

The following are the preliminary minutes from the June 8, 2023, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its August 31, 2023, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (June 8, 2023)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2023, at Canal Park in Akron prior to the OHSAA State Baseball Tournament. President Bill Nye called the meeting to order at 8:30 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 Member Excused: Bo Arnett 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; Laura Vermilya, controller, and staff members Monroe Britton, Alexis Holderman, Angie Lawler (participated virtually), Emily Mason, Ronald Sayers and Lizzy Wilson (participated virtually).

Others In Attendance: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Gerald Cooke and Dick Kerschbaum (participated virtually), Ohio High School Football Coaches Association; John Orozko, Ohio High School Soccer Coaches Association (participated virtually); Dawn Conwill, Medina Christian Academy (participated virtually), and Torry Cornett, Cincinnati DePaul Cristo Rey High School (joined virtually at 9:12 a.m.).

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There was a unanimous motion to approve the agenda for the June 8, 2023, meeting.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Andy Bixler to **approve** the minutes from the April 27, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting and the May 23, 2023, 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.) Monroe Britton has started employment to fill an OHSAA sports administrator position; 2.) Applications are being accepted to fill the vacant part-time position in the OHSAA compliance department; 3.) 2023-24 policy handbooks for the OHSAA staff and district athletic boards are updated and will be presented to the Board of Directors soon for approval 4.) The performance review process for OHSAA staff and district athletic board secretaries and treasurers will begin soon and is to be completed by August 1; 5.) The OHSAA participation survey for the NFHS has been completed for the 2022-23 school year, and 6.) Dates have been established for an OHSAA conference to promote sporting behavior and recruiting female and minority contest officials (Oct. 11 in Columbus) and the OHSAA Sideline Spirit Championships (Dec. 9 at Wittenberg University).

B. OHSAA Financial Report Through April

Controller Laura Vermilya provided the financial report through April. She said that the OHSAA has \$9.9 million of operating cash, and \$18.7 million when including reserves. When counting the latter, the Association can cover 10.7 months of expenses. She said the OHSAA net revenues for winter tournaments was \$452,000 below the projected budget, which can mostly be attributed to discounted student tournament ticket prices that were not included in the original budget. She also noted that total expenses for the 2022-23 fiscal year are currently eight percent lower than the projected budget. The financial report is summarized as follows:

District	Checking	Savings	Board		Total	Yr. to Date	Yr. to Date	Yr. to Date
			Designated	Investment		Gross Revenue	Gross Expenses	Net Profit/Loss
OHSAA Office	\$9,045,028	\$866,382	\$709,931	\$2,615,441	\$13,236,782	\$13,648,573	\$10,457,164	\$3,191,409
Central	—	—	N/A	\$858,652	\$858,652	\$885,511	\$849,074	\$36,437
East	—	—	N/A	\$801,705	\$801,705	\$425,767	\$360,375	\$65,392
Northeast	—	—	N/A	\$556,304	\$556,304	\$1,571,449	\$1,626,792	— \$55,343
Northwest	—	—	N/A	\$1,389,030	\$1,389,030	\$1,467,539	\$1,302,755	\$164,784
Southeast	—	—	N/A	\$672,864	\$672,864	\$559,345	\$406,415	\$152,930
Southwest	—	—	N/A	\$1,162,666	\$1,162,666	\$1,357,575	\$1,229,617	\$127,958
Totals	\$9,045,028	\$866,382	\$709,931	\$8,056,662	\$18,678,003	\$19,915,759	\$16,232,192	\$3,683,567

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	Actual	Prior Month	Prior Year
Checking	\$9,045,028	\$10,755,237	\$5,565,503
Savings	\$866,382	\$866,382	\$3,535,641
Concentration Account	=	=	\$2,173,212
Total Operating Cash	\$9,911,410	\$11,621,619	\$11,274,356
Months on Hand	5.7	6.6	6.9
Board Designated Funds	\$709,931	\$709,931	\$702,562
Investments - Unrestricted	\$8,056,662	\$8,014,501	\$3,176,508
Total Investments	\$8,766,593	\$8,724,432	\$3,879,070
Months on Hand	5.0	5.0	2.4
Total Cash & Investments on Hand	\$18,678,003	\$20,346,051	\$15,153,426
Months on Hand (Cash & Investments)	10.7	11.6	9.2

Motion by Gina Franks, second by Jay Selgo to **approve** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

C. Recommendation to Approve and Adopt Estimated OHSAA Budget for 2023-24

Controller Laura Vermilya provided the Board with a draft of the proposed budget for the OHSAA for the 2023-24 school year that includes the Columbus office and the six District Athletic Boards. She said the budget is a guide of best estimates and assumptions and includes anticipated revenue and expenditures. It was noted that \$3 million was transferred in May from operating cash to the Board-approved athletic enrichment fund and that the budget no longer includes officiating software expenses due to the move to DragonFly Athletics. Ms. Vermilya said the budget was reviewed and recommended for approval by the OHSAA Finance Committee, and the Executive Director’s Office recommended that the Board approve the budget, which is as follows (shown are the actual figures from the previous three years, a forecast for the remainder of 2022-23 and the budget for 2023-24):

<u>2019-20 Actual</u>	<u>2019-20 Actual</u>	<u>2019-20 Actual</u>
<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net Income/Loss</u>
\$14,079,062	\$14,474,205	— \$395,143
<u>2020-21 Actual</u>	<u>2020-21 Actual</u>	<u>2020-21 Actual</u>
<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net Income/Loss</u>
\$17,101,353	\$14,755,637	\$2,345,716
<u>2021-22 Actual</u>	<u>2021-22 Actual</u>	<u>2021-22 Actual</u>
<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net Income/Loss</u>
\$25,294,204	\$19,324,442	\$5,969,762
<u>2022-23 Thru Winter</u>	<u>2022-23 Thru Winter</u>	<u>2022-23 Thru Winter</u>
<u>With Spring Forecast</u>	<u>With Spring Forecast</u>	<u>With Spring Forecast</u>
<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net Income/Loss</u>
\$24,849,891	\$21,445,300	\$3,404,591
<u>2023-24 Projected</u>	<u>2023-24 Projected</u>	<u>2023-24 Projected</u>
<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net Income/Loss</u>
\$24,501,523	\$22,462,218	\$2,039,305

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

Motion passed 8-0.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Update on OIAAA Summer Institute

Board ex-officio Glen Gillespie, executive director of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA), said the OIAAA will be hosting professional development classes for athletic administrators at the OHSAA Office in Columbus between June 13 and 15. Eleven different courses will be offered.

B. Update on 2023-24 Administrator Workshops

Director Kristin Ronai said staff members from the Executive Director’s Office will host three OHSAA Administrator Workshops in August to review current issues and provide reminders on other items. In-person workshops for new administrators will be held at the OHSAA Office on August 9 and August 22 and a virtual workshop for returning administrators will be held August 28. Registration information will be sent to the membership this summer.

C. Update on OHSAA Regional Update Meetings

Director Bob Goldring said the OHSAA will conduct in-person Regional Update Meetings in the six athletic districts across the state in August and September. The meetings are intended for superintendents, principals and athletic administrators and allows the Executive Director’s staff to review current issues and pro-

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vide reminders on other items. The meetings will be held August 24 in Cambridge; August 29 in Athens; September 6 in Streetsboro; September 11 in Worthington; September 14 in Findlay, and September 19 in Cincinnati. Registration information will be sent to the membership this summer.

D. Reminder on Approval of Modifications of 2023-24 General Sports Regulations

Director Bob Goldring provided a reminder that the Board approved modifications to the 2023-24 General Sports Regulations during a virtual Board of Directors Meeting that was held on May 23, 2023. He said that the changes will appear in the 2023-24 OHSAA Handbook, with the modifications effective August 1, 2023.

E. Reminder on Board Resolution Cards

Staff member Ronald Sayers said the Executive Director's Office is still receiving Board Resolution Cards, which must be returned to the office by June 30 in order for schools to continue membership within the OHSAA and to confirm the requirement to follow OHSAA regulations. At last count, he said approximately 31 schools have yet to submit their cards. Mr. Sayers said he will continue to follow up with schools that have not returned the card and will provide an update at the August 31 Board of Directors Meeting.

F. Review of 2023 District Athletic Board Elections

Staff member Ronald Sayers said voting for expiring positions on the six OHSAA district athletic boards took place between May 1 and 15. He thanked fellow staff members Alexis Holderman and Molly Downard for their work during the petition and voting processes. The results can be reviewed here: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/About-the-OHSAA/DAB/051623ElectionPositionsTermsNamesResults.pdf>.

G. Reminder of 2023 Referendum Voting Process

Director Kristin Ronai said voting on the 13 OHSAA Referendum issues (one Constitution; 12 Bylaw) took place between May 1 and 15, with 12 of the issues passing. The results can be reviewed here: <https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/SchoolResources/refvote/BallotHS2023Results.pdf>.

H. 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. **Columbus Africentric Early College's** girls basketball team violated Bylaws 4-5-2, Conduct Character and Discipline, and 6-1-4, Requirements for Coaching, when the team taunted an opposing crowd after a victory during an OHSAA Girls Basketball Tournament contest. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, Africentric Early College is hereby publicly reprimanded. **Warren John F. Kennedy High School** violated Bylaws 4-9-1, 4-9-2, and 4-9-4 #4, Recruiting, when a student-athlete on the football team, at the direction of a member of the football coaching staff, contacted a prospective student-athlete that had not submitted an application for enrollment at Warren JFK. The contact was made in an attempt to influence the prospective student-athlete for purposes of securing their enrollment at Warren JFK for athletic purposes. The Executive Director's Office has accepted Warren JFK's self-imposed corrective action plan, which includes 1.) a suspension of the coach; 2.) an educational seminar regarding the recruiting bylaw for the coaching staff of the football team, and 3.) an educational seminar regarding the recruiting bylaw for all student-athletes. Further, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office has fined Warren JFK \$500, and the school is hereby publicly reprimanded. **Dayton Ponitz High School** violated Bylaw 4-3-1 Exception 6, Non-Enrolled Participation, when a student-athlete was permitted to participate in a baseball contest without being assigned to participate at Ponitz in accordance with the OHSAA Business Rules Governing Non-Interscholastic Participation. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Dayton Ponitz High School was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Columbus Wellington School** had a student-athlete in boys tennis violate General Sports Regulation 7.2.2, Non-Interscholastic Participation During Season, when they participated in a non-interscholastic contest after becoming a member of the Wellington School boys tennis team. Additionally, this student-athlete's participation in a non-interscholastic event violated Tennis Regulation 2.2, Non-Interscholastic Participation Deadline, since the participation occurred after the non-interscholastic participation deadline of April 23, 2023, without a pre-approved waiver. In accordance with Tennis Regulation 2.2., the student-athlete was removed from the 2023 OHSAA Boys Tennis Tournament. **Uniontown Lake High School** had two boys lacrosse coaches violate Bylaw 6-1-2, Pupil Activity Permits, when they began to coach the 2022-23 season without being properly credentialed. The Executive Director's Office discovered the coaches had completed all of the required trainings prior to the start of the season but failed to have the background checks sent to the Ohio Department of Education after completing this requirement through a third party. In accordance with General Sports Regulation 4, Failure to Acquire Pupil Activity Permit, and Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, the coaches were removed from coaching until they received fully approved permits from the Ohio Department of Education, and Uniontown Lake High School has been fined \$100. **Pickerington High School Central** had a student-athlete in girls track & field violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when they participated in four regular season contests after failing to pass five 1-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, Pickerington High School Central 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

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during these forfeited contests. **Van Wert Lincolnview High School** violated Media Regulations A.2.C and A.2.D, OHSAA Tournament Contests – Video Taping and Photographing by Participating Schools, when a Lincolnview softball coach videotaped a softball tournament contest without the written consent of the two schools participating. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, Lincolnview High School has been fined \$100. **Olmsted Falls High School** had eight student-athletes in girls soccer violate General Sports Regulation 7.3.1, Non-Interscholastic Participation Limitation, when all eight participated on the same non-interscholastic team between August 1 and May 31. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, each student is ineligible for two regular season contests during the 2023-24 season. The suspensions will be broken up across the first three regular season contests to ensure Olmsted Falls High School has enough athletes to compete in the contests. **Cleveland Heights High School** violated Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, when a student-athlete was permitted to participate with the girls lacrosse team without being enrolled and attending full time at Cleveland Heights High School. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Cleveland Heights High School was required to forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated.

Mr. Sayers also provided the Board with an update on appeals. He said the OHSAA Appeals Panel did not hear any new appeals since the last Board of Directors Meeting. Therefore, the school year ended with the panel hearing 73 appeals with 78 rulings on 15 dates, and 15 appeals were either been granted or the penalty modified. In addition, OHSAA Legal Counsel Steve Craig provided the Board with an update on current legal cases.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

A. Recommendation to Approve Five New Member Schools for the 2023-24 School Year

Staff member Ronald Sayers reported that five schools (two high schools and three 7th-8th grade schools) have met the requirements of Constitution Article 3, Section 2, including having gone through the probationary period, and it is recommended that the schools be approved for membership beginning with the 2023-24 school year. He noted that Delaware Olentangy Berlin Middle School and Westerville Minerva Park Middle School are new buildings opening up in existing member school districts and therefore did not have to go through a probationary period. He thanked OHSAA staff member Alexis Holderman for her work on the process. The five new schools are as follows:

- Cincinnati DePaul Christo Rey High School (Southwest District)
- Dayton Belmont Middle School (Southwest District)
- Delaware Olentangy Berlin Middle School (Central District)
- Medina Christian Academy (Northeast District)
- Westerville Minerva Park Middle School (Central District)

B. Recommendation to Approve 2023 Football Tournament Regulations

Director Beau Rugg provided the Board of Directors with a draft of 2023 football tournament regulations that included proposed modifications, and it was recommended that the regulations be approved. Besides date changes and modifications made for clarity, it was noted that all tournament contests will be played exclusively on Friday nights through the state semifinals as recommended by the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association. The state finals will remain at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton and will be held November 30-December 2.

C. Recommendation to Approve Modifications to the 2023-24 Sport-by-Sport Regulations for OHSAA Handbook

OHSAA sport administrators reviewed proposed modifications to the sport-by-sport regulations that will appear in the 2023-24 OHSAA Handbook after the staff collaborated on the proposed changes. The staff recommended that the modifications be approved by the Board. Most of the modifications reflect date changes or were made to provide clarity. Some key modifications: In **baseball**, the state tournament will move to a Friday-Sunday format beginning in 2025 and may start that format in 2024 if dates at the state tournament venue are available. In **bowling**, the state tournaments will be moving to HP Lanes in Columbus. In **field hockey**, language previously approved by the Board was included that permits schools to play 18 regular season contests. In **football**, it was noted that it is recommended that schools utilize six-person officiating crews in regular season contests since most OHSAA tournament contests will use that format. In **golf**, cell phones are not permitted to be used as green-reading devices. It was also noted that the non-interscholastic participation date remains in place, but participants can request a waiver to participate in non-interscholastic events during OHSAA tournaments. In **gymnastics**, the state tournament will move to a Saturday-Sunday format. In **lacrosse**, clarity on out-of-season regulations for modified lacrosse was provided. In **soccer**, language previously approved by the Board was included that permits schools to conduct five additional days of non-mandatory coaching starting in mid-July. In **swimming and diving**, clarity was provided on regulations permitting girls to participate on boys teams. In **volleyball**, language pre-

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viously approved by the Board was included that permits participants to play six sets per day per common opponent in varsity and sub-varsity contests.

In addition, staff member Emily Mason reviewed proposed changes to the OHSAA Sports Medicine Regulations that were recently reviewed and recommended by the OHSAA's Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine. Besides making some modifications to activities that occur when utilizing the wet bulb, globe, temperature index (WBGT index), which is based on the combined effects of air temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat and air movement, and updating links to various websites, recommendations include: 1.) high schools should have at least one functional automated external defibrillator (AED) on site; 2.) per state law, schools are reminded that they must have a written emergency action plan (EAP) in place, and 3.) a licensed athletic trainer should be present at all sporting events.

D. Ratification of Recommendation from the Central District Athletic Board to Appoint Interim Class A Representative

Board member Molly Feesler said the Central District Athletic Board (CDAB) has recommended that Lindsey Smith, chief operating officer and athletic administrator at Columbus Wellington School, be appointed as the interim Class A representative on their board through July 31, 2024. If interested in continuing in that position, Ms. Smith would then have to go through the election process in May to fill the position, with the term running August 1, 2024, through July 31, 2026. Ms. Feesler said the CDAB interviewed several candidates for the position and asked that the Board ratify its recommendation.

Motion by David Alvarado, second by Jeff Wheeler to **approve** New Business Consent Items VI. A., VI. B., VI. C. and VI. D. as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

None

VIII. ONCE AROUND

Gerald Cooke of the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association (OHSFCA) provided an update on his association's longstanding scholarship program. He said this year the OHSFCA presented 56 scholarships (five \$1,000 scholarships; 51 \$500 scholarships) totaling \$30,500. In addition, Mr. Cooke noted that the OHSFCA hosted the annual North-South All-Star Classic in late April in Massillon.

Board members thanked outgoing President Bill Nye for his leadership during the 2022-23 school year and wished everyone the best for a great summer. Mr. Nye said he is pleased with the current positive direction of the OHSAA and encouraged everyone to continue to move forward. Board members also thanked the OHSAA staff for their work in making Board members' roles easier by keeping them informed and on top of issues. The staff was also thanked for their work in preparing and organizing Wednesday's All-Districts Boards Meeting. In addition, Board member Paul Stone said he believes the move to DragonFly Athletics is positive.

Motion by Jay Selgo, second by Paul Stone to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 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.)

2023-24 School Year: August 31, 2023; September 29, 2023 (**Friday**); October 26, 2023; January 11, 2024; February 15, 2024; April 25, 2024, and June 6, 2024 (8:30 a.m. at Canal Park in Akron).