

The following are the preliminary minutes from the January 11, 2024, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its February 15, 2024, meeting.

## OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (January 11, 2024)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 11, 2024, 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. Among those introduced were Joe Fraley, who will take over for retiring OHSAA Legal Counsel Steve Craig beginning with the 2024-25 school year, and Steve Hale, who recently became the new secretary of the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association.

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

**Board Member Excused:** Paul Stone.

**Staff Members In Attendance:** Doug Ute, executive director; Laura Vermilya, senior director of finance; directors Bob Goldring, Kristin Ronai, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried, and staff members Charles Anderson, Monroe Britton, Alexis Holderman, Keaton Jones, Emily Mason, Ronald Sayers and Dustin Ware.

**Others In Attendance:** Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Joe Fraley, incoming OHSAA legal counsel; Brian Timm, Ohio general manager, Teall Properties Group; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Dugan Hill, Ohio Association of Cross Country and Track & Field Coaches, and Gerald Cooke and Steve Hale, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association.

### I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Andy Bixler second by Jay Selgo to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the January 11, 2024, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 8-0.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Bo Arnett to **approve** the minutes from the October 23, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting; the November 30, 2023, Board of Directors Special Meeting, and the December 20, 2023, Board of Directors Special Virtual Meeting.

Motion passed 8-0.

### III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

#### A. Miscellaneous Issues

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya reported that Claudia Markoff has been hired to fill the vacant OHSAA customer service manager position. She will be joining OHSAA on January 22 with primary responsibilities of managing our ticket process, working closely with HomeTown Ticketing, the OHSAA's virtual ticketing partner, and ensuring a quality purchase experience for fans.

#### B. Recommendation to Approve OHSAA Audit

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya provided the Board with a copy of the 2022-23 OHSAA audit that was prepared by representatives of GBQ Partners, LLC, of Columbus. The audit included the OHSAA office and the six District Athletic Boards from August 1, 2022, to July 31, 2023. Ms. Vermilya noted that the audit included an unmodified, clean opinion, the best that can be received. The auditors also sited no audit adjustments were made, nor did they find any material misstatements or significant deficiencies. She said the OHSAA Finance Committee reviewed the audit and recommended that the Board approve the report.

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

Motion passed 8-0.

#### C. OHSAA Financial Report Through December 31, 2023

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya provided the financial report through December. The OHSAA currently has \$11.7 million of operating cash; \$9.1 million in investments and board designated funds, and \$20.8 million in total funds. The latter amount can cover 11.1 months of expenses. Ms. Vermilya said the OHSAA exceeded its expected revenues for the recently completed fall tournaments, but there are some pending expenses from those tournaments, and it was noted that the \$1.2 million in travel reimbursements sent to schools for advancing to regional and state tournaments this past fall is not reflected in the report. The financial report is summarized as follows:

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District	Checking	Savings	Board			Year to Date	Year to Date	Year to Date
			Designated	Investment	Total	Gross Revenue	Gross Expenses	Net Profit/Loss
OHSAA Office	\$10,867,550	\$866,346	\$592,542	\$2,764,105	\$15,094,544	\$9,933,966	\$6,143,113	\$3,790,853
Central	—	—	N/A	\$906,111	\$906,111	\$356,302	\$371,814	— \$15,512
East	—	—	N/A	\$846,018	\$846,018	\$131,820	\$136,119	— \$4,299
Northeast	—	—	N/A	\$587,052	\$587,052	\$652,959	\$687,592	— \$34,633
Northwest	—	—	N/A	\$1,465,805	\$1,465,805	\$508,509	\$465,523	\$42,986
Southeast	—	—	N/A	\$710,055	\$710,055	\$170,976	\$201,163	— \$30,187
Southwest	—	—	N/A	\$1,222,828	\$1,222,828	\$553,052	\$522,856	\$30,196
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$10,867,550</b>	<b>\$866,346</b>	<b>\$592,542</b>	<b>\$8,501,974</b>	<b>\$20,832,413</b>	<b>\$12,307,584</b>	<b>\$8,528,180</b>	<b>\$3,779,404</b>

	Actual	Prior Month	Prior Year
Checking	\$10,867,550	\$10,756,499	\$12,421,728
Savings	\$866,346	\$866,346	\$866,397
Concentration Account	—	—	—
<b>Total Operating Cash</b>	<b>\$11,733,897</b>	<b>\$11,622,845</b>	<b>\$13,288,125</b>
Months on Hand	6.3	6.2	7.4
Board Designated Funds	\$596,542	\$595,600	\$705,670
Investments - Morgan Stanley	\$8,501,974	\$8,327,173	\$5,003,057
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$9,098,516</b>	<b>\$8,922,773</b>	<b>\$5,708,727</b>
Months on Hand	4.9	4.8	3.2
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments on Hand</b>	<b>\$20,832,413</b>	<b>\$20,545,624</b>	<b>\$18,996,859</b>
Months on Hand (Cash & Investments)	11.1	11.0	10.5
Athletic Enrichment Fund	\$2,082,983	\$2,073,705	—

### D. Recommendation to Approve Transfer of \$400,000 from OHSAA Operating Cash to Athletic Enrichment Fund

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya said the Executive Director's Office recommended transferring \$400,000 from OHSAA Operating Cash to the OHSAA Athletic Enrichment Fund.

Motion by Jay Selgo, second by Jeff Wheeler to **approve** the financial report in Financial Item III C. and the recommendation in Financial Item III D. as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

**Note on the OHSAA Athletic Enrichment Fund:** At its April 13, 2023, meeting, the Board of Directors approved a recommendation that the OHSAA establish an 'athletic enrichment' fund for the purpose of providing a financial contribution, on an equitable basis, to each member high school's athletic department to assist with costs of equipment, uniforms, game transportation, officials and improving student sportsmanship and adult fan behavior. The fund was established with an initial transfer from OHSAA operations of \$3 million. On an annual basis, the OHSAA Board of Directors shall approve a transfer to the fund from operating cash. The fund will be invested conservatively to earn interest. Annually, the Board of Directors will approve the contribution amount to each school. To qualify, member schools must have returned their membership card by June 30 and have no outstanding member dues or fines.

## IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

### A. Review of 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 state finals went well after moving to Historic Crew Stadium due to the playoff schedule of Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew at Lower.com Field. In addition, new OHSAA soccer director of officiating development, Holly Heerholtz, made a positive impact. In **cross country**, the state tournament was a success and held at Fortress Obetz in suburban Columbus, and compliments were extended to the new tournament manager for his work, Dugan Hill. 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 weekends of the state tournaments were completed without any major weather issues, 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 is securing a new site for the latter tournaments following OSU's decision not to host further state tournaments. In **field hockey**, the state tournament went well and was again hosted by Thomas Worthington High School, which ended up repeating as the state champion. In **girls volleyball**, the state tournament returned to Wright State University, where there was record attendance. And in **football**, the state tournament was again a success after being held at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton.

### B. Review of 2022-23 NFHS Ohio Coaches-of-the-Year

Director Bob Goldring said that the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches-of-the-Year honorees have been selected for the 2022-23 school year at the state and section (denoted with an \*) levels. Girls Ohio coaches-of-the-year are Jack Purtell (basketball, Reynoldsburg); Brian Baxter (bowl-

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ing, Bowerston Connotton Valley); Ashley Boorstein (field hockey, Shaker Heights); \*Charles “CD” Butcher (golf, Dublin Jerome); Maria Schneider (gymnastics, Brecksville-Broadview Heights); Michele Sorensen (lacrosse, Beaver Creek); Pamela Malone (soccer, Chagrin Falls); Teresa Ruby (softball, Wheelersburg); \*Kim Pacella (tennis, Toledo Notre Dame); \*Roger Whittaker (track & field, Gahanna Lincoln), and Kara Oster (volleyball, Mentor Lake Catholic). Boys Ohio coaches-of-the-year are Lucas Daugherty (baseball, Apple Creek Waynedale); \*Ed Calo (baseball, Westerville South); \*Chuck Kyle (football, Cleveland St. Ignatius); \*Trevor Ward (golf, Harrison); Steve Morris (ice hockey, Amherst Steele); Chris Dore (soccer, Avon); Brent Ransom (swimming & diving, Toledo St. Francis); Marc Thomas (tennis, New Albany), and \*Brian Becher (wrestling, Archbold). Some of the section winners may be selected as national coaches-of-the-year, which will be announced by the NFHS soon.

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

The Board was provided with a list of the positions that will be up for election on District Athletic Boards for both terms that are expiring and terms that are unexpired. District Athletic Board (six-year terms, August 1, 2024-July 31, 2030) elections that will take place to fill expiring terms are: **Central**, Class AAA representative (Molly Feesler, incumbent); **East**, Class AA representative (Jeff Wheeler, incumbent); **Northeast**, Class A representative (Bill Nye, incumbent); **Northwest**, Class AA representative (Jeff Snyder, incumbent); **Southeast**, Class AAA representative (Bo Arnett, incumbent), and **Southwest**, Class A representative (Matt Macy, incumbent). The three unexpired terms are: **Central**, Class A representative (Lindsey Smith, 2023-24 interim), term August 1, 2024, to July 31, 2026, and 7th-8th grade representative (Matt Gallatin, 2023-24 interim), term August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2027, and **Northeast**, 7th-8th grade representative (Bill Conley, 2023-24 interim), term August 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025.

Later this winter, information on the submission of petitions to run for the District Athletic Board positions will be sent directly to superintendents, principals and athletic administrators in the districts and classes in which there are openings. Voting will take place on-line between May 1 and 15.

It was noted that three of the four new members will begin three-year terms on the Board of Directors on August 1, 2024, as appointed by their respective OHSAA district athletic boards. Walt Skaggs will be the Class AAA representative from the **East**; Matt Rodriguez will be the Class AA representative from the **Northeast**, and Mark Rose will be the Class A representative from the **Southeast**. In addition, Stephanie Evans (**Southeast**) will be the female representative on the Board of Directors, with her position based on the predetermined statewide rotation. Returning to the Board of Directors will be Molly Feesler, Class AAA representative, **Central** district (pending her running and retaining her district athletic board position); Jay Selgo, Class AA representative, **Northwest** district; Andy Bixler, Class A representative, **Southwest** district; David Alvarado, ethnic-minority representative, **Northwest** district, and Paul Stone, 7th-8th grade representative, **Southwest** district. Ex-Officio Board of Directors members Scott Hunt (Ohio Department of Education & Workforce), and Glen Gillespie (Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association) will also return.

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

Director Bob Goldring reviewed the Ohio nominees who have been or will be nominated for National Federation of State High School Association annual awards. The NFHS State Award for Outstanding Service, presented in each state to recognize long-standing service and contributions to interscholastic athletics, will go to Dr. Randy Wroble, who has served as the medical director of the OHSAA state wrestling tournament since 1990 and was chair of the OHSAA Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine from 2002 until this past October. Dr. Wroble will be recognized at the 2024 OHSAA Boys State Basketball Tournament. The OHSAA has nominated former executive director Dan Ross for the NFHS Hall of Fame in the administrator's category. Dr. Ross led the OHSAA to unprecedented accomplishments and national acclaim between 2004 and 2018 and, if selected, will be recognized during the NFHS Summer Meeting in Boston. And the NFHS Spirit of Sport Award, presented at the state, regional and national levels, recognizes an individual(s) who has gone beyond the normal everyday expectations of assisting others within the school or community or has overcome tremendous odds or adversity. The OHSAA will be nominating a to-be-determined student-athlete from a member high school later this month.

#### E. Crooksville High School Approved to Change Athletic Districts

Director Kristin Ronai informed the Board that the Executive Director's Office has continued the new process to approve or deny requests from schools to change OHSAA athletic districts, and that Crooksville High School has been approved to move from the Southeast to the East District beginning with the 2024-25 school year. Two schools that were previously approved to change districts beginning with the 2024-25 school year are Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington from the Southwest to the Southeast district and Navarre Fairless from the Northeast to the East District.

#### F. Update on Pickerington High School North Student Selected to NFHS National Student Advisory Committee

Executive Director Doug Ute informed the Board that Pickerington High School North junior Lexi Williams has been selected as one of 16 students to serve on the inaugural National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) National Student Advisory Committee. The 16 student leaders, all juniors in classifica-

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tion and all involved in sports or performing arts activities in their schools, will be attending a number of meetings throughout the 2024 calendar year to provide the NFHS student perspectives on participation in high school sports and performing arts. This is the first time the NFHS has created an advisory group composed solely of students. Williams was an Ohio ambassador who attended the NFHS National Student Leadership Summit last summer in Indianapolis and is involved in a number of extracurricular activities at her school.

### G. Update on Infractions, Appeals, Legal Cases and Legislative Issues

Staff member Ronald Sayers provided the Board with a list of schools that have recently violated OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations. **Ontario High School** violated General Sports Regulation 7.10.1, Individual Skill Instruction, when more than three student-athletes per coach participated in boys basketball skill instruction prior to the season beginning. The Executive Director's office accepted Ontario's self-imposed penalties of 1. Cancellation of scheduled open gyms; 2. Requiring the completion of the basketball rules interpretation meeting of all boys basketball staff members; and 3. Delaying the start of mandatory boys basketball practices by three days. Additionally, the Executive Director's Office, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, prohibited the conducting of open gym activities during the three-day delay in mandatory practices. 2.

**Worthington Kilbourne High School** had a student-athlete in girls soccer who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility, with regard to transfer, under Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception 1, Bona Fide Move into a New Public School District. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student-athlete participating during the second half of the 2023-24 girls soccer 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, Worthington Kilbourne High School was fined \$100. **New Riegel High School** had three student-athletes in cross country violate Bylaw 3-3-1, School Representative Must Accompany Team, when they participated in a cross country invitational without a coach or school administrator present. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, New Riegel High School was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athletes participated, and each student-athlete was required to forfeit all points, records, awards and qualifying positions earned during the contest. **Cincinnati Woodward High School** violated Basketball Regulation 1.1.2, Boys Basketball Start Date, when the boys basketball team conducted a mandatory practice prior to the official start date outlined within the regulation. The Executive Director's Office accepted Woodward's self-imposed penalties of 1. Delaying the start of mandatory boys basketball practices by one day and 2. Reducing the number of summer days permitted for the boys basketball team from May 15, 2024, to July 31, 2024, from 13 to 12. **Wadsworth High School** violated General Sports Regulation 19.3, 7th & 8th Grade Participation, when an 8th grade student-athlete participated in football practices with the high school's team. The Executive Director's office accepted the self-imposed penalty of a formal reprimand of the high school football coach by the Wadsworth City School District. **Toledo Whitmer High School** had a student-athlete in football violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, when they participated in regular season contests without being enrolled in and attending Toledo Whitmer 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 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Toledo Whitmer High School was required to forfeit any contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. 7. Mt. Blanchard Riverdale High School had a student-athlete in girls basketball violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, when they participated in a scrimmage without being enrolled in and attending Mt. Blanchard Riverdale 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 10-2-1, Forfeitures, Mt. Blanchard Riverdale High School was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. However, no forfeiture was required since the contest was a scrimmage and scrimmages do not carry any "won-lost" statistics. **Dayton Dunbar High School** violated General Sports Regulation 19.3, 7th & 8th Grade Participation, when a middle school basketball team from Dayton Wogaman Middle School practiced with Dayton Dunbar High School's boys basketball team. The Executive Director's office accepted the self-imposed penalty of formal reprimands of both the Dayton Dunbar High School and Wogaman Middle School boys basketball coaches by the Dayton Public School District. **Dayton Thurgood Marshall High School** had two student-athletes in boys basketball 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, Dayton Thurgood Marshall High School was required to forfeit the contests in which the ineligible student-athletes participated. **West Chester Lakota West High School** had a student-athlete in boys basketball who was eligible to qualify for full eligibility, with regard to transfer, under Bylaw 4-7-2 Exception 9, Transfer to Public School of Residence. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the student-athlete participating with West Chester Lakota West High School at the start of the 2023-24 boys basketball 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, West Chester Lakota West High School was fined \$100. **Streetsboro Middle School** violated Bylaw 6-1-3, Board Approval of Coaches, when the boys wrestling team was coached by a non-board approved coach during a contest. The Executive Director's office has accepted the self-imposed

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penalty of formal education for the Streetsboro Middle School wrestling coaching staff. **Dayton Meadowdale High School** had a student-athlete in boys wrestling 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, Dayton Meadowdale High School was required to forfeit the 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. **Lodi Cloverleaf High School** had four student-athletes violate Bylaw 3-5-1, Student Participation and Physical Examination Forms, when they participated in regular season boys and girls bowling contests prior to providing the school with a physical examination form signed by a medical examiner. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, Lodi Cloverleaf High School was required to forfeit the 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.

Mr. Sayers also provided the Board with an update on appeals. He said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has made 49 rulings on 48 appeals during 10 hearings this school year, and 16 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 and Director Kristin Ronai provided the Board with an update on current legislative issues.

### V. OLD BUSINESS

None

### VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)

- A. Recommendation to Approve 2024 Girls Wrestling Tournament Regulations, Including the Addition of a Pre-Regional Round of the Tournament  
Updates in regulations for the 2024 girls wrestling tournament were provided to the Board by OHSAA sport administrator Dustin Ware, and the Executive Director's Office recommended that the modified regulations be approved. Most updates reflect date changes or modifications made for clarity purposes. Other changes included an updated alternate selection procedure, while the biggest change included the recommendation to add a pre-regional round of the tournament due to the growth in girls wrestling.
- B. Recommendation to Approve 2024 Track & Field Tournament Regulations  
Updates in regulations for the 2024 track & field tournament were provided to the Board by OHSAA sport administrators BJ Duckworth and Dustin Ware, and the Executive Director's Office recommended that the modified regulations be approved. Most updates reflect date changes or modifications made for clarity purposes. Other prominent changes include 1.) The return of the requirement that all athletes competing in running events wear a number assigned to them by meet management on the back of their uniform, and these numbers must be provided to the referee and all meet umpires. 2.) A method for conducting semifinal heats in running events, including the state tournament, which will move to Dayton Welcome Stadium this year due to construction at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium at The Ohio State University, and Dayton only has eight lanes (as compared to nine at Ohio State). 3.) Electronic starting equipment is recommended to be used at district tournaments (but is optional), and it will be required at the district, regional and state tournaments beginning in 2025. 4.) Regions 2 (Division I) and 7 (Division III) have combined districts participating and traditionally the OHSAA has rotated the sites from year to year. However, a common site will be utilized moving forward, with the Region 2 site to be determined and Region 7 to be held at Muskingum University. 5.) Due to the state tournament moving to the Dayton Welcome Stadium and with timed heats being utilized for the running events, the state tournament will move to a three-day format beginning Thursday, May 30, and running through Saturday, June 1.
- C. Recommendation to Approve 2024 Spring 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 spring sports of baseball, softball and boys volleyball (regional and state tournaments) along with boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse and track & field (state tournament), and he said the staff recommended that they be approved. Per the OHSAA Handbook, the representation is calculated on a proportional formula per district based on the number of Class 1 officials who had registered with the OHSAA by the middle of December.
- D. Ratification of Recommendation for Recipient of 2024 OHSAA Naismith Awards for Meritorious Service (Southwest District)  
The OHSAA Naismith Awards for Meritorious Service are presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to interscholastic athletics in Ohio. Two of the six OHSAA District Athletic Boards make selections on a rotating basis each year, the recommendations are ratified by the Board of Directors and the honorees are traditionally recognized during the OHSAA Boys State Basketball Tournament. The Southwest District Athletic Board (SWDAB) has recommended Ed Zink, retired as the girls basketball coach and teacher at Beaver Creek High School, be a 2024 recipient. In 46 years (1975 to 2021) at Beaver Creek, Zink won 810

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games, lost 277 and won three Division I state championships. Ohio's all-time leader in girls basketball coaching wins, Zink has won numerous awards, including induction into the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. The Board will ratify the Southeast District Athletic Board's Naismith Meritorious Service Award recommendation at its February 15 meeting.

Motion by Bill Nye, second by Molly Feesler to **approve** New Business Consent Items VI. A., VI. B., VI. C. and IV. D. as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

### VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

#### A. Recommendation to Approve Initial 2024 Referendum Items

Executive Director Doug Ute and his office's compliance team have been reviewing potential changes to the OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws with the Board of Directors that would be placed before the membership for referendum. At this meeting, Director Kristin Ronai reviewed the first two 2024 proposed items (both Bylaws), and recommended that they be approved by the Board for referendum. If approved, member school principals would vote on the proposed modifications between May 1 and 15. The two recommendations were as follows:

##### **Bylaw 4-7-3, Midseason Transfer, Special Circumstances (Modifications)**

This proposed modification came about from feedback from student eligibility appeals. The proposed change would address a student who transfers to a different school after already playing in a regular season contest at their former school and remove the 50-mile requirement between schools when restoring eligibility if a student is forced to transfer midseason due to the death or incarceration of the student's parent(s) or the intervention of Children's Services or a similar government agency. The proposed new language would not include standard custody transfers (Exception 2).

##### **Bylaw 9-2-1 and 9-2-2, Contests with Out-of-State Schools (Modifications)**

This proposed modification would allow schools to: 1.) travel to bordering states or provinces an unlimited number of times strictly to practice, and no approval would be needed by the OHSAA Executive Director's Office, and 2.) travel to a non-bordering state for practice purposes only one time per sports season. The current bylaws only permit teams to practice while out-of-state if they will also be participating in a contest(s) during that trip. Language would note that schools are permitted to miss school time at their discretion when they exercise their one-time travel to a non-bordering state or province.

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Jeff Wheeler to **approve** the recommendation to place the two proposed bylaw changes up for referendum vote by the membership as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

It was noted that it is likely the Executive Director's Office will recommend that additional items be placed before the membership for referendum at the February 15 Board of Director's Meeting.

### VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board members congratulated the finance team and district athletic board treasurers for their work on the OHSAA audit and for receiving an unmodified, clean opinion. Incoming Legal Counsel Joe Fraley was welcomed, and the staff was thanked for their work on the proposed expansion of tournament divisions in seven sports and for keeping board members updated on legislative issues. The staff was also thanked for their work on the recently completed fall tournaments, appreciation was also extended to schools that hosted OHSAA tournaments and schools and individuals that won fall sports state championships were congratulated. Board Ex-Officio member Scott Hunt said the Ohio State Board of Education recently appointed Paul Craft as state superintendent of public instruction; Governor DeWine recently appointed Mike Duffey chancellor of the Ohio Department of Education, and the Governor selected Steve Dackin to lead the new Department of Education and Workforce. Board Ex-Officio member Glen Gillespie thanked the OHSAA staff for their support of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators State Conference in the fall, where a record-high 398 athletic administrators attended.

Motion by David Alvarado, second by Molly Feesler to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 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:** February 15, 2024; April 25, 2024, and June 6, 2024 (8:30 a.m. at Canal Park in Akron).