

The following are the preliminary minutes from the March 23, 2024, OHSAA Board of Directors Special Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its April 25, 2024, meeting.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES (March 23, 2024)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a special meeting on Saturday, March 23, 2024, that was called to order at 8:34 a.m. by President Gina Franks. The meeting was held at the University of Dayton Arena during the OHSAA Boys State Basketball Tournament.

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

Staff Members In Attendance: Doug Ute, executive director; Laura Vermilya, senior director of finance; directors Bob Goldring, John Kronour, Kristin Ronai, Beau Rugg (arrived at 9:05 a.m.), and staff member Ronald Sayers (participated virtually).

Others In Attendance: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel, and Josh Fraley and David Fraley, incoming OHSAA legal counsels.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Bill Nye to **adopt** the agenda for the March 23, 2024, Board of Directors Special Meeting.

Motion passed 8-0.

II. ACTION ITEMS

A. Recommendation to Approve Modification to Previously Approved 2024 Referendum Item and An Additional 2024 Referendum Item

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 the January 11, 2024, and February 15, 2024, meetings, the Board of Directors approved placing five proposed Bylaw modifications before the membership for referendum. At this meeting, Director Kristin Ronai reviewed a modification to a previously approved 2024 proposal and an additional 2024 proposed Bylaw modification, and she recommended that the modified item and new item be approved by the Board for referendum. If approved, member school principals would vote on the proposed modifications between May 1 and 15. The recommendations were as follows:

Bylaw 2-1-1, Divisions and Tournament Assignments (Modification to Previously Approved New Exception)

This proposed exception, which was previously approved by the Board in February, would allow schools to move up to Division I on a sport-by-sport basis if they desired to do so for that season. If requested for an individual sport, all athletes on that school's team would have to compete in Division I. At this meeting, it was proposed that the deadline to move up to Division I would be published by the OHSAA Executive Director's Office and that Business Rules, approved by the Board of Directors, would be created to determine how requests to move up to Division I would impact potential equitable adjustments in other divisions.

Bylaw 4-6-2, Residence (Modification)

This proposed modification would mean that once a student is subject to involvement by child protective services, social services or a similar state agency, school administrators would be absolved from having to worry about where their biological parents are (e.g. these students would no longer have to have their custody assigned strictly in Ohio in order to potentially gain eligibility).

Motion by Andy Bixler, second by Jay Selgo to **approve** the recommended modification to Bylaw 2-1-1 and to place the proposed change in Bylaw 4-6-2 up for referendum vote by the membership as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

B. Recommendation to Approve Modified OHSAA Organizational Chart and Executive Director Succession Plan

Executive Director Doug Ute recommended that changes be made to the OHSAA Organizational Chart and that a succession plan be approved should he have to vacate his position. As part of the revised chart and succession plan, Kristin Ronai has been elevated to the position of Associate Executive Director and would assume the executive director's role in the absence of Mr. Ute. Other modifications include Laura Vermilya being promoted to Senior Director of Finance (chief financial officer) from Controller, which was previous-

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ly approved by the Board; John Kronour being hired as Director of Sport Administration (filling the void following the retirement of administrator Kim Kiehl); Ronald Sayers being promoted to Senior Manager of Eligibility and Technology; Lizzy Wilson moving from Manager of Officiating Administration to Manager of Eligibility, and Amanda Harding being hired as Manager of Officiating Administration (beginning her duties in early May).

Motion by Jeff Wheeler, second by Bo Arnett to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 8-0.

Motion by David Alvarado, second by Jay Selgo to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 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: April 25, 2024, and June 6, 2024 (8:30 a.m. at Canal Park in Akron).

2024-25 School Year: August 29, 2024; September 25, 2024; October 23, 2024; January 16, 2025; February 20, 2025; *April 24, 2025, and June 13, 2025 (8:30 at Canal Park in Akron). ***Indicates** the date is currently tentative.