

The following are the preliminary minutes from the January 14, 2021, OHSAA Board of Directors Virtual Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its February 18, 2021, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES (January 14, 2021)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2021. The meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. President Jeff Cassella called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Board Members Participating: Jeff Cassella, president; Scott Kaufman, vice president; Ryan Fitzgerald; Gary Kreinbrink; Dan Leffingwell; Leonard Steyer; Bill Warfield; Steve Watkins; Jan Wilking, and John Richard (ex-officio) and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio).

Staff Members Participating: Doug Ute, executive director; Kim Kiehl, chief operating officer; senior directors Kristin Ronai, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried; controller Laura Vermilya; directors Tyler Brooks, Kathleen Coughlin, Emily Gates, Angie Lawler and Brenda Murray; assistant directors Ronald Sayers and Jacki Windon, and staff members Molly Downard and Chris Walker.

Senior Staff Member Excused: Bob Goldring, senior director.

Others Participating: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Greg Blate, OHSAA consultant; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; David Sheldon, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Greg Coulls, Ohio High School Bowling Coaches Association; Barbara Sleek, Ohio High School Softball Coaches Association; Doug Joy, Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches, and Rick Lewis, Ohio School Boards Association.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Dan Leffingwell, second Leonard Steyer to **adopt** the agenda for the January 14, 2021, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ryan Fitzgerald, second by Steve Watkins to **approve** the minutes from the December 3, 2020, Board of Directors Regular Meeting (virtual).

Motion passed 9-0.

III. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A. OHSAA Financial Report

OHSAA Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl asked consultant Greg Blate to provide financial updates. He said fall tournament revenues were higher than expected, but the latest estimates indicate expenses will be \$5.3 million in the winter. The finance team and staff continue to explore alternative revenue sources and measures to cut expenses. The financial report through December is summarized as follows:

Available Funds — December 31, 2020		
Checking and Savings	\$2,822,250.36	
Certificates of Deposit	\$106,309.80	
Cash Concentration	<u>\$2,596,455.68</u>	
Working Capital		\$5,525,015.84
Designated Funds — December 31, 2020		
Board Designated Savings	\$381,477.29	
Board Designated Certificates of Deposit	\$319,093.33	
Investments - Building Fund	\$0	
Durkle Scholarship	\$52,780.30	
Rossi/Denney Scholarship	<u>\$53,378.08</u>	
Total Designated Funds		<u>\$806,729.00</u>
Total Funds		\$6,331,744.84

Board of Directors Minutes (1/14/21) — 2

District	Checking	Savings	CD	Cash Concentration	Total Cash	Yr. to Date Gross Revenue	Yr. to Date Gross Expenses	Yr. to Date Net Profit/Loss
OHSAA Office	\$959,378	\$988,400	\$319,093	\$110,387	\$2,377,257	\$5,762,921	\$4,866,195	\$896,726
Central	\$51,414	\$0	\$0	\$623,400	\$674,814	\$230,976	\$213,035	\$17,940
East	\$47,163	\$0	\$0	\$606,247	\$653,410	\$102,951	\$74,582	\$28,369
Northeast	\$190,825	\$0	\$0	\$361,264	\$552,089	\$487,111	\$505,776	— \$18,665
Northwest	\$209,063	\$0	— \$4	\$431,705	\$640,763	\$354,368	\$313,278	\$41,090
Southeast	\$63,054	\$19,163	\$0	\$363,396	\$445,613	\$131,782	\$130,942	\$840
Southwest	<u>\$333,578</u>	<u>\$341,690</u>	<u>\$212,472</u>	<u>\$100,057</u>	<u>\$987,797</u>	<u>\$423,592</u>	<u>\$375,587</u>	<u>\$48,005</u>
Totals	\$1,854,475	\$1,349,253	\$531,561	\$2,596,456	\$6,331,745	\$7,493,700	\$6,479,394	\$1,014,305

Motion by Dan Leffingwell, second by Leonard Steyer to **approve** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

B. Approval of OHSAA Audit

Dr. Kiehl said the 2019-20 OHSAA audit was reviewed and discussed with the Board of Directors the previous day, and it was recommended that the audit be approved. The audit was prepared by representatives of Schneider Downs of Columbus and included the OHSAA office and the six District Athletic Boards from August 1, 2019, to July 31, 2020.

Motion by Jan Wilking, second by Scott Kaufman to **approve** the 2019-20 OHSAA audit.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. General Update on Winter Sports

Executive Director Doug Ute provided a general update on OHSAA winter sports. He said the OHSAA is on schedule to conduct winter tournament draws within the next few weeks. While noting that many schools have had to deal with COVID-19 issues or quarantine situations, Mr. Ute thanked coaches, athletic administrators and school personnel for their efforts in keeping student-athletes participating. He also thanked cheerleaders, pep bands and their coaches/directors who have also worked tremendously hard this winter and often cannot travel to away events. In addition, Mr. Ute praised the OHSAA staff and district athletic boards for their work in securing tournament sites during unprecedented times. He noted that some sectional and district events are likely going to take place across district lines since many traditional sites are not available.

B. Specific Update on Winter Sports

OHSAA sport administrators provided specific updates on their respective winter sports that also relate to New Business Item VI. A., Approval of Winter Sports Tournament Regulations. In **basketball**, Kathleen Coughlin noted that many tournament sites are still to be determined as the office explores sites that are permitted to host contests while remaining fiscally responsible. In **bowling**, Emily Gates said the state tournament will remain at **Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl**. Due to the pandemic, schools are limited to a maximum of six bowlers during the tournament. In **gymnastics**, Kristin Ronai said the state tournament will again be held at Hilliard Bradley High School. Due to the pandemic, the awards ceremonies will be modified and attendance will be limited. In **ice hockey**, Ronald Sayers said both Northeast district tournaments will be held at the Brooklyn Rec Center since Kent State University has not reopened its facility. The pandemic also made date changes necessary, and Mr. Sayers thanked school administrators for their work with ice rinks that are not school facilities. In addition, he noted that the annual Coaches Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award will be presented to the family of former Bowling Green Coach Jamie Ruffner, who recently passed away. In **swimming & diving**, Beau Rugg said C.T. Branin Natatorium in Canton will host the state tournament again after administrators worked out an agreeable plan with the local health department. All swimming finals will be timed, and the number of people permitted on the deck will be restricted. One parent per swimmer will be permitted to attend the swimming competition, and two per diver will be permitted to attend the diving competition. With limited facilities available, many district athletic boards are being forced to use sites outside of their districts for sectional and district competition. In **wrestling**, Tyler Brooks said the pandemic has forced the state tournament to move from Ohio State's Schottenstein Center to three high schools, with a preference on sites in Central Ohio. Tournament seeding will need modifications since some wrestlers will be unable to meet the normal 12-match minimum. With weight classes divided into one of two sessions during the tournaments, Mr. Brooks said modified weigh-in procedures will be clearly shared.

C. Review of OHSAA Fall Tournaments

Executive Director Doug Ute said Dan Brisker, a long-time school administrator from Southeast Ohio, former OHSAA Board of Directors and district athletic board member and current secretary of the OHSAA Southeast District Athletic Board, has been approved as the OHSAA's recipient for the National Federation of State High School Associations' State Award for Outstanding Service. He congratulated Mr. Brisker and said the OHSAA will recognize him when the pandemic ends.

Board of Directors Minutes (1/14/21) — 3

- D. Minutes from the All-Districts Boards Meeting of December 15, 2020
Executive Director Doug Ute said the meeting minutes were provided to the Board of Directors. He said the December 15 meeting was very productive when current issues and updates were provided to the OHSAA District Athletic Boards.
- E. Completion of Part-Time Appointments of Deborah Moore and Todd Boehm
Executive Director Doug Ute said that Senior Director of Compliance and Sports Medicine Deborah Moore and Director of Finance and Accounting Todd Boehm completed their part-time appointments with the OHSAA Office in December after being rehired following their resignations. Both employees assisted the office since the summer, and Mr. Ute thanked them for this along with their many years of service to the Association. Board President Jeff Cassella also expressed his appreciation for Dr. Moore and Mr. Boehm on behalf of the board.
- F. Update on Appeals, Infractions and Legal Issues
Director Kristin Ronai provided the Board with a list of schools that have recently violated OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations. **58 schools** violated General Sports Regulation 3, Mandatory Requirement for Tournament Officials Selection, when a school administrator failed to submit the required tournament officials ballot between October 1 to December 1 for one or more sports in which the school participated in the OHSAA tournament. These violations resulted in \$6,350 in fines. **Louisville High School** had members of its varsity girls basketball team violate Bylaw 4-10-2-b, Amateur, when they accepted cash for their performance in shooting competitions conducted during their practices. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office has noted the infraction and acknowledges the self-imposed education efforts the school has conducted to ensure this action will not occur in the future. There is no penalty for the student-athletes. A student-athlete who attempted to regain transfer eligibility at **Columbiana Crestview High School** violated Bylaw 4-1-2, Falsification, and, in accordance with the bylaw, the Executive Director's office applied the appropriate penalty and ruled the student ineligible for participation in interscholastic athletics at any member high school for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. **Massillon Perry High School** had a student-athlete in varsity boys basketball violate General Sport Regulation 7.2.1, Participating in Non-Interscholastic Programs, when the student-athlete participated in a non-school sanctioned contest while a member of the school team. In accordance with the Sports Regulation and Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office declared the student ineligible for the next two contests. No forfeitures were required since the athlete fulfilled his suspension before participating in any additional school contests.

Ms. Ronai also provided the Board with an update on appeals. She said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has heard 29 appeals on six dates this school year; 17 of the appeals have dealt with the transfer bylaw, and six appeals have been granted. In addition, OHSAA Legal Counsel Steve Craig provided the Board with an update on legal issues and a potential House bill.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Recommendation to Table a Proposal from the Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches to Expand the Number of Divisions in the Track and Field Tournament
The Board of Directors heard a proposal from the Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches during the December 2 Board Work Session that would expand the number of tournament divisions in track and field from three to four. OHSAA Track and Field Administrator Dale Gabor said the staff has had discussion on the issue, including discussion with some of the coaches association officers, and recommends that the proposal be tabled for further study.

Motion by Scott Kaufman, second by Ryan Fitzgerald to approve the recommendation to **table action** on the proposal.

Motion passed 9-0.

VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

- A. Recommendation to Approve 2021 Winter Sports Tournament Regulations
As noted in Information Items IV. A., OHSAA sport administrators reviewed modifications in tournament regulations in their various sports. While some decisions are still pending due to the pandemic, the sport administrators recommended that the tournament regulations in the sports of basketball, bowling, ice hockey, swimming & diving and wrestling be approved as presented. It was noted that tournament regulations for gymnastics were approved at the December 3, 2020, Board of Directors Meeting.
- B. Recommendation to Approve 2021 Football Regulations
Senior Director Beau Rugg provided the Board with the 2021 football regulations and recommended that they be approved. In addition to starting the regular season a week earlier in order for the previously-approved Board measure to expand the football tournament can occur (which necessitates an additional week for the tournament), another major change will be the opportunity for schools to complete the

Board of Directors Minutes (1/14/21) — 4

first two days of the acclimitization period (where helmets are the only equipment items that may be worn) can be completed in July.

C. Ratification of Modifications to Bylaws per Constitution Article 6-1-9

Director Kristin Ronai informed the Board that the Executive Director's Office has utilized Constitution Article 6-1-9 (temporary suspension of strict compliance due to the COVID-19 pandemic) to modify an additional OHSAA bylaw and a General Sports Regulation and asked that the modifications be ratified. As previously discussed with the Board, the scholarship bylaws found in **4-4-1**, **4-4-5** and **4-4-3** (passing five one-credit classes or the equivalent during the previous grading period) have been waived for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. This means that all student-athletes will be eligible for the first grading period of the 2021-22 school year (unless a school district elects to uphold the standard of the bylaw). After that time, students will then be required to pass the appropriate number of credits/classes in order to remain eligible for the second grading period of the 2021-22 school year.

In addition, and similar to the fall, the Executive Director's Office has given approval for student-athletes in the sports of baseball and softball to be permitted to use a one-time waiver during spring 2021 to attend an Identification (I.D.) Camp AFTER the student-athlete has participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest. Identification Camp refers to an individual workout and/or camp being offered by colleges or universities and do NOT include any other type of team showcase or non-school competition or practice. All events must take place prior to the start of spring 2021 tournament play in that sport. The change comes after changes were made to the NCAA recruiting periods, and a waiver form will be posted on the OHSAA website.

D. Ratification of Approval to Accept the Resignation of Director of Sport Management Lauren Prochaska, Effective December 30, 2020

Executive Director Doug Ute asked the Board to ratify his approval of the resignation of Director of Sport Management Lauren Prochaska, with an effective date of December 30, 2020. Ms. Prochaska has taken another position in the sports industry, and Mr. Ute thanked her for her contributions to the OHSAA. He also thanked the OHSAA staff members who are picking up the previous assignments of Ms. Prochaska.

E. Recommendation to Approve Interim Class A Representative on the Northeast District Athletic Board

Following the resignation of long-time Northeast District Athletic Board Class A Representative Rocco Nero, Board President Jeff Cassella said that Board recommends that Joe Siefke, superintendent of the Lisbon Exempted Village Schools, be appointed the interim Class A representative on their board. Mr. Siefke would serve as the interim representative for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year and, due to the pandemic, would be given the option to remain the interim representative during the 2021-22 school year. Should he remain on the Board, Mr. Siefke would have to run for a regular appointment on the Northeast District Athletic Board in May 2022 for the position that expires on July 31, 2023.

F. Approval of Recommendations for 2021 OHSAA Naismith Awards for Meritorious Service - Southeast District and Southwest District

The OHSAA Naismith Awards for Meritorious Service are presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to interscholastic athletics in Ohio. Two of the six OHSAA District Athletic Boards make recommendations to the Board of Directors on a rotating basis, and the honorees are traditionally recognized during the OHSAA Boys State Basketball Tournament. The late Dave Young and Mary Jo Huisman were recommended as the 2021 recipients from the Southeast and Southwest District Athletic Boards, respectively. Mr. Young, who died in 2012, is a graduate of West Union High School and was a basketball coach for 27 years, winning 403 games and leading Seaman North Adams to the OHSAA State Basketball Tournament in 1996. Ms. Huisman was a pioneer for girls sports and tremendous advocate for females when she won 696 games coaching at Cincinnati Mother of Mercy between 1972 and 2018 and led the team to the 1980 Class AAA state championship. Now coaching at Oxford Talawanda, she won her 700th career game in January 2020 and is a member of the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame.

Motion by Leonard Steyer, second by Dan Leffingwell to **approve** New Business (Consent) Items VI. A., VI. B., VI. C., VI. D., VI. E. and VI. F. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

A. Recommendation to Approve 2021 Referendum Items

Director Kristin Ronai provided the Board with a draft of proposed referendum issues that reflect changes to the OHSAA Bylaws which were prepared and reviewed by the Association's compliance team and legal counsel Steve Craig. At this meeting it was recommended that two Bylaw issues be placed up for referendum vote of the membership. Additional items are being considered by the Board and may be approved at the February 18, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting. After being placed up for referendum by the Board, OHSAA member schools will vote on the proposals between May 1 and 15, 2021.

Board of Directors Minutes (1/14/21) — 5

Bylaw 4-7, Transfer (Amended for Clarity)

The proposal would amend the language to provide clarity on the penalty for students who do not meet an exception to the transfer bylaw. The language has been changed to reflect: a.) An ineligible transfer student shall not participate in any OHSAA tournament, and b.) It is permissible for the student to play the approved number of regular season games after the tournament has commenced.

Bylaw 9, Contests Requiring Special Attention (Revisions)

The proposed revision to 9-2-1 would require schools to obtain approval from the Executive Director's Office prior to traveling to any non-bordering state for competition. This will allow staff to better track a respective team's travel in order to comply with sanctioning requests from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) as outlined in 9-2-3. The proposed revisions to 9-2-3 are necessary to comply with current NFHS sanctioning requirements. Some of the highlights are:

1.) Whether a contest/event is in Ohio or outside of Ohio, schools must secure a sanction through the NFHS for competition by a member school in any of the following contests: a.) Any event which includes either an Ohio or an out-of-state school that is co-sponsored by or titled in the name of an organization outside the school community; b.) Events involving non-bordering states where five (5) or more states are involved; c.) Events involving non-bordering states if more than eight (8) schools are involved; d.) Events involving two (2) or more schools that includes a team from a foreign country, with the exception of Canada and Mexico. **Notes:** In b.) and c.) above, no sanction is required if the contest(s) only involve Ohio schools and/or schools which border Ohio. Schools desiring to participate in an event covered under the aforementioned scenarios must visit www.nfhs.org/Sanctioning in order to obtain the sanction.

Motion by Jan Wilking, second by Gary Kreinbrink to **approve** New Business (Other) Item VII. A. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board members thanked the OHSAA staff, school administrators, coaches and student-athletes for working through COVID-19 issues that continue to allow us to participate in winter sports during the pandemic. Staff members were particularly singled out for their work behind the scenes, and, for those with families and working remotely, balancing work with parenting and virtual learning.

Board member Jan Wilking welcomed new OHSAA Controller Laura Vermilya to the executive director's staff and congratulated Kristin Ronai for becoming the new lead of the OHSAA compliance and eligibility department. Board member Steve Watkins thanked OHSAA staff member Tyler Brooks for his extra work in wrestling this year and excellent collaboration with the OHSAA District Athletic Boards. Board member Leonard Steyer congratulated Dan Brisker for being selected as the NFHS State Award for Outstanding Service winner and noted how Mr. Brisker has always put students in the forefront of his work. Board member Gary Kreinbrink noted the recent surgeries of two members of OHSAA Executive Administrative Assistant Molly Downard's family. Board Vice President Scott Kaufman congratulated Glen Gillespie for recently being selected the full-time executive director of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Mr. Kaufman and Board President Jeff Cassella also offered thoughts and prayers to former OHSAA Board of Directors President Paul Powers, who is recovering from a health issue.

Motion by Leonard Steyer, second by Bill Warfield to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Motion passed 9-0.

Molly Downard, Tim Stried and Bob Goldring, recorders.

FUTURE MEETINGS

(All meetings are subject to change.)

2020-21 School Year (note that dates may be modified, and times are to be determined): February 18; April 22, and June 9.