

The following are the preliminary minutes from the February 18, 2021, OHSAA Board of Directors Virtual Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its April 22, 2021, meeting.

# OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES (February 18, 2021)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, February 18, 2021. The meeting was held virtually due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. President Jeff Cassella called the meeting to order at 9:02 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 Bob Goldring, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried; controller Laura Vermilya; directors Tyler Brooks, Emily Gates, Angie Lawler, Brenda Murray and Kristin Ronai; assistant directors Ben Ferree and Jacki Windon; Specialist Ronald Sayers, and staff member Molly Downard.

**Others Participating:** Steve Craig and Samir Dahman, OHSAA legal counsels; Greg Blate, OHSAA consultant; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; David Sheldon, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Anne Horton, Ohio High School Field Hockey Coaches Association; Gerald Cooke, Brent Fackler and Dick Kerschbaum, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association; Chris Cores, Ohio High School Golf Coaches Association; Mike Murphy, Ohio Girls Lacrosse Association; John Johnson, Ohio High School Soccer Coaches Association; Barbara Sleek, Ohio High School Softball Coaches Association; Mark Faber, Ohio Tennis Coaches Association; Doug Joy, Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches; Rick Guimond, Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, and Rick Lewis and Kathy McFarland, Ohio School Boards Association.

**I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Motion by Ryan Fitzgerald, second Bill Warfield to **adopt** the agenda for the February 18, 2021, Board of Directors meeting as amended.

Motion passed 9-0.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Dan Leffingwell, second by Leonard Steyer to **approve** the minutes from the January 14, 2021, Board of Directors Regular Meeting and the January 21, 2021, Board of Directors Special Meeting (both virtual).

Motion passed 9-0.

**III. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**A. OHSAA Financial Report**

Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl provided a brief update on operations and then asked Controller Laura Vermilya to provide the financial report through January. It is summarized as follows:

Available Funds — January 31, 2021		
Checking and Savings	\$3,416,051.37	
Certificates of Deposit	\$106,309.80	
Cash Concentration	<u>\$2,623,110.62</u>	
Working Capital		\$6,145,471.79
Designated Funds — January 31, 2020		
Board Designated Savings	\$381,564.34	
Board Designated Certificates of Deposit	\$319,905.95	
Investments - Building Fund	\$0	
Durkle Scholarship	\$52,780.30	
Rossi/Denney Scholarship	<u>\$53,378.08</u>	
Total Designated Funds		<u>\$807,628.67</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>\$6,953,100.46</b>

<u>District</u>	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Savings</u>	<u>CD</u>	<u>Cash Concentration</u>	<u>Total Cash</u>	<u>Yr. to Date</u>	<u>Yr. to Date</u>	<u>Yr. to Date</u>
						<u>Gross Revenue</u>	<u>Gross Expenses</u>	<u>Net Profit/Loss</u>
OHSAA Office	\$867,839	\$1,708,972	\$319,906	\$111,002	\$3,007,719	\$6,152,962	\$5,206,834	\$946,128
Central	\$51,415	\$0	\$0	\$623,400	\$674,815	\$230,976	\$215,383	\$15,593
East	\$47,163	\$0	\$0	\$606,247	\$653,410	\$102,951	\$77,255	\$25,696
Northeast	\$181,025	\$0	\$0	\$361,264	\$542,290	\$487,563	\$521,050	—\$33,487
Northwest	\$209,775	\$0	—\$4	\$431,705	\$641,475	\$354,368	\$317,170	\$37,198
Southeast	\$36,989	\$19,163	\$0	\$389,435	\$445,588	\$131,782	\$134,170	—\$2,566
<u>Southwest</u>	<u>\$333,578</u>	<u>\$341,696</u>	<u>\$212,472</u>	<u>\$100,057</u>	<u>\$987,803</u>	<u>\$423,598</u>	<u>\$377,263</u>	<u>\$46,334</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,727,784</b>	<b>\$2,069,831</b>	<b>\$532,374</b>	<b>\$2,623,110</b>	<b>\$6,953,100</b>	<b>\$7,884,200</b>	<b>\$6,849,125</b>	<b>\$1,034,896</b>

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

Motion passed 9-0.

#### 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 state tournaments as scheduled with various modifications. He thanked Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted and their staffs along with the Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Department of Education for all of their guidance and support in allowing our student-athletes to participate in a safe environment during the pandemic. Mr. Ute also praised the work of the OHSAA District Athletic Boards and OHSAA staff; school administrators, and the various state coaches associations and said everyone's leadership and work have been invaluable. In addition, he singled out Mike Gatto (senior vice president/general manager of Nationwide Arena and Columbus Arena Sports & Entertainment) and Linda Logan (executive director, Greater Columbus Sports Commission) for their work in helping to host events in Central Ohio; Scott DeBolt (executive director, University of Dayton Arena) for his work in helping to host events at the University of Dayton, and the administrators at Vandalia Butler High School, who have been in discussions to host state and regional tournament events. Lastly, Mr. Ute noted that he recently attended a girls wrestling match, and he praised the Ohio High School Wrestling Coaches Association, the schools that have girls wrestling and the student-athletes who are participating for their dedication in moving the sport forward.

##### B. Specific Update on Winter Sports

OHSAA sport administrators provided specific updates on their respective winter sports tournaments. They all thanked OHSAA District Athletic Boards and tournament managers for their work and cooperation in making modifications during the pandemic. In **basketball**, Beau Rugg reported that all girls and boys regional sites have been selected and confirmed. He also said the **swimming & diving** tournaments are moving forward, and tickets for the state tournament in Canton will be limited. In **bowling**, Emily Gates said the Division II state tournament will be next week and the Division I state tournament the following week (both at Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl). In **gymnastics**, Kristin Ronai said the Northeast District sectional tournaments have been held; district tournaments are upcoming, and the state tournament will again be held at Hilliard Bradley High School. She noted how the format for the state tournament will be modified due to the pandemic. In **ice hockey**, Ronald Sayers said the state tournament will be held at the OhioHealth Ice Haus, which is connected to Nationwide Arena in Columbus. In **wrestling**, Tyler Brooks said plans have been finalized to conduct the Division I state tournament at Hilliard Darby High School; the Division II state tournament at Marengo Highland High School, and the Division III state tournament at Marion Harding High School. Matches will be streamed live since the number of spectators will be limited.

##### C. NFHS Coaches Association Section and National Coaches-of-the-Year

At the December 3, 2020, Board of Directors Meeting, the Board was informed of the 2019-20 Ohio Coaches-of-the-Year as nominated by the various Ohio high school coaches associations and named by the National Federation of State High Schools Coaches Association. The NFHS Coaches Association has recently named four of those Ohio coaches as region coaches-of-the-year and one as a national coach-of-the-year. The four region winners are Bob Krizancic, boys basketball, Mentor High School; Jeff Howard, boys cross country, Peninsula Woodridge High School; Paul McKito, ice hockey, Mentor High School, and Willie Smith, girls track & field, Beachwood High School. Mr. Smith was also named the national girls track & field coach-of-the-year.

D. Dates for 2021-22 OHSAA Board of Directors Meetings

Dates for 2021-22 OHSAA Board of Directors Meetings were provided by Senior Director Bob Goldring. Meetings will be held on Thursdays beginning at 9:00 on August 26, September 23 and October 21 in 2021 and January 13, February 17 and April 28 in 2022. The June 2022 meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7, starting at 1:00. The Board may schedule additional closed or special meetings.

E. Reminder of District Athletic Board and Board of Director Positions in 2021-22

Senior Director Bob Goldring provided a reminder that Board of Directors action at its October 1, 2020, meeting not only means enrollment data and tournament division assignments that was used for the 2020-21 school year will be used again in 2021-22, but that action also suspended OHSAA District Athletic Board elections in May 2021. These measures were due to the COVID-19 pandemic and were recommended by the Executive Director's Office. Therefore, interim appointees on the District Athletic Boards will have the option to remain in their interim position in 2021-22 and can choose to complete that respective term by participating in the May 2022 elections. DAB members whose term expires will also be afforded the opportunity to continue on their respective DAB for the 2021-22 school year. If they choose to run for a new term, they may also participate in the May 2022 elections, and those terms will be for five years rather than the normal six.

The East (Class AA), Northeast (Class A) and Southeast (Class AAA) will be appointing a new representative to the Board of Directors with a three-year term beginning August 1, 2021, while the East District's female representative will also serve on the Board of Directors beginning August 1.

F. Reminder on Modification to General Sports Regulation 7.5.1 (10-Day Rule for Team Sports)

Senior Director Beau Rugg provided a reminder that, while the OHSAA suspended General Sports Regulation 7.5.1 (the 10-day coaching regulation for team sports) from June 1 to August 31 in 2020, the regulation has also been suspended from June 1 to July 31 in 2021. The OHSAA will continue to study the regulation to determine if it should be eliminated permanently.

G. Recommendation to Levy Membership Dues Beginning with the 2021-22 School Year

Executive Director Doug Ute said a recommendation from his office will be coming to the Board of Directors soon in regard to charging schools membership dues beginning with the 2021-22 school year. The staff is analyzing the situation further before a recommendation is made. Mr. Ute said the No. 1 goal of the OHSAA remains the same – to provide high quality services to our member schools and enrich interscholastic opportunities for students.

H. 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. **Holland Springfield High School** violated General Sports Regulation 32.3, Grade 7 & 8 Regulations, when its JV girls basketball team scrimmaged against its 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls basketball team. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office has noted the infraction and acknowledged the steps the school has taken to ensure the violation will not occur again. **Ashland Mapleton High School** had a student-athlete in varsity girls soccer violate Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-3, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit the seven contests in which the ineligible student participated and in which Mapleton was victorious. **Hamilton High School** had a student-athlete in varsity boys basketball violate Bylaw 4-6-2, Residency. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-3, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit all contests in which the ineligible student participated and in which Hamilton was victorious. **Mineral Ridge High School** had a basketball coach violate General Sport Regulation 4, Failure to Acquire a Pupil Activity Permit, when he trained athletes during the season without being officially credentialed. In accordance with General Sport Regulation 4, Mineral Ridge has been fined \$250 and the coach has been removed from his position until such a time that he is properly credentialed. **Cuyahoga Falls Roberts Middle School** had a student-athlete in 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade boys cross country violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment & Attendance. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit all contests in which the ineligible student participated. However, no such forfeitures were required since the school was not victorious in any contest in which the ineligible student participated. **Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller High School's** head wrestling coach violated General Sports Regulation 14.2 when he returned to coaching on the same day he had been ejected from a contest. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office acknowledged that the coach sat out the next two points/contests, as is the standard ejection protocol, but also removed him from the sectional level of the 2021 OHSAA postseason tournament. Upon appeal, the coach was reinstated for the sectional tournament but was subject to additional fines and educational procedures. **Wintersville Indian Creek High School's** head wrestling coach violated General Sports Regulation 14.2 when he failed to pay the mandatory \$100 fine after being ejected from a contest in March 2020. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit the

one contest at the start of the 2020-21 school year in which the coach participated prior to paying his mandatory ejection fine. Additionally, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office removed the coach from the sectional level of the 2021 OHSAA postseason tournament because, despite repeated attempts by the Executive Director's Office to rectify the situation, the coach proceeded to coach at the start of this 2020-21 season without paying the fine. **Ashland Mapleton Middle School** violated Bylaw 8-1-2 when it used an unlicensed official for a middle school girls basketball game. The school self-reported the violation and has taken the following actions to rectify the error: 1.) They have removed the unlicensed official from all future contests, 2.) If/when the official obtains a valid permit, the school will not be rehiring him because of his lack of transparency and 3.) The school will be using the myOHSAA Officials Directory moving forward to verify that all officials are certified prior to any contest. As a result of a school's self-reported violation of Bylaw 8-1-2, the Executive Director's Office found numerous individuals who had been working OHSAA member school contests without an OHSAA permit. In accordance with X.7.A (*Officiating Without a Proper Permit*) within the OHSAA Officials Handbook, numerous individuals were reprimanded and fined \$200 per occurrence. The Executive Director's Office elected to cap the fine amount at \$1,000 and there were seven individuals who were issued the full \$1,000 fine. **Sandusky High School** had a transfer student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 2. However, the school allowed the student to participate during the second half of the season prior to obtaining a ruling from the Executive Director's Office as stipulated in the Bylaw. The OHSAA has restored eligibility for the student retroactively and prospectively but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, the school has been fined \$100. **Akron Buchtel High School** had a transfer student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-7-6. However, the district failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office within the first 15 days of the school year, as stipulated in the Bylaw. The OHSAA has restored eligibility for the student retroactively and prospectively but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, the district has been fined \$100. **Beavercreek High School** had a student-athlete in boys varsity bowling violate General Sport Regulation 7.2.2, 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 two contests. Furthermore, in accordance with Bowling Sports Regulation 2, Non-Interscholastic Date, the student was also removed from the 2021 OHSAA post-season tournament since the participation took place after the non-interscholastic cutoff date in bowling. **Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit High School** self-reported a violation of Bylaw 4-9, Recruiting, when individuals within its athletic department obtained monies from outside donors and provided scholarships to students based on athletic participation in violation of Bylaw 4-9-2 and Bylaw 4-9-4 #7. The Executive Director's Office has acknowledged the school's self-imposed penalties/corrective actions which included but were not limited to: 1.) The offending head girls soccer coach was immediately terminated. He is not be eligible to coach at Walsh Jesuit again and will be excluded from the Walsh Jesuit campus effective immediately and for a minimum of 42 months (until the current freshman class graduates), 2.) The head wrestling coach was suspended for a period of time during the 2020-21 season, 3) All Walsh Jesuit coaches will attend an OHSAA Recruiting Seminar, 4.) The athletic administrator was suspended for two weeks and will participate in the OHSAA training, 5.) The donors from whom the funds were obtained were banned from the Walsh Jesuit campus for a period of two years and each was also forbidden from making donations to or having connections/communication with Walsh Jesuit sports teams for five years, 6.) Walsh Jesuit implemented a new protocol for the business office to have third party tuition payments more carefully reviewed and 7.) The Board established an athletic committee that will begin a top-to-bottom review of all procedures and processes and confer with other schools regarding best practices. In addition to these self-imposed penalties/corrective actions, and in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office has also imposed the following penalties: 1.) The 11 student-athletes currently enrolled in the school who were beneficiaries of this illegal scholarship program are required to relinquish the agreed upon monies paid by the donors for their tuition at Walsh Jesuit for the 2020-21 school year. If any respective athlete elects to retain the scholarship and not pay the monies back by the specified deadline, or if they transfer to another school prior to repaying this money, then the athlete will be subject to a period of ineligibility in each sport in which they participate, 2.) Walsh Jesuit is publicly reprimanded and is placed on probation through remainder of the 2021 calendar year, 3.) The OHSAA Office accepted Walsh Jesuit's request for a training session for all its coaches, 4.) Walsh Jesuit High School shall be fined \$500 and 5.) Should the offending girls soccer coach gain employment at a different OHSAA member school for the 2021 soccer season, he shall be ineligible for participation during the 2021 OHSAA postseason soccer tournament. **Toledo Central Catholic High School** violated General Sports Regulation 32.3, Grade 7 & 8 Regulations, when its freshman boys basketball team practiced/scrimmaged against a 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade non-interscholastic basketball team. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the offending coach is no longer permitted to participate in contests for the remainder of the season, including the OHSAA tournament, and he was required to participate in an educational seminar.

Compliance and Eligibility Specialist Ronald Sayers also provided the Board with an update on appeals. He said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has heard 35 appeals on 11 dates this school year and eight appeals have been granted. In addition, OHSAA Legal Counsel Steve Craig provided the Board with an update on legal issues.

## V. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Recommendation to Approve Additional 2021 Referendum Items

Director Kristin Ronai provided the Board with a draft of additional 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. After the Board approved two items being placed up for referendum vote of the membership at the January 14 meeting, it was recommended that two additional Bylaw issues be placed up for referendum vote. Additional items are being considered by the Board and may be approved at an upcoming special 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.

### **Bylaw 2-2-4, Tournament Assignments**

This proposal would clarify the tiering of a student who lives within a district with a non-parent who has legal custody of the student. In reviewing past guidance, a change from "parent" to "legal custodian" more accurately reflects the intention of the Tier analysis. The alteration to the Tier 2 language is simply an editorial change to distinguish that there are two distinct ways a student in a multiple high school district can be coded as Tier 1: 1.) If they live outside the district but have been continuously enrolled in the district since the start of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade OR 2.) If they live inside the district but attend a school outside their assigned attendance zone. However, this proposed change means there is NO change in application of the bylaw.

### **Bylaw 4-9, Recruiting**

This proposal would clarify the recruiting bylaws. The new note to Bylaw 4-9-2, Exception 2, would be added to clarify that the non-public school boundaries used for Competitive Balance are not the same as those referenced in Bylaw 4-9-2. The language removed in 4-9-3 #3 would allow the Executive Director's Office to approve an offsite open house even if other on-campus facilities are available. This gives schools more options when deciding where to conduct such meetings. The option is also now presented as an exception. 4-9-3 #5 would add language to clarify that congratulatory billboards/newspaper ads are permitted as long as the marketing is congratulatory in nature and not used to promote the athletic program. 4-9-3 #6 would be modified to clarify that brochures for athletic camps are solely to be used to advertise for a specific non-interscholastic opportunity (camp or clinic). These brochures are not to be used to promote the school. Likewise, 4-9-4 #8 would be added to support this notion and clarify that admissions personnel/administrators are not permitted to be in attendance at these camps/clinics to answer questions about school enrollment. 4-9-4 #3, 4-9-4 #5 and 4-9-6 would be modified to provide further clarification on when a school and/or coach is permitted to have unobstructed communication with a student not presently enrolled in their school. This is intended to prevent prohibited "influence" before the student has made a final enrollment decision. 4-9-4 #8 would be added to clarify that athletic camps/clinics cannot be used as an admissions event for the school.

Motion by Jan Wilking, second by Scott Kaufman to **approve** placing the two proposed bylaw modifications before the membership for referendum as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

### A. Recommendation to Approve Modified 2021 Winter Sports Tournament Regulations in Ice Hockey and Wrestling

Staff members Ronald Sayers (ice hockey) and Tyler Brooks (wrestling) shared some slight modifications to the tournament regulations in their sports that are related to the pandemic. Most modifications are related to changes in tournament sites or changes that have been previously reviewed with the state coaches associations. Mr. Brooks indicated that further changes to the state wrestling tournament regulations will also be forthcoming and the Executive Director's Office will utilize Constitution Article 6-1-9 to enact those changes.

- B. Recommendation to Approve 2021 Spring Sports Tournament Regulations  
OHSAA staff members Emily Gates (baseball) and Bob Goldring (softball, boys tennis and track & field) provided 2021 spring sports tournament regulations to the Board and reviewed the modifications. Most modifications reflected date changes or modifications necessary due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was noted that all requirements within the OHSAA/NFHS Rules Considerations and General Requirements document and the Ohio Department of Health Director’s Sports Order must also be followed due to the pandemic.
- C. Ratification of Approval to Hire Compliance and Eligibility Specialist  
Executive Director Doug Ute asked the Board to ratify his approval of the hiring of Compliance and Eligibility Specialist Ronald Sayers. Mr. Sayers had previously served as the OHSAA’s assistant director of membership services and also has previous experience as an interim member of and intern on the OHSAA compliance staff. He would work under the guidance of Director Kristin Ronai as a member of the office’s two-person compliance team.
- D. Ratification of Approval to Accept the Resignation of Kathleen Coughlin, Effective February 25, 2021  
Executive Director Doug Ute asked the Board to ratify his approval of the resignation of Director of Sport Management Kathleen Coughlin, with an effective date of February 25, 2021. Mr. Ute thanked her for her contributions to the OHSAA.

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

Motion passed 9-0.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)**

None

**VIII. ONCE AROUND**

David Sheldon of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association expressed thanks to everyone at the OHSAA for their work in allowing students to participate in interscholastic athletics during the pandemic. Board members thanked not only the OHSAA staff but also their fellow District Athletic Board members for all of their work during this difficult time. Ronald Sayers was congratulated for being promoted to compliance and eligibility specialist and outgoing staff member Kathleen Coughlin was recognized for her work. OIAAA Executive Director Glen Gillespie noted that his organization is developing a five-year strategic plan.

Motion by Ryan Fitzgerald, second by Steve Watkins to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 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.)**

**2020-21 School Year:** April 22, and Tuesday, June 9 (1:00).

**2021-22 School Year:** August 26, September 23, October 21, January 13, February 17, April 28 and Tuesday, June 7 (1:00).