

The following are the preliminary minutes from the December 1, 2022, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its January 12, 2023, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES (December 1, 2022)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a special meeting on Thursday, December 1, 2022, at the Holiday Inn Canton prior to the OHSAA State Football Finals. President Bill Nye called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

Board Members In Attendance: Bill Nye, president; Gina Franks, vice president; David Alvarado; Bo Arnett; Andy Bixler; Molly Feesler; Jay Selgo; Paul Stone (participated virtually); Jeff Wheeler, and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio) and Scott Hunt (ex-officio).

Staff Members In Attendance: Doug Ute, executive director; Kim Kiehl, chief operating officer; directors Bob Goldring, Kristin Ronai and Beau Rugg (excused at 2:31 p.m.); controller Laura Vermilya; staff members Tyler Brooks (participated virtually), Claire Duesdieker Keohane, Alexis Holderman, Maurice Jenkins and Ronald Sayers, and part-time staff members Monroe Britton and Zachary Taylor.

Others In Attendance: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel.

I. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. 2023 Girls Wrestling Tournament Regulations

Tyler Brooks, administrator for the sport of wrestling, provided updates on the 2023 OHSAA girls wrestling tournament regulations that are being prepared for the first time after the Board gave approval for girls wrestling as an emerging sport beginning this winter. Mr. Brooks noted a few areas that still need updated, so no approval of the regulations occurred.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation to Approve 2023 Referendum Items

Director Kristin Ronai reviewed the first group of potential 2023 referendum items with the Board during its October 26, 2022, Board of Directors Work Session, and, at this meeting, it was recommended that four of the proposals be approved to be placed before the membership for referendum. If approved by the Board, member school principals would vote on the proposed modifications between May 1 and 15. Recommended were the following:

Bylaw 4-5-6, Conduct, Character, Discipline (Modifications)

The first proposed change would clarify that a student cannot transfer to a new school simply to avoid a code of conduct violation penalty that occurred at the school from which the student transferred. The second proposed change would address a student who was issued an indefinite athletic suspension at one school and they subsequently transferred to a new school and want to play sports. The proposed language would provide the new school some discretion on how long the code of conduct violation penalty would remain in place at the new school, although the penalty would be required to last at least one calendar year from the date the student transferred.

Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, Exception 9, Note 2 Divided into Notes 2 and 3 (Modification)

The Executive Director's Office frequently reviews and fields questions relative to the movement of students between legal custodians who live in different school districts.

This proposed change would codify that, once a student transfers to a new school where a different legal custodian lives (which is in a different district than where their original legal custodian resides), the student would forfeit the opportunity to 'go back' to their original school using the exception once the student has maintained attendance at the new school for at least one calendar year. After one calendar year, the new school of attendance would become their 'residential district school' for the purposes of this exception, subject to applicable OHSAA Business Rules assignments within a multiple high school district.

Bylaws 4-7-6 and 4-7-7, Intra-District/System Transfers (Modifications)

Bylaws 4-7-6 and 4-7-7 are the respective public and non-public schools intra-district/system transfer regulations (meaning these bylaws/situations are only available for students who transfer schools between the same district/system). These regulations have no application for a student who transfers between schools within different districts/systems. The proposed changes would make the public and non-public schools intra-district/system regulations more consistent with one another.

The first proposed change would include language in both bylaws that requires that the transfer not be done for athletic reasons (currently only in Bylaw 4-7-7). The second proposed change would add a transportation hardship to the public school bylaw, giving each bylaw three options (both would include a change in academic program and a transportation hardship option, while the public school bylaw would include a redistricting option and the non-public school bylaw would include an economic hardship option). The third proposed

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change would allow for a request under the transportation hardship to be required at any time throughout the course of a school year. Waiting until the start of the next school year is not always feasible due to some circumstances. The last proposed change would allow the Executive Director's Office to consider a change of program requests that occur at a semester break (the current language only allows for those to be considered when they occur between school years). If approved, the change of academic program requests are still not available for seniors and, if processed at the semester break, students would still be subject to Bylaw 4-7-3, Midseason Transfer, which would render any winter sport athlete ineligible for the rest of that winter season at the new school to which they transferred.

Bylaw 11-1-4, Penalties (Addition)

On occasion, the Executive Director's Office is prevented from upholding a ruling due to legal intervention (e.g. a temporary restraining order). If the court ultimately finds that the original ruling was correct, this proposed addition would codify the Executive Director's Office's ability to also impose the ruling (e.g. penalty) in the immediately following school year/sports season. Note that even though Bylaw 11-1-2, Penalties, would already permit the Executive Director's Office to impose a penalty, adding this language to Bylaw 11-1-4 would help reinforce the notion that penalties may still be imposed in the future for anyone considering litigation.

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Jeff Wheeler to **approve** the recommendation to place the four proposed bylaw changes up for referendum vote by the membership as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

B. Ratification of Recommendations for Recipients of 2023 OHSAA Naismith Awards for Meritorious Service (Northeast and Northwest Districts)

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 selections on a rotating basis each year, the recommendations are ratified by the Board of Directors and the honorees are traditionally recognized during the OHSAA Boys State Basketball Tournament. The Northeast District Athletic Board (NEDAB) has recommended Jim Borchik, retired as the assistant principal and athletic administrator at Copley High School, be a 2023 recipient, while the Northwest District Athletic Board (NWDAB) recommended Bill Hanna, retired as the principal at Ottawa-Glandorf High School, as a 2023 recipient. Both Borchick and Hanna were members of their respective district athletic boards and served on the OHSAA Board of Directors. Borchick still assists the NEDAB with various sectional and district tournament roles, while Hanna is the treasurer of the NWDAB.

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Gina Franks to **ratify** the recommendations as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

Motion by Jason Selgo, second by Jeff Wheeler to **adjourn** the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Motion passed 9-0.

Following discussion, there was a motion at 2:45 p.m. by Jeff Wheeler, second by Bo Arnett to **return** to the formal business meeting for the purpose of taking action on a recommendation.

Motion passed 9-0.

C. Recommendation to Maintain Student Tournament Ticket Prices for Winter and Spring Tournaments

During the fall, the Board approved a recommendation that student tournament ticket prices be reduced by \$2.00 from the regular prices for sectional/district, regional and state tournaments. If those prices remain in place for OHSAA winter and spring tournaments, student prices would be \$6.00 for sectional and district tournaments, \$8.00 for regional tournaments and \$12.00 for most state tournaments (state ice hockey would be one exception - \$15.00).

Motion by Jay Selgo, second by Molly Feesler to **approve** maintaining reduced student tournament ticket prices for OHSAA winter and spring tournaments as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by David Alvarado to **adjourn** the meeting at 2:49 p.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.)

2022-23 School Year: January 12, 2023; February 16, 2023; April 27, 2023, and June 8, 2023 (8:30 a.m. at Canal Park in Akron).