

The following are the preliminary minutes from the October 26, 2023, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its January 11, 2024, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (October 26, 2023)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, October 26, 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, 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, Keaton Jones, Claire Duesdieker Keohane, Emily Mason and Ronald Sayers.

Others In Attendance: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Brian Timm, Ohio general manager, Teall Properties Group; Frank Gamble and Brian Hiscox, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association, and Gerald Cooke and Dick Kerschbaum, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Jay Selgo to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the October 26, 2023, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Jeff Wheeler to **approve** the minutes from the September 29, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

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.) Dr. Kiehl has announced that she is retiring from the OHSAA, effective Dec. 31, 2023; 2.) A contract has been completed for the Dayton Public Schools to host the 2024 state track and field tournament at Welcome Stadium while construction takes place to replace the track at The Ohio State University's Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium in Columbus. The OHSAA expects to return to Jesse Owens for the 2025 and 2026 state tournaments per its existing contract; 3.) With the help of an intern this summer, an Emergency Operations Manual for OHSAA tournament events and for the OHSAA Office has been completed. Once an additional review is provided, the information will be discussed and disseminated with the sport management staff, and 4.) Registered OHSAA contest officials have been notified that the OHSAA's previous logo will become the exclusive logo on OHSAA officials' apparel.

B. Recommendation to Approve Modifications to Staff Holiday Schedule

Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl said that, while the OHSAA staff handbook is still under review, the Executive Director's Office recommends that four holidays (Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Good Friday and Juneteenth) be considered "floating" holidays since some staff members may need to work on those days and/or may choose to use these days at a different time of the year.

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Bo Arnett to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

C. OHSAA Financial Report Through September 30, 2023

Controller Laura Vermilya provided the financial report through September. Without much income since the beginning of the 2023-24 fiscal year, she said the OHSAA currently has \$7.1 million of operating cash; \$8.7 million in investments and board designated funds, and \$15.8 million in total funds. The latter amount can cover 8.5 months of expenses. The financial report is summarized as follows:

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<u>District</u>	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Savings</u>	<u>Board</u>			<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
			<u>Designated</u>	<u>Investment</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Gross Revenue</u>	<u>Gross Expenses</u>	<u>Net Profit/Loss</u>
OHSAA Office	\$6,281,827	\$866,356	\$592,546	\$2,645,794	\$10,386,523	\$1,264,361	\$1,382,025	— \$117,664
Central	—	—	N/A	\$867,328	\$867,328	\$5,782	\$37,909	— \$32,127
East	—	—	N/A	\$809,806	\$809,806	\$5,398	\$28,611	— \$23,212
Northeast	—	—	N/A	\$561,925	\$561,925	\$3,746	\$25,588	— \$21,842
Northwest	—	—	N/A	\$1,403,066	\$1,403,066	\$9,353	\$50,933	— \$41,580
Southeast	—	—	N/A	\$679,663	\$679,663	\$4,531	\$26,171	— \$21,640
Southwest	—	—	N/A	\$1,170,488	\$1,170,488	\$7,803	\$69,857	— \$62,054
Totals	\$6,281,827	\$866,356	\$592,546	\$8,138,070	\$15,878,799	\$1,300,974	\$1,621,094	— \$320,119

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Prior Month</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
Checking	\$6,281,827	\$7,401,759	\$5,032,988
Savings	\$866,356	\$866,356	\$3,235,586
Concentration Account	—	—	\$2,938,628
Total Operating Cash	\$7,148,183	\$8,268,115	\$11,207,202
Months on Hand	3.8	4.4	6.2
Board Designated Funds	\$592,546	\$591,653	\$702,730
Investments - Morgan Stanley	\$8,138,070	\$8,247,537	\$2,841,308
Total Investments	\$8,730,616	\$8,839,190	\$3,544,038
Months on Hand	4.7	4.7	2.0
Total Cash & Investments on Hand	\$15,878,799	\$17,107,305	\$14,751,240
Months on Hand (Cash & Investments)	8.5	9.1	8.2
Athletic Enrichment Fund	\$2,055,595	\$2,046,797	—

Motion by Bill Nye, second by David Alvarado to **approve** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

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 site for the state finals will be at Historic Crew Stadium and not Lower.com Field due to the playoff schedule of Major League Soccer’s Columbus Crew. In **cross country**, the state tournament is approaching and again will be held at Fortress Obetz in suburban Columbus. In **girls tennis**, the state tournament was successful after the move to the College of Wooster, with Aspen Racquet Club in Wooster serving as the indoor site on the second day due to inclement weather. In **golf**, the two week-ends of the state tournaments have been completed, with Division II boys being held at NorthStar Golf Club in Sunbury and the other tournaments (Divisions III and I boys and Divisions II and I girls) being held at The Ohio State University’s Scarlet and Gray courses. The OHSAA will be securing a new site for the latter tournaments following OSU’s decision not to host further state tournaments. In **field hockey**, the state tournament is upcoming and will again be hosted by Thomas Worthington High School. In **volleyball**, the state tournament will again be held at Wright State University, which is a Ticketmaster site. And in **football**, the the regional first round of the tournaments begins tomorrow.

B. Update on Cincinnati Hillcrest Academy’s Membership

Staff member Ronald Sayers informed the Board that Cincinnati Hillcrest Academy closed this past summer and therefore is no longer a member of the OHSAA. The academy was set up to work with at-risk students.

C. Review of OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conference

Director Ute said the OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conference was held at Athens High School in The Plains on Tuesday (Oct. 24), and he said the conference went very well and was well attended with approximately 300 students. Featured speakers were Dan Leffingwell, a former coach, teacher, principal and superintendent who is currently Dean of Engineering and Business at Washington State Community College in Marietta; Jimmy Burrow, a former college football coach whose son is Joe Burrow, quarterback of the Cincinnati Bengals; Jim Clemons, a former basketball standout who won OHSAA and NBA championships and was an assistant coach for nine Bulls and Lakers NBA championships teams; Otis Winston, a former OHSAA state high jump champion who played basketball at Ohio State and is now a professional actor, writer and producer, and Harvey Alston, coordinator of the OHSAA student leadership conferences and nationally known speaker. Mr Ute thanked Mr. Alston for coordinating the event, Dr. Kiehl for her oversight of the OHSAA Foundation and Athens High School for serving as host.

D. Update on OHSAA Sporting Behavior Initiative

Like last month, 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 the

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OHSAA Conference held in Westerville on Oct. 11 for member school administrators included sessions where improving fan behavior was discussed, and the conference was well received.

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. **Canton McKinley High School** had a student-athlete violate Volleyball Regulation 1.6, Individual Limitation, when the student-athlete participated in a seventh set in one day against a single opponent. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Canton McKinley High School was required to forfeit the match in which the student-athlete participated in their seventh set. **Wauseon 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 subjects in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Wauseon Middle School was required to forfeit any contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Medina Christian Academy** had a student-athlete in girls volleyball 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, Medina Christian Academy was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Perrysburg Junior High School** had a student-athlete in football violate General Sports Regulation 7.4.1 when they participated in a flag football tournament from September 21 to September 23. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office has issued a formal reprimand to Perrysburg Junior High School. **Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller High School** had a student-athlete in boys volleyball 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, after enrolling at an OHSAA member school without a parent residing in Ohio. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to permitting the student to participate in interscholastic athletics during the 2022-23 school year, as required within Bylaw 4-6-2. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller High School was fined \$100. **Canal Winchester High School** had a student-athlete in girls golf violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, when they participated in regular season contests without being enrolled in and attending Canal Winchester High School full time. Further, the student did not meet the requirements of any of the enumerated exceptions codified within Bylaw 4-3-1. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, Canal Winchester High School was required to forfeit any contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. Individual eligible student-athletes, however, were permitted to keep their points, places and any awards earned during these forfeited contests. **West Union High School** violated Bylaws 4-9-2 and 4-9-4 #3, Recruiting, when a wrestling coach had impermissible contact with a prospective student-athlete prior to an application being submitted to the school for potential enrollment. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the Executive Director's Office, has accepted the following self-imposed sanctions: 1) the wrestling coach shall be prohibited to coach or attend wrestling contests prior to January 2024; 2) the wrestling coach must complete an educational seminar based on the OHSAA recruiting bylaw; and 3) the wrestling coach is prohibited from having any contact with the student involved, nor can the coach attend wrestling contests involving that student's school unless West Union High School is participating in that contest. **Jefferson Area High School** had a football coach violate Bylaw 6-1-2 when they began coaching prior to obtaining a Pupil Activity Permit through the Ohio Department of Education. In accordance with General Sports Regulation 4, the coach has been removed from coaching until the coach's application for a Pupil Activity Permit has been approved by the Ohio Department of Education. Additionally, Jefferson Area High School has been fined \$250. **Kirtland High School** had a student-athlete violate General Sports Regulation 7.2 and Soccer Regulation 6 when they participated in a non-interscholastic contest after establishing themselves as a member of the Kirtland High School boys soccer team. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athlete was suspended for two regular season contests and Kirtland High School's first OHSAA tournament contest. **Columbus Briggs High School** had a student-athlete in boys soccer 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, Columbus Briggs High School was required to forfeit any contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **St. Henry High School** had a student-athlete who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility, with regard to the international student bylaw, under Bylaw 4-8-1 Exception 1, International Exchange Student. However, St. Henry High School failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to permitting the student to participate in interscholastic athletics, as required within Bylaw 4-8-1. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, St. Henry High School was fined \$100. **Akron Ellet High School** 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, Akron Ellet High School was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Columbus Briggs 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, Restoration of Eligibility at Public School

of Residence, after the student's participation opportunity afforded to them, pursuant to state law, changed in the middle of the 2023-24 football season. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student-athlete resuming participation with Columbus Briggs High School during the 2023-24 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, Columbus Briggs High School was fined \$100. **Wauseon Middle School** had a student-athlete in boys cross country violate Bylaw 4-2-2, Age, when they participated in contests during the 2023-24 school year after attaining the age of 15 prior to August 1, 2023. Further, the student did not meet the requirements of any of the enumerated exceptions codified within Bylaw 4-2-2. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, Wauseon Middle School was required to forfeit any contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. Individual eligible student-athletes, however, were permitted to keep their points, places and any awards earned during these forfeited contests. 1. Canal Fulton Northwest Middle School had a student-athlete in boys cross country violate Bylaw 4-4-5, Scholarship, when they participated in regular season contests after failing to pass four subjects in the immediately preceding grading period. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, Canal Fulton Northwest Middle School was required to forfeit any contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. Individual eligible student-athletes, however, were permitted to keep their points, places and any awards earned during these forfeited contests. **Richmond Heights High School** had student-athletes in football violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, when they participated in regular season contests without being enrolled in and attending Richmond Heights High School full time. Further, the students did not meet the requirements of any of the enumerated exceptions codified within Bylaw 4-3-1. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Richmond Heights High School was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athletes participated. **Youngstown Cardinal Mooney High School** had a student-athlete in football who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility, with regard to transfer, under Bylaw 4-7-5, Transfer from Poor Performing School, after the student transferred to Youngstown Cardinal Mooney High School to begin the 2023-24 school year. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student-athlete participating after the first 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests had been competed. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athlete's eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, Youngstown Cardinal Mooney High School was fined \$100. **Mansfield Senior High School** had a student-athlete in varsity football violate Bylaw 4-7-3, Mid-Season Transfer, when he participated in four regular season football contests for which he was ineligible. During the 2022-23 school year, the student-athlete transferred to Mansfield Senior after playing in several regular season football contests for his former school. After the transfer occurred, Mansfield Senior's football team competed in one more regular season contest, plus the OHSAA postseason tournament, for which the student was ineligible per Bylaw 4-7-3. In accordance that Bylaw, the student-athlete was required to finish fulfilling his five-game football transfer consequence during the first four contests of the 2023-24 football season, and would regain his eligibility, with regard to transfer, starting with regular season contest number five. However, the school instead permitted him to play in the first five games of the season and began holding him out for the second half of the 2023 regular season. This resulted in the Executive Director's Office issuing forfeitures for the two contests in which the student-athlete participated and in which Mansfield Senior was victorious during their first four games of the season. The school appealed that ruling and, in accordance with Bylaw 4-7-2, Note 3, the OHSAA Appeals Panel granted an equitable shift of the student-athlete's period of ineligibility to the regular season contests six through nine of the 2023-24 football season, and the forfeitures were overturned. However, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, Mansfield Senior High School was fined \$10,000. The Executive Director's Office may waive \$2,500 of the fine contingent upon Mansfield Senior providing the Executive Director's Office with proof of internal corrective measures being implemented related to the review of student eligibility.

Mr. Sayers also provided the Board with an update on appeals. He said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has made 36 rulings on 35 appeals during seven hearings this school year, including one expedited appeal, and nine 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

A. Recommendation to Approve Modifications to 2023-24 Girls Lacrosse Regulations

Staff member Kate Barnett informed the Board that NFHS Girls Lacrosse Regulations approved this summer changed the rule in which contests will now be contested in quarters rather than halves. This change meant that OHSAA regulations on the number of quarters in which a student may participate in a season and during a day also needed to be modified, and it was recommended at this meeting that those changes be officially approved.

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Jeff Wheeler to **approve** the recommendations as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

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It was noted that the regulations that appear in the 2023-24 OHSAA Handbook and posted on the OHSAA website already reflect these changes.

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

Board member Molly Feesler said the Central District Athletic Board has recommended that Matt Gallatin, Ed.D., principal at Delaware Buckeye Valley 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, Dr. Gallatin 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. Ms. Feesler asked that the Board ratify this recommendation.

Motion by Paul Stone, second by Bo Arnett to **ratify** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

It was noted that it was discovered that, after the previous request and approval by the Board for an interim representative for this position, the school from which that person worked is not a member of the OHSAA (that school's high school is a member), therefore disqualifying that person for the position.

VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

A. Recommendation to Approve 2024 Winter Sports Tournament Regulations

Updates in regulations for 2024 winter sport tournaments were provided to the Board by Executive Director Doug Ute (basketball) and OHSAA sport administrators Emily Mason (bowling), Kate Barnett (gymnastics and swimming & diving), Monroe Britton (ice hockey) and Dustin Ware (boys wrestling and girls wrestling), and the staff recommended that the modified regulations be approved. Most updates reflect date changes or modifications made for clarity purposes. In **basketball**, it was noted that regional sites and regional and state draws have already taken place, an initial meeting regarding the state basketball tournaments at the University of Dayton has occurred and Mr. Ute thanked the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association for their work with MaxPreps, whose RPI system will be used for seeding this year. In **bowling**, clarity was provided on practices for sectional and district tournaments and says "It is up to the facility to determine if practice is permitted at the site. If the facility is able to provide the opportunity for practice to participating teams, and if the tournament site is the home facility for a participating team, schools are not permitted to practice on the established oil pattern at that facility." The state tournament has moved to HP Lanes in Columbus. In **gymnastics**, it was noted that the state tournament at Hilliard Bradley High School will move to a Saturday-Sunday format. In **swimming & diving**, it was noted that a change was made in the fine amount for changes to entries that occur after the deadline (now \$100); clarity was provided on the number of dives a competitor must complete at the district level (11 dives), and 16 para-swimmers per event will now qualify for the state tournament, with district tournaments providing a "last chance" opportunity for qualification. In **ice hockey**, clarity is needed on the exact dates and times of the state tournament at Columbus' Nationwide Arena since the National Hockey League's Columbus Blue Jackets have a home game scheduled on Saturday, Mar. 12, at 12:30. In **girls wrestling**, it was noted that it has yet to be determined if an extra pre-state tournament round is needed since the number of participants has not been determined.

Motion by Bo Arnett, second by Jay Selgo to **approve** the winter sports tournament regulations as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

B. Recommendation to Approve 2024 Winter Sports Regional and State Tournament Officiating Representation

Director Beau Rugg provided the Board with the 2024 representation for officials assignments for regional and state tournaments in the winter sports of basketball (regional and state tournaments); ice hockey (state tournament); swimming & diving (state tournament), and wrestling (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 middle of October. Assignments for spring sports will be shared later this school year.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by David Alvarado to **approve** the tournament officiating representation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

None

VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board members thanked the staff for their work on and preparations for fall tournaments and wished the best to the participating student-athletes. Board members also thanked Chief Operating Officer Kim Kiehl for her service to the OHSAA and wished her the best for her upcoming retirement. Special thanks were again given to staff member Ronald Sayers for his work in providing information used during discussions at the previous day's Board of Directors Work Session and to the staff in general for their work in preparing for the board work sessions and meetings. Board Ex-officio member Glen Gillespie said the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA) state conference is Nov. 12-14 in Columbus. Board Ex-Officio member Scott Hunt said the Ohio Department of Education is now officially the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce and that the state board of education is now a separate entity that oversees licensure, professional conduct, teacher effectiveness (evaluation systems), territory transfers and the Teacher-of-the-Year program. The state board will hire a state superintendent of public instruction, who will serve in an advisory role to the director of the new department. Since the newly organized department is overseen by the governor, Mr. DeWine will soon appoint a director and two deputy directors.

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Molly Feesler to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 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: January 11, 2024; February 15, 2024; April 25, 2024, and June 6, 2024 (8:30 a.m. at Canal Park in Akron).