

The following are the preliminary minutes from the April 27, 2023, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its June 8, 2023, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (April 27, 2023)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at the OHSAA Office in Columbus. President Bill Nye called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance and introductions of guests in attendance.

Board Members In Attendance: Bill Nye, president; Gina Franks, vice president; David Alvarado; Bo Arnett; Andy Bixler; Molly Feesler; Jay Selgo; Paul Stone; Jeff Wheeler, and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio).

Board Member Excused: Scott Hunt (ex-officio).

Staff Members In Attendance: Doug Ute, executive director; Kim Kiehl, chief operating officer; directors Bob Goldring, Kristin Ronai, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried; Laura Vermilya, controller, and staff members Kate Barnett, Alexis Holderman, Claire Duesdieker Keohane, Angie Lawler (participated virtually), Ronald Sayers and Dustin Ware.

Others In Attendance: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Brian Timm, Ohio General Manager, Teall Properties Group; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Gerald Cooke and Dick Kerschbaum, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association, and Kathy McFarland, Ohio School Boards Association.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Gina Franks to **adopt** the agenda for the April 27 2023, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bo Arnett, second by Jay Selgo to **approve** the minutes from the February 16, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting; the March 18, 2023, Board of Directors Special Meeting, and the April 13, 2023, Board of Directors Special Meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

III. OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL UPDATES

A. Operations Update

Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl provided the Board with an update on operations. Among the highlights: 1.) Lizzy Wilson has started on a part-time basis to fill the vacant position in the OHSAA's officiating department. She will begin working on a full-time basis in mid-May; 2.) Candidates are being reviewed for the vacant sport management position after the application deadline recently closed; 3.) Policy handbooks for the OHSAA staff, district athletic boards and board of directors will be updated soon and distributed prior to the 2023-24 school year; 4.) The majority of technology upgrades in the board rooms of both OHSAA buildings have been set up/installed; 5.) Most of the building and grounds updates have been completed, although some additional upgrades have been identified. It was noted that all of the projects will come under the \$350,000 budget previously approved by the Board of Directors.

B. OHSAA Financial Report Through March

Controller Laura Vermilya provided the financial report through March. She said that the OHSAA has \$11.6 million of operating cash, and \$20.3 million when including reserves. When counting the latter, the Association can cover 11.6 months of expenses. The current financial numbers do not include some missing winter tournament expenses, including those incurred at the state wrestling tournament. Ms. Vermilya projects that combined fall and tournament revenues will be down roughly \$400,000 to \$500,000 from what was budgeted, which can mostly be attributed to discounted student tournament ticket prices, which were not included in the original budget. She noted that other revenues, however, have offset the tournament revenue losses. The financial report is summarized as follows:

| District | Checking | Savings | Board | | Total | Yr. to Date | Yr. to Date | Yr. to Date |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Designated | Investment | | Gross Revenue | Gross Expenses | Net Profit/Loss |
| OHSAA Office | \$10,755,237 | \$866,382 | \$709,931 | \$2,601,754 | \$14,933,305 | \$12,867,782 | \$9,331,754 | \$3,536,028 |
| Central | — | — | N/A | \$854,158 | \$854,158 | \$883,035 | \$838,765 | \$44,270 |
| East | — | — | N/A | \$797,510 | \$797,510 | \$423,356 | \$353,935 | \$69,421 |
| Northeast | — | — | N/A | \$553,393 | \$553,393 | \$1,578,431 | \$1,607,805 | — \$29,374 |
| Northwest | — | — | N/A | \$1,381,761 | \$1,381,761 | \$1,461,539 | \$1,281,299 | \$180,240 |
| Southeast | — | — | N/A | \$669,343 | \$669,343 | \$557,405 | \$387,898 | \$169,507 |
| Southwest | — | — | N/A | \$1,156,582 | \$1,156,582 | \$1,353,402 | \$1,091,694 | \$261,709 |
| Totals | \$10,755,237 | \$866,382 | \$709,931 | \$8,014,501 | \$20,346,052 | \$19,124,950 | \$14,893,150 | \$4,231,801 |

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| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Prior Month</u> | <u>Prior Year</u> |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Checking | \$10,755,237 | \$9,771,306 | \$7,819,788 |
| Savings | \$866,382 | \$866,382 | \$3,535,641 |
| Concentration Account | = | = | \$1,293,022 |
| Total Operating Cash | \$11,621,619 | \$10,637,688 | \$12,648,451 |
| Months on Hand | 6.6 | 6.1 | 7.7 |
| Board Designated Funds | \$709,931 | \$708,469 | \$702,562 |
| Investments - Unrestricted | \$8,014,501 | \$7,924,652 | \$3,392,081 |
| Total Investments | \$8,724,432 | \$8,633,121 | \$4,094,643 |
| Months on Hand | 5.0 | 4.9 | 2.5 |
| Total Cash & Investments on Hand | \$20,346,051 | \$19,270,809 | \$16,743,094 |
| Months on Hand (Cash & Investments) | 11.6 | 11.0 | 10.2 |

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by David Alvarado to **approve** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

C. Recommendation to Approve Modification to Boys and Girls Lacrosse Tournament Travel Stipends

Controller Laura Vermilya asked that the Board approve a recommendation to modify the tournament travel stipends for boys and girls lacrosse that were previously approved at the February 16 meeting. The recommendation is that the boys and girls lacrosse stipend for regional tournaments be \$750 for regional championship qualifiers (with the stipend for state tournament qualifiers remaining at \$1,500 per game).

Motion by Gina Franks, second by Jay Selgo to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Update on Member School Dues for 2023-24 School Year

Executive Director Doug Ute informed the Board that no changes are recommended for member school dues for the 2023-24 school year. That means that the action taken by the Board of Directors at their May 3, 2021, Special Meeting will remain in place for the 2023-24 school year: the \$100 approved fee will continue to be \$50 per OHSAA recognized sport.

B. Update on OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings

Executive Director Doug Ute informed the Board that three of the six in-person OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings have been held, with another meeting taking place later today in Cambridge; one at Clayton Northmont High School Friday, and the final one in Tiffin on Monday. The OHSAA is required by the Constitution to conduct these meetings in order to explain the upcoming referendum issues, so the majority of the meetings have been spent with Director Kristin Ronai reviewing those items. The three meetings that have been completed have been in Athens, Westerville and Streetsboro. Mr. Ute said participation and feedback from the meetings have been positive.

C. Reminder of 2023 Referendum Voting Process

Director Kristin Ronai reminded the Board that on-line voting for the 13 referendum issues (one Constitution; 12 Bylaws) will begin on Monday, May 1, and will be closed on Monday, May 15, at 4:00 p.m. Member school principals are required to vote but may abstain on any issue. Ms. Ronai also said the PowerPoint presentation that has been used at the Athletic Discussion Meetings will be posted on the OHSAA website on Tuesday.

D. Reminder of 2023 District Athletic Board Election Process

Staff member Ronald Sayers reminded the Board that petitions for OHSAA District Athletic Board positions are due by 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 30, and that voting for the expired and unexpired positions will take place between May 1 and 15. It was noted that the Central District Athletic Board has both positions available for the Class AA position, so principals can vote for two candidates, with the person receiving the most votes receiving the six-year term and the person with the second-most votes receiving the unexpired five-year term. There are eight expiring and/or interim positions that will be voted upon that will follow the normal election process.

E. Reminder of Process/Date to Approve 2023-24 General Sports Regulations and Sport-by-Sport Regulations

Staff member Emily Mason informed the Board that several members of the OHSAA Executive Director's Office have met and will be meeting again to discuss changes to the General Sports Regulations. The recommended changes will be shared with Executive Director Ute in the near future before a virtual meeting will take place May 23 to obtain approval of the proposed changes from the Board of Directors. The sport-by-sport regulations will be presented at the June 8 Board of Directors Meeting that will be held in Akron.

F. Update on Infractions, Appeals and Legal Issues

Staff member Ronald Sayers provided the Board with a list of schools that have recently violated OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations. **Marion Elgin High School** had a student-athlete in boys bowling violate General Sports Regulation 7.2.2, Non-Interscholastic Participation During Season, when they participated in

a non-interscholastic contest after becoming a member of the Elgin High School boys bowling team. After the participation in a non-interscholastic contest occurred, the student-athlete participated in an OHSAA Boys Bowling Tournament contest for Elgin High School. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, Elgin High School was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. Individual eligible athletes, however, were permitted to keep their points, places and any awards earned during these forfeited contests. Additionally, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athlete was removed from the remainder of the 2023 OHSAA Boys Bowling Tournament. **Liberty Township Lakota East High School** had a student-athlete in gymnastics violate General Sports Regulation 7.2.2, Non-Interscholastic Participation During Season, when they participated in a non-interscholastic contest after becoming a member of the Lakota East High School gymnastics team. After the participation in a non-interscholastic contest occurred, the student-athlete participated in an OHSAA Gymnastics Tournament contest for Lakota East High School. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, Lakota East High School was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. Individual eligible athletes, however, were permitted to keep their points, places and any awards earned during these forfeited contests. Additionally, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athlete was removed from the remainder of the 2023 OHSAA Gymnastics Tournament. **Oregon Cardinal Stritch High School** had a student-athlete in baseball who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility, with regard to transfer, under Bylaw 4-7-7, Intra-System transfer, after they transferred to Cardinal Stritch High School at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the 15th day of the start of the 2022-23 school year. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility retroactively and prospectively, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error. The fine that normally accompanies approvals under Bylaw 4-1-1 has been waived due to the changes in personnel at Cardinal Stritch High School at the start of the 2022-23 school year. **Cincinnati Pleasant Run Middle School** had a student-athlete in boys basketball who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility, with regard to age, under Bylaw 4-2-2 Exception 2, Student Retained in Grades K-3, after they attained the age of 15 prior to August 1 of the 2022-23 school year. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student-athlete participating during the 2022-23 boys basketball season. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, the school was fined \$100. **Sunbury Big Walnut High School** had seven student-athletes in boys soccer violate General Sports Regulation 7.3.1, Non-Interscholastic Participation Limitation, when they participated on the same non-interscholastic team between August 1 and May 31. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, each student is ineligible for two regular season contests during the 2023-24 season. The suspensions will be broken up across the first eight regular season contests to ensure Big Walnut High School has enough athletes to compete in the contests. **Coldwater High School** had a student-athlete in baseball violate Baseball Regulation 1.7, Pitch Count Limitation, when they pitched in a contest prior to fulfilling the required rest period after pitching in a previous contest. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Coldwater High School was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated.

Mr. Sayers also provided the Board with an update on appeals. He said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has heard eight appeals on two dates since the last Board of Directors meeting. Overall, the panel has heard 73 appeals with 78 rulings on 15 dates this school year, and 15 appeals have either been granted or the penalty modified. In addition, OHSAA Legal Counsel Steve Craig provided the Board with an update on current legal cases.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

- A. Recommendation to Approve 2023-24 Tournament Entry/Withdraw Dates and Tournament Draw/Seed Dates
The Board was provided with proposed tournament entry and withdraw dates and the dates for the draw/seed meetings for each sport for the 2023-24 school year, and staff member Ronald Sayers said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the dates be approved. The dates will be published as part of the General Sports Regulations in the 2023-24 OHSAA Handbook.
- B. Recommendation to Approve Business Rules for Tournament Enrollment and Representation
The Board was provided with a draft of the Business Rules for Tournament Enrollment and Representation, and staff member Ronald Sayers said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the business rules be approved. Among the rules that are defined and described are: 1.) obtaining and use of enrollment numbers; 2.) appeals of data; 3.) timelines; 4.) divisional assignments for individual sports, non-competitive balance team sports and competitive balance team sports, and 5.) representation and formulas for automatic qualifiers, extra qualifiers and ties. Mr. Sayers noted that the business rules are not new, but they have not previously been codified in a published and approved document.

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C. Recommendation to Approve Tournament Divisional Assignments and Representation for the 2023 Fall Competitive Balance Sports

The Board was provided with tournament representation and/or divisional assignments for the 2023 fall Competitive Balance sports of football, boys soccer, girls soccer and girls volleyball, and staff member Ronald Sayers said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the representation and assignments be approved. He noted that tournament divisions and representation are always based on the schools that competed in the tournament the previous year, and the data includes their OHSAA Board of Directors-approved tournament enrollment from the most recent cycle of the EMIS count (October 2021). The list of schools posted on the OHSAA website are those schools that competed in last year's tournament and are used to determine the tournament divisions.

Football

Proposed 2023 school tournament divisional alignments are as follows:

Division I, 70 teams (620 males or more from October 2021 enrollments plus 2022 Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 105 teams (385 to 619 males)

Division III, 105 teams (274 to 384 males)

Division IV, 105 teams (206 to 273 males)

Division V, 106 teams (158 to 205 males)

Division VI, 105 teams (115 to 157 males)

Division VII, 105 teams (114 or less males)

Total Teams: 701

Boys Soccer

Division I, 188 teams (346 males or more from October 2021 enrollments plus 2022 Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 188 teams (182 to 345 males)

Division III, 189 teams (181 or less males)

Total Teams: 565

Representation from the district to the regional tournaments for 2023 would be: **Division I:** Combined Central and two Southeast schools (Chillicothe, Logan) 4; Combined Northeast and two East schools (Dover and New Philadelphia) 6; Northwest 2, and Southwest 4; **Division II:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 5; Northwest 3; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3; **Division III:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 5; Northwest 3; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3.

Girls Soccer

Division I, 173 teams (330 females or more from October 2021 enrollments plus 2022 Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 173 teams (190 to 329 females)

Division III, 171 teams (189 or less females)

Total Teams: 517

Representation from the district to the regional tournaments for 2023 would be: **Division I:** Combined Central, one East school (Dresden Tri-Valley) and two Southeast schools (Chillicothe, Logan) 4; Northeast, 6; Northwest 2, and Southwest 4; **Division II:** Central 1; East 2; Northeast 5; Northwest 3; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3; **Division III:** Combined Central and three East schools (Berlin Hiland, West Lafayette Ridgewood, Zanesville Bishop Rosecrans) 2; Combined Northeast and three East schools (Magnolia Sandy Valley, Richmond Edison, Steubenville Catholic Central) 5; Northwest 3; Southeast 2, and Southwest 4.

Girls Volleyball

Division I, 194 teams (319 females or more from October 2021 enrollments plus 2022 Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 195 teams (189 to 318 females)

Division III, 196 teams (111 to 188 females)

Division IV, 197 teams (110 or less females)

Total Teams: 782

Representation from the district to the regional tournaments for 2023 would be: **Division I:** Combined Central, one East school (Dresden Tri-Valley) and two Southeast schools (Chillicothe, Logan) 4; Northeast 6; Northwest 2, and Southwest 4; **Division II:** Central 2; East 2*; Northeast 5; Northwest 3; Southeast 1*, and Southwest 3; **Division III:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 4; Northwest 3; Southeast 3, and Southwest 3; **Division IV:** Central 1; East 2; Northeast 3; Northwest 6; Southeast 1, and Southwest 3.

* Indicates a coin flip was conducted at this meeting to break a tie in representation, resulting in the East having 2 qualifiers and the Southeast 1.

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D. Recommendation to Approve 2023 Football Tournament Regional Assignments

Director Beau Rugg provided the Board of Directors with a draft of 2023 football tournament regional assignments and recommended that the assignments be approved. The assignments can be found at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news-media/articles/ohsaa-announces-2023-football-divisions-and-regions>.

E. Recommendation to Approve Self-Supporting Requirements for 2023-24 School Year (Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 4)

OHSAA bylaws require that the Executive Director's Office annually establish requirements for transfer students who do not live in the same school district as their parents or legal guardians but are financially self-supporting (Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, Exception 4). Director Kristin Ronai reviewed the requirements and said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the requirements remain the same as those approved for 2022-23, with the minimum monthly income earned remaining at \$500.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Paul Stone to **approve** New Business Consent Items VI. A., VI. B., VI. C., VI. D. and VI. E. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

None

VIII. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS (ELECTION OF 2023-24 BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS)

Board President Bill Nye asked for nominations for the position of president of the Board of Directors for the 2023-24 school year.

Bo Arnett nominated Gina Franks to serve as president of the Board of Directors for the 2023-24 school year. Paul Stone seconded the motion. There was a unanimous motion to close nominations.

Gina Franks was unanimously elected president of the Board of Directors for the 2023-24 school year.

Board President Nye asked for nominations for the position of vice president of the Board of Directors for the 2023-24 school year.

Jeff Wheeler nominated Jay Selgo to serve as vice president of the Board of Directors for the 2023-24 school year. David Alvarado seconded the motion. There was a unanimous motion to close nominations.

Jay Selgo was unanimously elected vice president of the Board of Directors for the 2023-24 school year.

IX. ONCE AROUND

Board members thanked outgoing President Bill Nye for his leadership during the 2022-23 school year and congratulated Gina Franks on being elected as the 2023-24 president. Director Kristin Ronai was thanked for clearly explaining the 2023 referendum items at the OHSAA Athletic Discussion Meetings; staff members Ronald Sayers and Alexis Holderman were praised for creating the OHSAA Business Rules for Divisional Assignments and Representation; Mr. Sayers was also thanked for having the division assignments and representation prepared for the fall 2023 competitive balance sports, and thanks were also given to Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl for her work in overseeing the upgrades in technology in the board rooms.

Board Ex-Officio Glen Gillespie said the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA) will again host its summer institute for athletic administrators at the OHSAA Offices on June 13-15 and will offer 10 courses over the three days. Board President Bill Nye thanked the OHSAA staff for their work and said he appreciates how efficient everything is run during his second tenure on the Board of Directors.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Molly Feesler to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Motion passed 9-0.

Bob Goldring, recorder.

FUTURE MEETINGS

(Unless noted, all meetings are on Thursdays and begin at 9:00 but are subject to change.)

2022-23 School Year: June 8, 2023 (8:30 a.m. at Canal Park in Akron).

2023-24 School Year: August 31, 2023; September 29, 2023 (**Friday**); October 26, 2023; January 11, 2024; February 15, 2024; April 25, 2024, and June 6, 2024 (8:30 a.m. at Canal Park in Akron).