

The following are the preliminary minutes from the August 31, 2023, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its September 29, 2023, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (August 31, 2023)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 31, 2023, at the OHSAA Office in Columbus. President Gina Franks 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: Gina Franks, president; Jay Selgo, vice president; David Alvarado; Bo Arnett; Andy Bixler; Molly Feesler; Bill Nye; Paul Stone; Jeff Wheeler (participated virtually but did not vote), 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, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried; Laura Vermilya, controller; staff members Charles Anderson, Kate Barnett, Monroe Britton, Alexis Holderman, Susan Javery, Claire Duesdieker Keohane, Emily Mason, Ronald Sayers, Dustin Ware and Lizzy Wilson, and part-time staff member Preston Miller.

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

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Jay Selgo, second by Molly Feesler to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the August 31, 2023, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 8-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Bo Arnett to **approve** the minutes from the June 8, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting and the July 18, 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.) Maurice Jenkins has resigned as staff accountant and, following interviews, Greg Bossick has been hired as his replacement; 2.) Preston Miller has been hired to fill the vacant part-time position in the OHSAA compliance department, and a part-time staff member will be hired in the officiating/sport management area; 3.) The finance team will host a Microsoft Teams meeting for member school administrators on Sept. 12 to review the 2023 spring sports tournaments; 4.) Insurance contracts for the 2023-24 school year have been completed, with overall costs down 2.39 percent from last year, and 5.) A free OHSAA conference for member school administrators to discuss sporting behavior and recruiting female and minorities will be held Oct. 11 at the Quest Conference Center in Westerville. More information and registration details will be shared with the membership soon.

B. OHSAA Financial Report Through End of 2022-23 Fiscal Year (July 31, 2023)

Controller Laura Vermilya provided the unaudited year-end financial report through July. She said the OHSAA has \$9.1 million of operating cash, and \$17.9 million when including investments and board-designated funds. When counting the latter, the Association can cover 10 months of expenses. She said year-end revenues were \$10,099,008 (projection was \$10,119,922) and year-end expenses were \$2,720,841 (projection was \$3,073,756). It was noted that \$1,017,500 (\$1,250 per school) was provided to the membership via the OHSAA Athletic Enrichment Fund; and the OHSAA paid over \$1 million in team tournament travel expenses; \$485,843 for student catastrophic accident insurance; gave \$192,696 in scholarships to senior student-athletes, and essentially lost \$1.5 million in potential revenues by lowering the costs of student tickets for OHSAA tournament events. 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	\$8,223,596	\$866,361	\$590,101	\$2,695,409	\$12,375,467	\$17,370,182	\$15,030,255	\$2,339,927	
Central	—	—	N/A	\$883,592	\$883,592	\$1,163,139	\$1,100,672	\$62,467	
East	—	—	N/A	\$824,992	\$824,992	\$550,793	\$470,484	\$80,310	
Northeast	—	—	N/A	\$572,462	\$572,462	\$2,013,469	\$2,226,415	— \$212,946	
Northwest	—	—	N/A	\$1,429,376	\$1,429,376	\$1,879,885	\$1,650,193	\$229,692	
Southeast	—	—	N/A	\$692,408	\$692,408	\$714,761	\$582,650	\$132,111	
Southwest	—	—	N/A	\$1,192,437	\$1,192,437	\$1,693,863	\$1,604,584	\$89,280	
Totals	\$8,223,596	\$866,361	\$590,101	\$8,290,676	\$17,970,734	\$25,386,092	\$22,665,253	\$2,720,841	

Board of Directors Minutes (8/31/23) — 2

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Prior Month</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Checking	\$8,223,596	\$7,421,784	\$5,897,065
Savings	\$866,361	\$866,361	\$3,235,596
Concentration Account	—	—	\$2,935,547
Total Operating Cash	\$9,089,957	\$8,288,145	\$12,068,208
Months on Hand	5.0	4.6	7.4
Board Designated Funds	\$590,101	\$714,662	\$702,492
Investments - Morgan Stanley	\$8,290,676	\$8,197,296	\$3,186,359
Total Investments	\$8,880,777	\$8,911,958	\$3,888,851
Months on Hand	4.9	4.9	2.4
Total Cash & Investments on Hand	\$17,970,734	\$17,200,103	\$15,957,059
Months on Hand (Cash & Investments)	10.0	9.5	9.7

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

Motion passed 8-0.

C. Recommendation to Approve OHSAA Investment Policy

Controller Laura Vermilya provided the Board with a copy of the OHSAA Investment Policy. She said the most recent modifications were made and approved by the Board of Directors last year and noted that, regardless of any changes, it was agreed to have the Board approve the policy on an annual basis.

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Jay Selgo to **approve** the investment policy as presented (noting that there are no changes from last year).

Motion passed 8-0.

D. Recommendation to Approve 2023 Fall Tournament Ticket Prices for Spectators

The Board was provided with a draft of proposed ticket prices for spectators for 2023 OHSAA fall tournaments. Controller Laura Vermilya said the major changes from last year include reduced priced tickets for students at the sectional and district levels with higher prices at the regional and state tournament levels (no student price will be offered for state and district golf tournaments). It was noted that all-session and other ticket packages will again be available for the state football finals, and the state girls volleyball tournament is a Ticketmaster site, so HomeTown Ticketing will not be utilized. Details and sales will be available at www.ohsaa.org/tickets.

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Bill Nye to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Recognition of Teall Properties Group

Board President Gina Franks and Executive Director Doug Ute recognized and thanked the OHSAA's corporate sponsorship arm, Teall Properties Group (TPG), for their work during the 2022-23 school year, led by Ohio general manager of TPG Brian Timm. Corporate sponsorships accounted for over 12 percent of the OHSAA's net revenue during the 2022-23 school year.

B. Review of OIAAA Summer Institute

Board ex-officio Glen Gillespie, executive director of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA), said the OIAAA hosted professional development classes for athletic administrators at the OHSAA Office in Columbus in mid-June, with 50 taking classes, including eight who took the exam to become certified athletic administrators (CAA). He thanked the OHSAA for allowing the OIAAA to use its office space for the classes.

C. Review of OHSAA Administrators Workshops

Director Kristin Ronai said the Executive Director's Office conducted two in-person and one virtual administrators workshops earlier this month. The workshops were well attended and feedback was positive. The meetings allow the OHSAA to provide updates and reminders on key rules, regulations and procedures. She thanked Board member Glen Gillespie for his contributions representing the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, Jan Wilking for reviewing the Coaches' Tool Chest and fellow staff members who spoke on compliance, membership services, technology, finance and sport management issues.

D. Review of Schools Approved to Change Athletic Districts

Director Kristin Ronai said the Executive Director's Office has completed the new process to approve or deny requests from schools to change OHSAA athletic districts, and that two schools have been approved to change districts beginning with the 2024-25 school year. Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington has been approved to move from the Southwest to the Southeast district, and Navarre Fairless has been approved to move from the Northeast to the East District. She noted that Crooksville is currently under consideration to move from the Southeast to the East District.

Board of Directors Minutes (8/31/23) — 3

E. Review and Reminder of OHSAA Regional Update Meetings

Director Bob Goldring said the Executive Director's Office has conducted two of the six scheduled Regional Update Meetings this fall. The meetings in Cambridge and Athens have been completed, with upcoming meetings scheduled for Streetsboro (Sept. 6), Westerville (Sept. 11), Findlay (Sept. 14) and Cincinnati (Sept. 19). The meetings allow the OHSAA to provide updates and reminders on key issues, with presentations by Executive Director Doug Ute (general updates); staff members Kristin Ronai (compliance and legislative issues); Beau Rugg (sport management and officiating issues); general counsel Steve Craig (legal issues) and a representative from The Ohio State University's LiFesports program.

F. Dates for 2023-24 OHSAA Appeals Panel Hearings

Staff member Ronald Sayers informed the Board that dates have been set for hearings before the 2023-24 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 (with the exception of Jan. 3 being a Wednesday) and are as follows: Sept. 7; Sept. 21; Oct. 5; Oct. 19; Nov. 16; Dec. 14; Jan. 3; Jan. 18; Feb. 1; Feb. 29; Apr. 4; May 2, and May 30. Appeals hearings have already taken place on Aug. 3 and Aug. 17 along with an expedited appeal on July 24. 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 at www.ohsaa.org.

G. Update on OHSAA Sporting Behavior Initiative

Executive Director Doug Ute informed the Board that the OHSAA is beginning a new sporting behavior initiative in which it is providing both reminders and tools for the membership to utilize to help create better environments at their contests and events. Information will be shared in the OHSAA Administrator Update, posted on the OHSAA website, where the sportsmanship page is being redone, and pushed on the OHSAA's social media platforms. Administrators with The Ohio State University LiFesports program are assisting the OHSAA in this effort.

H. Reminder of OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conference

Executive Director Doug Ute said the OHSAA Foundation will host the annual OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conference Oct. 24 at Athens High School. Students from schools in the OHSAA's Southeast District will be invited to attend, and details are being shared with those schools.

I. 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. **Akron North High School** had student-athletes in boys track & field 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 10-2-5, Forfeitures, Akron North High School was required to forfeit any victorious contests in which the ineligible student-athletes participated. Individual eligible student-athletes, however, were permitted to keep their points, places and any awards earned during these forfeited contests. **Marion Harding High School** had a student-athlete in girls track & field who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility, with regard to scholarship, in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1 Exception 1, Scholarship. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student-athlete participating during the fourth grading period of the 2022-23 season. 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 \$100. **Troy High School** had a football coach violate General Sports Regulation 7.3.1i, Non-Interscholastic Participation, when they indicated that a student who did not participate in off season workouts would not be permitted to participate on the football team when the sports season began. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, Troy High School has been issued a public reprimand. **Chardon High School** violated OHSAA Boys Lacrosse Regulation 6 when the boys lacrosse team participated in more than three scrimmages during the 2022-23 season. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Chardon High School boys lacrosse team will be limited to participating in two scrimmages during the 2023-24 season. **Albany Alexander High School** had three boys golf student-athletes violate Bylaw 4-10-2a, Amateurism, and Bylaw 5-1-1, Awards, when they accepted a cash prize after winning a golf scramble. In order to maintain their amateur status, in accordance with Bylaw 4-10, for the 2023-24 school year, each of the student athletes returned the cash prize to the host of the event. Additionally, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, Alexander High School has been issued a public reprimand. **Lebanon High School** had a student-athlete in boys cross country who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility, with regard to transfer, under Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception 9, Restoration of Eligibility at Public School of Residence, after they transferred to Chess Christian, but 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 during the 2022-23 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 \$100. **Warren Howland High School**

Board of Directors Minutes (8/31/23) — 4

violated Bylaws 4-9-1, 4-9-4 #3, 4-9-4 #4, and 4-9-4 #5, Recruiting, when a football coach had impermissible contact with a prospective student-athlete prior to an application being approved by the school for potential enrollment. The Executive Director's Office has accepted the following self-imposed penalties from Howland High School: 1.) Suspension of the coach for the first scrimmage of the 2023-24 season; and 2.) Conducting a seminar regarding Bylaw 4-9, Recruiting, in conjunction with the OHSAA office for all coaches employed by the school. Additionally, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office, has issued the following sanctions: 1.) Howland High School has been publicly reprimanded, and 2.) Howland High School has been fined \$300. **Akron Ellet Community Learning Center** had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-5-5, Conduct, Character, and Discipline, when they participated in a girls soccer contest while serving a suspension issued by the school district. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Akron Ellet Community Learning Center was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated.

Mr. Sayers also provided the Board with an update on appeals. He said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has made 12 rulings on 11 appeals during three hearings this school year, including one expedited appeal, and five appeals have been granted. 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 2023 Fall Sports Tournament Regulations

Updates in regulations for 2023 fall sport tournaments were provided to the Board by OHSAA sport administrators Dustin Ware (cross country and girls tennis); Emily Mason (field hockey and volleyball); Monroe Britton (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. It was noted that the fine for a school that fails to send a coach or administrator to a tournament draw meeting has increased to \$150, and that the deadline to enter OHSAA tournaments has been moved to a week earlier. In **cross country**, it was noted that the process has been adjusted to get vehicles in and out of Fortress Obetz easier for the state tournament. In **girls tennis**, the state tournament will likely move to The College of Wooster, with the Aspen Racquet Club in Wooster serving as the indoor site if inclement weather occurs. The college's site features 12 new courts, and Aspen has six indoor courts. The state **field hockey** and **volleyball**, tournaments will return to Thomas Worthington High School and Wright State University, respectively. In **golf**, clarity was provided on use of the OHSAA-designated golf app for players to enter their scores when the app is not available along with the tiebreaker system, noting that scores will be compared from play on holes 10 through 18. The state tournaments will return to The Ohio State University Golf Club in Columbus (Division III boys and Division I girls and boys) and North Star Golf Club in Sunbury (Division II boys). In **soccer**, it was noted that a new mercy rule has been implemented for tournament play and that the state finals will be held at either Lower.com Field or Historic Crew Stadium in Columbus depending on the playoff schedule of Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew.

B. Recommendation to Approve 2024 Tournament Division Assignments and Representation in the Competitive Balance Sports of Baseball and Softball

The Board was provided with 2024 tournament division assignments and representation for the Competitive Balance sports of baseball and softball, and staff member Ronald Sayers reviewed the changes. He said the Executive Director's Office recommended that the assignments and representation be approved. The assignments and representation are as follows:

Baseball

Division I, 188 teams (356 males or more from October 2021 enrollments plus Competitive Balance factors)
Division II, 190 teams (200 to 355 males)
Division III, 190 teams (123 to 199 males)
Division IV, 186 team (122 or less males)
Total Teams: 754

Representation from the district to the regional tournaments in baseball for 2024 would be: **Division I:** Combined Central, one East school (Dover) and two Southeast schools (Chillicothe and Logan) 4; Northeast 6; Northwest 2, and Southwest 4; ***Division II:** Central 1; East 2; Northeast 5; Northwest 3; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3; **Division III:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 4; Northwest 3; Southeast 3, and Southwest 3; **Division IV:** Central 1; East 1; Northeast 3; Northwest 6; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3.

*Denotes a coin flip held at this meeting broke the Division II tie and determined that the Southeast would receive 2 representatives in 2024 and the Central 1.

Softball

Division I, 183 teams (329 females or more from October 2021 enrollments plus Competitive Balance factors)

Division II, 185 teams (193 to 328 females)

Division III, 181 teams (115 to 192 females)

Division IV, 181 team (114 or less females)

Total Teams: 730

Representation from the district to the regional tournaments in softball for 2024 would be: **Division I:** Combined Central, one East school (Dresden Tri-Valley) and two Southeast schools (Chillicothe and Logan) 4; Northeast 6; Northwest 2, and Southwest 4; **Division II:** Central 1; East 2; Northeast 5; Northwest 3; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3; **Division III:** Central 2; East 1; Northeast 4; Northwest 3; Southeast 3, and Southwest 3; **Division IV:** Central 1; East 1; Northeast 3; Northwest 6; Southeast 2, and Southwest 3.

C. Recommendation to Approve 2023-24 Membership List

Staff member 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 2023-24 school year and said the staff recommended that these schools be approved. A total of 820 high schools and 748 7th-8th grade schools have submitted the form, including three new schools that were approved at the June 8, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting (Cincinnati DePaul Christo Rey High School; Dayton Belmont Middle School; Delaware Olentangy Berlin Middle School; Medina Christian Academy, and Westerville Minerva Park Middle School).

The form schools return (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.

D. Recommendation to Approve Use of Investigative Services

OHSAA Executive Director Doug 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. He asked Legal Counsel Steve Craig to provide further information on the recommendation.

E. Recommendation to Approve 2023 Fall 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 fall sports of 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. Assignments for winter and spring sports will be shared on a seasonal basis throughout the 2023-24 school year.

F. Recommendation to Approve 2023-24 Media Regulations and Tournament Rights Fees

Director Tim Stried provided the Board with a draft of proposed media regulations and rights fees for broadcasting 2023-24 OHSAA tournament contests and recommended that they be approved. He noted that there were no changes recommended for rights fees. The most significant changes in the media relations included further explanations that telecasts/live streaming cannot occur when OHSAA partners Spectrum or the NFHS Network are broadcasting a contest along with details on when live video is or is not permitted.

G. Ratification of Recommendation from the Northeast District Athletic Board to Appoint Interim 7th-8th Grade Representative and Central District Athletic Board to Appoint Interim 7th-8th Grade Representative

Board member Bill Nye said the Northeast District Athletic Board (NEDAB) has recommended that Bill Conley, principal at Bath Revere Middle School, be appointed as the interim 7th-8th grade representative on their board through July 31, 2024. If interested in continuing in that position, Mr. Conley 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, 2025. Board member Molly Feesler said the Central District Athletic Board has recommended that James Storey, assistant athletic administrator at Worthington Christian School, be appointed as the interim 7th-8th grade representative on their board through July 31, 2024. If interested in continuing in that position, Mr. Storey 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, 2027. Both districts interviewed several candidates for the positions and Mr. Nye and Ms. Feesler asked that the Board ratify its recommendation.

Board of Directors Minutes (8/31/23) — 6

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Paul Stone to **approve** New Business Consent Items VI. A., VI. B., VI. C., VI. D., VI. E., VI. F. and VI. G. as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

A. Recommendation to Approve the Use of MaxPreps in the Sport of Basketball for 2024 Tournament Seeding in All OHSAA Districts

Executive Director Doug Ute said he has been working with the executive staff of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association, and 14 of the 16 districts approved the use of MaxPreps for tournament seeding for 2024. Based on that feedback, Mr. Ute recommended that the OHSAA use MaxPreps for 2024 tournament seeding in the sport of basketball in all districts.

Following a roll call vote, the Board **approved** the recommendation as presented by a 6-2 count (In favor: David Alvarado, Molly Feesler, Bill Nye, Bo Arnett, Jay Selgo and Gina Franks; Opposed: Andy Bixler and Paul Stone).

VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board members said they looked forward to Ms. Franks and Mr. Selgo leading the Board of Directors this year and noted how they like the recently revised Constitution item in which they now serve three-year terms, which provides consistency and allows them to hit the ground running to start the new school year. Board members also thanked the staff for their work, said they are already looking forward to the fall tournaments and wished a speedy recovery to fellow Board member Jeff Wheeler, who missed the meeting due to a health issue.

Board member Paul Stone thanked staff member Dustin Ware for being proactive in helping resolve the traffic flow issues at the state cross country tournament, while Board vice president Jay Selgo thanked everyone for all of their work on the budget and said he is pleased with our momentum in protecting our assets while also giving back to schools. Board ex-officio Glen Gillespie said the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association is finalizing plans for its state conference November 12-14 in Columbus, and Board ex-officio Scott Hunt reminded the Board and staff that the Ohio Department of Education will become the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce on Oct. 3 but will continue to have a relationship with the OHSAA.

There was a unanimous motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 a.m.

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: 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).