

The following are the preliminary minutes from the September 29, 2023, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its October 26, 2023, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (September 29, 2023)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, September 29, 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 (participated virtually; joined at 9:09); Bo Arnett; Andy Bixler; Molly Feesler; Bill Nye; Paul Stone; 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, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried; Laura Vermilya, controller; staff members Charles Anderson, Kate Barnett, Greg Bossick, Monroe Britton, Alexis Holderman, Susan Javery (participated virtually), Keaton Jones, Claire Duesdieker Keohane, Ronald Sayers, Dustin Ware (participated virtually) and Lizzy Wilson.

Others In Attendance: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association, and Dick Kerschbaum, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Jeff Wheeler to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the September 29, 2023, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 8-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Bo Arnett to **approve** the minutes from the August 31, 2023, Board of Directors 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.) Angie Lawler has resigned as manager of officiating technology and has been replaced on an interim basis by Keaton Jones, who has been a part-time employee in the OHSAA officiating department; 2.) Greg Bossick has started work in the office as staff accountant following the resignation of Maurice Jenkins; 3.) Auditors from GBQ Partners, LLC, will be working in the OHSAA Offices through Oct. 6; 4.) The OHSAA will be hosting a free conference on “Addressing Key Issues in High School Sports” on Oct. 11 at the Quest Conference Center in Westerville. Included will be sessions on fan behavior, recruiting more women and minorities into high school sports positions and officiating and The Ohio State University’s LiFEsports program; 5.) The OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conference will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at Athens High School, and registration information has been sent to administrators from Southeast District schools; 6.) The OHSAA Sideline Spirit Championships will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10, at Wittenberg University. Registration information will be available soon; 7.) The OHSAA state tennis tournaments will be moving to the College of Wooster, with the Aspen Racquet Club in Wooster serving as the indoor site should there be inclement weather, and 8.) A contract is expected to be completed soon for a new venue to host the OHSAA state track & field tournament since repairs to the track at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium at The Ohio State University will force the 2024 tournament to move.

B. OHSAA Financial Report Through August 31, 2023

Controller Laura Vermilya provided the financial report through August. Without much income since the beginning of the 2023-24 fiscal year, she said the OHSAA currently has \$8.3 million of operating cash; \$8.8 million in investments and board designated funds, and \$17.1 million in total funds. The latter amount can cover 9.2 months of expenses. 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	\$7,468,613	\$866,356	\$591,653	\$2,681,384	\$11,608,006	\$1,160,585	\$665,324	\$495,261	
Central	—	—	N/A	\$878,994	\$878,994	\$2,816	\$11,499	— \$8,683	
East	—	—	N/A	\$820,699	\$820,699	\$2,629	\$10,023	— \$7,394	
Northeast	—	—	N/A	\$569,484	\$569,484	\$1,824	\$9,554	— \$7,730	
Northwest	—	—	N/A	\$1,421,939	\$1,421,939	\$4,555	\$16,613	— \$12,058	
Southeast	—	—	N/A	\$688,805	\$688,805	\$2,207	\$9,915	— \$7,709	
Southwest	—	—	N/A	\$1,186,232	\$1,186,232	\$3,800	\$26,611	— \$22,811	
Totals	\$7,468,613	\$866,356	\$591,653	\$8,247,537	\$17,174,159	\$1,178,416	\$749,539	\$428,876	

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	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Prior Month</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Checking	\$7,468,613	\$8,223,596	\$6,060,028
Savings	\$866,356	\$866,356	\$3,235,586
Concentration Account	—	—	\$2,937,039
Total Operating Cash	\$8,334,969	\$9,089,952	\$12,232,653
Months on Hand	4.4	4.8	6.5
Board Designated Funds	\$591,653	\$590,735	\$702,730
Investments - Morgan Stanley	<u>\$8,247,537</u>	<u>\$8,290,674</u>	<u>\$3,070,813</u>
Total Investments	\$8,839,190	\$8,881,409	\$3,773,543
Months on Hand	4.7	4.7	2.0
Total Cash & Investments on Hand	\$17,174,159	\$17,971,361	\$16,006,196
Months on Hand (Cash & Investments)	9.2	9.6	8.5
Athletic Enrichment Fund	\$2,046,797	\$3,037,327	—

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Jay Selgo to **approve** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Updates on Fall Sports Tournaments

OHSAA sport administrators provided brief updates to the Board on their respective fall sports tournaments. In **soccer**, it was noted that the MaxPreps rankings will be posted on the OHSAA website should schools want to see that prior to tournament seeding and that the new OHSAA soccer director of officiating development, Holly Heerholtz, has started and is making a positive impact. The Board was also reminded that the site for the state finals is dependent upon the playoff schedule of Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew and could either be at Lower.com Field or Historic Crew Stadium in Columbus. In **cross country**, the state tournament will again be held at Fortress Obetz in suburban Columbus. In **girls tennis**, it was noted that the state tournament will move to the College of Wooster, with Aspen Racquet Club in Wooster serving as the indoor site should there be inclement weather. In **golf**, it was noted that Divisions II and III sectional tournaments were completed this week and Division I sectional tournaments and Divisions II and III districts will be held next week. In **field hockey**, the state tournament will again be hosted by Thomas Worthington High School. In **volleyball**, schools will also have access to the MaxPreps rankings prior to the tournament draw and the Board was reminded that the site of the state tournament, Wright State University, is a Ticketmaster site. And in **football**, the regular season is in week seven with the regional first round of the tournaments right around the corner starting on Oct. 27.

B. Review of OHSAA Regional Update Meetings

Executive Director Doug Ute said the office has concluded the six Regional Update Meetings this fall. The meetings were held in Cambridge, Athens, Streetsboro, Westerville, Findlay and Cincinnati. The meetings allow the OHSAA to provide updates and reminders on key issues, with presentations by Mr. Ute (general updates); staff members Kristin Ronai (compliance and legislative issues) and Beau Rugg (sport management and officiating issues); general counsel Steve Craig (legal issues), and a representative from The Ohio State University's LiFEsports program. Mr. Ute said he was pleased to see more attendance by superintendents and principals this year.

C. NFHS Coaches-of-the-Year Awards

Director Bob Goldring reminded the coaches association representatives in attendance that the coaches associations' nominations for 2022-23 NFHS Coaches-of-the-Year awards are due to the Executive Director's Office by Oct. 9. Once nominations are received, the nominees will go into an on-line site to insert their credentials, with a deadline of Oct. 30. Awards are presented at the state level, and recipients will also be considered for section and national honors. After nominations are reviewed in November and December, the NFHS will announce the coaches-of-the-year in January. He thanked OHSAA Executive Assistant Molly Downard for overseeing the process from the Executive Director's Office.

D. Update on OHSAA Sporting Behavior Initiative

Executive Director Doug Ute updated the Board on the new sporting behavior initiative that the OHSAA has begun 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 and tools have been posted on the OHSAA website, where the sportsmanship page has been redone, and is being shared in the OHSAA Administrator Update and pushed on the OHSAA's social media platforms. Administrators with The Ohio State University LiFEsports program are assisting the OHSAA in this effort. In addition, Mr. Ute said a conference the OHSAA will be hosting for school administrators Oct. 11 in Westerville will have a strong emphasis on discussing how schools can create better environments.

E. 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. **Elyria Catholic High School** violated Bylaws 4-9-2 and 4-9-4 #3, Recruiting, when a football coach had impermissible contact with prospective student-athletes prior to applications being submitted to the school for potential enrollment. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office, has issued the following sanctions: 1) Elyria Catholic High School has been publicly reprimanded; 2) the school has been placed on probation for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year, and 3) the school is required to conduct a recruiting seminar with all members of the football coaching staff. **Cincinnati Riverview East Academy** had a student-athlete in football violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when they participated in a regular season 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, Cincinnati Riverview East Academy was required to forfeit the victorious contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Cincinnati Taft High School** had a student-athlete in football who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility, with regard to transfer, under Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception 9, Transfer to Public School of Residence, after the student transferred to the school in the middle of the 2022 football season. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student-athlete participating in the first half of the regular season during the 2023 football season, as required within Bylaw 4-7-3, Mid-Season Transfer. 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. **Springfield Middle School** had a student-athlete in football violate Bylaw 4-4-5, Scholarship, when they participated in regular season contests after failing to pass four classes in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Springfield Middle School was required to forfeit the victorious contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Gates Mills Hawken High School** had student-athletes who were eligible to qualify for full eligibility, with regard to transfer, under Bylaw 4-7-7, Intra-system Transfer, after they transferred to the school to begin the 2023-24 school year. However, the school failed to submit the requests for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the 15th school day of the 2023-24 school year, as required within Bylaw 4-7-7. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athletes' eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, Gates Mills Hawken High School was fined \$100. **Kansas Lakota High School** violated Bylaw 7-1, Contracts for Athletic Contests, when the school chose to terminate a contract into which the school had entered with an opposing school regarding a football contest during the 2023-24 school year. In accordance with Bylaw 7-1-8 and Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office has fined Kansas Lakota \$500. This fine was required to be paid directly to the opposing school within 30 days of the resolution. **Troy High School** had a student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility, with regard to Residency, under Bylaw 4-6-2 Exception 1, Change of Custody to Primary Relative. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student participating in an interscholastic athletic contest. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, Troy High School was fined \$100. **Cincinnati White Oak Middle School** had a student-athlete in football violate Bylaw 4-4-5, Scholarship, when they participated in regular season contests after failing to pass four classes in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Cincinnati White Oak Middle School was required to forfeit the victorious contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller High School** had a student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility, with regard to transfer, under Bylaw 4-7-7, Intra-system Transfer, after they transferred to the school to begin the 2023-24 school year. However, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the 15th school day of the 2023-24 school year, as required within Bylaw 4-7-7. 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 Archdiocese of Cincinnati was fined \$100. **Cincinnati Withrow High School** had a student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility, with regard to transfer, under Bylaw 4-7-6, Intra-district Transfer, after they transferred to the school to begin the 2023-24 school year. However, the Cincinnati Public School District failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the 15th school day of the 2023-24 school year, as required within Bylaw 4-7-6. 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 Cincinnati Public School District was fined \$100.

Mr. Sayers also provided the Board with an update on appeals. He said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has made 28 rulings on 27 appeals during five hearings this school year, including one expedited appeal, and seven appeals have either been granted or the penalties modified. In addition, OHSAA Legal Counsel Steve Craig provided the Board with an update on current legal cases.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

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VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

None

VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board members thanked long-time employee Angie Lawler for her service at the OHSAA following her resignation from the officiating department. They also said they looked forward to the fall tournaments and expressed good luck to the schools, student-athletes and the OHSAA sport administrators. Board members also thanked the staff for their work, and special thanks were given to staff member Ronald Sayers for his work in providing information used during discussions at the previous day's work session.

There was a unanimous motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 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: 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).