

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

UHSAA Office

March 25, 2021

9:00 AM

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 offered condolences to Ms. Widerburg for the loss of her husband. He asked members to remember who they represent as they make tough decisions today that involve students. Mr. Jarman was coming late.

A. Reverence/Thought: Mr. Wood said it was nice to be meeting in person. He talked about the Prophet Elijah from the book of Kings. A young boy was with him and as he woke up the boy thought he was surrounded by an army intent to destroy the city. He was overwhelmed with the stress in his life. The prophet prayed that the boy's eyes would be open that he might see the hand of the Lord and the strength that was around to support him. As Mr. Wood thought about this, the past year has been challenging and somewhat overwhelming. Others are around to help and strengthen and good things can be brought to pass. It is great opportunity to work with the youth of Utah. We have overcome many challenges this year and have been able to provide opportunities that many across the nation have not had. We need to look for tender mercies that give us guidance and direction in our lives. He then offered a prayer.

B. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic Thought: Mr. Pulsipher shared a video that was produced in his district. The song used in the video was, "This Land is Your Land." Mr. Pulsipher said "This Land" belongs to all of us and we all have the same rights and privileges. Mr. Pulsipher said the video featured people from Cache Valley singing the song and pictures from Cache Valley. He then led members in the pledge of allegiance.

C. Approval of Board Agenda: Chair Holmes said that Mark Van Wagoner would come around 10:00 for the legal report. The Emerging Sports discussion will follow the legal report.

MOTION: Ms. Richards made the motion to approve the board agenda with the changes mentioned. Mr. Sherwood seconded the motion. Motion carried.

D. Approval of Minutes for January 21, 2021 Meeting (summary on UHSAA website):

MOTION: Mr. Bergeson made the motion to approve the minutes of January 21, 2021 meeting. Mr. Wood seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. **USBE Report:** Mr. Brent Strate reported the USBE was meeting later to review their strategic plan. He said the plan has come under attack recently regarding issues of equity. He read the USBE Mission Statement which states equitable conditions for student success. He believes the mission of the USBE is aligned with the mission of the UHSAA. He asked members for their support in their communities to support the USBE definition of equity. We need to do what is best for the state.

3. Executive Committee Meeting Report:

A. March 17, 2020 (summary on UHSAA website): Mr. Steve Gordon reported the meeting.

- Ready Reference Calendar
- Winter Champions
- Basketball Endowment Games
- Winter activities
- Winter ejections for coach and players
- Theatre for all classification will be in-person
- State track – all classification will be at Davis HS
- Tentative Calendar
- AD Conference in St. George – April 14-17, 2021
- EC approved a state championship for 2A fall baseball in addition to 2A spring baseball.
- Student Leadership Conference will be held in the fall by Regions
- Cross Country will be held at the Regional Athletic Complex in northwest SLC
- Drill Team – SHOW category was approved as the third category
- Spring deadline is April 1 for coaches' certification. Coach will be suspended until complete and fined \$100.
- Unified Sports for track and field and soccer
- Mr. Van Wagoner provided a legal report
- Distinguished Service Award recipients were approved – luncheon on April 28

4. **Winter Activities Report:** Chair Holmes expressed thanks to members, staff, schools, administrators and government leaders that allowed us to have a winter activities report. He is grateful those opportunities were provided to the students.

A. Winter Results (pp. 107-108): Mr. Cuff provided a list of champions on pages 107-108. He congratulated schools and thanked the staff for making it happen. We look forward to the spring season.

B. Basketball Endowment Game Report: Mr. Cuff reported the basketball endowment games were affected by Covid-19. There were limited spectators and some games were not considered endowment games because schools had so many games cancelled. The revenue for this year was \$1825.

MOTION: Mr. Sherwood made the motion to transfer \$1825.00 to the Foundation account. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr. Britt asked if the UHSAA is eligible for any funding with Covid-19. Mr. Cuff reported the UHSAA received two PPP loans and that has helped. The litigation has taken a tremendous hit to the budget. We have been living on reserve and he is grateful we had a reserve. The rainy-day fund has been being built for over 20 years. He has mixed feelings asking schools for money. Schools have lost revenue with smaller gates at football and basketball. Mr. Bergeson reported on a meeting he attended discussing of Covid-19 monies. Mr. Cuff feels like the Association needs to take care of member schools. The UHSAA has continued to pay reimbursements to schools. We are hopeful for a good spring revenue. He understands that

schools and districts want to help the UHSAA, but he has reservations. Mr. Sherwood said, from his school perspective, each school should share the burden with UHSAA. The lawsuit represented many schools. He suggested increasing dues for one year or have each school pay a portion of the catastrophic insurance. Mr. Holmes said the issue could be included on a future agenda for further discussion. It was determined the finance committee could discuss the matter and then present to entire board.

C. Basketball: Mr. Oglesby expressed his gratitude for the support of the BOT and Executive Committee. Basketball tournaments were different this year with limited spectators, venues and tournament brackets. He felt everyone was supportive and appreciative that the athletes were able to participate. Chair Holmes and his North Summit girls' basketball team won another state title.

D. Wrestling: Mr. Jackson felt the wrestling tournaments were a success, but there were many challenges with venues and sites. He appreciated the regions and EC for stepping up and helping arrange sites. This was the first year of girls' wrestling state championship. Over 500 girls wrestled this year and it is anticipated that number will continue to grow. Mr. Jackson appreciated everyone's efforts and adherence to protocols.

E. Drill Team: Ms. Whittaker reported that the championships were an all-comers format. 2A was at SVC and the other classifications at UVU. The SHOW category was well received and has been added as the third category next year.

F. Swimming: Ms. Whittaker reported BYU cancelled and new sites had to be arranged. There were no spectators because of the venue sizes. Boys' and girls' swimming session were held separately and the event was streamed. She appreciated the help from everyone to make the event successful.

G. Ejection Report (pp. 109-110): Mr. Cluff reviewed the results of the ejection report. The winter ejections were down and he felt Covid-19 had a significant impact because of the limited fans. He feels sportsmanship is improving. Doug Robinson wrote a newspaper article regarding the official shortage. The NFHS is reaching out to coaches to recruit them to become officials. Coaches make the best officials because they understand the game, environment and their temperament is more calm and less punitive. Utah's number of officials is fairly flat, but it is becoming more difficult to retain new officials because of their experience on the court and field. The increase in officials' fees has helped and the officials feel supported.

5. Calendar:

A. 2020-21 (pp. 111-112 and UHSAA website): Mr. Oglesby reminded members that the calendar is very lucid and everyone should visit the website for the most recent updates.

B. 2021-2022 (UHSAA website): Mr. Oglesby said the tentative calendar is posted. The state Cross Country meet has moved one week later and a to a new site, Regional Athletic Complex.

6. Staff Items:

A. Sportsmanship Award Criteria: Ms. Whittaker said the Sportsmanship Award applications will be available online beginning May 1. There are three levels of the sportsmanship award.

B. Student Leadership Conference: Ms. Whittaker said the conference will be held in the fall on a region or multi-region level. Training will be held for the region sportsmanship specialists during the summer.

C. Special Olympics Utah – Unified Sports: Mr. Oglesby said the staff is excited with their relationship with Special Olympics Utah. USOUT has a new CEO and she has a great vision for schools and districts. First Lady Cox’s platform is focused on promoting social and emotional learning in schools. Soccer and track will be offered in the spring this year, but there is discussion to change up the format and have an event in each sports season of the year instead of just spring.

D. Academic All-State (p. 117): Mr. Oglesby said Academic All-State is open for spring sports. The Activities Academic All-State just finished up. The Executive Committee passed a recommendation to accept a late submission period for schools missing the original deadline. The staff has seen a substantial increase in late submissions.

E. Summer Moratorium (p. 118): Mr. Jackson said the Summer Moratorium is July 4-10 for seven consecutive days. If a school requests an adjustment, then it must be for the entire school.

F. Coaches’ Certification (p. 119): Mr. Jackson reminded members a district can choose to approve courses on the NFHSlearn website to help to certify their coaches. Bullying, hazing and harassment can be completed with one video on the NFHSlearn site. Mr. Cluff reminded members that April 1 is the deadline for spring sport credential orders and certification.

7. **Board Terms:** Mr. Cuff reviewed terms for member of the BOT and Executive Committee.

A. Board of Trustees Terms (p. 120): Mr Cuff reviewed terms that will be ending and positions that need to be determined. Elections for 3A and 4A School Board Members will be held at the UHSAA Office on Tuesday, April 27. 4A will be at 10:00 am and 3A will be at 10:30 am. Private School Election will also be held that day at 11:00 am. Discussion whether voting needed to be in-person, over zoom or both. Mr. Cuff said there is one ballot per member school. Mr. Cuff will send a letter with a hybrid model with in-person and zoom for school board members and private schools. Hopefully, next year’s election will be held again at the USBA Convention.

(1) 6A Principal to BOT – EC will determine.

(2) 1A/2A Superintendent – Superintendents will determine.

(3) 5A/6A Superintendent – Mr. Jarman is retiring so the replacement will have a term for one or four years. Superintendents will determine.

B. Executive Committee Terms (pp. 121-122):

- Region 3 Todd Quarnberg
- Region 4 Not determined
- Region 15 Nate Marshall – Providence Hall

All positions will be finalized at the Executive Committee’s April Meeting.

8. **Legal Report:** Mr. Van Wagoner gave a legal report regarding the girls' football litigation. He again complimented the UHSAA Staff and the outstanding job they performed as witnesses.

Mr. Van Wagoner discussed UHSAA By-Laws, Article IX, Equal Opportunity.

9. **Emerging Sports (pp. 113-116):**

A. Sanction Considerations: Each chair of the UHSAA BOT sub-committees reported.

(1) Boys' Volleyball: Mr. Miller reviewed the rubric created for sub-committees for consideration of sanctioning. He discussed participation, Title IX compliance, lifetime sport, club and associations assistance, college opportunities, etc. The obstacles discussed were facility availability, additional travel expense, sports season, supervision, etc. Benefits of the program is it is a great opportunity for boys to participate in a UHSAA sponsored activity. The Boys' Volleyball Committee recommended sanctioning for 2022-2023 pending input from the Executive Committee and Superintendents.

a. Soccer Survey: Mr. Jackson reported that most of the completed surveys were in favor of leaving soccer in the spring season.

Mr. Strate asked about the survey that was sent to the districts to indicate their support of sanctioning. He wanted to know if insight to the survey could be provided. Mr. Holmes said it was sent to the superintendents to make them aware and communicate with their principals to decide sanctioning as a district. Mr. Jarman said his survey was based on the principals' support and concerns. Mr. Strate said he recognized how much responsibility is already on administrators. Mr. Strate asked about the equity of boys' participation in high school vs club. Ms. Davis said they want all boys to have the opportunity to play. Playing for high school will lower the cost for boys. It will help the low income and rural areas. She suggested that teachers or staff members could be deputized to help with supervision to ease the administrations burden. She suggested additional funds could be used to help with transportation expenses. Mr. Britt said he was on the Volleyball Committee and he noted his superintendent voted no on the survey. He has had many requests to sanction volleyball. He feels this discussion should be about the kids and not the administration response. If we wait for the perfect time, we may wait another 10 years. Ms. Johnson said typically she is 100% for kids if it is good for them. The problem she is having is she thinks another activity will get dropped if another activity is added. Are we bumping one kid for another kid? Mr. Sherwood said this is not an easy decision. There is not extra money for additional supervision. Mr. Jarman said lacrosse added 44 games with boys and girls. There is stress on the whole system - trainers, athletic directors checking for eligibility, ticket takers, supervision, transportation, etc. We are not against kids, but the system must expand somehow before we add another sanctioned activity. He does not feel this is the right time to sanction. Ms. Richards represents 30 principals and she understands the added responsibilities and stress on facilities, etc. One of her principals said, "We cannot be everything for everyone." Her legal counsel is also saying this is not the year to add boys' volleyball. Mr. Pulsipher said Cache School District voted no - 3 to 1. He questions if he is to support the administrators or his constituents that have sent many emails requesting sanctioning. Mr. Gordon is from a smaller school. They have no paid athletic directors and there is a real concern for supervision. Mr. Miller again stated the committee had recommended sanctioning for the 2022-23 school year. He feels the discussion goes beyond boys' volleyball. Years ago, there was a moratorium to not add any new sports. Maybe this is applicable for any sport at this time because they will cause the same issues. Mr. Anderson pointed out that the survey showed many 1A schools voting yes. He feels they voted yes because in all probability, it will not affect those schools. It could affect 1A schools if there are switches in seasons such as fall baseball.

(2) Competitive Cheer: Mr. Sherwood reported the sub-committee voted to move forward with sanctioning competitive cheer. Their conversations were like that of the volleyball sub-committee. The Competitive Cheer Committee proposed to sanction in 2021-2022 and use the year to work with the current competition structure to develop the state competition for fall of 2022-2023. They would have their same competitions for 2021-2022. Mr. Sherwood said this will not be an increase to his school budget because he is already paying for cheer. Concerns from the cheer organization is a possible conflict of sport season overlap and the competition being changed significantly. He reported the Executive Committee unanimously supported sanctioning. Mr. Miller said it would be an additional expense for their school. Their cheerleaders are a support group and ride the game bus. Mr. Sherwood said it will be an expense if schools are not already competing. He can no longer waive fees if the expense is going to a private organization. All competitions currently are run by private organizations.

(3) Esports: Mr. Oglesby reported for Mr. Bergeson who was the chair of the sub-committee. He said there are schools that are currently participating in Esports and it is a growing activity. The discussion of sanctioning brought up many questions. Is it the right time? Is it established enough? There are pockets of areas (Wasatch Front, Cache Valley, Washington County) that were aware of Esports, but many other areas had not heard of Esports. The sub-committee recommended that Esports should be allowed to continue to grow and then review it again next year. The Executive Committee also recommended reviewing it again in the following year. Ms. Richards stated her district is participating in Esports actively. She feels it is a positive activity, but she notes it is mostly male participation. Mr. Oglesby said there is an increase of female participation as they develop “Shesports.” He feels the schools will continue to make the investment to help girls become involved with time. Mr. Oglesby said there are concerns about the fees and the potential fee structures. There were questions about the resources and who oversees how the resources are allocated to the students. There are still many unknowns that are concerning to superintendents and business administrators. Mr. Sherwood said it was not a substantial cost to his schools to operate Esports. Sanctioning will not change how it operates in his school. It will, however, give validation for students participating. He said there is a participation fee to cover the cost of the tournament. Mr. Jarman said he sees Esports being absorbed into the school system through the CTE program. He does not understand why it need to be run through the Association. It adds to the emphasis on STEM and is a good fit for CTE. Mr. Bergeson rejoined the meeting and said the sub-committee felt we should put a hold on Esports sanctioning and give it time to develop. He was amazed at the scholarship potential and benefits for students. He feels the timing is not right. Mr. Oglesby said the sub-committee did not address or explore the platforms. Schools in the state are using different platforms. Ms. Whittaker said it was determined to not tie platforms with sanctioning.

MOTION: Mr. Jarman made the motion to take a vote on the three recommendations from the sub-committees. Mr. Whitlock seconded the motion. Mr. Holmes said these were important votes and reminded members of the need to vote for who they represent. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Miller made the motion to sanction boys’ volleyball in 2022-2023. Mr. Strate seconded the motion. Yes: 5 (Mr. Miller, Mr. Britt, Mr. Whitlock, Mr. Pulsipher and Mr. Strate). No: 8 (Mr. Durst, Mr. Wood, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Bergeson, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Jarman). Abstain: 1 (Ms. Richards). Motion failed.

MOTION: Mr. Durst made the motion to sanction boys’ volleyball in 2021-2022. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Durst said he made the motion to support charter schools that already participating in volleyball. Yes: 5 (Mr. Durst, Mr. Miller, Mr. Britt, Mr. Pulsipher, and Mr.

Strate). No: 9 (Mr. Wood, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Whitlock, Mr. Bergeson, Mr. Sherwood, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Richards and Mr. Jarman). Motion failed.

MOTION: Mr. Whitlock made the motion to sanction competition cheer in 2021-2022 with the first UHSAA State Championship in 2022-2023. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Mr. Bergeson asked why they are waiting on first championship in 2022-23. Mr. Sherwood said some schools have already held tryouts for 2021-2022 and they wanted time to work out championship details with the cheer organization. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Bergeson made the motion to table Esports and present next year. Mr. Jarman seconded the motion. Mr. Bergeson amended the motion to not sanction Esports at this time. Mr. Jarman seconded the amended motion. Yes: 13. No: 1 (Mr. Miller). Motion carried.

10. For the Good of the Order:

A. High School Activities (p. 123): Mr. Cuff provided articles supporting educated-based activities. He feels Utah has set a great example for the rest of the nation. Utah was the first state to hold a football game and first to complete fall championships. Other states have called to see how it was accomplished. Mr. Cuff said it happened with the support of Governors Herbert and Cox, Utah Department of Health and the districts and member schools.

B. UHSAA Distinguished Service Award (p. 124): Mr. Cuff provided a list of the recipients of the award. He has sent notification letters to the principals. He said it would be appropriate to congratulate them if board members know them.

C. Heart of the Arts Award (pp. 125-127): Mr. Cuff said Joshua Long, a theatre teacher at Hillcrest HS, was selected because of the work he does with student theatre advisors/peer mentors. They organized a virtual showcase for students whose competitions were cancelled. They also received the NFHS Section 7 Award.

D. Spirit of Sport Award (pp. 128-130): Lance Gillespie, student at Davis HS, was selected for the Spirit of Sports Award. He also received the NFHS Section 7 Award. Lance has down syndrome and has been a participant on the swim team since his sophomore year. At the team banquet in 2019, Coach Kip Barker surprised Lance and announced his selection as team captain for the following year.

E. Meetings/Elections: Mr. Cuff reminded members of the meetings/elections:

- 4A Board Election – Tuesday, April 27 at 10:00 am
- 3A Board Election – Tuesday, April 27 at 10:30 am
- Private School Election – Tuesday, April 27 at 11:00 am
- Diversity and Inclusion Committee Meeting – Thursday, May 6 at 11:30 am. Mr. Cuff announced a new chair has been selected, Dr. Jackie Thompson. She is passionate and excited to serve.

MOTION: Mr. Bergeson made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Richards second.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.