

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024**

**Welcome & Chair Business**

Chair Craig Hammer called the committee to order and reviewed important dates found in the UHSAA calendars.

**Reverence/Thought:** Mr. Todd Dawson underlined the power of listening and asking questions. He referred to a TED Talk called "*Why You're Wrong Even though You Think You're Right.*" He compared the scout mindset and the soldier mindset. The scout asks a lot of questions. The soldier mindset is to hold your ground and fight for something. Mr. Dawson thinks about this a lot in his job and hopes the Committee will also consider this. You can find out things through assumptions or questions. Asking powerful questions can make a difference and help everyone do their jobs better. He then provided a prayer.

**Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic thought:** Mr. Ryan Oaks shared a quick story from his school community. Deborah Gatrell is a blackhawk helicopter pilot who has seen action around the world. When she is not flying helicopters, she is teaching at Hunter HS. In 2020, at the Vice-Presidential debate here in Salt Lake City, each candidate got to take one guest. Kamala Harris took Deborah Gatrell. Because of this, NBC News/Lester Holt did a story on her. Mr. Oaks shared the news with his school community and the feedback was great for the most part, but he then got a few calls from parents who went on the attack due to her political affiliation. Mr. Oaks reminded the board that in his opinion, the best thing about America is that it has always been a land where people from different backgrounds and beliefs can come together. He then led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes of March 20, 2024:**

**MOTION:** Mr. Kade Morrell made the motion to approve the minutes from the previous Executive Committee meeting, held on March 20, 2024. Mr. Darin Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Spring Sports Assignment Sheets: Ms. Jan Whittaker handed out the signup sheets for spring tournaments and encouraged the board to sign up.

**USBE Report:** Ms. Teri Davis is excused today from the meeting.

**BOT Report:** Mr. Shepherd provided a synopsis of the previous Board of Trustees meeting, which was held on March 28, 2024.

**Activities Reports:**

**Solo & Ensemble State Music Festivals:** Mr. Brenan Jackson shared with the committee that the state music festivals will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2024. The south festival will be held at Provo HS and the north festival will be held at Woods Cross HS.

**Theatre/Drama:** Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs announced winners in each classification of state theatre and congratulated them.

**Speech/Debate:** Mr. Chris Shipman shared the winners of each classification and congratulated the winners.

**Calendar/Sites:** Mr. Jeff Cluff reminded the Committee that the calendar is always in flux. The UHSAA website is the best place to go. If the post season conflicts with graduation and/or AP testing, he asked the committee to work with the UHSAA staff. Graduation will be accommodated at the venues. Mr. Rob Cuff shared that the BOT made a motion that adjustments will not be made to tournaments for graduations.

**UIAAA:** Mr. Marc Hunter provided a few highlights from the recent UIAAA conference which was held in St. George. The numbers were down by approximately 25 attendees from what they normally have. However, there was nothing but positive feedback about the conference. He encouraged all to attend in the future. Mr. Morrell added to the importance of Athletic Director's attending the conference as they can receive important training and support from their colleagues.

**Other Business:** Mr. Aaron Schrader, principal at Layton Christian Academy addressed the Committee. He provided a couple points. First their primary goal is to maintain their standing as a member of good standing with UHSAA. He expressed appreciation for all the organization has done. And explained their school wants to provide opportunities to the students. The potential changes to non-foreign exchange student visa rules will have an impact on their students and school. He expressed that Layton Christian Academy is opposed to making decisions that will take away from students related to race, immigration status, etc. Layton Christian Academy wants to be a part of any conversations and decisions that are made regarding this. They also want to be a part of any solutions. He then asked that individual athletes be allowed to compete in UHSAA events.

Principal Colosimo from Juan Diego then addressed the Committee. He shared that he is also the director of the Utah Private Schools Association. He shared the background of Juan Diego and their international student population. He compared international students to undocumented students and that the potential changes to the foreign student visa policies affects international students more than undocumented students, as international students are entering the country by following the rules. His recommendation is that international students that already are in Utah be grandfathered in. New international students should be able to follow the transfer rule and sit out for one year and then can play.

Patrick Lambert from Judge Memorial HS then shared that this previous season they had two international students on their basketball team. Only one played in the state championship and didn't score any points. He then explained that at Judge Memorial they are bringing in international students that reside in war-torn countries and being persecuted due to their religion. He wanted to debunk the myth that international students are being recruited to their school. He pointed out that only 2% of their school population includes international students. Judge Memorial uses CEVAS to vet the students. He has contacted the states around Utah to debunk that they are not allowing foreign students to participate in sports. He then listed the states and what they allow or don't allow. The recommendation of Judge Memorial is that the transfer rule deem international students as sub-varsity for a year and then are allow them full participation in varsity sports.

**Constitution and By-Laws Committee Report:** Mr. Mark Van Wagoner shared that the committee has met twice and has provided an outline of what they suggest being changed. The transfer rule has not functioned well, and some changes have been made.

**Foreign Student Eligibility:** Mr. Van Wagoner discussed the changes to this section.

**MOTION:** Mr. Steve Gordon motioned to recommend the foreign student eligibility changes to the BOT. It was seconded by Ms. Roberta Hardy. The motion carried.

**MOTION:** Mr. Jason Smith motioned to recommend that the proposed changes to the transfer rule move on to be considered by the Board of Trustees. Mr. Karl Jensen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Scholastic Rule:** The revisions were presented and discussed by the committee. The proposed home release is removed, due to it not being considered enrolled by the state and the schools don't receive funding for home release students.

**MOTION:** Ms. Kim Monkres made the motion to accept the scholastic rule revision and move it on to the Board of Trustees. It was seconded by Mr. Jared Wright. The motion carried.

Mr. Kevin Henshaw asked for discussion on Section 7: Ineligible Player/Participant section in the handbook.

**Legal Report:** Mr. Van Wagoner provided a legal report for the committee.

**Realignment 2025-2027:**

**Timetable:** Mr. Cuff discussed the realignment timetable with the committee.

**EC Recommendations to BOT:** Mr. Cuff asked the Committee to recommend items to take to the BOT for consideration.

**Discussion/action items:** Mr. Cuff asked if free and reduced lunch should be used at 50% consideration on bubble schools to move down a classification and to use a school profile for schools within the 10% bubble. There was no dissent.

**Follow Up Items from Previous Meetings:**

**Unified Sports – UHSAA/SOUT State Events:** Mr. Shipman shared the track events this year in Unified Track.

**Academic All-State:** Spring sports are currently in the two-week grace period. Winners will be posted on the UHSAA Website and certificates will be sent out within two weeks of the grace period ending.

**Lacrosse Items:** 4A Lacrosse currently has 17 girls' teams and 16 boys' teams. Mr. Shipman asked if the Committee wants to have one team not make it to the tournament, so the boys and girls are the same or would they prefer to keep 17 teams in 4A girls. Mr. Craig Morris brought up the challenges with referee shortages. No motion was taken and 17 girls' teams will qualify for state.

**Speech and Debate Items:** Mr. Shipman shared a request from Speech & Debate that smaller schools with grades 7-12 in the same school practice together, rather than have multiple practices.

**MOTION:** Mr. Morrell made a motion to allow grades 7-8 to practice with the high school Speech & Debate team if they all are in the same school. Mr. Kim Bailey seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**UHSAA Summer Moratorium Adjustments:** (June 28-July 4, 2024) Mr. Jackson explained that there are two times each year where college men's basketball coaches have an opportunity to observe students in the summer. This year it falls on the summer moratorium for several schools. The schools have requested an exemption due to having already been invited to attend. The NCAA restricts the time for observing, so it is the only time they can do it. This only affects boys' basketball. Mr. Cuff recommended that the committee modify the moratorium for boys' basketball schools that have already signed up for the tournament.

**MOTION:** Mr. Nate Marshall made the motion to adjust the summer moratorium for boys' basketball teams that have signed up for the tournament only for this one year. Mr. Dawson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Football Items:** Mr. Jackson reminded the committee to provide enough days for football heat acclimatization. He also reminded them that a cooling tub must be onsite for heat acclimatization.

**Boys Soccer Items:** Mr. Jackson shared the dates for the state tournaments in each class. There have been 84 red card ejections as of last week. Mr. Jackson then brought up an RPI issue and asked for a recommendation from the committee on what to do to resolve the issue. There is a tie in the RPI between Delta and Canyon View. The committee discussed options. A coin toss was decided.

**MOTION:** Mr. Marshall made the motion to use a coin toss to decide a tie between Delta and Canyon View for boys' soccer in the RPI. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Music Items:** Mr. Jackson reiterated that the state tournament for Solo and Ensemble is Saturday, April 27, 2024.

**Coaches' Certification:** It is a state board rule to get coaches certified. UHSAA is tracking it. The Principals and AD's are responsible to make sure their coaches are certified.

**Football Endowment Games (Ticketing):** Mr. Cluff reminded the Committee that ticketing for endowment games and postseason must be done through Go Fan.

**Officiating Update:** Mr. Cluff reminded the committee that as the postseason gets closer, sportsmanship issues have increased and to be aware of poor sportsmanship so it can be handled quickly.

**Officials Pay Scale Committee:** Mr. Cluff provided a proposal to increase officials' pay by \$5.00. This is approximately a six percent raise. It is proposed to be a \$3.00 raise yearly after that.

**MOTION:** Mr. Bailey made a motion to recommend the proposed pay increase to the Board of Trustees for officials. It was seconded by Mr. Rodney Shaw. The motion carried.

**Spring Minimum Number of Contests and End Dates for Sub Varsity:** There have been major issues with getting sub-varsity games played. Mr. Cluff proposes that sub-varsity be allowed to play until and including May 23 to get games played if they so choose.

**MOTION:** Mr. Oaks made the motion to allow sub-varsity to play until and including May 23. Mr. Dawson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **Staff Items:**

**Sportsmanship Items:** Ms. Whittaker shared that UHSAA is in the fourteenth year of the school sportsmanship award. The deadline for submittal is May 27, 2024. The criteria is on the UHSAA website.

**Gold Star Coach Award:** The six classification winners were announced.

**Drill Team Items:** All the regions need to fill out the form that shows their region's competition.

**Golf Items:** In 3A golf, some teams don't have enough athletes competing to make up a four-person team. Ms. Whittaker recommends they change the wording so that ten individual athletes per region can qualify in addition to the already existent team qualification.

**MOTION:** Mr. Morrell made a motion to allow the top 10 individuals in each region to qualify if their school didn't have enough participants for a full team. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Sports Season Committee Report:** Three different proposals were made:

1. To move boys' volleyball to the fall with the new alignment.
2. To shorten the swim season from 20-21 weeks to about 17-18 weeks. It would still go into February. Another option is to move swim to the fall season. This could be done in 16-17 weeks.
3. Boys' soccer moving to the fall. A survey from ADEC will be sent out to ask about all three proposals.

**Dare2Lead Student Leadership Conference - Fall 2024:** Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs asked for the name of each school's Dare 2 Lead representative by the next EC meeting in June.

**Cheer Items:** A hearing was held about the allegations by Skyridge concerning the state cheer competition. The Executive Committee was asked to find out from regions concerning recommendations they have to improve the sport of cheer.

**Executive Committee Terms:** Mr. Cuff asked for any known changes to the committee for the next school year. Mr. Oaks will become the new Principal of East HS.

**2A Principal to BOT:** The executive committee will appoint someone to fill the remainder of Jade Shepherd's term as he is retiring (two years).

**MOTION:** Mr. Shepherd made the motion for Mr. Devin Smith from North Summit High School to represent the BOT as the 1A/2A Principal. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Participation Survey Reminder:** Mr. Cuff reminded member schools to return the survey, having accurately reported the numbers.

## **Reports:**

**SMAC Report:** Mr. Jackson shared that the committee is working on air quality to get a level situation across the state. They are also working on promoting the emergency action plan as to what each school has prepared in case of an emergency at an after-school activity. There is also a pre-game medical timeout card that Mr. Jackson recommended the schools implement for all activities. The concussion protocols have also been updated to the latest research and findings. This has been approved and is in the UHSAA Handbook.

**1A Athletics:** Ms. Roberta Hardy – Nothing to report.

**2A Athletics:** Mr. Ty Kennedy – Nothing to report.

**3A Athletics:** Mr. Kade Morrell – Nothing to report.

**4A Athletics:** Ms. Kim Monkres – Nothing to report.

**5A Athletics:** Mr. Jason Smith – Nothing to report.

**6A Athletics:** Mr. Jed Johansen – Asked for clarification on how, when a breach of contract occurs, it can be ensured that the forfeiting coach enters it into the RPI. Mr. Johansen also asked about stacking in tennis. He inquired about what penalty occurs and who deals with it. He was looking for some oversight. He also asked if the region board of managers had the authority to assess a penalty?

**MOTION:** Mr. Johansen asked to make a motion that the Region board of managers is allowed to speak with a coach that is accused of tennis stacking and to assess a penalty if necessary. It was seconded by Mr. Morris. The motion carried.

**For the Good of the Order:** Mr. Cuff referred the Committee Members to an article that is included in their reference materials entitled “Partnerships of Success” on pages 155-156.