

The following are the preliminary minutes from the January 13, 2022, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its February 17, 2022, meeting.

## OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (January 13, 2022)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at the OHSAA Office in Columbus. President Scott Kaufman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance. **Note:** Some individuals participated in the meeting virtually.

**Board Members Participating:** Scott Kaufman, president; Steve Watkins, vice president; Bo Arnett; Ryan Fitzgerald; Gina Franks; Gary Kreinbrink; Bill Nye; Scott Reeves; Jeff Wheeler, and Scott Hunt (ex-officio) and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio).

**Staff Members Participating:** Doug Ute, executive director; Kim Kiehl, chief operating officer; directors Bob Goldring, Kristin Ronai, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried; controller Laura Vermilya; and staff members Charles Anderson, Tyler Brooks, Molly Downard, Alexis Holderman, Susan Javery, Maurice Jenkins, John Kuzio, Angie Lawler, Emily Mason and Ronald Sayers.

**Others Participating:** 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; Dick Kerschbaum, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association; G. Todd Graham, Ohio High School Girls Lacrosse Coaches Association; John Orozco, Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association; Barbara Sleek, Ohio High School Softball Coaches Association; Rob Johnson, Ohio High School Swim Coaches Association; Mark Faber, Ohio Tennis Coaches Association; Kim Metz, Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association; Shawn Andrews, Ohio High School Wrestling Coaches Association; Heather Powell, Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators, and Ryan Kelly and three of his staff members, Transition Studios, Cleveland.

### I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Ryan Fitzgerald, second by Bill Nye to **adopt** the agenda for the January 13, 2022, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Gina Franks, second by Bo Arnett to **approve** the minutes from the October 21, 2021, Board of Directors Regular Meeting and the December 2, 2021, Board of Directors Special Meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

### III. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### A. Operations Update and Financial Report

Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl provided a brief update on operations. She said the OHSAA is slowly rolling out a new logo that will eventually replace its current one. Dr. Kiehl said the OHSAA audit has been completed by the auditors, will be reviewed with the OHSAA Finance Committee and then brought to the Board of Directors for approval in February. She also said that \$3.5 million has been moved into the OHSAA investment category and that the OHSAA is planning to host a Diversity Summit for school administrators and coaches in Columbus in early April (details will be released soon). Additionally, Dr. Kiehl said the OHSAA has been monitoring the availability of blank track starter shells due to shortages and lack of production by manufacturers. Alternatives, such as electronic starting devices, are being explored for possible adoption at tournaments within the next several years.

Controller Laura Vermilya then provided the financial report through December. She said the numbers reflect all tournament revenues and expenses from the fall, and that, due to good attendance, all tournaments generated more revenue than was budgeted with the exception of golf, where green fees paid for by the OHSAA accounted for higher expenses. Ms. Vermilya said the OHSAA is currently \$2.88 million ahead of its projected budgeted revenues. The financial report is summarized as follows:

District	Checking	Savings	Cash Concentration	Board Designated	Investment	Total Cash	Yr. to Date Gross Revenue	Yr. to Date Gross Expenses	Yr. to Date Net Profit/Loss
OHSAA Office	\$3,874,175	\$3,516,514	\$21,745	\$702,379	\$506,471	\$8,621,284	\$8,450,069	\$5,493,677	\$2,956,393
Central	\$210,996	N/A	\$120,100	N/A	\$506,471	\$837,567	\$383,692	\$299,828	\$83,864
East	\$124,702	N/A	\$83,886	N/A	\$557,118	\$765,706	\$130,038	\$110,748	\$19,290
Northeast	\$407,782	N/A	\$181,613	N/A	\$101,294	\$690,689	\$727,019	\$625,742	\$101,277
Northwest	\$344,507	N/A	\$144,970	N/A	\$709,059	\$1,198,536	\$517,953	\$372,576	\$145,378
Southeast	\$97,621	\$19,163	\$89,052	N/A	\$405,177	\$611,013	\$171,427	\$174,177	— \$2,750
Southwest	\$341,164	N/A	\$153,332	N/A	\$759,706	\$1,254,202	\$627,681	\$434,934	\$192,746
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$5,400,947</b>	<b>\$3,535,677</b>	<b>\$794,698</b>	<b>\$702,379</b>	<b>\$3,545,296</b>	<b>\$13,978,997</b>	<b>\$11,007,879</b>	<b>\$7,511,682</b>	<b>\$3,496,198</b>

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Motion by Bill Nye, second by Jeff Wheeler to **approve** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

### B. Recommendation to Approve Revised OHSAA Investment Policy

Controller Laura Vermilya provided the Board with a copy of the revised OHSAA Investment Policy. She said the modifications describe more specifically what role Greystone Investment Consultants will have along with the Board of Directors, Finance Committee, management, the investment managers and the custodian. Ms. Vermilya also said another investment category has been added, and she noted that 60 percent of investments will go into equity accounts and the other 40 percent into fixed accounts, with the investment goal of the total portfolio being a total return (income and appreciation) of five percent or better over a full market cycle (three-to-five years).

Motion by Scott Reeves, second by Steve Watkins to **approve** the revised investment policy as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

### C. Recommendation to Approve Revised OHSAA Vesting Policy

Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl provided the Board with a revised OHSAA vesting policy, which was presented as a resolution as follows:

Whereas, the OHSAA, as a private, unincorporated not-for-profit association, currently has a vesting plan for employees' 403b plans which provides for a six-year graded vesting schedule on employer nonelective and matching contributions; and

Whereas, this plan was put in place at a time when the OHSAA also had a robust pension plan in place as a benefit for staff in addition to matching and nonelective contributions; and

Whereas, this pension plan was discontinued by the OHSAA in 2020;

Now therefore, be it Resolved that the Board authorizes the Chief Operating Officer to sign and enter into an agreement with Empower for employees to be fully vested (100 percent) on employer nonelective and matching contributions beginning 12 months after their starting date of full-time employment.

Motion by Steve Watkins, second by Ryan Fitzgerald to **approve** the revised vesting policy as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

## IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

### A. Review of OHSAA 2021 Fall Tournaments

The OHSAA sport management staff provided the Board with a brief review of the 2021 fall tournaments that included the sports of cross country and girls tennis (John Kuzio); field hockey and volleyball (Emily Mason), football (Beau Rugg), golf (Tyler Brooks) and soccer (Beau Rugg substituting for Kate Barnett). In **cross country**, Mr. Kuzio said the regional tournaments were held in inclement weather while the state tournament at Fortress Obetz in Columbus went well. He said the state **girls tennis** tournament moved indoors during the first two rounds due to inclement weather but moved back outdoors at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason for the semifinals and finals. Ms. Mason said the **field hockey** tournament had outstanding attendance including the state tournament, which was held at Thomas Worthington High School, and that Wright State University did a great job hosting the state **volleyball** tournament, which was held at a high school in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Rugg said the expanded **football** tournament was great in providing more opportunities for participants, schools and communities, and he praised co-workers Laura Vermilya and her staff for their work with finances and Jacki Windon for her work with digital ticketing. He said playing the state soccer finals at the brand new Lower.com Field in Columbus was tremendous for the participants. Mr. Brooks noted that the state **golf** tournaments were again held over two weekends and that the weather cooperated for both.

### B. NFHS Coaches-of-the-Year Awards

Director Bob Goldring said that the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches-of-the-Year honorees have been selected for the 2020-21 school year at both the state and region level. Girls Ohio coaches-of-the-year are Tim Gabbard (basketball, Waynesville); Yvonne Quiero (bowling, Gahanna Lincoln); \*Denise Benson (cross country, Lexington); Marissa Weldon (field hockey, New Albany); \*Michael Dalton (golf, Centerville); Carol Eskay (gymnastics, Hilliard City Schools); \*Kevin Ferry (lacrosse, Cincinnati Mariemont); \*Patrick Hopkins (soccer, Rocky River); Jim Piazza (softball, LaGrange Keystone); \*Andrea Sorg (swimming & diving, Oak Harbor); Chris Johnson (tennis, Rocky River Magnificat); Bob Berwald (track & field, Mentor), and Joe Ross (volleyball, Plain City Jonathan Alder), and boys Ohio coaches-of-the-year are Tony Schulz (baseball, Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy); Dave Close (basketball, Stow-Munroe Falls); Matt Mayberry (bowling, Mechanicsburg); \*Jeff Howard (cross country, Peninsula Woodridge); Keith Recher (football, Van Wert); Carl Schneider (golf, West Union); the late Jamie Ruffner (ice hockey, Bowling Green); Andy Asmo (lacrosse, Dublin Jerome); Erik Vanags (soccer, Cincinnati)

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Mariemont); Mike DeBear (swimming & diving, Upper Arlington); \*Kent Smith (tennis, Orrville); \*Larry Topp (track & field, Minster), and \*Todd Haverdill (wrestling, Brecksville-Broadview Heights). \* Indicates the nine who were also selected region coaches-of-the-year, while the NFHS national coaches-of-the-year have yet to be selected.

Mr. Goldring congratulated the honorees and thanked the coaches association representatives for meeting the the submission deadline and staff member Molly Downard for helping organize the process.

### C. NFHS State Award for Outstanding Service

Director Bob Goldring informed the Board that the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) permits each state to select an annual recipient for a State Award for Outstanding Service to recognize an individual for their long-standing service and their contribution to and impact on interscholastic programs. The OHSAA has chosen to honor Dale Gabor posthumously. Mr. Gabor, who died this past October 28 following an illness, was the long-time retired athletic administrator at Cleveland St. Ignatius High School who served on the OHSAA Northeast District Athletic Board and OHSAA Board of Directors and was most recently the OHSAA administrator for the sports of cross country and track & field and continued to serve as a registered track & field contest official. He also recently served as the NFHS Section 2 representative on the NFHS Track & Field Rules Committee.

### D. Review of Open Positions on OHSAA Board of Directors and District Athletic Boards

The Board was provided with a list of the positions that will be up for appointment on the OHSAA Board of Directors and positions that will be up for election on District Athletic Boards for both terms that are expiring and terms that are unexpired, and Director Bob Goldring discussed the openings.

Board of Directors (three-year terms, August 1, 2022-July 31, 2025) vacancies that will be appointed by the respective District Athletic Boards will be: **Central District**, Class AAA representative (Mark Shively or Molly Feesler); **Northwest**, Class AA representative (Jay Selgo or Jeff Snyder), and **Southwest District**, Class A representative (Andy Bixler or Matt Macy). Also, the terms of the Board's ethnic minority representative (Northwest District Athletic Board's David Alvarado) and the 7th-8th grade representative (Southwest District Athletic Board's Paul Stone) will expire and be filled via the pre-determined rotational basis .

District Athletic Board positions for expiring terms will either be six years (August 1, 2022-July 31, 2028) or five years (August 1, 2022-July 31, 2027) for those members who stayed on their DAB an extra year since no elections were held last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Central-six years**, Class AA representative (Chad Little, incumbent) and **Central-five years**, Class A representative (Bob Britton, incumbent) and 7th-8th grade representative (Jay Cauley, incumbent); **East-six years**, Class A representative (Gary Spinell, incumbent) and **East-five years**, Class A representative (Dan Leffingwell, incumbent) and female representative (Gina Franks, incumbent); **Northeast-six years**, Class AAA representative (Jeff Cassella, incumbent); **Northwest-six years**, Class A representative (Gary Kreinbrink, incumbent) and **Northwest-five years**, Class AAA representative (Brad Cooley, incumbent) and 7th-8th grade representative (Kevin Katafias, incumbent); **Southeast-six years**, Class AA representative (Leonard Steyer, incumbent) and **Southeast-five years**, Class AA representative (Mark Knapp, incumbent), and female representative (Stephanie Evans, incumbent), and **Southwest-six years**, Class AAA representative (Scott Kaufman, incumbent) and **Southwest-five years**, Class AA representative (John Kronour, incumbent), and Jonas L. Smith (ethnic minority representative).

District Athletic Board elections that will take place to fill unexpired terms are: **Central**, Class A representative (August 1, 2022-July 31, 2026; Lane Warner interim) and ethnic minority representative (August 1, 2022-July 31, 2026, Scott Reeves interim); **East**, ethnic minority representative (August 1, 2022-July 31, 2025, Angelita Forte interim); **Northeast**, Class AAA representative (August 1, 2022-July 31, 2028, Rich Berlin interim), Class A representative (August 1, 2022-July 31, 2023, Joe Siefke interim) and ethnic minority representative (August 1, 2022-July 31, 2027, John Carter interim), and **Northwest**, Class A representative August 1, 2022-July 31, 2023, Geoff Palmer interim).

Later this winter, information on running for the District Athletic Board positions will be sent directly to superintendents, principals and athletic administrators in the districts and classes in which there are openings and the submission of petitions. Voting will take place on-line between May 1 and 15.

### E. Update on Appeals, Infractions and Legal Issues

Manager of Membership and Compliance Ronald Sayers provided the Board with a list of schools that have recently violated OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations. **Massillon Washington High School** violated General Sports Regulation 7.3.1, 50% Limitation, when five student athletes participated on the same non-interscholastic baseball team. The Executive Director's Office has accepted Washington's self-imposed penalty of removing the five students from the same non-interscholastic baseball team. **New Philadelphia High School** had a student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-8-1 Exception 1, International Exchange Student. However, the district failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student's participation in interscholastic competition, as stipulated in the Bylaw. The Executive Director's Office 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. **Hilliard Davidson High School** violated General Sports Regulation 11.2, Mandatory No-Contact Period, when the head boys lacrosse coach supervised an alumni game on August 29. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, Hilliard Davidson will have a reduction in coaching days during the June 1-July 31, 2022, time period. The reduction in coaching days will be determined once the number of allowable days has been defined for that time period. **Minerva High School** violated Bowling Regulation B1, Coaching, Tryouts and Instruction Beginning, when their bowling coaches conducted tryouts prior to November 5, 2021. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, Minerva's bowling teams were required to delay the beginning of the season until November 8, 2021. **Elyria Catholic High School** violated General Sports Regulation 10.1, Open Gymnasiums or Facilities, when a boys basketball coach provided instruction during an open gymnasium session. The Executive Director's Office has accepted Elyria Catholic's self-imposed penalties of suspending the coach from attending practice or contacting student-athletes until a ruling was issued by the Executive Director's Office, the cancellation of two scrimmages, and the suspension of the coach for the first two regular season contests. **Cleveland St. Joseph Academy** had three student-athletes who were eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-8-1 Exception 3, International Exchange Student. However, the district failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student's participation in interscholastic competition, as stipulated in the Bylaw. The Executive Director's Office 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. **Amherst Steele High School** had a student-athlete in varsity wrestling violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when they participated in a tournament after failing to pass five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Cincinnati Colerain Middle School** had a student violate General Sports Regulation 7.4 when a member of the school's 7th grade football team participated in multiple non-interscholastic competitions. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office has suspended the student from participating on the 8th grade football team for the entire 2022 season. **Clarksville Clinton-Massie High School** had a student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-8-1 Exception 1, International Exchange Student. However, the district failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student's participation in interscholastic competition, as stipulated in the Bylaw. In accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, the Executive Director's Office has restored eligibility for the student retroactively and the student subsequently left the exchange program so no eligibility was required for future contests. **Toledo Bowsher High School** violated Basketball Regulation 1.7, Quarter Limitation, in girls basketball when a student-athlete participated in 7 quarters on one day. In accordance with Basketball Regulation 1.8, the school was required to forfeit the contest in which the quarter limitation was exceeded. **Oberlin Firelands High School** violated Bylaw 1-1-2 and General Sports Regulation 32.4, Participation by 8th Grade Students, when an 8th grade student-athlete participated in a wrestling practice against a high school wrestler. The Executive Director's Office accepted Firelands' self-imposed penalty of a mandatory rules review for the coaching staff. **Cincinnati Public Schools** had four student-athletes who were eligible to qualify for full eligibility with regard to transfer under Bylaw 4-7-6, Change of Academic Program. However, the district failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the 15th day of school during the 2021-22 school year, as stipulated in the Bylaw. The OHSAA has restored eligibility for the students retroactively and prospectively but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, the district has been fined \$100. **Logan High School** had a student-athlete in varsity wrestling violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when they participated in a tournament after failing to pass five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Toledo Bowsher High School** had a student violate Bylaw 4-5-2, Conduct, Character, and Discipline Related to Interscholastic Athletic Contests. The Executive Director's Office, in accordance with Bylaw 4-5-2, suspended the student for the four contests immediately following that in which the incident took place. **Vandalia Butler High School** violated General Sport Regulation 7.2.2, Non-Interscholastic Participation, when a student athlete participated in a non-interscholastic boys bowling tournament during the bowling season. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student athlete was required to serve a two-contest suspension. **Wauseon High School** violated Basketball Regulation 1.7, Quarter Limitation, in girls basketball when a student-athlete participated in 7 quarters on one day. In accordance with Basketball Regulation 1.8, the school was required to forfeit the contest in which the quarter limitation was exceeded. **Lakewood High School** had a student-athlete in varsity wrestling violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when they participated in three varsity diving contests after failing to pass five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Toledo Rogers High School** violated Bylaw 4-5-5, Participation During Expulsion, when a student participated in two football contests during the time in which they were ineligible due to an expulsion from Toledo Bowsher High School. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school was required to forfeit the one contest in which it was victorious. **Cincinnati Princeton High School** violated Basketball Regulation 1.7, Quarter Limitation, in girls basketball when a student-athlete participated in 7 quarters on one day. In accordance with Basketball Regulation 1.8, the school

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was required to forfeit the contest in which the quarter limitation was exceeded. **McArthur Vinton County Middle School** violated Basketball Regulation 1.7, Quarter Limitation, in 8th grade girls basketball when a student-athlete participated in 7 quarters on one day. In accordance with Basketball Regulation 1.8, the school was required to forfeit the contest in which the quarter limitation was exceeded. **Cincinnati La Salle High School** had a student-athlete in varsity boys basketball violate Bylaw 4-3-3, Semesters, when they participated in contests during their ninth semester of high school enrollment. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **New Lebanon Dixie High School** had a football coach violate General Sports Regulation 4, Failure to Acquire a Pupil Activity Permit, when he coached the 2021 season without being properly credentialed. In accordance with GSR 4, the school has been fined \$250.00.

Mr. Sayers also provided the Board with an update on appeals. He said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has heard 31 appeals on 11 dates this school year; 21 of the appeals have dealt with the transfer bylaw, and seven appeals have either been granted or referred back to the Executive Director's Office for consideration to grant eligibility. In addition, OHSAA Legal Counsel Steve Craig provided the Board with an update on one completed legal case and two pending cases.

### V. OLD BUSINESS

None

### VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

- A. Recommendation to Approve an Increase in Individual Quarters Permitted in High School and 7th-8th Grade Basketball for 2021-22 Season  
Sport Administrator John Kuzio said the staff recommended that the season quarter limitations in the sport of basketball be increased effective immediately to 132 (from 120) at the high school level and 96 (from 75) at the 7th-8th grade level. This is due to participation numbers falling at several schools, with the COVID-19 pandemic the major reason for that decrease. The increase in quarters permitted for the season does not change the daily quarter limitations.
- B. Recommendation to Approve the Addition of the 4x800-Meter Relay in 7th-8th Grade Track & Field  
Sport Administrator John Kuzio said the staff recommended that the 8x400-meter relay be added as a permissible event in 7th-8th grade track & field. If approved, the 4x800-meter relay would also take place at the OHSAA 7th-8th Grade Track & Field Championship.
- C. Recommendation to Approve the Schedule for the 2022 State Swimming & Diving Tournament  
The Board was provided the schedule for the 2022 state swimming & diving tournament, and Director Beau Rugg said the staff recommended that the schedule be approved. The tournament would return to the 2020 format, where preliminaries and finals would be conducted after last year's tournament had a timed finals format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was noted that the 2022 swimming & diving tournament regulations were approved by the Board of Directors at their December 2 special meeting.
- D. Recommendation to Approve a Pass Policy for OHSAA District Athletic Boards  
Executive Director Doug Ute recommended that a pass policy for OHSAA District Athletic Boards be approved whereby each DAB member would receive 10 digital admissions for OHSAA sectional and district tournament contests and each of the six district athletic boards would receive 10 additional admissions, which would be distributed to district athletic board secretaries.
- E. Recommendation to Approve 2022 Spring Sports Regional and State Tournament Officiating Representation  
Director Beau Rugg provided the Board with the 2022 representation for regional and state tournament officials' assignments in the spring sports of baseball (regional and state tournaments); softball (regional and state tournaments); lacrosse (state tournaments), and track and field (state tournaments), and he said the staff recommended that they be approved. Per the OHSAA Handbook, representation is calculated on a proportional formula per district based on the number of Class 1 officials who have registered with the OHSAA for the 2021-22 school year. It was noted that with deadlines extended for officials to register for sports each season, representation is provided to the Board of Directors on a seasonal basis.
- F. Recommendation to Ratify the Hiring of an OHSAA Senior Accountant  
Executive Director Doug Ute recommended the Board ratify the hiring of Susan Javery as a senior accountant in his office. Ms. Javery had been working in the Executive Director's Office on a temporary basis for the past few months.

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Scott Reeves 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 2022 Referendum Items

Director Kristin Ronai and Manager of Membership and Compliance Ronald Sayers have been reviewing several proposed referendum issues for 2022 with the Board of Directors that have also had input from Executive Director Doug Ute and OHSAA Legal Counsel Steve Craig. At this meeting, they recommended that four items (one Constitution article and four Bylaws) be approved by the Board to place before the membership for referendum. If approved by the Board, member school principals would vote on the proposed modifications to the Constitution article and Bylaws between May 1 and 15.

#### **Constitution Article 5-7-3, Transfer of Schools from One Athletic District to Another, and Add Constitution Article 6-1-10 (Modification and New Article)**

This proposed modification of 5-7-3 and addition of 6-1-10 would clarify procedures and factors for evaluating a request for a school to change OHSAA athletic districts. The change would encourage more detailed information being submitted and conversation occurring with the school and respective OHSAA District Athletic Boards, with the OHSAA Executive Director ultimately making a recommendation to the Board of Directors after reviewing the objective, published criteria. The proposal would limit the frequency of requests for each school.

#### **Bylaw 1-4-1, Definition of Interscholastic Contest (Modification)**

This proposed modification would not only provide clarity to and more detail on the definition but would also eliminate the definition from being duplicated with different language in the OHSAA General Sports Regulations since having it located in two sections may cause confusion.

#### **Bylaw 4-6-2, Residence, Addition of 18-Year-Old Provision to Exception 1 (Addition to Exception)**

This proposed amendment would permit the Executive Director's Office to approve residency eligibility after considering extenuating circumstances that may compel a student who is 18 and no longer eligible for a legal change of custody/guardianship to transfer schools and move into a new residence with a primary relative while his/her parents are living outside of Ohio. This proposal mirrors the amendment to the 18-year-old provision found within the change of custody exception under the transfer bylaw. If approved, the student would still have to meet the requirements of a transfer bylaw exception in order to restore eligibility for the entire season.

#### **Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, Remove Current Exception 5 (Removal of Exception)**

Since the State School for the Blind and State School for the Deaf are no longer members of the OHSAA, this proposal would remove the exception for students transferring to these schools. A proposal to add this exception could be recommended should either school desire to return as an OHSAA member school.

Motion by Ryan Fitzgerald, second by Bo Arnett to **approve** the recommendation to place the four items up for referendum vote of the membership as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

### B. Recommendation to Move Lacrosse Out of the Emerging Sport Category

Since the adoption of boys and girls lacrosse beginning with the 2016-17 school year, both sports have been classified as emerging sports, though they have been operating similarly to all other OHSAA recognized sports. At this meeting, Executive Director Doug Ute recommended that both sports be moved out of the emerging sport category and become fully recognized OHSAA sports.

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Steve Watkins to **approve** the recommendation, effective immediately.

Motion passed 9-0.

### C. Recommendation to Approve Girls Wrestling and Boys Volleyball as New Emerging Sports

With the growth of girls wrestling and the continued interest in boys volleyball, Executive Director Doug Ute recommended that the two sports be approved as OHSAA emerging sports beginning with the 2022-22 school year. Mr. Ute noted that the OHSAA has been working with the girls wrestling coaches association for the past few years and attended their tournament events last year, his office has had communication with the executive staff of the boys volleyball association for a number of years and that both associations are familiar with OHSAA operations, policies and procedures. He said approval will not only provide great opportunities for our student-athletes to become part of the Association but should also be seamless. Mr. Ute thanked the coaches associations for their patience and OHSAA sport administrators Tyler Brooks and Emily Mason for their work with the respective coaches association.

Motion by Gina Franks, second by Jeff Wheeler to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

Mr. Ute also noted that the OHSAA has had on-going conversations with an Esports group in Ohio and will continue exploring options to work with the group, most likely through its corporate sponsorship partner

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Teall Properties Group (TPG).

### VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board of Directors members thanked all those associated with the recently completed OHSAA fall tournaments and upcoming winter tournaments — including site managers, tournament coordinators, athletic administrators, OHSAA sport administrators and their fellow OHSAA District Athletic Board members, along with parents, volunteers and boosters — for their hard work and preparations during these times that are even more difficult due to the lingering COVID-19 pandemic. Board member Scott Reeves also praised the action to add girls wrestling and boys volleyball and noted that, by doing so, we will never fully understand how we have positively impacted many students' lives. Board Vice President Steve Watkins also thanked the OHSAA Executive Director's staff for efforts in providing assistance to Board members and constituents within the membership and for doing so with kindness. In addition, on behalf of the Board, Mr. Watkins thanked out-going OHSAA sport administrator John Kuzio for his work and offered best wishes as he departs the Association.

Executive Director Doug Ute thanked the Board of Directors for their continued support of the staff and him.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Steve Watkins to **adjourn** the meeting at 9:46 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.)**

**2021-22 School Year:** February 17, April 28 and Tuesday, June 7 (1:00).