

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Jordan Auxiliary Services Building
Thursday, December 17, 2020
10:00 a.m.

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

1. **Welcome and Chair Business:** Chair Holmes welcomed all members to the meeting. Some members were on Zoom. He welcomed any visitor joining on Zoom and reminded members it was a public meeting.

A. Reverence/Thought: Mr. Whitlock said his grandma always told him to, "Keep it Simple" so his thought would be short. His grandma also said to always remember who you are and act accordingly and do what is right and let the consequences follow. He felt those thoughts were appropriate for what the BOT does for Utah High School Activities. He hoped they could feel united and do what is best for the students of Utah. He then offered a prayer.

B. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Thought: Mr. Miller had written a song and had it recorded. He has written over 75 songs. The pandemic did different things to different people and this is his result. The video he was going to share was about a young man named Larry Banks. He died in the Viet Nam War at the age of 19. The young man was from Mr. Miller's hometown in Southern Indiana. They renamed the school gym after Larry Banks. Every time he visits Washington, D.C., he looks for Larry Banks' name on the Viet Nam Memorial Wall. He gives thanks to all who gave their life. Thoughts of Larry and the Viet Nam Wall came to him after a football game with Judge Memorial. The next morning, he got up and wrote the words. He dedicated the song to Larry Banks and every person who has served and especially those who gave their lives for the freedoms we enjoy. The music video entitled, "The Long Black Wall," was then played. He then led members in the pledge of allegiance.

Chair Holmes thanked Mr. Miller and said it was beautiful. The Reverence and Patriotic thought are the best part of the meeting. It would be nice if we could go home now, but there are important items and decisions to discuss. Chair Holmes thanked Ms. Richards for arranging for the meeting room that day.

C. Approval of Board Agenda:

MOTION: Mr Sherwood made the motion to approve the Board agenda. Ms. Richards seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. **Realignment:** Mr. Cuff thanked members for being available for the meeting whether in-person or Zoom and he welcomed guests on Zoom.

A. Timetable (pp. 85-86): Today is the second consideration of alignment of member schools in each region. Traditionally, this is the last meeting for final consideration of the 2021-2023 Realignment. He thanked those that participated in the public hearing the previous night.

B. Current 2020-21 Classifications and Regions (pp. 87-88): This document was provided to give members a reference for the current alignment.

C. Format and Procedures (pp. 89-90): Format and Procedures were approved by the BOT. The Format and Procedures were heard in two Executive Committee meetings, a public hearing, and the BOT discussed in two meeting and approved them. This document provided the rules to the realignment.

D. First Consideration of Classifications (pp. 91-92): Copies of the first consideration of classifications were distributed at the meeting.

E. First Consideration of Regions (93-95): Placement of schools in regions prior to the public hearing.

F. Second Consideration of Region Placement: Today's meeting.

Mr. Holmes felt the Public Hearing went well. The two-minute presentations were well done; however, it does not simplify the task at hand for the BOT. The BOT is tasked with a balance of following rules and doing what is best for the majority of schools and students.

Members were presented the staff proposal that included tweaks from the public hearing requests. Mr. Cuff discussed the changes for all activities except football.

6A Classification

- Roy HS move from Region 1 to Region 2

5A Classification

- Discussion of a five-team region in 4A. Many references to Mr. Sherwood's proposal for 5A. The staff proposal reflects the proposal from Mr. Sherwood and his contacts with schools. This will add a region to 5A.

4A Classification

- The first consideration had three regions with one five-team region. Those teams moved to 5A and now there are two regions in the 4A classification.

3A Classification

- Discussion about travel concerns in Regions 12 and 14. It was discussed to switch Canyon View and Union for better travel. This proposal reflects that switch.

2A Classification

- Discussion about travel concerns in Regions 16 and 19. Monticello moved to 1A and San Juan moved to 2A. Last alignment, it was agreed travel would be shared among regions with San Juan. The staff proposal switches Millard and San Juan to help share travel.

1A Classification

- ICS indicated they would like to remain in Region 22.

Mr. Holmes said he had heard concern from 4A with 13 teams and the viability of the classification. The two regions are good for competition and travel. He also heard about the switch of Canyon View and Union and Union is now concerned about commonality of sports with the region assigned.

Mr. Gordon was concerned about Canyon View moving to 3A because of their size. If they stay in 4A, that could strengthen the viability of 4A.

Mr. Sherwood said the state is changing rapidly. The gap is becoming bigger between urban and rural. We already have six classifications trying to address the enrollment number differences, but that has not solved the issue. There are many middle-sized schools and we need to address the trend. He noted that there is concern with two regions in 4A and maybe the solution is to make them all 5A.

Mr. Bergeson said it is difficult to look at the number of schools in 5A compared to 4A. They feel like bookends at each end of the state. 4A will not be able to fill a 16-team bracket. He said Superintendent Norton in Cache School District feels the same way. He is not sure if the solution is to pull 4A to 5A. He most concerned for the future and solutions to the issue.

Discussion continued regarding adding Region 7 to 5A and only two regions in 4A.

Mr. Whitlock said he has been on the Board for over six years. Previously, the discussion was 3A now the bigger discussion is 4A. We need to move forward and not just look at numbers. We need to look at competitive balance. We need to move schools where they need to be. He did not feel it a problem to move the 5A schools to 4A. Put schools where they belong. We need to change because we face these problems year after year. Mr. Bergeson agreed with Mr. Whitlock. Mr. Holmes asked what potential ramification or potential solution would be created if the rules were suspended for the benefit of the 4A Classification.

Mr. Cuff said in the 20 years he has been at the Association he is not aware of breaking a rule. Ramifications? He does not know, but feels it is uncertain territory. He feels that Region 7 was arbitrarily picked and there are others that are struggling. We need to accommodate everyone's needs or stick to the rules. He does not see an end to the ramifications. The staff has tried to fix issues with solutions proposed to the Executive Committee with success factor, etc. Those ideas have fallen on deaf ears to this point. In his opinion, we need to stick to the rules.

Mr. Jarman said he would agree with Mr. Cuff. This is a two-year plan. If it is found to be problematic, adjustments can be made. He would prefer to stick to the rules for the next two years. Ms. Johnson said it is coming to head to use the RPI, competitiveness and free and reduced percentages. We need to commit, moving forward, to make changes for the alignment. Mr. Holmes said we do need to commit, but realignment comes around so fast that changes do not happen. In defense of the staff, they tried to make changes. Maybe the proposal needs to come to the Board of Trustees first. He felt they need to recognize that even though schools make requests, it does not mean we grant them. Maybe we have allowed too many schools to move up a classification. We have sacrificed the 4A Classification to accommodate all the schools wanting to move up. Mr. Cuff said he recognizes it is necessary for districts to look at travel and it is a major concern. He does not think forcing someone to stay in a region is a solution. He felt that maybe major changes to football could be an option with only three classifications. Mr. Bergeson said he recognizes the dilemma and felt it more palatable if they were assured of new suggestions to be considered for a remedy for the next alignment. They do not want to be in the same boat in two years. They are willing to accept, but want to know change is coming. There are no easy answers.

Mr. Cuff said the staff is limited because they do not have votes. The Executive Committee has asked the staff to put together a committee to address the issue. He pointed out we only have two years with the RPI and success factor data fall sports. We only have one-year data for winter and zero years for spring sports because of Covid-19 last spring. He feels RPI and success factor will become part of the next realignment. They were encouraged with the steps to

form committees with EC members and coaches to try to come to some agreement moving forward. What would happen if there were no regions? What would schedules look like? What would the management of region board of managers look like?

Mr. Jarman made the motion to keep the region assignments as proposed for all activities except football, move Region 7 for football to 4A Classification and form a committee and commit and look at rules to make changes needed for the next alignment. Discussion. Mr. Jarman withdrew his motion.

Mr. Sherwood feels everyone agrees that we need to make changes. The RPI is new and we are moving fast to accommodate changes in high school athletics. A pilot program for one sport would be good to help people become comfortable with the idea. There is concern regarding region governance, schedule building, established relationships, region rivalries and region trophies. It is impossible to treat everybody fairly with the current format. He tried to stay within the rules with his proposal for 5A and recognized some people are left out, but does not know how to solve. As a BOT, we need to develop some policies to transition away from the current model and involve coaches, administrators, etc. Changing today is too quick.

Mr. Holmes said outlying schools are concerned they will not have schedules. The staff has said all schools will be guaranteed games. He looks forward to change and feels we should commit and be part of the agreement to move the change forward. Superintendents will need to be included on the committee to answer for travel.

Mr. Cluff pointed out there are many issues that need to be worked out. There are two states, Arizona and New Mexico, that provide two models. Arizona's state association office does the scheduling for school. New Mexico does geographical assigning and different models to reach post season. California uses the success factor for RPI and classification. Through investigation and discussions, he feels there is opportunity for a better plan. He thinks if superintendents, coaches, principals and staff members are involved, the pendulum of change will shift to meet some of the needs or find solutions to the issues.

Mr. Holmes asked Mr. Sherwood about his discussion with Uintah. Mr. Sherwood said Uintah wanted to stay 4A, but there are no other schools that want to join a central 4A region. Some 5A schools were not pleased with their region assignment. He spoke with Grantsville and Tooele and proposed a region that they could compete. He talked with many of the 5A schools developing his proposal. They want to build programs and encourage more participation.

3A: Mr. Holmes wanted to discuss any changes in 3A. Union was concerned being placed in Region 14 because travel and team match ups in wrestling and soccer. Mr. Jackson said schools have the option of picking up dual matches inside or outside of their region. They are allowed six tournaments and dual matches. Mr. Holmes asked if it would be beneficial in wrestling to have divisionals. Mr. Jackson said 3A has divisionals and that allows top athletes to state. Divisionals can be different each year. Soccer has a divisional tourney in 3A. Mr. Jackson said Union's concern is matching up teams with subvarsity boys' and girls' soccer.

Mr. Gordon said the only other concern for 3A was to not allow Canyon View to move down and leave them in 4A to make a more viable classification. Mr. Cuff said the staff proposed the 3A regions to help give more flexibility. The majority of the season is non-region play. Mr. Whitlock said the majority of schools liked the assignments, but they wanted consideration for those schools with concerns. Mr. Holmes said Canyon View would not help the 4A Classification issue. If Canyon View is moved to 4A, it would possibly mean only three regions

in 3A. Mr. Bergeson said he is receiving strong pushback from Union and they want to stay in Region 14. Mr. Holmes received the same concern from Superintendent Brotherson regarding Union. Union does not have close non-region schools to play like some schools such as Canyon View. Mr. Whitlock felt the switch would be fine. He would like to move Canyon View to Region 12 and Union to Region 14. Both schools have travel issues, but Canyon View could build a pre-season schedule easier with closer schools. Mr. Gordon and Mr. Bergeson agreed. Later in the meeting, Iron School District indicated they could support Canyon View moving to Region 12.

2A: Mr. Holmes asked for discussion. Mr. Cuff reported that Mr. Britt said the switch between San Juan and Millard was acceptable to schools. The district gave approval for Millard switch. Mr. Holmes said this makes a case to move forward with RPI and no regions so the burden of travel can be shared. Those schools could be guaranteed a schedule from a bigger pool of schools, depending on the sport. could help accommodate their schedule. We all need to share in the burden of travel. Millard is okay with the football region assignment.

Mr. Anderson said he has received opposition to the changes from Beaver, Enterprise and Parowan have expressed their travel will increase. Mr. Wood said there is concern with travel. He wondered about the possibility of South Sevier, North Sevier and Gunnison being in the same region because of geography. Mr. Holmes said South Sevier/Brett Beagley had requested the region placement.

1A: Mr. Wood said 1A schools are good with the proposal.

Private/Charter Schools: Mr. Miller felt they were good with the proposal. Mr. Durst said they were good with the proposal.

MOTION: Mr. Jarman made the motion to accept the most recent proposal shown on the screen for the 2021-2023 UHSAA Alignment region assignment for all activities except for football. The proposal included Canyon View in Region 12 and Union in Region 14. Ms. Richards seconded the motion. Motion carried, but not unanimously. Thirteen to one in favor of the realignment proposal. Ms. Belnap opposed.

Break for Lunch.

Football Alignment:

6A: No changes to proposal.

5A: Mr. Sherwood said he had received some concern from Jordan because of a five-team region, Park City did not want to be in Region 6 and Murray expressed some displeasure. He thinks Jordan is concerned about scheduling on their own. Cottonwood will remain independent. He said Timpanogos would not ask to go independent if they remain in Region 7. Mr. Sherwood said he will be willing to help Jordan to get a schedule.

4A: Mr. Bergeson said he could accept the proposal as long as there is a plan in place to help remedy the classification inequity.

3A: It was discussed that Canyon View will have less travel in 3A South Division.

2A: No changes to proposal.

1A: No changes to proposal. Discussion if Altamont will have a varsity program.

MOTION: Mr. Jarman made the motion to approve the 2021-23 UHSAA Alignment for football only as shown on the screen. Mr. Whitlock seconded the motion. Ms. Belnap voiced concern that we have capitulated to teams that do poorly and put them together and then created a classification with only two regions in 4A Classification at the two ends of the state. She feels that is costly for those two districts. Mr. Cuff said the proposal is based on requests from schools and with most, if not all, district approval. He understands her position. Ms. Richards asked about Region 8 with five schools, could Hillcrest be moved to Region 8? Motion carried, but not unanimously. Thirteen to one in favor of the realignment proposal. Ms. Belnap opposed.

MOTION: Mr. Jarman made the motion to formally establish a committee to study the realignment procedures and policies in preparation of the 2023-2025 Alignment. This committee will be discussing and vetting any necessary changes needed for the next alignment. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Mr. Whitlock would like the UHSAA Staff to be assigned to create a proposal for changes to the format and procedures. Mr. Cuff asked if a Board directive would be appropriate.

AMENDED MOTION: Mr. Jarman amended his motion to say that the BOT is giving the UHSAA Staff the directive/assignment to propose/create changes to realignment rules (format and procedures) for the 2023-2025 UHSAA Alignment. Ms. Johnson agreed to the amended motion. Mr. Holmes felt the RPI would be part of that proposal. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cuff thanked the Board for their efforts. The process is never easy, but has gone smoothly. He complimented the staff in helping and facilitating with the alignment.

Mr. Cuff thanked members for their service on the Emerging Sports Committee. There will be good discussions coming whether to sanction some emerging sports or not. Some emerging sports might be a consideration in a future year. He expressed gratitude for their service and their support of the staff.

Mr. Holmes thanked the staff and Board. He appreciates everyone's teamwork no matter how hard it is, it is doable. Thank you for the work done in the meetings and outside to communicate the concerns and issues.

MOTION: Mr. Sherwood made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50

PUBLIC HEARING
Zoom Meeting
December 16, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Those in attendance: Board Members: Marilyn Richards, Belinda Johnson, Roger Pulsipher, Dale Whitlock, Adam Britt, Cory Anderson, Larry Bergeson, Jerre Holmes, Tom Sherwood, Steve Gordon, Jim Wood, Bryan Durst, and Laura Belnap. Staff Members: Rob Cuff, Jeff Cluff, Brenan Jackson, Jon Oglesby and Jan Whittaker. Excused: Sam Jarman and Greg Miller. Minutes: Jeanne Widerburg.

1. Welcome and Chair Business: Chair Holmes welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing. Mr. Cluff took roll call and gave zoom meeting instructions. Mr. Holmes welcomed all who were present. The purpose of the meeting is to hear proposals/requests from schools for realignment. He reminded presenters they will have no more than two minutes. He formally opened the UHSAA Public Hearing.

Presentations:

Roy: Matt Williams, principal, Mike Puzey, AD and Mr. Moore, Supervisor of Secondary Ed for Weber School District were presenting. They would request moving Roy from Region 1 to Region 2 for the next alignment period. They would make this request for competitive balance and similar demographics. Mr. Moore said the district has given approval for the additional travel and feels it is best for their students.

Granger: Mr. Sherwood reported Granger was not presenting.

Northridge: Brian Hunt, principal, wanted to affirm they want to move from 6A to 5A, Region 5. They have support of coaches, school and community.

Mountain View: Mike Ericksen, principal, made the request to remain in 5A except for 4A football. They like the cross-town rivalries and relationships that have been developed. They would support Mr. Sherwood's recent proposal.

Wasatch: Ryan Bishop, asst. principal, said they would request Wasatch remain in 5A. They feel competitive balance in 5A and have enjoyed participating in Region 8.

Cedar Valley: Darren Ward and Principal Johnson reported they are a new school and have enjoyed the Region they have participated. They know they need to be 5A and are supportive of the recent proposal made by Mr. Sherwood for a Region 7 in 5A. They feel there will be competitive balance in that region.

Tooele: Catham Beer, AD, stated they are in support of the recent proposal and the new Region 7. They feel they can compete in 5A in that region. They don't feel there is a viable 4A Central Region. A five-school region is difficult for scheduling. They have support of coaches, school and district for 5A.

Stansbury: Trever Wilson, AD, said they do not see a viable 4A Central Region. They would request 5A, Region 7 (recent proposal) in everything except football and they would request 4A for football.

Uintah School District: Not in attendance.

Payson: Jesse Sorenson, principal, made the request to be in 5A in Region 7 (recent proposal). He feels there will be competitive balance. They have the support of coaches and the district.

Hillcrest: Gregg Leavitt, principal, said they are in support of Mr. Sherwood's competitive plan of happiness and would like to participate in the new region in 5A. If the new proposal is not accepted, Hillcrest would like to remain in Region 6. Scott Carrell, AD, said he agrees they would like to be in the new proposed 5A region. He feels it will help them to build their programs. They are willing to travel to make it work for athletes.

Cottonwood: Terri Roylance, principal, said they are in support of Mr. Sherwood's proposal. Greg Southwick, AD, said they have the support of the coaches for Region 7. Ms. Roylance said they have district support of the additional travel.

Crimson Cliffs: Rusty Taylor, principal, voiced concern for the new proposal because 4A will take a hit because they are already the smallest classification. They want to make sure the 4A Classification is strengthened not weakened. The 4A Classification needs balance as well.

Canyon View: Kyle Robinson, AD, are appreciative of the classification move to 3A. They would like members to look at the travel in proposed regions. He has proposed changes between Region 12 and 14. He feels the changes would be best for everyone regarding travel.

Carbon: Lance Hatch, superintendent, said they were supportive of changes to Regions 12 and 14. It makes sense to switch Union with Canyon View for geographic purposes. Mr. Holmes said he had heard concerns with those changes because some of the sports would not match up as well for competitive balance and number of competitors. Mr. Bergeson said he had talked with Superintendent Brotherson and they would prefer Union to not switch because of competitive balance.

Grand County: Mary Marable, principal, said they would request Grand County move to 2A in Region 16. Their participation is down about 20% since they moved to 3A. She feels athletics is education-based and there should be value in equal opportunity for success. They are not able to compete in 3A. They are willing to travel, but also need to provide opportunity for success.

South Sanpete School District: Ralph Squires, superintendent, wanted to address 2A, Region 16. He was representing Gunnison HS and said they are willing to travel, but there was a gentlemen's agreement, in the past, that region assignments alternate with San Juan and Monticello to share the travel burden. They would ask that a switch take place with San Juan and Millard and let them have a turn with travel.

South Sevier: Not in attendance.

North Summit: Wade Murdock, principal, requesting that San Juan and Monticello not be in Region 16. They also understood that the region assignments would alternate between alignments. Asking for the other region to take their turn this alignment.

ICS: Tim Drisdorn, AD, stated they would like to remain in Region 22 because of travel concerns and future considerations of schools offering full programs (volleyball, girls' and boys' basketball).

Park City: Jamie Sheetz, AD, said for the last alignment they requested 5A as bubble school. They have competed well in 5A and feel 5A is where they belong. They would request 5A, Region 6. They support Mr. Sherwood's recent proposal.

Timpanogos: Joe Jensen, principal, said he also supported Mr. Sherwood's competitive plan of happiness. Timpanogos is supportive of the proposal for 5A.

Salt Lake School District: Missy Mackay-Whiteurs, District AD, stated they are in support of West in Region 2. They feel it is a good fit.

Monticello: KC Olson, principal, expressed strong support for the current proposal of Monticello in 1A, Region 19. It will give them less time out of school.

Mr. Holmes thanked everyone for expressing their wishes. He stated it is a tough task for the Board of Trustees. They would like to make everyone happy, but typically that is not possible. They will try their best.

Mr. Cuff said the Board of Trustees would meet tomorrow morning to discuss information from the public hearing and online information that has been received. They will do their best to make things equitable. The Final Realignment for 2021-2023 should be posted on the UHSAA website tomorrow following the BOT meeting and a press release will be sent.

Mr. Holmes closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their time and preparation. The information will be taken under advisement.