

The following are the preliminary minutes from the January 12, 2023, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its February 16, 2023, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (January 12, 2023)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at the OHSAA Office in Columbus. President Bill Nye called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting began with the pledge of allegiance and introductions of guests in attendance.

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

Board Members Excused: Bo Arnett and Scott Hunt (ex-officio).

Staff Members In Attendance: Doug Ute, executive director; Kim Kiehl, chief operating officer (attended virtually); directors Bob Goldring, Kristin Ronai, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried; Laura Vermilya, controller; staff members Kate Barnett, Tyler Brooks, Alexis Holderman, Claire Duesdieker Keohane, Angie Lawler (attended virtually), Emily Mason, Ronald Sayers and Dustin Ware, and part-time staff member Eric McLaughlin.

Others In Attendance: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Brian Timm, Ohio General Manager, Teall Properties Group; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association, and Gerald Cooke, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Gina Franks, second by Molly Feesler to **adopt** the agenda for the January 12, 2023, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 8-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Paul Stone to **approve** the minutes from the October 27, 2022, Board of Directors Regular Meeting, and December 1, 2022, Board of Directors Special Meeting and the December 16, 2022, Board of Directors Special Virtual Meeting.

Motion passed 8-0.

III. OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL UPDATES

A. Operations Update

Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl provided the Board with an update on operations. Among the highlights: 1.) Staff member Tyler Brooks has submitted his resignation effective January 18, 2023, and a part-time staff member (maximum of 20 hours per week) has been added to replace a departed part-time staff member in the media relations department; 2.) The current strategic plan expires in 2024, so discussion is needed to begin plans for developing a new plan; 3.) The staff's health insurance plan renews on April 1, so options are being explored to determine if costs can be lowered; 4.) While a recommendation is forthcoming later in the agenda to approve utilizing Board-designated funds for office capital improvements, it should be noted that additional electrical outlets have been installed in both buildings' conference rooms and that there are additional charges for repairing the sump pump in the Ceramic Building, and 5.) Schools are encouraged to gather student groups to view the OHSAA Foundation's student leadership conference at <https://mjvirtualevents.com/ohsaa/mid-oh-slc>. **Note:** More information on the conference is listed later in these minutes.

B. OHSAA Financial Report Through December

Controller Laura Vermilya provided the financial report through December. She said that OHSAA revenues following the fall tournaments are currently \$626,000 more than projected; has \$13.4 million of operating cash, and \$19.1 million when including reserves. When counting the latter, the Association can cover 10.9 months of expenses. Those numbers do not include over \$500,000 that will be provided for tournament travel stipends to schools that participated in the 2022 fall regional and state team tournaments. The financial report is summarized as follows:

	Actual	Prior Month	Prior Year
Checking	\$12,003,846	\$11,867,324	\$5,400,946
Savings	\$866,397	\$866,397	\$3,535,677
Concentration Account	\$505,243	\$505,243	\$794,697
Total Operating Cash	\$13,375,486	\$13,238,964	\$9,731,320
Months on Hand	7.6	7.6	5.9
Board Designated Funds	\$705,670	\$705,670	\$702,379
Investments - Unrestricted	\$4,911,885	\$5,014,324	\$3,436,791
Durkle Funds	\$45,242	\$46,186	\$53,843
Rossi/Denney Funds	\$45,930	\$46,888	\$54,662
Total Investments	\$5,708,727	\$5,813,068	\$4,247,675
Months on Hand	3.3	3.3	2.6
Total Cash & Investments on Hand	\$19,084,213	\$19,052,032	\$13,978,995
Months on Hand (Cash & Investments)	10.9	10.9	8.5

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Motion by Jay Selgo, second by Jeff Wheeler to **approve** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

C. Recommendation to Approve 2021-22 OHSAA Audit

Controller Laura Vermilya provided the Board with a copy of the 2021-22 OHSAA audit that was prepared for the first time by representatives of GBQ Partners, LLC, of Columbus. The audit included the OHSAA office and the six District Athletic Boards from August 1, 2021, to July 31, 2022. Ms. Vermilya noted that the audit included an unmodified, clean opinion, the best that can be received, with no significant concerns. She said the OHSAA Finance Committee reviewed the audit and recommended that the Board approve the report.

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Gina Franks to **approve** the 2021-22 OHSAA audit as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

D. Recommendation to Approve Moving \$2.8 Million from OHSAA Operations to the OHSAA Investment Account and Temporarily Raise the Percentage of Allowable Cash Per the Investment Policy Guidance to 100 Percent Until the Year-End Evaluation

After reviewing OHSAA overall financials, Controller Laura Vermilya said the Executive Director's Office recommended that \$2.8 Million from OHSAA Operations be moved to the OHSAA Investment Account and that the percentage of allowable cash be temporarily raised to 100 percent until the year-end evaluation.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Molly Feesler to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

E. Recommendation to Approve Utilizing Board Designated Funds for Capital Improvements at OHSAA Offices Not to Exceed \$350,000

For the past several months, the Board has been provided with proposed capital improvements that are needed at the OHSAA Offices. Among the major expenses are over \$180,000 for audio-visual upgrades in both the Roselea and Ceramic buildings, including furniture, and nearly \$100,000 to replace the parking lot surrounding the Ceramic Building along with other parking lots repairs/upgrades. At this meeting, the Executive Director's Office recommended that the Board approve using Board-designated funds for these capital improvements need to exceed a total of \$350,000.

Motion by Paul Stone, second by David Alvarado to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Updates on OHSAA Fall Sports

OHSAA sport administrators provided brief updates to the Board on their respective fall sports. Kate Barnett said the state **soccer** tournament was again held at Columbus' Lower.com Field, and for the first time the teams that lost in the state semifinals were invited to attend the finals. Dustin Ware said the state **cross country** tournament returned to Fortress Obetz, and he noted that long-time state tournament manager Terry Oehrtman will be retiring. The state **girls tennis** tournament was again held at the Lindner Family Tennis Center in Mason, and Mr. Ware said that Scott Long will serve as the state tournament manager moving forward. Emily Mason said the state **field hockey** tournament, held at Thomas Worthington High School, had its highest attendance in history, while discussions are ongoing with Wright State University to continue hosting the state **volleyball** tournament since that contract expires soon. Tyler Brooks reported that the scoring app that was required to be used by participants in the OHSAA series of **golf** tournaments was successful, especially during the state tournament. Beau Rugg reported that the **football** coaches were pleased with some modifications used for the first time in 2022 — the ability to conduct acclimatization days in July and the first two rounds of the tournament being held on Fridays and at the higher seeds — and he said the state finals at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton were again a success.

B. Review of 2021-22 NFHS Ohio Coaches-of-the-Year

Director Bob Goldring said that the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches-of-the-Year honorees have been selected for the 2021-22 school year at the state, region (denoted with an *) and national (denoted with a #) levels. Girls Ohio coaches-of-the-year are Dan Liedtke (basketball, Fort Frye); Corby Anderson (bowling, Wooster Triway); Olivia Scott (cross country, Minerva); #*Terri Simonetti Frost (field hockey, Thomas Worthington); CD Butcher (golf, Dublin Jerome); Darcy Ranallo (gymnastics, Medina); Pamela Malone (soccer, Chagrin Falls); Keith Castner (softball, West Chester Lakota West); *Jeff Riegler (swimming & diving, Gahanna Lincoln); Ryan Shaffer (tennis, North Canton Hoover); Roger Whittaker (track & field, Gahanna Lincoln); *Laura Smith (volleyball, Frankfort Adena), and Chris Baird (wrestling, Harrison), and boys Ohio coaches-of-the-year are *Ryan Alexander (baseball, Grove City); Dave Boyce (basketball, Perrysburg); Andy Parker (bowling, Centerville); Tom Rapp (cross country, Mason); *Reno Saccoccia (football, Steubenville); Trevor Ward (golf, Harrison); John Malloy (ice hockey, Gates Mills Gilmour); Kyle Olson (lacrosse, Upper Arlington); Chris Dore (soccer, Avon); Chris Meleason (swimming & diving,

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Beavercreek); Mike Teets (tennis, Cincinnati Sycamore); Ted Ginn Sr. (track & field, Cleveland Glenville), and Chance VanGundy (wrestling, Dublin Coffman).

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. Review of Expiring and Unexpired District Athletic Board Positions for May Election/Board of Directors

Appointees

The Board was provided with a list of the positions that will be up for election on District Athletic Boards for both terms that are expiring and terms that are unexpired. District Athletic Board (six-year terms, August 1, 2023-July 31, 2029) elections that will take place to fill expiring terms are: **Central**, Class AA representative (Ryan Fitzgerald, incumbent); **East**, Class AA representative (Chad Shawger, incumbent); **Northeast**, Class A representative (Ryan Kelber, incumbent); **Northwest**, Class A representative (Keith Mora, incumbent); **Southeast**, Class AAA representative (position currently vacant), and **Southwest**, Class AAA representative (Tim Cook, incumbent). The two unexpired terms are: **Central**, Class AA representative (Scott Beery, 2022-23 interim), term August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2028, and **Southwest**, Female representative (Ashley Johnson, 2022-23 interim), term August 1, 2023, to July 31, 2026.

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.

With terms for Board of Directors members now three years, there will be no new appointees to the Board for the 2023-24 school year.

D. Update on NFHS Awards (State Award for Outstanding Service; NFHS Hall of Fame; NFHS Spirit of Sport)

Director Bob Goldring reviewed the Ohio nominees who have been or will be nominated for National Federation of State High School Association annual awards. The NFHS State Award for Outstanding Service, presented in each state to recognize long-standing service and contributions to interscholastic athletics, will go to Larry Acker, who retired after 50 years as an administrator at Creston Norwayne Local Schools and was a long-time member or secretary of the OHSAA's Northeast District Athletic Board. If his health permits it, Mr. Acker will be recognized at the 2023 OHSAA Boys State Basketball Tournament. The OHSAA has nominated Ted Ginn Sr., head football and boys track & field coach at Cleveland Glenville High School, for selection to the NFHS Hall of Fame in the coaches category. Mr. Ginn's football team won the school's first state championship this fall and it was also the first football title for a team from Cleveland's (city) Senate League. His team finished 15-0, and he now has a career coaching record of 240-60 (.800). The state coaches association selected him as Ohio's NFHS boys track & field coach-of-the-year for the 2021-22 school year after Glenville won its 17th state track & field championship (in Division II) last spring, which is the most state titles for any Ohio boys or girls school in track & field. And the NFHS Spirit of Sport Award, presented at the state, regional and national levels, recognizes an individual(s) who has gone beyond the normal everyday expectations of assisting others within the school or community or has overcome tremendous odds or adversity. The OHSAA will be nominating the boys basketball coaches at Westerville North High School for their emphasis on "service above self" with their team. A prime example is they created the Ultimate Warrior Basketball Camps that not only help raise funds for a former high school teammate of some of the coaches at North who is battling ALS, but they also teach the current players to give back to the community since they work at the camps and conduct various service projects.

E. Review of OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conference

Executive Director Doug Ute said the OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conference, held November 16 at the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center in Mansfield, was a success. Mr. Ute thanked Mark Burke, Ed.D., and Kevin Kimmel at the Mid-Ohio ESC for serving as hosts and also thanked Harvey Alston, OHSAA Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl and members of the OHSAA Foundation Board of Trustees for their work and support.

The conference is currently available virtually to schools that would like to show the two-hour presentation to students. The virtual presentation lasts approximately two hours and will be available for viewing through February 17, 2023. The theme of the leadership conference is "Leave a Legacy – Be the Voice of Change," and features four highly acclaimed speakers in Mr. Alston, opening keynote speaker: "Be the Voice," followed by Deb Hult: "Creating Actions," Omari Pearson: "Creating a Shared Vision" and Jason Michaels: "Overcoming Difficulties." No passwords are needed to access the conference and there is no cost. Mt. Ute noted that the leadership conference will continue to rotate on a regional basis moving forward.

F. Update on Infractions, Appeals and Legal Issues

Staff member Ronald Sayers provided the Board with a list of schools that have recently violated OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations. **KIPP Columbus High School** (update on previously reported infraction) has been fined \$2,500 as a result of the Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, infraction reported during the October 27, 2022, Board of Director's meeting. \$1,000 of this fine has been held in abeyance and shall be waived so long as no additional violations of the scholarship bylaw occur during the 2022-23 school year. **Toledo Central Catholic High School** violated Bylaw 4-9-4 #3,

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Recruiting, when a girls basketball coach had impermissible contact with a prospective student-athlete and their family prior to an application fee being submitted to the school for potential enrollment. The Executive Director's Office has accepted Toledo Central Catholic's self-imposed penalties of 1.) suspending the coach from the first four regular season contests of the 2022-23 girls basketball season, 2.) requiring the coach to complete the NFHS Learning Center's "Teaching and Modeling Behavior" course and 3.) conducting an educational seminar with the coaching staff regarding the Recruiting bylaws. Additionally, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office hereby publicly reprimands both the coach and Toledo Central Catholic High School for this violation. Future penalties of such a nature will result in harsher penalties as deemed appropriate by the Executive Director's Office. **Beaver Eastern High School** had an ineligible student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-1-3, Ineligible Student-Athlete Permissions, when they dressed in full uniform during a football contest in which they were prohibited from doing so due to being ineligible in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship. The Executive Director's Office has accepted Eastern High School's corrective action plan and, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, hereby publicly reprimands Eastern High School. **Lancaster Fisher Catholic High School** violated Bylaw 4-9, Recruiting, when a boys basketball coach posted on social media a promotional photo for Fisher Catholic that primarily showcased the school's athletic programs along with a note encouraging parents to enroll their student-athletes for athletic purposes. The Executive Director's Office accepted the following self-imposed penalties: 1.) The coach was suspended from two regular season contests during the 2022-23 season, and 2.) Fisher Catholic shall conduct an educational seminar with all coaches regarding Bylaw 4-9, Recruiting. Additionally, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office hereby publicly reprimands Fisher Catholic High School. **Parma Heights Valley Forge High School** had a student-athlete in boys basketball who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility, with regard to transfer, under Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception 9, Transfer to Public District of Residence, after they transferred to Valley Forge at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student-athlete participating in the second half of the regular season and OHSAA tournament during the 2021-22 school year. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, the school was fined \$50. **Cincinnati Winton Woods High School** violated Bylaw 4-9, Recruiting, when a football coach corresponded directly with a prospective student-athlete and their parent while the student-athlete was not enrolled within the Winton Woods City School District. The Executive Director's Office accepted the following self-imposed penalties: 1.) The coach was removed from coaching during the remainder of the 2022-23 football season (one contest); 2.) the coach's summer contact days have been reduced from 10 to 8; 3.) the coach has been suspended from the first scrimmage during the 2023-24 football season, and 4.) Winton Woods conducted an educational seminar with all coaches regarding Bylaw 4-9, Recruiting. Additionally, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office has imposed the following penalties: 1.) Winton Woods High School is hereby publicly reprimanded; 2.) Winton Woods High School has been fined \$250, and 3.) should the student-athlete transfer into Winton Woods High School, they will not be granted a transfer exception to restore full athletic eligibility. **Cincinnati Clark Montessori High School** had a student-athlete in football violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when they participated in a postseason contest after failing to pass five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school was required to forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. However, the school was not victorious in the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated, thus no forfeitures were required. **Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit High School** had a girls soccer coach violate Bylaw 6-1-4, Coach Conduct, when the coach displayed actions not representative of the sporting conduct expected of coaches training students at OHSAA member schools, resulting in a red card being issued at the end of the contest. The Executive Director's Office has accepted Walsh Jesuit's self-imposed corrective action plan. As a part of this corrective action plan, and in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, and General Sports Regulation 14.2.1, Ejections, the coach shall be ineligible for the first four regular season contests to begin the 2023 season. **Van Wert Middle School** had a student-athlete in boys basketball violate General Sports Regulation 7.2.1, Non-Interscholastic Participation During Season, when they participated in a non-interscholastic contest after becoming a member of the Van Wert Middle School boys basketball team. After the participation in a non-interscholastic contest occurred, the student-athlete participated in two regular season contests for Van Wert Middle School. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Van Wert Middle School was required to forfeit the two contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. Additionally, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athlete was suspended for the three regular season contests immediately following the reported violation. **Warren Lordstown High School** had a student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-8-1 Exception 1, International and Exchange Students, after they enrolled at Lordstown to begin the 2022-23 school year. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student-athlete participating in interscholastic athletics. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, Lordstown was fined \$100. **Cincinnati Oak Hills High School** had a student-athlete in gymnastics violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, when they participated in a contest while not being enrolled in and attending Oak Hills. Further, the student-athlete did not meet an exception that would have afforded them a participation opportunity at Oak Hills. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school was required to forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. Individual eligible athletes, however, were permitted to keep their points, places and any awards earned during these forfeited contests. **Lyndhurst Hawken Middle**

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School had a student-athlete in boys basketball violate Bylaw 4-3-4, Semesters, when they participated in contests during their fifth semester of 7th & 8th grade enrollment. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school was required to forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Cardington Lincoln High School** had a student-athlete in football violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when they participated in regular season contests after failing to pass five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school was required to forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. However, the school was not victorious in the contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated, thus no forfeitures were required. **Mayfield Middle School** had a student-athlete violate General Sport Regulation 7.2.2, Non-Interscholastic Participation During Season, when they participated in a non-interscholastic boys wrestling tournament after becoming a member of the school team. The Executive Director's Office accepted the self-imposed penalty of a two-contest suspension for the student-athlete. **Cleveland Heights Lutheran East High School** had a student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility under Bylaw 4-8-1 Exception 3, International and Exchange Students, after they enrolled at Lutheran East to begin the 2022-23 school year. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student-athlete participating in interscholastic athletics. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility, with regard to Bylaw 4-8, retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, Lutheran East was fined \$100.

Mr. Sayers also provided the Board with an update on appeals. He said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has heard 13 appeals on three dates since the last Board of Directors meeting, with 11 dealing with the transfer bylaw and two appeals being granted. Overall, the panel has heard 57 appeals with 62 rulings on 10 dates this school year, and 13 appeals have either been granted or the penalty modified. In addition, OHSAA Legal Counsel Steve Craig provided the Board with an update on four current legal cases of which one case has been dismissed, one is expected to be dismissed and two are scheduled to go to trial.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

A. Recommendation to Approve Additional 2023 Referendum Items

At its December 1, 2022, Board of Directors Special Meeting, the Board approved the recommendation to place four proposed changes to the OHSAA bylaws before the membership for referendum. At this meeting, Director Kristin Ronai reviewed two additional 2023 referendum items (one Constitution and one Bylaw), and recommended that they also 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. The two new recommendations were the following:

Constitution Article 6-1-9 (Modification)

This Constitution Article was implemented during the spring of 2020 to address the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23) and is set to expire at the start of the 2023-24 school year unless an additional extension is approved by the membership. While this Article has been used very sparingly over the course of the past 2½ years (waiver of the scholarship bylaw for the 2020-21 school year and reuse of tournament divisions from the 2020-21 school year for the 2021-22 school year), the Executive Director's Office believes there is value in retaining this concept of suspending strict compliance with certain regulations but only because of unforeseeable and unavoidable events similar to what was just experienced with the COVID-19 pandemic. New additional language would clarify that the authority granted within this Article is only available for application for an entire district and/or an entire school, not on an individual student basis. **An example of use of the proposed change:** If its buildings are destroyed and a district has trouble getting its students the necessary five credits to be eligible due to destruction caused by a tornado, the proposed language could allow the Executive Director's Office the ability to waive that academic standard for those surrounding districts that need the relief during that time.

Bylaw 7, Contracts (Modifications)

These proposed modifications came about from feedback from a league in northeast Ohio. The current language in Bylaw 7-1-2 does not clearly define the meaning of a "published schedule." Adding the new definition of "published" more clearly articulates when a league/conference schedule becomes an enforceable contract. The proposed language under Bylaw 7-1-3 is being added to encourage schools to explicitly state the penalty for breaking a league/conference contract. Under current operating procedures, when the Executive Director's Office is forced to become involved with league/conference disputes, it must consider a variety of factors. If schools already have a clearly defined penalty within their constitution/bylaws, it allows the league/conference to take more ownership in the enforceability of any such contract disputes and/or gives the Executive Director's a better starting point. Also, under 7-1-8, the word "signed/published" is added to clearly define what situations the Executive Director's Office will help resolve a dispute. In addition, the new note helps enforce that the Executive Director's Office will only attempt to resolve signed/published contracts.

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It was noted that it is likely the Executive Director's Office will recommend that additional items be placed before the membership for referendum at the February 16 Board of Director's Meeting.

- B. Recommendation to Approve 2023 Spring Sports Regional and State Tournament Officiating Representation
Director Beau Rugg provided the Board with the 2023 representation for officials assignments for regional and state tournaments in the spring sports of baseball and softball (regional and state tournaments); boys volleyball (regional and state tournaments); boys lacrosse (state tournament); girls lacrosse (state tournament), and track & field (state tournament), 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 December 31, 2022, deadline. Mr. Rugg noted that since boys volleyball is in its first year as an OHSAA sport, official renewal numbers may not be representative of officials actually officiating the sport. These representation calculations should be used as a guide and may not be followed exactly until the sport becomes more established.

- C. Modifications to the 2023 Track & Field Regular Season Regulations
OHSAA track & field administrator Dustin Ware worked with OHSAA Director of Track & Field Officiating Development BJ Duckworth to propose modifications for the 2023 high school and 7th-8th grade track regulations. At this meeting, it was recommended that the modifications be approved. Included were: 1.) Schools must request an OHSAA waiver to allow mixed gender relay events during regular season contests. If such events are approved, language has been developed that provides protocols that must be followed for said events. 2.) If FAT is not used for a contest, field event athletes can still qualify for the OHSAA 7th-8th grade state championships so long as specified OHSAA contest officials oversee those field events. 3.) With the 4x800 relay now permissible in 7th-8th grade meets, a recommendation for a new order of events has been developed. 4.) If the 3,200 is not being competed or is being competed at a different point in a meet, a rest period of 20 minutes from the beginning of the girls 200 to the start of the first heat of the girls 4x400 relay must be given if athletes competing in the 200 are also in the 4x400. 5.) Language detailing headgear, hair control devices and jewelry has either been modified or removed since National High School Federation rules cover those areas and, in most instances, those regulations have been greatly relaxed. 6.) Clarity has been provided as it relates to event entry limitations. No conferences, leagues or individual schools have the authority to set aside these event entry limitations. 6a.) For individual events in all non-invitationals/championship meets, each school is entitled to enter four competitors in individual events. The decision to increase the entry limitation shall be decided by the games committee, either in the contest contract or verbally in advance of the meet. Contest officials must be notified of any increase in entry limitations (greater than four) before accepting their officiating contract. 6b.) For invitational and championship meets, the games committee retains the ability to limit the number of entries a school may have for an event. These limitations must be shared in the contest contract or verbally in advance of the meet. 6c.) According to NFHS Rule 4-2-4-d, in a relay race, only one team per school may be designated as a scoring team. In Ohio, due to our prohibition on exhibition competition, this means that when more than one relay team from the same school is competing, NO TEAM shall be designated as the scoring team. Each team that is entered by a school shall have the opportunity to be the scoring team. However, only one (1) relay team from a competing school may score.

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Jay Selgo to **approve** New Business Consent Items VI. A., VI. B. and VI. C. as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

None

VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board members wished outgoing staff member Tyler Brooks good luck in his new position and thanked him for his work at the OHSAA. The staff was also thanked for their work with the fall tournaments, and best wishes were given to Board and staff members for their work on the upcoming winter tournaments. Director Kristin Ronai and the compliance team were thanked for all of their work preparing the referendum items. Additionally, Board member Paul Stone reminded the membership that, with the recent high profile medical situation that occurred in an NFL game, schools should take time to review their emergency action plans.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Paul Stone to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Motion passed 8-0.

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: February 16, 2023; April 27, 2023, and June 8, 2023 (8:30 a.m. at Canal Park in Akron).