete in front of their teammates. He felt the sportsmanship at swimming was great.

H. Ejection Report (pp. 117-118): Mr. Cluff discussed the ejection report on pages 117-118. He reported boys' basketball had an additional seventeen ejections and there were two specific incidents that were fights and more than five players were ejected. He feels the key is education and stressing the role of the coach in the behavior of the students. A coach can make a difference. There are challenges because of coaches not teaching in the school. Mr. Strate asked if these situations happen because of lack of supervision. Mr. Cluff said there is a document that will be discussed later to help address sportsmanship issues. The incident at Roy HS has been fully investigated and they have done their best to resolve the issues. Mr. Strate felt that new officials sometimes lack the tools to handle conflict. Mr. Cluff said that sub-varsity is the training ground for officials and parents need to be educated about that piece. We want to retain the officials.

I. Officiating Update: Mr. Cluff said there was an increase of twenty-six basketball officials over last year. Three career fairs were held at universities in the rural areas which helped to recruit. He feels recruitment is headed in the right direction.

5. **Calendar:** Mr. Oglesby stated the updated 2022-23 calendar is posted on the UHSAA Website.

A. 2023-2024 (UHSAA Website): Mr. Oglesby reported the basketball competition start date was moved up to Tuesday, November 14, for all classifications. The 4A, 5A, 6A final football championship games will be held that week as well. Schools will need to adjust, but it will effect fewer schools.

Hydration testing has been scheduled for next year and is the same day as last year. Schools will not be able to schedule a home basketball game on the day of testing. The specific days will be blocked in Arbiter for scheduling.

6. Emerging Sports: Ms. Whittaker said the BOT will make the final decision on sports and activities that have met the threshold for sanctioning consideration. Those included are Boys and Girls Mountain Biking and Boys and Girls Esports.

A. Esports: Ms. Whittaker introduced Tory Norman, who is the Provo HS Esports coach and president of the Esports Coaches' Association. She said there are many schools currently participating in Esports. Mr. Norman said there are many Esports teams and many after school clubs. He reviewed the major players in Esports and the changes that have taken place over the last five years. Utah was a pioneering state, but is one of a few states that does not have an official home for Esports. If schools want to play neighboring schools it usually requires joining 2-3 leagues. This is difficult for coaches managing multiple competitions. They would like to see Esports brought under the UHSAA umbrella (80% of coaches). The final round would be at a university or convention center. Fees being charged currently are \$50-150. Mr. Norman feels it is affordable for schools. Mr. Thomas asked about fee waivers. Mr. Norman said it has not been an issue at his school, yet. Ms. Richards asked about the boy to girl ratio. They are working to bring in more girls and change the trend. Mr. Holmes asked how many students would be on a team. Mr. Norman said every school is different. Each sport has a different set up. League of Legends has five plus two subs and most schools have a varsity and JV team. Mario Kart Brothers has four team members and Rocket League and Super Smash Brothers are teams of three. Schools can grow it as much as they choose. Provo has a feeder school so their program will be growing again next year. They have three paid coaches and two volunteer coaches. Most Esports teams operate on classroom equipment. Mario Kart Brothers and Super Smash Brothers run on Nintendo switches. He said they train in the fall and play in the spring (January to April). Play Versus has the largest number of contracts with state associations and they cater to them. Currently, no credit is given. Boise State is offering an Esports concurrent enrollment in Idaho. It focuses on ethics and sportsmanship, games strategy and communication, employable skills from the sports, and history and development of the market. It also focuses on the health and wellness side of Esports. They want to approach SLCC because they have a strong Esports program to explore not only receiving credits, but concurrent enrollment. Currently, it is an after-school program only. Mr. Holmes thanked Mr. Norman for his preparation and valuable information.

Mr. Thomas said there was interest in 5A and 6A for Esports in the Executive Committee, but not as much interest in 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A. He said his coach is not interested because the competition would add pressure. The Executive Committee recommended Esports as a winter activity. Mr. McDaniel said EC felt it should end before April and not be considered until 2024-2025 because boys' volleyball is starting next spring. It was discussed that if some of the classifications approve it, pressure is put on other schools to add it as well. Mr. Holmes said the board is trying to balance between opportunities for students vs the dilemma for schools implementing one more activity. Mr. Morris said so many schools already have programs and this would provide opportunities for many students. The structure is already in place. An additional year would give them time to establish the platform. The UHSAA By-Laws states a recommendation needs to be made at the March meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Bergeson made the motion to not recommend Esports at this time. The UHSAA Staff will establish a study group to explore the feasibility of adding Esports in 2024-2025. Mr. Strate seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7. Staff Items:

A. Sportsmanship Award Criteria: Ms. Whittaker reported the school sportsmanship award criteria will be posted and an application process in May.

B. Gold Star Coach Award: Ms. Whittaker reported this was the second year for the Gold Star Coach Award. Schools nominate a coach and a certificate is mailed to the schools. One male and female coach in each classification was chosen as the classification winners. McDonald's will be providing classification winners with a \$100 certificate.

C. Student Leadership Conferences – Fall 2023: Student Leadership Conferences will be held in the fall on a region or multi-region basis in the fall.

D. Boys' Volleyball Update: Ms. Whittaker reported a survey was sent to all schools to anticipate school participation. Over one hundred schools have replied and plan to participate. A few districts are still making the determination. Most 4A, 5A and 6A schools plan to participate, about nine schools in 3A and at least 8 in 2A. Most likely there will be five classifications of boys' volleyball.

E. Swimming State Champions: Mr. Marsing discussed a proposal for 2A. The Executive Committee agreed four members can make a team. They can enter all three relays and one event.

The 2A classification would like to have their own tournament and he went over the number of team members at the 2A schools. He distributed four options of possibilities how 2A could be awarded 1st and 2nd place trophies for boys and girls have their own tournament and then it was discussed.

MOTION: Mr. McDaniel made the motion that four members constitute a team. A 2A 1st and 2nd place trophy will be awarded if 2A has eight or more teams for boys' and girls'. They will still swim with 3A for individual and relay awards. Motion carried.

F. Special Olympics Utah – Unified Sports: Mr. Oglesby reported Unified Track will be held at BYU. The events are boys and girls in 4x1 (2 partner athletes, 2 unified athletes), 50-meter dash and shot put (unified athletes only). They will qualify through the region track meets. 5A/6A Unified Track will be held on Thursday and 1A-4A Unified events will be held on Friday.

G. Academic All-State (p. 122): Mr. Oglesby announced we are in the late submission period for activities and the nomination period for spring sports is now open.

H. UHSAA Summer Moratorium (p. 123): Mr. Jackson said the summer moratorium is June 28 – July 4 for the entire school. Any adjustments are for the entire school and the form is due on May 26.

I. Coaches Certification: Mr. Jackson said efforts have been made to promote certified coaches. Credentials are issued to certified coaches and they need to be encouraged to wear the credentials at contests and tournaments. Many courses on nfhslearn.com fulfill the requirements of certification if the districts approve. The USBE has determined three CPR courses that are allowed. If a school district wants to add one with a hands-on component, they need to request permission from the State Superintendent's office.

8. Follow-Up Items:

A. Diversity and Inclusion Report (pp. 124-125): Mr. Kelepolo reported the committee has been established for about five years. He is now the chair of the committee. The committee studies and reviews issues at hand and provides recommendations to the BOT. In light of the member schools dealing with racial, disability, religious and sexual orientation slurs or actions, it was apparent that a process of protocol in dealing with these issues needs to be implemented. The UHSAA Handbook already lists actions that are prohibited. Through the committee proposal, they hope to not only implement a protocol, but to provide preventative measures and educational opportunities for each member school.

He reviewed the proposal that was distributed to members on page 124-125. The proposal included discussion points to create dialogue on the role of sportsmanship and inclusiveness in all UHSAA activities. The proposal listed pre-season expectations, prior to game expectations and penalties for player, coach, parent or spectator. The proposal is meant to start conversation and discussion with the students. The committee would like to see celebrations of good sportsmanship. Mr. Cluff said, with the officials' help, they want to highlight and recognize individuals/moments of sportsmanship in the game. The officials will be able to fill out a form and report good sportsmanship. Mr. Kelepolo felt the proposal would be helpful to schools. Mr. Wood pointed out the training needs to continue throughout the year. Mr. Cuff said they were anticipating the training would take place in each season and as needed.

MOTION: Mr. Morris made the motion to accept and implement the DEI Committee proposal. The school administration will be responsible for the training each season and as needed for their student body. Mr. Bergeson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

B. Competitive Equity Committee Report: Mr. Cuff said the BOT charged the staff to create a sub-committee to address the proposal from Principal Bailey from Parowan suggesting separation of private/charter and district schools in soccer. Mr. Cuff reviewed the members of the committee. They held their first meeting and the committee did not recommend the proposal from Principal Bailey. No recommendation was made to the Executive Committee. The committee will be looking at competitive equity for all sports in the alignment for 2025-2027. Superintendents Sweat and Bergeson made motions in December regarding future alignment and the committee will look at those motions and look for discussion and solutions. These items will be discussed in the August meeting. The committee will meet again on April 24 to look at data from private/charter compared to district schools, success factors being used by other states vs region concept, and standardized deviation. These discussions will help to create proposals earlier for realignment consideration. Mr. Bergeson said there are many concerns and the members are looking for a more fair way respecting all parties to be considered in the alignment. Mr. Thomas said it really is a matter of what constraints schools are bound by with boundaries – urban vs rural.

C. Basketball Endowment Games: Mr. Cuff said the staff made a proposal to the Executive Committee to eliminate basketball endowment games, but allow schools to keep the extra game going forward. The basketball endowment games have become difficult to manage and are not producing a large revenue. It has been suggested all football endowment games use digital ticketing which would allow the UHSAA to collect the revenue. Football is played the same weekend. The EC has been asked to discuss the proposal in their regions.

D. Member School Request for Consideration (meeting handout): Mr. Cuff referred to two letters, one from Timpanogos and one from Hillcrest. School representatives were present.

- Timpanogos: Kyle Robinson, assistant principal, at Timpanogos said the school would request to move to 5A baseball in Region 7. The rivalry between them and Orem is big and it was a disappointment when Orem moved up. McDaniel said Region 4 would be against Timpanogos being assigned to their region because of the competitive level. Concern was raised about what it does to Region 8 if Timpanogos is allowed to move up in baseball because there would only be four teams. Timing of the request is difficult. Mr. Holmes pointed out that this discussion emphasizes that regions are problematic and should be a consideration of the next alignment.

MOTION: Ms. Richards made the motion to deny Timpanogos' request to move to 5A baseball. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. Durst opposed.

- Hillcrest: Gregory Leavitt, principal, requested 5A boys and girls wrestling. The reason for the request is for seeding. The head-to-head competition is most important to them and 4A would be more difficult for travel for their athletes and patrons. They would like to move to Region 4.

MOTION: Ms. Richards made the motion to accept Hillcrest's proposal to move to 5A boys and girls wrestling in Region 4. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Realignment 2025-2027: The item was tabled until May 2.

9. **Board Terms:** Mr. Cuff said there will be many changes to the BOT members next year. The 5A School Board member election will be held on April 27 at 3:00 pm at the UHSAA Office. Notification has been sent.

A. Board of Trustees Terms (pp.126-127):

1A School Board Member	Zack McKee, Rich SD
3A/4A Superintendent	Luke Rasmussen, Ogden SD
5A/6A Principal	Todd Quarnberg
3A/4A Principal	TBD
1A/2A Principal	Jade Shepherd
Private School Board	Craig Morris

B. Executive Committee Terms (pp. 128-129): Mr. Cuff asked the members to review the list provided on pages 128-129.

10. **For the Good of the Order:** Mr. Cluff thanked Ms. Widerburg for her service to the Association and congratulated her on her retirement. Ms. Jennifer Thomas will be at the next BOT meeting as her replacement. Ms. Widerburg thanked members for the many opportunities

she has received working for the UHSAA. Most importantly, the wonderful experience of rubbing shoulders with dedicated and amazing educators across the state.

MOTION: Mr. Strate made the motion to adjourn.

Next Meeting: May 2, 2023.