

**UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021
9:00 AM ZOOM MEETING**

Those in attendance: Marilyn Richards, Belinda Johnson, Roger Pulsipher, Dale Whitlock, Adam Britt, Corey Anderson, Sam Jarman, Larry Bergeson, Jerre Holmes, Tom Sherwood, Stephen Gordon, Jim Wood, Greg Miller, Bryan Durst, Brent Strate, Rob Cuff, Jeff Cluff, Brenan Jackson, Jon Oglesby and Jan Whittaker. Minutes: Jeanne Widerburg.

1. **Welcome and Chair Business:** Chair Holmes welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He felt today's meeting would not be as intense as the last, but every meeting and decision is important.

A. Welcome New BOT Member: Mr. Holmes welcomed Brent Strate as a new member to the BOT. Mr. Strate was assigned from the USBE as their representative. Mr. Strate said he felt this was an exciting opportunity. He has been an educator, coach and an official for many years. Mr. Cuff reported that Laura Belnap had received an assignment as vice chair for the USBE. He said she will be missed and her service has been appreciated. He felt she would still be able to support the UHSAA from her new position.

B. Reverence/Thought: Ms. Richards offered a prayer.

C. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Thought: Mr. Sherwood shared some quotes and pointed out that we are more alike than unlike. We need to support each other. He feels our nation has survived greater trials and he is optimistic. We value our liberty. He then led members in the pledge of allegiance.

D. Approval of Board Agenda: Mr. Holmes pointed out Item 6 may need an action item.

MOTION: Mr. Whitlock made the motion to approve the Board Agenda. Ms. Richards seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Approval of Minutes of November 19, December 9 and December 17, 2020 Meetings (summaries on UHSAA website):

MOTION: Mr. Jarman made the motion to approve the minutes of November 19, December 9 and December 17, 2020. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. Motion carried.

F. Updated Handbook on website: Reminder to check the website for the most updated information.

2. **Executive Committee Meeting Report:** Mr. Wood reported the meeting of January 13, 2021:

- Important calendar dates were reviewed
- Fall State Championships were reviewed
- Realignment Summary was given

- UIAAA will hold their AD Conference April 14-17 in St. George.
- NIAAA Conference was held virtually in December
- Discussion of upcoming winter sports
- Summer Moratorium is July 4-10, 2021
- Coaches need to be certified on RMC (RegisterMyCoach)
- Fall ejection reports
- Recruiting officials
- Unified Sports – interest survey will be sent to schools
- BOT Elections
- Super Fan and Hall of Fame awards are postponed this year

3. **USBE Report:** Mr. Strate said he appreciated the efforts and work for the new realignment. He said he felt a little guilty when he saw the ejection report and hoped everyone had a short memory of when he was coaching. He has a son that plays at Bonneville HS and he reminds himself to go easy on officials. Mr. Strate appreciated the thought from Mr. Sherwood and reminded members that Abraham Lincoln had to sneak in for his inauguration. He said he has had Covid-19 and he appreciates the efforts that are being made to test the athletes so they can continue play. He looks forward to serving on the Board.

4. **Fall Activities Report:**

A. Fall Results (pp.96-97): Mr. Cuff provided a list of fall championships. He was grateful to school and administrators for their efforts in helping to complete the season. Many states are still not playing. It was everyone working together that made it happen. He was grateful to the Governor's Office and State Health Department that worked with the Association to help provide guidelines for fall. He is optimistic about winter and spring seasons. He emphasized the wearing of masks because if exposure is mask to mask there is no quarantine. He knows of coaches having athletes wear masks during practice. He again stated the success belongs to those in the trenches – students, coaches and administrators. There is safety in following protocol.

B. Fall revenue is down because of restrictions of spectators. Last year, fall revenue was \$686K and this year \$355K. Expenses will be down. Mr. Cuff said the he appreciated the high schools for stepping up and hosting some of the tournaments. He feels we will be using reserves by the end of the year if spectators continue to be restricted for winter and spring. The staff is working to use venues and tournament formats that will ease budget concerns.

- 1A Baseball: 2nd best in the last five years
- Tennis: Best ever because there was no rain which meant the entire tournament could be ticketed.
- Soccer: Rio Tinto agreed to host semi-finals as well as finals for one year. Expenses were more expensive, but revenue increased. There was a net revenue of \$40K for both last year and this year.
- Volleyball: Formats and venues were changed for volleyball. 1A tournament was held at Union HS, 2A, 3A and 4A were held at SVC and 5A and 6A played at Corner Canyon and Hillcrest HS. Mr. Cuff thanked the sites for their help and cooperation as all the tournaments had to be rescheduled. The net revenue would be half of last year (\$115K compared to \$55K).
- Football: The Association took the biggest hit in football. Dixie State hosted the semi-finals and finals for 2A and 3A. 4A played semi-finals at home sites and the

finals at Dixie State. Cedar Valley HS hosted the 5A and 6A semi-finals and finals. Our average revenue is \$480K and this year revenue was \$185K. Expenses will be down. Mr. Cuff thanked Dixie State University and Cedar Valley HS for a great experience.

Mr. Cuff said the trial and litigation continues to put a strain on the budget. It has been very costly and we have been involved with the law suit for nearly four years. The staff will work hard to manage winter and spring tournaments, but want to create a memorable experience for the students. Mr. Holmes said he appreciated the staff's efforts and said reserve funds are key for many businesses.

5. Calendar:

A. 2020-2021 (pp.98100 and UHSAA website): Mr. Oglesby stated the importance of the online calendar. Please check it often for updates as we navigate the winter tournaments. He said the best source is the brackets for state tournaments listed on specific sport page.

- Debate: 2A-6A will be virtual and 1A is hoping for in-person
- Theatre: Planning for virtual competition or a hybrid of in person and virtual. Classifications will be making the determination.
- Music: Solo and Ensemble competition for regions and state will all be virtual.

6. Review of Winter State Events:

A. Wrestling: Mr. Jackson stated best practices have been used for wrestling because of unique physical contact. Plans were developed with the coaches association, superintendents, Governor's Office, and Utah State Department of Health. Covid testing has helped in the political arena for indoor sports. He feels the schools have done a great job. It was recommended that wrestling only do dual matches (one school vs one school). There have been a limited number of participants for one-day tournaments. An exception for a two-day tournament was given for divisonals. The state tournaments will be one-day per classification. There will be no cross-bracketing at state. Tentative schedule is for 1A and 2A at SVC with 3A, 4A, 5A and 6A at UVU. Girls' wrestling will combine 1A, 2A, 3A and 5A for one tournament and 4A and 6A girls' will have stand-alone tournaments. Mr. Jackson said they are in discussions with UVU because of the limited number of spectators.

B. Drill Team: Ms. Whittaker said they are making adjustments to the schedule at UVU. They had to move some competitions to the middle of the week and added another week. They will be using an all-comer format for the first round in small pods, but will be competing with the entire field. After semi-finals they will do top 8 in small pods. Arena will be cleared. She is negotiating with UVU on limited spectators. 2A will be held at SVC on Saturday, Feb 6, with one final round for ten teams.

C. Swim: Ms. Whittaker said they are planning to hold the swim tournament at BYU. The 3A and 4A meet will be held on February 12 and 13 and 5A and 6A on February 19 and 20. Each classification will have a separate meet for boys and girls. They will clear facility after girls and then the boys will compete. There will be no spectators due to restrictions. The event will be streamed.

D. Basketball: Mr. Oglesby said there have been many changes to the basketball schedule. Weber State University is unable to host the 5A and 6A Tournament so that

tournament has moved to SLCC with quarterfinals at home sites. 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A will be held at SVC. He cautioned more changes are always possible.

E. Student Section Discussion:

Mr. Cuff said the Association and schools agreed to protocol and procedures for spectators and students. He said some districts are following the protocol and some are not. It is important that everyone be uniform to prevent frustration. The staff is working with the superintendents to unify the spectator issues because some are allowing more students than others. The current recommendation is four tickets per participant with no more than 25% gym capacity. They want to unify and adhere to protocol as much as possible. It needs to be enforced moving forward. The staff recommended that a student section be allowed so administrators can manage mask wearing and physical distancing. We need to have consistency so that students will be prepared for upcoming state tournaments. Administrators can manage enforcement easier when students are in a section and not spread throughout the gymnasium. Regions can help by creating uniformity during region play.

Mr. Holmes appreciated the proposal because students show up and are scattered throughout the gym. It is spectator-friendly having students in a section to control and maintain proper protocol. He supports the proposal to help principals and fans. Many of the other members agreed it would be helpful. They, too, find it difficult to manage students outside of a section. It was important that everyone be consistent. Most agreed that having students attend was part of the game experience for everyone. Games are better with students. A few members who had attended games said they felt even the adults were not social distancing and it makes an awkward situation for those wanting to physical distance. Members were reminded there is still the 25% capacity guideline. Mr. Holmes said every gym is very different and the announcer plays an important role to emphasize masks and social distancing. Mr. Oglesby stated the goal was to make it easier for administrators with a defined section for students. Administrators can use more energy encouraging mask wearing. Mask up! Mr. Jarman requested a universal PA statement that could be used. A common announcement might be helpful throughout the state.

MOTION: Mr. Gordon made the motion to accept the proposal for a designated student section at contests. There will still be the 25% capacity. Mr. Bergeson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ticketing for events will be determined with individual schools and venue sites.

7. New School Member Applications: Mr. Cuff stated at the previous BOT meeting in November, St. George Academy was denied membership. They had applied for sports and activities and the Board felt they were not prepared for those programs. St. George Academy has revised their application and would like to request membership for Speech/Debate. The Executive Committee recommended membership for activities only assigning them to Region 19 for 2021-2023.

MOTION: Mr. Strate made the motion to grant membership to St. George Academy for activities only. Mr. Whitlock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

8. Reports:

A. Ejection Report (pp. 103-106): Mr. Cluff stated part of the information is a comparison of ejection from fall 2019 to fall 2020. There were two ejections in football, five less in girls' soccer and three less in baseball compared to last year. There were no volleyball ejections. Officials have been trained to not tolerate taunting, which includes racial slurs, and it appears the message is getting out to the athletes. The penalty is double for that ejection.

B. Officials Campaign Update: Mr. Cluff indicated that recruitment efforts are improving as sportsmanship is improving. It has also helped having fewer fans at the games. It seems the coaches behave better without fewer fans because they can be heard throughout the gym. Maybe that's a positive of Covid-19. Mr. Cluff said he has asked coaches of sub-varsity levels to be more tolerant of officials because that is their training ground. He has asked schools to share film on Huddle for the associations to use for training.

C. Sportsmanship Committee Report: Ms. Whittaker reminded members that the Student Leadership Conference will be held in the fall on a region level. Training for regions will be held later this year. She said that proper behavior for spectators and coaches has been updated and posted on the website under Sportsmanship.

D. Emerging Sports: Ms. Whittaker asked chairs of the committees to report.

1. Volleyball: Mr. Miller reported they are working on a rubric for the March meeting. The boys' volleyball association is strong, very well organized and there is high participation. The challenges facing volleyball sanctioning is Title IX considerations, available facilities and supervision for one more activity. Other considerations are what season is best and school financial commitment. It would likely be a revenue generator for the Association, but would require another task for the staff or hiring of a part-time tournament director. Another point that was discussed, lacrosse has not even had a season to weigh the impact of that spring sport.

2. Competitive Cheer: Mr. Sherwood said they are working on a rubric. They had discussions, but not making much headway. He felt the biggest concern from the cheer community is that the Association is trying to take away something they have created. The committee tried to help them understand why it was time to sanction competitive cheer and their efforts are appreciated. It is difficult for principals to navigate cheer as a separate entity especially with new fee waiver guidelines. Ms. Whittaker stated that many coaches aren't represented in that group and are supportive. Mr. Sherwood had received calls from cheer coaches and they said they had felt better after the meeting. He feels with more meetings they will be able to communicate intentions and help them understand sanctioning will improve support and recognition for the participants. Mr. Whitlock feels most of the principals and superintendents want to sanction cheer for the fee structure and under the umbrella of the Association. Ms. Richards feels competition cheer needs to be sanctioned sooner than later.

3. ESports: Mr. Oglesby presented for Mr. Bergeson who had laryngitis. Mr. Oglesby said they had a very productive meeting and involved all stake holders. There is no doubt there is a strong base of interest and it is growing. Schools and districts already offering ESports said it is providing opportunities for students. They are encouraging female participation with a program called, "Shesports." ESports is part of the stem-based career activities for schools. Mr. Sherwood said there are still questions regarding games and platforms if ESports is sanctioned. He said most states have a fall and spring season. They felt ESports will have a low impact on facilities. They discussed the ability to develop social skills and the

availability of grants and resources to help all students. Ms. Johnson felt it would be a great opportunity for ESL students providing commonality and fewer language barriers.

Ms. Whittaker said the committees will be meeting more prior to March. A final presentation will be provided at the March meeting for a vote.

E. Coaches' Certification: Mr. Jackson said it is important that coaches complete the certification process prior to season. The winter credentials will arrive soon. Coaches should not receive their credential if they have not been certified. Schools are responsible to verify certification of coaches.

F. UHSAA Summer Moratorium: The Summer Moratorium is July 4 – July 10, 2021. Any moratorium adjustment must be made for the entire school.

G. Unified Sports: Mr. Oglesby stated that a participation interest survey was sent to all member schools. They will be holding divisionals for unified soccer, so there will be fewer games. Track is a one-day event. Schools were asked to indicate their interest in unified basketball on the survey.

H. Legislative Report: Mr. Spatafore met with members to give them a legislative update. Mr. Cuff thanked Dave and Ashley for their efforts. Mr. Spatafore has worked with the Association for nearly 20 years. Mr. Cuff is hoping for a quiet legislative session for the Association.

I. Legal Report: Mr. Van Wagoner reported the current litigation regarding girls' football is unresolved. No one knows the judge's schedule and the delay cannot be explained. Mr. Cuff thanked Mr. Van Wagoner for his efforts with the litigation and continued support at the hearings.

9. For the Good of the Order:

A. BOT Elections: Mr. Cuff said the USBA held their annual conference virtually this year. Typically, BOT Elections are held in conjunction with the conference. The UHSAA will hold BOT Elections in the spring at the UHSAA Office. Mr. Pulsipher and Mr. Whitlock's terms end June 30. Districts in 3A and 4A in the new alignment will be invited to the election to nominate someone from their boards. He reminded members that the UHSAA Constitution does not allow both a superintendent and school board representation from the same district. Mr. Jarman is retiring and Mr. Holmes' term is ending, so the Superintendents will be appointing a new representative to finish Mr. Jarman's term and they will appoint a new or reassign Mr. Holmes for another three-year term. Mr. Sherwood's term expires on June 30 and by Constitution the position will be filled by a 6A principal. The Executive Committee will make that appointment at a future meeting. Mr. Miller's term ends June 30, so an election by private schools will be held in the spring at the UHSAA office. Private schools will receive an invitation to attend.

B. Circle of Fame and UHSAA Super Fans: These awards have been postponed for one year. The recipients are honored at winter events and because of limited seating, it was determined they could not be properly honored.

C. Spirit of Sports Award/Heart of the Arts Awards: These two recipients will be honored at the Executive Committee Distinguished Service Award Luncheon in April.

10. Approval on Consent Agenda:

A. Financial Report: Members were given the Fourth Quarter financial report for review.

MOTION: Mr. Whitlock made the motion to approve the fourth quarter financial report. Ms. Richards seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Holmes said he is grateful that students are having the opportunity to play and that is because of the many sacrifices of many individuals. He thanked the staff for their efforts. He asked everyone to pick up a mask and wear it. We are blessed to be in a great state that thinks highly of student athletes. Many are appreciative that students are in school and participating in activities.

MOTION: Mr. Anderson made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.