

The following are the preliminary minutes from the May 3, 2021, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its June 8, 2021, meeting. The meeting was conducted virtually.

## OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES (May 3, 2021)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a special meeting on Monday, May 3, 2021, that was conducted virtually. President Jeff Cassella called the meeting to order at 8:02 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, and directors Bob Goldring, Kristin Ronai and Beau Rugg.

### I. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. **Recommendation to Levy Membership Dues**

As was discussed at the April 22, 2021, Board of Directors regularly scheduled meeting, Executive Director Doug Ute asked the Board to approve his recommendation that membership fees be levied beginning with the 2021-22 school year. The recommendation was presented via the following resolution:

*Whereas*, the OHSAA, as a private, unincorporated association not-for-profit, relies almost exclusively upon ticket sales revenue, sponsorship revenues, and officiating dues – all of which are intricately intertwined with each other and with the post-season tournaments operated by the OHSAA – for its operating revenue from year-to-year; and

*Whereas*, the Covid-19 global pandemic forced a shutdown in the winter and spring of 2020 of nearly all businesses, schools and facilities throughout America, including the OHSAA tournaments, and limited spectator capacities for the 2020-2021 school year upon any return to participation; and

*Whereas*, in addition to the pandemic, trends throughout America and in Ohio show a steady decline in attendance in all sports at all levels including interscholastic athletics, having a further negative impact on operating revenues for the OHSAA; and

*Whereas*, the Constitution of the member schools of the OHSAA authorizes, at Art. 4-1-1, the Board of Directors to “levy any dues deemed necessary;” and

*Whereas*, “dues” have not been deemed “necessary” by the Board until the economic impact of the aforementioned,

*Now therefore, be it Resolved*

1. That membership dues be initiated for all member schools beginning with the 2021-2022 school year and continuing thereafter until no longer deemed necessary by the Board; and
2. That the amount of dues to be assessed to each school shall be determined by multiplying the number of OHSAA recognized sports sponsored by the member school times \$50 for the 2021-2022 school year; and
3. The Board may adjust the \$50 factor in this formula at its regular meeting in April based on the review of the finance committee and recommendation of the Executive Director but not to exceed \$100 per sport to be effective for the ensuing school year; and
4. The Executive Director’s Office of the OHSAA shall continue to explore alternative funding models, funding sources and cost-cutting measures in order to assure the continued viability of the OHSAA while minimizing the financial burden on its member schools.

Motion by Dan Leffingwell, second by Bill Warfield to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

**B. Recommendation to Approve Securing a Line of Credit**

Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl said the OHSAA has pursued a line of credit, and she and Executive Director Ute recommended that the Association move forward in securing the credit line. The OHSAA currently has no plans to draw on the line of credit, which would be for \$750,000, but believes having this in place would be wise in the event of an emergency situation. The OHSAA Finance Committee recommended approval last summer. The recommendation was presented in the form of the following resolution:

*Whereas*, the OHSAA, as a private, unincorporated association not-for-profit, and the sole owner of the building located at 4080 Roselea Place; and

*Whereas*, at the start of the COVID pandemic the Board authorized the Finance department to pursue a line of credit with Wesbanco; and

*Whereas*, WestBanco has assessed the building and is now offering a line of credit for \$750,000 at Prime minus .25% (with Prime currently being 3.25%),

*Now therefore, be it Resolved*

That the Board approves the execution and closing of this loan and authorizes the Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Kimberlee Kiehl, to sign and enter into an agreement with WesBanco for said line of credit.

Motion by Jan Wilking, second by Steve Watkins to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

**II. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The Board and staff discussed the 2021 football season; an upcoming meeting with the Executive Director and the Governor's Office, and sites of future OHSAA state tournaments.

There was a unanimous motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 8:36 a.m.

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:** Tuesday, June 8 (1:00).

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