

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
UHSAA Office
Wednesday, December 9, 2020
10:00 a.m.
Zoom Meeting

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.

A. Reverence/Thought: Mr. Bergeson feel extra-curricular activities are important especially during the pandemic. He said they held a school board meeting and they are being pressed by a group Freedom from Religion Foundation. There was a discussion about the appropriateness of a reverence and prayer at their meetings. He shared the thought that during school crisis many ask why God would allow this to happen. The answer – You kicked him out of school a long time ago. Why would you question his absence? Mr. Bergeson feels there is much truth to the statement. We need to take a stand and realize there is a greater cause and we need to do what is right and best for kids. He then offered a prayer.

B. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Thought: Mr. Britt said he has been reflecting on his beliefs. He has a love for history and was thinking of the times he has felt most patriotic. After 911 and President Bush speaking at ground zero, he had goose bumps feeling proud to be an American. Another time was at his nephew’s funeral services who was buried with full military honors. The gun salute about took him to his knees. When he visited Philadelphia, the hotel wall bordered the cemetery where Benjamin Franklin is buried. He was humbled and felt gratitude as he visited the historical sites. This past year has been difficult as we watch people trying to undue what was done by the founding fathers and mothers. He then shared a story about a “common” person who helped develop the freedom and prosperity we have today. Her name was Margaret Corbin and she fought in the American Revolutionary War with her husband. She was the first women to receive a military pension from Congress. Mr. Britt is appreciative to those who came before us and provided us with the opportunities we have. He then led the member in the pledge of allegiance.

C. Approval of Board Agenda:

MOTION: Mr. Gordon made the motion to approve today’s agenda. Mr. Britt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

D. Chair’s General Observation: Chair Holmes thanked everyone who has fought for winter sports to continue. He understands the importance of activities for students. There are protocols in place and he emphasized the importance to follow those protocols. He asked them not to relax the protocols. It is a sign of appreciation or unappreciation as to how the protocol is followed. Let’s do what we said we would do to keep winter sports.

2. **Realignment:** Mr. Cuff welcomed board members and guests. He appreciates their desire to be apart of the meeting and realignment process. He reviewed the agenda materials including timetable, current 2019-20 classification and regions, first consideration of classifications, format

and procedures, and schools listed by district. Today is the second meeting of the realignment process. The next meeting will be the public hearing on December 16 and on December 17 the BOT will meet to finalize the realignment for 2021-2023.

Mr. Cuff said that Water Canyon HS enrollment was reported wrong last time. Water Canyon has 158 students grades 10-12 which would put them at the bottom of the 2A classification. They would not be a bubble school, but they qualify for free and reduced lunch with 83.70%. Mr. Bergeson apologized for the error, Water Canyon would petition for 1A using the free and reduced lunch %. He reported they have lower participation numbers at Water Canyon.

ORIGINAL BUBBLE SCHOOLS: Original Bubble Schools were invited to attend or at least indicate their preference for classification.

6A/5A BUBBLE SCHOOLS:

Alta: Principal McGill said there has been a significant shift in their demographics with the split with Corner Canyon HS. Significant increase in free and reduced lunch. He said they have mid-range region finishes. They would request 5A Classification.

Brighton: Mr. Sherwood said Brighton would request 5A Classification.

Cedar Valley: Application indicated 5A Classification request in everything.

Corner Canyon: Mr. Sherwood reported they are requesting 6A in everything.

East: Application indicated 5A Classification in everything.

Kearns: Dr. Dunn, Region 2 chair, reported they are requesting 6A Classification in everything.

Lehi: Mr. Sherwood reported they are requesting 5A in everything.

Maple Mountain: Application indicated 5A Classification in everything.

Northridge: Principal Hunt stated they would request 5A Classification in everything. Their enrollment is only 56 students more than the largest 5A School. In comparison to the Region 1 schools, they have a higher free and reduce lunch percentage and mobility rate. The school is located by the south gate of Hill Air Force Base, so they have a high mobility rate. He stated Northridge has only had one region championship out of 80 in the past four years.

Olympus: Application indicated 5A Classification in everything.

Timpview: Application indicated 5A Classification in everything.

Wasatch: Assistant Principal Bishop said they are glad to be playing and thanked the Board. They would request 5A Classification, Region 8, because it is a great fit for Wasatch.

4A/5A BUBBLE SCHOOLS:

Bountiful: Principal Hogge requested the 5A Classification for all activities because of the natural rivalries with Woods Cross and Viewmont and travel concerns.

Mountain View: Application indicated 5A Classification in everything except football – 4A football.

Orem: Principal Gerratt stated they would like to remain in the 5A Classification.

Park City: Athletic Director Sheetz said in the last alignment they requested to move up and they were placed in Region 8. They would request 5A Classification in everything except football in 4A if placed in current Region 6. He understands the difficulties of alignment. They are concerned with the lack of a strong 4A central region. If a strong central 4A region could be developed, they would be open to placement in 4A for everything.

Salem Hills: Application indicated 5A Classification in everything.

Stansbury: Athletic Director Wilson and Principal Warr stated they have been 4A for several years. They would request 4A Classification, but have concerns for a viable, central region in 4A. They do not want to travel to Cache Valley or St. George. They would choose to be in the 5A classification rather than travel. If assigned 5A, they would request 4A football if there is a viable central region.

Tooele: Athletic Director Catham Beer said they have the same concerns as Park City and Stansbury regarding a viable, central 4A region. They would request 4A if there is a viable region. They would request 5A if they would be traveling to Cache Valley or St. George in 4A. They would like to stay with their natural rival, Stansbury, in either classification.

Uintah: Superintendent Woodford said they would request 3A football and everything else 4A Classification. They have concerns about a 4A central region, too. He said the Association had an opportunity to modernize alignment using RPI and establish competitive balance across the state. They have advocated for a system using RPI and geography. Their football team is 1 in 28 in region play over the past five years and have not had a winning season for 20 years. There are concerns for injuries and safety issues in football and they need some relief. Requesting a bonified, central region in 4A.

Viewmont: Principal Smith would request 5A in everything. They have natural rivalries in Region 5. Northridge would be a natural rivalry as well. They are concerned about a viable, central 4A region.

3A/4A BUBBLE SCHOOL:

Canyon View: Assistant Principal Robinson said they would request 3A Classification for everything. They feel they can be competitive in 3A and it would be a boost for school spirit. Safety is an issue for football because they do not have the depth with few participants. They have community support. There are some concerns about travel, but they would prefer to be competitive.

2A/1A BUBBLE SCHOOL:

APA West Valley: Application indicated 2A Classification in everything. Also qualify with free and reduced lunch.

San Juan: Application indicated 2A Classification in everything.

South Sevier: Principal Beagley said they would request 2A Classification. In 3A, they have averaged 5th place. He thinks school demographics are like schools in 2A and it would rekindle old rivalries.

Freedom Prep: Application indicated 2A Classification in everything.

Monticello: Application indicated 1A Classification in everything.

Saint Joseph Catholic: Application indicated 2A Classification in everything.

FOOTBALL BUBBLE SCHOOLS:

Emery: Coach Faimalo said they would request 3A Classification for everything except for football – 2A Classification.

Juan Diego: Application indicated 3A Classification in everything.

Manti: Application indicated 3A Classification in everything.

Beaver: Application indicated 2A Classification in everything.

Enterprise: 2A Classification in everything except football – 1A Classification.

Gunnison:

North Summit:

FREE AND REDUCED QUALIFICATION:

Ben Lomond: Principal Poll requested 3A in everything. They have been ranked last in RPI in most every sport. Students have lost hope losing week after week.

Ogden: Principal Haney said they would request 3A Classification in everything. They have had some recent success, but would like to request 3A. Safety is a concern and they have low participation numbers. Ogden serves three homeless shelters. They are concerned for the social and emotional health of their students.

HIGHER CLASSIFICATION:

REAL Salt Lake: Athletic Director Hogan said they have shown success in athletics and would request participation in 3A Classification in everything. They are in talks to increase their enrollment to 500. The formal requests have not been heard because of Covid-19. There is growth in the area and the numbers continue to increase. Boys' and girls' basketball are independent for the next five years.

Layton Christian: Mr. Miller requested to move everything to 3A Classification. They would request football to be in 1A Classification.

OTHER DISCUSSION OF NON-BUBBLE SCHOOLS:

West Jordan: Ms. Richards said she had been in communication with Principal Birch from West Jordan. They are close to the bottom 6A bubble schools and have 35% free and reduced. They anticipate higher free and reduced and fee waivers. They have 225 ELL students and a large homeless population. They would like to be competitive and request 5A Classification.

Grand County: Mr. Cuff said they had received an email requesting 2A Classification in everything. They are the bottom of the 3A Classification. They are 2A for football, but would request 2A in everything.

Mr. Holmes reminded members they had adopted format and procedure policies and it is difficult to satisfy everyone being restricted by the rules.

A. Regions: Mr. Cuff stated the staff had met and presented a starting point for region assignments to Chair Holmes. He reminded members that today was not a final decision. There will be a public hearing on December 16. Mr. Oglesby displayed the staff proposal for regions for all sports except football. Mr. Cuff discussed the school changes from the current alignment. Mr. Holmes said the format and procedure rules have been followed for this proposal.

Mr. Sherwood said Hillcrest would prefer to be in Region 7. Timpview is comfortable to be in Region 8 with Provo. He said he had not received negative feedback on the proposal for 6A.

Mr. Wood felt if South Sevier is moved down a classification, they should be in Region 16 with North Sevier. He is concerned with Region 21 because there are not many girls' programs. It has been suggested to move ICS to Region 21 for three viable girls' sports programs.

Mr. Holmes said he was representing North Summit. He feels at least 1A and 2A need to consider a non-region alignment. Geography makes it difficult to lock into a region. Schools would be guaranteed a schedule and decrease travel burdens for districts. Mr. Sherwood agreed and feels conversations with superintendents and districts would prove agreeable to a non-region alignment. No adjustments have been made to athletics with an open enrollment policy. Open enrollment has changed competitive balance. Mr. Anderson felt outlying schools in 1A would then play schools much closer. He would like to try something with the 1A/2A and eliminate regions and try it. Mr. Durst would also agree to eliminate regions.

Mr. Holmes said there is concern for the 4A central region. Mr. Sherwood presented two 5A alternate proposals, but was okay with the staff proposal with a 4A central region. He did ask for consideration for Hillcrest to move to Region 7. Mr. Cuff stated that Mountain View and Park City are the only requests not met in order to make a 4A central region. Ms. Johnson said she likes using the staff proposal as a starting point. After discussion, Hillcrest was moved to Region 7 for the first consideration. Ms. Richards said she would like to leave 6A as proposed until public hearing. Mr. Pulsipher felt 4A should stay with the proposal until the public hearing. Mr. Whitlock felt the 3A regions look fine and the format and procedures were followed. Mr. Cuff pointed out that five team regions allows more flexibility in scheduling. South Sevier would prefer to remain in Region 19 if possible. Mr. Holmes voiced opposition to the proposal, but would let the proposal stand for now. 1A Regions 21 and 22 were discussed. Mr. Wood said he would reach out to schools and check on girls' programs. Mr. Miller suggested aligning for girls' basketball. Mr. Anderson said there is the North/South option as done in baseball. 1A Regions were left intact for the public hearing.

MOTION: Ms. Belnap made the motion to accept the staff proposal with the exception of Hillcrest assignment to Region 7 for the first consideration of regions. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

B. Football Regions: Mr. Cuff said when the BOT considered classifications it was unanimous to bring back 1A football. The staff proposed a starting point for region assignment for football.

- 6A No changes from all activities
- 5A No changes from all activities except Hillcrest to Region 7
- 4A No changes from all activities
- 3A North/South Divisions
- 2A North/South Divisions
- 1A North/South Divisions – discussion about switching Gunnison and Monticello

There are 109 football schools. The football alignment is different based on fewer teams and this is most reflected in 1A, 2A, 3A football. The staff tried to keep schools together as much as possible with their all-activities regions. Altamont had a football team in the first year of the last alignment but dropped their program this year. There is a thought they may come back, so they have been assigned to 1A North. The current independent football teams were placed into region and divisions except for Monument Valley and Whitehorse. They have not voiced any interest in leaving independent status. Mr. Holmes said he had a discussion with their superintendent and they clearly want to stay independent.

MOTION: Mr. Whitlock made the motion to accept the region/division assignment proposal for football as presented. Ms. Belnap seconded the motion. Mr. Holmes felt the presentations at the public hearing will help them with concerns for safety issues first and then travel. He asked members to keep an open ear and open mind. Motion carried.

Mr. Cuff said the 1st consideration of the region assignment for everything and football will be released to the press, schools and posted on the website.

Ms. Belnap asked if the public hearing would be virtual. Mr. Holmes said he will discuss possibilities with the staff and board members will be notified.

MOTION: Mr. Gordon made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Belnap seconded the motion

Meeting adjourned at 12:20.

Next meeting: Public Hearing on December 16 at 6:00 pm and BOT Meeting on December 17 at 10:00 am.