

The following are the preliminary minutes from the January 16, 2025, OHSAA Board of Directors Meeting. The Board is expected to officially approve them at its February 20, 2025, meeting.

## OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES (January 16, 2025)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2025, at the OHSAA Offices in Columbus. President Jay Selgo 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:** Jay Selgo, president; Andy Bixler, vice president; David Alvarado; Stephanie Evans; Molly Feesler; Mark Rose; Walt Skaggs; Paul Stone; Randy Tevepaugh, and Glen Gillespie (ex-officio).

**Staff Members In Attendance:** Doug Ute, executive director; Kristin Ronai, associate executive director; directors Bob Goldring, John Kronour, Beau Rugg and Tim Stried; Laura Vermilya, senior director of finance, and staff members Charles Anderson, Greg Bossick, Monroe Britton, BJ Duckworth (participated virtually), Alexis Holderman, Keaton Jones, Michelle Kern, Claudia Markoff, Kelly Schoenly, Zachary Taylor and Lizzy Wilson.

**Others In Attendance:** Joe Fraley and Steve Craig (participated virtually), OHSAA legal counsels; Frank Gamble, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Joe Balogh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Gerald Cook and Steve Hale, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association, and Dugan Hill, Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches (participated virtually).

### I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Andy Bixler to **adopt** the agenda for the January 16, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Walt Skaggs, second by Mark Rose to **approve** the minutes from the October 24, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting and the December 5, 2025, Board of Directors Special Meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

### III. FINANCIAL ITEMS

#### A. Recommendation to Approve OHSAA Audit

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya provided the Board with a copy of the 2023-24 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, 2023, to July 31, 2024. 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 that the Executive Director's Office recommended that the Board approve the report.

Motion by Stephanie Evans, second by Paul Stone to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

Board President Jay Selgo, Vice President Andy Bixler and Executive Director Doug Ute recognized the OHSAA finance team, led by Ms. Vermilya, with assistance from Senior Accountant Greg Bossick, for their work in leading the OHSAA financial department and receiving the unmodified, clean audit opinion.

#### B. Recommendation to Approve Utilizing Designated Board Funds and Undesignated Funds for OHSAA Building Enhancements Not to Exceed \$750,000

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya said the Executive Director's Office recommended utilizing designated board funds and undesignated funds not to exceed \$750,000 for enhancements in the OHSAA Roselea Building. She noted that an architectural firm has been hired, and Board members were shown the layouts and previously toured the areas that will be remodeled. The remodeled space will provide additional natural light, upgraded technology, improved HVAC and ADA compliant restrooms.

Motion by Mark Rose, second by Randy Tevepaugh to **approve** the recommendation as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

#### C. Recommendation to Approve the OHSAA Financial Report through December and to Transfer \$500,000 to the Athletic Enrichment Fund and \$500,000 to the Board Designated Fund, which will be Renamed the Capital Improvements Fund

Senior Director of Finance Laura Vermilya provided the financial report through December. She said the Association currently has \$9.56 million of operating cash, and \$19.2 million when including investments and board-designated funds. Total cash and investments as of December 31 can cover nine months of expenses. The financial report is summarized as follows:

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### OHSAA Financial Report Through December 31, 2024)

District	Total	Year to Date	Year to Date	Year to Date
	Cash	Gross Revenue	Gross Expenses	Net Profit/Loss
OHSAA Office	\$13,040,752	\$9,147,140	\$7,537,871	\$1,609,270
Central	\$976,175	\$297,946	\$350,849	— \$52,903
East	\$911,435	\$129,014	\$152,486	— \$23,473
Northeast	\$632,445	\$492,530	\$694,699	— \$202,168
Northwest	\$1,579,147	\$456,070	\$441,652	\$14,418
Southeast	\$764,959	\$158,480	\$225,195	— \$66,715
Southwest	\$1,317,367	\$468,086	\$559,226	— \$91,140
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$19,222,280</b>	<b>\$11,149,266</b>	<b>\$9,961,978</b>	<b>\$1,187,287</b>

	Actual	Prior Month	Prior Year
Checking	\$8,550,748	\$9,463,189	\$10,867,550
Savings	\$1,017,341	\$1,014,818	\$866,346
<b>Total Operating Cash</b>	<b>\$9,568,089</b>	<b>\$10,478,007</b>	<b>\$11,733,896</b>
Months on Hand	4.5	5.1	6.1
Board Designated Funds	\$494,812	\$493,346	\$596,542
Investments - Morgan Stanley	\$9,159,378	\$9,271,627	\$8,501,974
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>\$9,654,190</b>	<b>\$9,764,973</b>	<b>\$9,098,516</b>
Months on Hand	4.5	4.7	4.7
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments on Hand</b>	<b>\$19,222,280</b>	<b>\$20,242,980</b>	<b>\$20,832,413</b>
Months on Hand (Cash & Investments)	9.0	9.8	10.8
Athletic Enrichment Fund	\$2,609,566	\$2,599,061	\$2,082,983

Per the OHSAA Investment Policy when specific provisions are met, Ms. Vermilya said the Executive Director's Office also recommended that \$500,000 be transferred to the OHSAA Athletic Enrichment Fund and \$500,000 to the Board Designated Fund, which will be renamed the Capital Improvements Fund.

Motion by Walt Skaggs, second by Molly Feesler to **approve** the financial report and recommendation to transfer money as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

#### 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 **cross country**, the state tournaments were a success after again being held at Fortress Obetz in suburban Columbus, and sport administrator BJ Duckworth thanked tournament manager Dugan Hill for his assistance. The expanded five-division **soccer** tournaments were held at Historic Crew Stadium in Columbus over a four-day period, and sport administrator Kelly Schoenly said the event went very well. In **football**, sport administrator Beau Rugg said the state finals were again held at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton. Despite some typical December weather issues, the championship games went well. He noted that Maria Stein Marion Local won its fourth straight state title in Division VII, Gnadenuhnen Indian Valley became the first state football championship team from Tuscarawas County in Division IV, and he recognized Steve Hale, secretary of the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association, who is the former head coach that built the foundation for Powell Olentangy Liberty's Division I state championship and was in attendance at this meeting.

##### B. Review of 2023-24 NFHS Coaches-of-the-Year

Director Bob Goldring said that the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches Association Coaches-of-the-Year honorees have been selected for the 2023-24 school year. Ohio had 23 state coaches-of-the-year: **baseball**: Curt Bly, Mason; **boys basketball**: Dru Joyce II, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary; **girls basketball**: Pam Davis, Akron Archbishop Hoban; **boys bowling**: Conner Leidtke, Sunbury Big Walnut; **girls bowling**: Kevin Duncan, Springfield Kenton Ridge; **boys cross country**: Terry Schnipke, Columbus Grove; **girls cross country**: Jessie Magoto, Minster; **field hockey**: Sara Greaves, Upper Arlington; **football**: Tiger LeVerde, Kirtland; **gymnastics**: Joe Gura, Rocky River Magnificat; **ice hockey**: Andy Gerow, Hunting Valley University School; **boys lacrosse**: Jason Godwin, Powell Olentangy Liberty; **boys soccer**: Rick Cooper, West Chester Lakota West; **girls soccer**: Patrick Hopkins, Rocky River; **boys swimming & diving**: Mike de Bear, Upper Arlington; **boys tennis**: Ron Schaub, Lexington; **girls tennis**: Wade Ward, Cincinnati Indian Hill; **boys track & field**: Mike Lemponen, Huron; **girls track & field**: Jeff Howard, Peninsula Woodridge; **boys volleyball**: David Hale, Powell Olentangy Liberty; **girls volleyball**: Amanda Meadows, Kings Mills Kings; **boys wrestling**: Brent McBurney, Massillon Perry, and **girls wrestling**: Brian Nicola, Lewis Center Olentangy.

The NFHS Coaches Association selected four Ohio coaches as 2023-24 Section Coaches-of-the-Year: **boys basketball**: Dru Joyce II, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary; **football**: Tiger LeVerde, Kirtland; **girls track & field**: Jeff Howard, Peninsula Woodridge, and **girls volleyball**: Amanda Meadows, Kings Mills Kings. Ohio is in Section 2 with Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. In

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addition, Kirtland's Tiger LeVerde was named the 2023-24 National Coach-of-the-Year in the sport of football.

Mr. Goldring thanked the various Ohio coaches associations that participated in the selection process and Michelle Kern, OHSAA executive assistant, for her work organizing the procedures.

### B. 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, 2025-July 31, 2031) elections that will take place to fill expiring terms are: **Central**, Class AAA representative (Mark Shively, incumbent) and female representative (Pam Bosser, incumbent); **East**, Class AAA representative (John Harris, incumbent) and ethnic-minority representative (Angelita Forte, incumbent); **Northeast**, Class AA representative (Randy Tevepaugh, incumbent) and 7th-8th grade representative (Jim Penk, incumbent); **Northwest**, Class AA representative (Jay Selgo, incumbent) and female representative (Brenda Frankart, incumbent); **Southeast**, Class A representative (Tony Deem, incumbent) and ethnic-minority representative (Joe Turner, incumbent), and **Southwest**, Class A representative (Andy Bixler, incumbent) and 7th-8th grade representative (Paul Stone, incumbent). The three unexpired terms are: **Central**, Class A representative (Lindsey Smith, 2024-25 interim), term August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026; **Northeast**, Class AA representative (Dan May, 2024-25 interim), term August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026, and **Southwest**, Class AA representative (Tom Nerl, 2024-25 interim), term August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2027.

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 five new members will begin three-year terms on the Board of Directors on August 1, 2025, as appointed by their respective OHSAA district athletic boards. Lane Warner will be the Class A representative from the **Central**; Matt Hutchinson will be the Class AAA representative from the **Northwest**, and Doug Foote will be the Class AA representative from the **Southwest**. In addition, Ray Hibbs (**East**) will be the 7th-8th grade representative and John Carter (**Northeast**) will be the ethnic-minority representative on the Board of Directors, with their positions based on the predetermined statewide rotation. Returning to the Board of Directors will be Walt Skaggs, Class AAA representative, **East** district; Randy Tevepaugh, Class AA representative, **Northeast** district (pending his running and retaining his district athletic board position); Mark Rose, Class A representative, **Southeast** district, and Stephanie Evans, female representative, **Southeast** district. Ex-Officio Board of Directors members Kim Miller, Ed.D. (Ohio Department of Education & Workforce), and Glen Gillespie (Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association) will also return.

### C. Update on Appeals, Legislative Issues and Legal Cases

Staff member Lizzy Wilson provided the Board with a list of schools that have recently violated OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations. **Akron Buchtel** had a student-athlete in girls volleyball violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, when they participated in regular season contests without being enrolled in and attending the 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, the school was required to forfeit any contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Euclid High School** had a student-athlete in boys basketball violate Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, when they participated in a contest during the period of ineligibility required within the transfer bylaw. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-5, Forfeitures, the school forfeited the victorious contest in which the ineligible student participated. **Medina Buckeye High School** had a boys varsity soccer coach violate Bylaw 5-1-1, Awards, when they gave student-athletes cash incentives for their performance. In order to maintain their amateur status, in accordance with Bylaw 4-10, for the 2024-25 school year, each of the student athletes returned the cash prize to the host of the event. Additionally, in accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the school has been issued a public reprimand. **Manchester Middle School** had three student-athletes violate General Sports Regulation 7.2 when they participated in a non-interscholastic contest after establishing themselves as a member of the school's girls basketball program. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the school has been issued a public reprimand. **Akron Firestone High School** had two student-athletes who were eligible to qualify for full eligibility, regarding the International Bylaw, under Bylaw 4-8-1 Exception 1, J-1 Visa. However, the school failed to submit the request for eligibility to the Executive Director's Office prior to the students participating in an interscholastic athletic contest. The Executive Director's Office restored the student-athletes' eligibility retroactively and prospectively, but, in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-1, Administrative Error, Firestone was fined \$100. **Massillon Washington High School** had a student-athlete in girls varsity basketball violate Bylaw 4-7-2 and Bylaw 4-7-3, Transfer. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit all victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Benjamin Logan High School** had two student-athletes violate General Sports Regulation 7.2 when they participated in a non-interscholastic contest after establishing themselves as a member of the Benjamin Logan High School boys bowling program. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athletes were suspended for two regular season contests. **Wadsworth High**

**School** had a student-athlete in boys wrestling violate Bylaw 4-3-1, Enrollment and Attendance, when they participated in regular season contests without being enrolled in and attending the 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, the school was required to forfeit any contests in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Lima Senior High School** had a student-athlete in boys bowling violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, when they participated in three 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, the school was required to forfeit the contest in which the ineligible student-athlete participated. **Marion Pleasant High School** had three student-athletes violate General Sports Regulation 7.2 when they participated in a non-interscholastic contest after establishing themselves as a member of the school's boys bowling program. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athletes were suspended for two regular season contests. **Clayton Northmont High School** had a student-athlete violate General Sports Regulation 7.2 when they participated in a non-interscholastic contest after establishing themselves as a member of the school's girls bowling program. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athletes were suspended for one regular season contest. **Springboro High School** violated Basketball Regulation 1.8, Quarter Limitation, in girls basketball when two student-athletes participated in 8 quarters on one day. In accordance with Basketball Regulation 1.9, the school was required to forfeit the contest in which the quarter limitation was exceeded. **Tipp City Tippecanoe Middle School** had three student-athletes violate General Sports Regulation 7.2 when they participated in a non-interscholastic contest after establishing themselves as a member of the school's boys basketball program. In accordance with Bylaw 11, Penalties, the student-athletes were suspended for two regular season contests.

Staff member Alexis Holderman provided the Board with an update on appeals. She said the OHSAA Appeals Panel has made 48 rulings on 44 appeals on nine dates, and five appeals have been granted. Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai also provided the Board with an update on current legislative issues, while OHSAA Legal Counsel Joe Fraley provided the Board with an update on current legal cases.

## V. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Recommendation to Approve Additional 2025 Referendum Issues

Associate Executive Director Kristin Ronai, her eligibility team and the OHSAA legal counsels have been reviewing potential changes to the OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws that the Board of Directors would place before the membership for referendum. At the October 24, 2024, meeting, the Board of Directors approved placing two proposed Bylaw modifications before the membership for referendum. At this meeting, Ms. Ronai reviewed three additional 2025 proposed items (all Bylaws), and said the Executive Director's Office 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 three recommendations were as follows:

#### **Bylaw 4-7-4, #5, and Bylaw 4-7-5, Transfer (Modification of Language When Transferring from Poor Performing School)**

These proposed modifications to companion Bylaws 4-7-4, #5, and 4-7-5 are mostly editorial in nature, making the language consistent between the two (intradistrict transfer vs. interdistrict transfer). Additionally, due to the new grading processes used by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, the modification also recommends the removal of all the "priority school" references and makes it more applicable to what is being used today (EdChoice). Such a change in reference would remove most of the online community schools (i.e. Ohio Virtual Academy) from the applicable poor performing school list the OHSAA would utilize moving forward.

#### **Bylaw 4-7-2, Exceptions 5 and 9, and Move Bylaw 4-7-5 (Reorganize and Modify)**

The proposed reorganization would move current Exceptions 5 and 9 from Bylaw 4-7-2 to updated Bylaw 4-7-5 and move language from current Bylaw 4-7-5 to Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 5. The remaining exceptions to Bylaw 4-7-2 would be renumbered. The modified language for Bylaw 4-7-5 would be:

*"A student shall be entitled to transfer to a school and have their eligibility restored at the discretion of the Executive Director's Office provided requirements of one of the following provisions have been met: . . ."*

The modification moves the exceptions into a new bylaw and makes changes to ensure the exceptions are more consistent with one another. Changes as a result of making the provisions more consistent include:

- a. Removing the applicability of either provision for seniors
- b. Removing an athletic motivation assessment

Additionally, the current language within Bylaw 4-7-5, transfer from a poor performing school, does have a cause-effect analysis, so the proposed referendum issue shifts that language into a more appropriate location under Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 5.

Note 1: Should the first referendum issue proposed at this meeting pass, the newly proposed poor performing language 1 (i.e. EdChoice) will be what is inserted, as opposed to the current 4-7-5 language. Conversely, should that issue fail, the current Bylaw 4-7-5 language will be substituted for 4-7-2, Exception 5, with minor

editorial changes.

Note 2: Should what the Board approved in October regarding Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 5 (the “look-back period) pass, the newly proposed language (i.e. 6th grade) will be what is inserted. Conversely, should that issue fail, the current bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 5, language (i.e. 4th grade) will be substituted.

**Bylaw 4-6-2 #6, Residency Exception Based on Continuous Enrollment in Same System of Education (Modification)**

The proposed modification changes the enrollment requirement period in a parochial school from 4th grade through 8th grade to 6th grade through 8th grade. It also clarifies that such a student must matriculate directly into an Ohio parochial high school, and maintain enrollment in that system of education, to continue to utilize this exception to be eligible under the residency bylaw.

Motion by David Alvarado, second by Stephanie Evans to **approve** the recommendation to place the three additional proposed bylaw changes up for referendum vote by the membership as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT)**

A. Recommendation to Approve Additional Tournament Divisions in Track & Field and Cross Country

After last year’s Board of Directors approved expanding tournament divisions in seven team sports beginning with the 2024-25 school year (from four to seven in girls volleyball, girls basketball, boys basketball, baseball and softball and from three to five in girls soccer and boys soccer), Executive Director Doug Ute said the Board and staff, plus leaders from the Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches, have been studying the expansion of tournament divisions in track & field and cross country.

Mr. Ute went on to say he recommended that track & field be expanded from three to five tournament divisions and cross country from three to four tournament divisions beginning with the 2025-26 school year. Exact details on the expansions will be available in the near future, but part of the recommendation includes that the number of schools assigned to Division I in both sports will be smaller than the other divisions, with the other divisions (four in track & field, three in cross country) being divided as equally as possible.

B. Recommendation to Approve 2025 Track & Field Tournament Regulations

Updates in regulations for the 2025 track & field tournament were provided to the Board by OHSAA sport administrator BJ Duckworth, 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.) A data policy was added to ensure that paperwork (relay cards, substitution forms, etc.) is kept to support any clerical error corrections; 2.) A bib fine charged to the school was added related to coaches requesting a replacement for lost bib numbers; 3.) Penalties for coaches/athletes in restricted areas who do not have a competitor in an event being currently contested were added; 4.) The earliest date that district entries could be closed was moved from Friday evening to Saturday evening, allowing coaches to make their district entries after the conclusion of their conference meets. OHSAA District Athletic Boards can still set a later date if they choose; 5.) Clarification was added that three speakers are needed for Electronic Starting Devices, and 6.) Adjustments were made to the suggested minimum and recommended numbers of officials needed. Maximums were also created.

In addition, these changes were based on a survey of coaches in conjunction with the coaches association: 1.) Preferred lane assignments in lane races were adjusted (seed 7 moved to lane 1 and seed 8 moved to lane 8); 2.) Lane/position assignments in distance races will no longer be random (random assignments were implemented when waterfall starts were used and never changed). Assignments will now be made based on seed, reducing the chances of contact in the first 50-to-100 meters and giving higher seeds better positions, as is done in lane races, and 3.) Complimentary coaches’ admission was changed. Rather than being based on the number of athletes participating, it will be based on the type of event in which the athletes are competing. Clarification was added that regardless of the type of admission, one coach should be allowed per school in all coaching areas.

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### C. Recommendation to Approve Modification to Procedure for Tournament Seeding

Director Bob Goldring said that, with the expansion of tournament divisions in seven team sports that began this fall, it was discovered that a tournament seeding policy needs modified in the rare occasions where there are three or four teams in a district that are able to have their own district tournament and send a qualifier to the regional tournament. This will occur in Division I or II, where there are roughly only 64 teams in each division.

The current seeding policy says the high and low votes will be dropped, and teams cannot vote for themselves. In the fall, this occurred in Division I in the Northwest District in girls volleyball and soccer but, with only three teams, that resulted in a tie, and the team with the best record was not guaranteed to be the top seed.

To help with the situation, the OHSAA's District Athletic Board Review Committee recommended that a new seeding policy be approved when there are four or less teams in a district tournament. The change is that the highest and lowest votes SHALL be calculated for each school. The policy where schools cannot vote for themselves remains in place. Mr. Goldring said the Executive Director's Office recommends that the Board approve this proposed change.

### D. Ratification of Recommendation for Recipients of 2025 OHSAA Naismith Awards for Meritorious Service (Central and East Districts)

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. Board member Molly Feesler said the Central District Athletic Board (CDAB) has recommended **Carol Smith** be a 2025 recipient. Carol spent 34 years in education, with 30 of those at Walnut Ridge High School in Columbus, where she taught and started the girls varsity volleyball and basketball programs. She led the school to the state basketball finals in 1977 and was an innovative leader in the promotion of girls sports and the sport of basketball. Board member Walt Skaggs said the East District Athletic Board (EDAB) has recommended **Rock VanFossen** be a 2025 recipient. Rock spent 41 years in education as a coach, teacher, principal and superintendent with both his alma mater, the Strasburg-Franklin Local School District, and the Sandy Valley Locals Schools. He was the head boys basketball coach at both Strasburg and Sandy Valley high schools; spent the last 20 years at Sandy Valley, where he served seven years as the high school principal, 10 years as the district's superintendent and his last three years overseeing the construction of their new schools, and served four terms on the EDAB and three terms on the OHSAA Board of Directors, where he twice was president.

### E. Recommendation to Approve 2025 Spring Sports Regional and State Tournament Officiating Representation with Modifications

Director Beau Rugg provided the Board with the 2025 representation for officials assignments for regional and state tournaments in the spring sports of baseball and softball (regional and state tournaments); boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse (state tournaments); track & field (state tournaments), and boys volleyball (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 December. It was also recommended that flexibility be granted this year in baseball and softball in terms of officials possibly being assigned to the state tournament for the second consecutive year since there could be a shortage of said officials due to the expanded tournament divisions in those two sports.

Motion by Molly Feesler, second by Paul Stone to **approve** New Business Consent items VI. A., VI. B., VI. C., VI. D. and VI. E. as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

None

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### VIII. ONCE AROUND

Board members said they believed the expansion of tournament divisions in girls volleyball, boys soccer and girls soccer went well this fall, and they are looking forward to the expansion in this winter's girls and boys basketball tournaments. Board member Andy Bixler, track & field and cross country sport administrator BJ Duckworth and Dugan Hill, participating in the meeting virtually and representing the Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches, were thanked for their hard work in helping develop the plan to expand tournament divisions in track & field and cross country beginning next school year.

The OHSAA staff was thanked for their hard work and the consistent collaboration that takes place between the Board and staff. Laura Vermilya, senior director of finance, and her staff were congratulated not only for the clean audit report, but also the continued transparency that takes place, which includes developing clear plans for specific funds. A Board member also shared that going to \$5.00 tournament tickets for students was a positive move.

In addition, Board ex-officio Glen Gillespie, executive director of the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, said his association's annual state conference in November was a success with well over 400 attendees.

Motion by David Alvarado, second by Randy Tevepaugh to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

Motion passed 9-0.

Bob Goldring, recorder.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

**(Unless noted, all meetings are on Thursdays and begin at 9:00 but are subject to change.)**

**2024-25 School Year:** February 20, 2025; April 24, 2025, and June 13, 2025 (8:30 at Canal Park in Akron).