

The following are the preliminary minutes from the August 26, 2021, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its September 23, 2021, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (August 26, 2021)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 26, 2021, 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.

Board Members Present: Scott Kaufman, president; Steve Watkins, vice president; Bo Arnett; Ryan Fitzgerald; Gina Franks; Gary Kreinbrink; Bill Nye; Scott Reeves; Jeff Wheeler, and John Richard (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, Tim Stried and Jacki Windon; controller Laura Vermilya; and staff members Charles Anderson, Kate Barnett, Tyler Brooks, Maurice Jenkins, John Kuzio, Angie Lawler, Emily Mason and Ronald Sayers.

Others Present: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Brian Timm, Ohio vice president and general manager of Teall Properties Group; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association, and Gerald Cooke and Dick Kerschbaum, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second Ryan Fitzgerald to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the August 26, 2021, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bill Nye, second Bo Arnett to **approve** the minutes from the June 8, 2021, Board of Directors Regular Meeting and the August 3, 2021, Board of Directors Special Meetings (virtual).

Motion passed 9-0.

III. OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL UPDATES

A. Operations Update and 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 July. It is summarized as follows:

Cash and Equivalents — July 31, 2021	Actual	Prior Month	Prior Year
Checking	\$3,009,909	\$2,515,652	\$3,098,092
Savings	<u>\$3,535,728</u>	<u>\$3,525,728</u>	<u>\$1,270,771</u>
Total Operating Cash	\$6,545,637	\$6,041,380	\$4,368,863
Consolidated Savings	\$3,765,645	\$3,816,205	N/A
Certificates of Deposit (Unrestricted)	N/A	N/A	\$394,921
Building Funds	N/A	N/A	\$381,414
Board Designated Funds	\$702,039	\$702,039	\$810,348
Durkle Investments	\$53,098	\$53,098	\$52,780
Rossi/Denney Investments	<u>\$53,928</u>	<u>\$53,927</u>	<u>\$53,378</u>
Total Cash and Investments on Hand	<u>\$11,120,347</u>	<u>\$10,666,649</u>	<u>\$6,061,704</u>

District	Checking	Savings	CD/Other	Cash Concentration	Total Cash	Yr. to Date Gross Revenue	Yr. to Date Gross Expenses	Yr. to Date Net Profit/Loss
OHSAA Office	\$1,362,045	\$3,516,564	\$702,039	\$827,956	\$6,408,604	\$15,322,462	\$10,153,207	\$5,169,256
Central	\$248,535	N/A	N/A	\$484,400	\$732,275	\$769,174	\$707,641	\$61,533
East	\$106,161	N/A	N/A	\$626,114	\$732,275	\$376,431	\$307,038	\$69,393
Northeast	\$301,821	N/A	N/A	\$261,264	\$563,085	\$1,451,316	\$1,475,338	—\$24,022
Northwest	\$414,300	N/A	N/A	\$626,705	\$1,041,004	\$1,446,658	\$1,042,208	\$404,450
Southeast	\$267,631	\$19,163	N/A	\$304,435	\$591,230	\$519,427	\$388,506	\$130,921
Southwest	<u>\$309,417</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>\$741,797</u>	<u>\$1,051,214</u>	<u>\$1,368,671</u>	<u>\$1,225,680</u>	<u>\$142,991</u>
Totals	\$3,009,910	\$3,535,728	\$702,039	\$3,872,671	\$11,120,347	\$21,254,139	\$15,299,618	\$5,954,522

Motion by Gina Franks, second by Scott Reeves to **approve** financial item III. A. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Introduction of New Board of Directors Member

Executive Director Doug Ute introduced new Board of Directors member Scott Reeves, who was approved August 3 as the interim Central District Athletic Board ethnic minority representative. Mr. Reeves, executive director, human resources, Westerville City Schools, replaced Bill Warfield, who left his position as principal at Whitehall-Yearling High School to become principal at Hilliard Bradley High School (the OHSAA Constitution does not permit two administrators from the same school district on a district athletic board, so Mr. Warfield resigned his position). With Mr. Warfield leaving that board, Mr. Reeves is also fulfilling his position on the Board of Directors through July 31, 2022. Mr. Reeves' interim appointment to the Central Board will also run through July 31, 2022. Should he have interest in remaining on that board, he would need to participate in next May's election process, and the term of the full appointment in that position would be August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2026.

B. Review of OHSAA Administrator Workshops

Director Kristin Ronai informed the Board that the OHSAA hosted two in-person administrator workshops August 10 and 23 that were geared for new athletic administrators. Among the topics included compliance/student eligibility issues (led by Ms. Ronai); sports administration (led by staff members Emily Mason and Tyler Brooks); *myOHSAA* management and tournament deadlines (led by staff member Ronald Sayers), and best practices for administrators, which was presented by Glen Gillespie, Joe Roberts and/or Julie Renner from the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Approximately 70 administrators attended the workshops. A final workshop – this one virtual – will be held August 31 that will review many of the same items addressed at the in-person meetings and is also open to returning administrators who would like a review of the various topics.

C. Dates for 2021-22 OHSAA Appeals Panel Hearings

Manager of Membership and Compliance Ronald Sayers informed the Board that dates have been set for hearings before the 2021-22 OHSAA Appeals Panel, which will have jurisdiction over appeals pertaining to all rulings made by the Executive Director's Office, including student eligibility. The dates are all Thursdays and are as follows: Sept. 2; Sept. 16; Oct. 7; Oct. 28; Nov. 18; Dec. 16; Jan. 6; Jan. 20; Feb. 3; Mar. 3; Apr. 7; May 5, and June 2. Appeals hearings have already taken place on Aug. 5 and Aug. 19. The hearings are held at the OHSAA Office, the dates are subject to change and the tentative starting time is 9:00. Further information has been posted on the OHSAA website (www.ohsaa.org).

D. OHSAA Foundation to Present Virtual Student Leadership Conference October 5

Executive Director Ute informed the Board that the OHSAA Foundation will present a virtual Student Leadership Conference on Tuesday, October 5. The virtual conference begins at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at 12:45 p.m. This year's theme is "Back to the Future," and the focus is on civility, created to inspire students to re-think the win-at-all-costs mentality which is so prevalent in youth sports today and provide tools to create a transformational culture, one that builds strong character and leadership traits . . . traits that will benefit them (and their school and community) long after their playing days. The conference is again being organized by Harvey Alston. Besides Mr. Alston, four other outstanding speakers will be featured. Online registration information will be available the week of September 13.

E. Update on Infraction, Appeals 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. **Canfield South Range High School** had a transfer student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 9. However, the district failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office before allowing the student to participate during the second half of the season, 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. **Ironton Rock Hill High School** had an international student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-8-1, Exception 1. However, the district failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office before allowing the student to participate, 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. **Dayton Northridge High School** had student-athletes in varsity boys tennis violate Tennis Regulation 1.5 when the student-athletes participated in more than three matches in a single day. In accordance with Tennis Regulation 1.5 and Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the student-athletes were required to forfeit any additional contests beyond the three permitted. **Westlake High School** violated General Sport Regulation 7.3, Non-Interscholastic Participation, when an assistant girls basketball coach permitted three student-athletes from Westlake to participate on the same non-interscholastic team in three contests prior to June 1, 2021. The Executive Director's Office agreed with the school's self-imposed penalty of

suspending the coach for the first six contests of the 2021-22 season. **Lima Shawnee Middle School** had a student-athlete in 8th grade boys basketball violate Bylaw 4-3-4, Semesters, when the student competed in his fifth and sixth semesters during the 2020-21 season. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit the 14 contests in which the ineligible student 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 this school year, and one appeal was 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 three pending legal cases.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

A. Recommendation to Approve 2021 Fall Sports Tournament Regulations

Updates in regulations for 2021 fall sport tournaments were provided to the Board by OHSAA sport administrators John Kuzio (cross country and girls tennis); Emily Mason (field hockey and volleyball); Tyler Brooks (golf) and Kate Barnett (soccer), and the staff recommended that the modified regulations be approved. Most updates reflect date changes or modifications made for clarity purposes. In **cross country**, it was noted that all qualifiers and the time schedule from 2020 will remain the same this year. In **field hockey**, it was noted that the rounds leading up to the state tournament will now be referred to as the regional tournament, and this year's state tournament will be held at Thomas Worthington High School. In **golf**, it was noted that rules for a two-stroke option and/or "picking up on a hole" were modified to indicate they are not permitted during the OHSAA tournament series. Use of the latter shall mean a player's score will not count for individual or team qualifying and will be recorded as DNF (did not finish). Schools are also no longer charged green fees, and the state tournaments will again return to The Ohio State University Golf Club in Columbus and North Star Golf Club in Sunbury. In **girls tennis**, it was noted that there are no tournament entry fees in 2021 and that a modification was made regarding uniforms for doubles teams. In **soccer**, it was noted that a modification was made on the introductions protocol, and the state finals will be held at Lower.com Field, the new home of Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew. And in **volleyball**, it was noted that a modification was made on ball handling procedures available to both teams during the warm-up period both before and after the coin toss and both on-court and in other areas of the facility. The state tournament will return to Wright State University.

In addition, language will be added that clarifies that the Executive Director shall approve a process regarding ticket purchase options should anything besides on-line ticketing be available, and each sport shall develop consistent guidelines on the number of complimentary administrative admissions that will be available for each school.

B. Recommendation to Approve 2021 Fall Sports Regional and State Tournament Officiating Representation

Director Beau Rugg provided the Board with the 2021 representation for officials assignments for regional and state tournaments in the fall sports of cross country (state tournament); field hockey (state tournament); football (regional and state tournaments); soccer (regional and state tournaments), and volleyball (regional and state tournaments), and he said the staff recommended that they be approved. Per the OHSAA Handbook, the representation is calculated on a proportional formula per district based on the number of Class 1 officials who had registered with the OHSAA by the middle of July. With deadlines extended for officials to register for winter and spring sports, the other assignments will be shared on a seasonal basis throughout the 2021-22 school year.

C. Recommendation to Approve 2021-22 Officials Handbook

Director Beau Rugg reviewed with the Board proposed modifications to the 2021-22 Officials Handbook and said the staff recommended that they be approved. He said besides date changes or changes made for clarity, the significant proposed changes are fee increases for regional track & field tournament officials; umpires at all tournament levels in baseball and softball; regional and state lacrosse bench/alternate tournament officials; state football alternate/replay tournament officials, and track & field officials working multiple-day tournaments.

D. Recommendation to Approve Emergency Referendum Vote

Director Kristin Ronai provided the Board with a draft of an emergency referendum issue that the Executive Director's Office is recommending be placed before the membership. If approved by the Board, this would mean member school principals will vote on the restoration of the bylaws/exceptions that were removed due to legislative action in August 2019 and are currently shown as "strike-throughs" in the current OHSAA Handbook under the Transfer Bylaws as follows: 1.) 4-7-2, Exception 5 (transfers to the State School for the Blind or State School for the Deaf); 2.) 4-7-2, Exception 6 (Executive Director's discretionary power to waive the residence requirements for those who enroll/transfer in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code that addresses homes not ready for habitation); 3.) 4-7-4, Exception 5 (transfers due to unsafe or academically poor performing schools);

4.) 4-7-5 (also addresses transfers due to unsafe or academically poor performing schools), and 5.) 4-7-7 (transfer to a school within the jurisdiction of a non-public multiple high school system due to a material change in economic circumstances so as to create a hardship or a material change in transportation circumstances so as to create a hardship).

Ms. Ronai said that, while the bylaws/exceptions were removed a few years ago due to legislative action, these bylaws/exceptions may now be restored due to additional legislative intervention reversing the 2019 Ohio Revised Code language. Though all these bylaws were previously voted upon and approved by the OHSAA member schools, the Executive Director's Office does not have the authority to restore them without a membership vote, which is why an emergency referendum is being proposed.

E. Recommendation to Approve 2021-22 Tournament Media Rights Fees

Director Tim Stried provided the Board with a draft of proposed media rights fees for broadcasting 2021-22 OHSAA tournament contests and recommended that they be approved. He noted that video and/or streaming rights fees and/or procedures for tournaments were slightly modified to reflect what is or is not permitted due to the OHSAA's contractual obligations with Spectrum News 1 and the NFHS Network. It was noted that the Board approved the 2021-22 OHSAA Tournament Media Regulations at its June 8, 2021, Meeting.

F. Recommendation to Approve 2021-22 Membership List

Manager of Membership and Compliance Ronald Sayers provided the Board with the list of schools that have returned the required form to renew their membership with the OHSAA for the 2021-22 school year and said the staff recommended that these schools be approved. A total of 813 high schools and 746 7th-8th grade schools have submitted the form and, combined with the new schools approved for membership by the Board at the June 8, 2021, meeting, there will be 817 high schools and 747 7th-8th grade schools in 2021-22.

The form (OHSAA Board Resolution Card) affirms that the board of education or similar governing board of each member school has adopted a resolution authorizing continued membership with the OHSAA and, in doing so, agrees to conform with all OHSAA bylaws and regulations. The OHSAA Board Resolution Cards were to be returned to the Executive Director's Office by June 30.

G. Recommendation to Approve Use of Investigative Services

Executive Director Ute recommended that the Board give approval of the OHSAA's continued use of outside investigative services as deemed warranted by the executive director's office to investigate schools and/or individuals who violate Association regulations. Legal counsel Steve Craig provided a historical perspective on the use of investigative services.

H. Recommendation to Approve Modification to the 2021-22 Wrestling Regulations

Senior Manager of Officiating and Sports Administration Tyler Brooks provided the Board with a proposed change to the minimum weight required to wrestle in the 285-pound weight class (210 pounds from 215, with the growth allowance also changing to 212 pounds from 217 on and after Dec. 25), and he said the staff recommended that the changes be approved.

I. Recommendation to Approve Lowering the Number of Contests Needed to Qualify for the 2021 OHSAA Football Tournament

With COVID-19 issues arising again this season and some schools being forced to cancel contests, Director Beau Rugg recommended that the Board approve the staff's recommendation that the minimum number of contests needed for schools to qualify for the 2021 OHSAA football tournament be lowered to five from eight. The regulations for use of the divisor as outlined in the football tournament regulations will not change.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Bo Arnett to **approve** New Business (Consent) Items VI. A., VI. B., VI. C., VI. D., VI. E., VI. F., VI. G., VI. H. and VI. I. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

A. Recommendation to Approve 2021-22 Tournament Ticket Prices for Spectators

The Board was provided with a draft of proposed ticket prices for spectators for 2021-22 OHSAA tournaments. Following discussion during the Board of Directors Work Session the previous day, the Executive Director's Office will present a modified recommendation to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Gina Franks to **table** New Business (Other) Item VII. A.

Motion passed 9-0.

VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board of Directors ex-officio John Richard reviewed the process for the coaching education courses within the Coaches' Tool Chest to be approved as part of the Ohio legislature's Administrative Code. He said the process could take two-to-three months, but language would provide flexibility so that other courses could be more easily approved in the future. The OHSAA recently signed an agreement with the Coaches' Tool Chest, and information on this option for coaches certification was shared with member school athletic administrators.

Board of Directors ex-officio Glen Gillespie said the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association recently held its first meeting of the new school year, approved a new strategic plan and is finalizing plans to host its annual state conference in Columbus Nov. 14-16, 2021.

The new members of the Board of Directors thanked the staff and returning Board of Directors members for their work and for being so welcoming.

Board President Scott Kaufman congratulated OHSAA staff member Emily Gates on her recent marriage; staff member Molly Downard for completing 30 years of service to the Association, and thanked Board ex-officio John Richard for his service, noting that Dr. Richard's will be leaving the OHSAA Board of Directors and begin a new job in October. Executive Director Doug Ute thanked the Board of Directors members for their guidance and support. He also said that, while our school administrators and coaches are still facing challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he appreciated everyone's efforts to provide participation opportunities for our students.

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Ryan Fitzgerald to **adjourn** the meeting at 9:39 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: September 23, October 21, January 13, February 17, April 28 and Tuesday, June 7 (1:00).