

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**UHSAA Office and Virtual**  
**Tuesday, May 5, 2020**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Those in attendance: Board Members: Marilyn Richards, Belinda Johnson, Roger Pulsipher, Dale Whitlock, Adam Britt, Cory Anderson, Sam Jarman, David Brotherson, Jerre Holmes, Tom Sherwood, Steven Gordon, Stan Young, 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 Whitlock welcomed all members to the meeting. He acknowledged some were present at the UHSAA Office and others through virtual means. He declared a quorum and thanked everyone for their attendance. He reminded members that the Constitution/By-Laws Committee Meeting would be held on Thursday, May 14 @ 11:00 am and the Board of Trustees Meeting would be held on Thursday, May 21 @ 9:00 am.

A. Approval of Board Agenda for May 5, 2020:

**MOTION:** Mr. Sherwood motioned to approve the Board Agenda for May 5, 2020. Mr. Gordon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. **UHSAA Spring Sports and Activities:** Mr. Cuff welcomed members. He said the UHSAA cancelled all spring sports and activities on April 14 immediately after Governor Herbert and State Superintendent Dickson announced there would be no in-person learning. Utah was the 23<sup>rd</sup> state to cancel spring activities and as of today, 48 states have cancelled. Mr. Cuff, Mr. Oglesby, Chair Whitlock, Superintendent Holmes and others met with Governor Herbert for discussions about spring sports. On that same day, a video “Let Us Play” and petition was released. The Governor asked staff members to prepare a plan to return to play if the situation improved. A plan was developed, presented and a copy was given to the Board. The plan included extending play into June. Ten days later, the Governor asked for them to return to meet with him. Dr. Karl Weenig, chair of the UHSAA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, wrote a letter that was shared with the Governor and the Board outlining the danger and concerns of opening sports during the Covid 19 pandemic. He pointed out many issues that would need to be worked out, but the most concerning was that players could potentially take the disease home to other family members. After much discussion, it was determined that sports and activities could not open with respect to the Utah Lead Together 2.0 plan that specifically stated there were no team sports in the “Orange” Phase. Mr. Cuff said there was some discussion of individual sports continuing, but he said in the eyes of the UHSAA, all sports and activities are team oriented. Even in the Lead Together 2.0 Plan, the “Yellow” Phase stated to use caution in team sports including symptom checking.

Mr. Whitlock went on to say that there is not enough time to start up spring sports at this point. The Governor and the UHSAA feel bad for the students.

Mr. Holmes said the staff has been ready to move forward and the Governor was impressed with their outlined plans. The staff wanted spring sports to continue, but the logistics are tough. Superintendents were hard pressed to say ‘let us play’ when a traditional graduation is not even possible. He commended Mr. Cuff and the staff for their great efforts and presentations.

Dr. Weenig reported he had gathered information from many organizations around the country to prepare to write his letter. He wanted to support the Lead Together plan and to keep students safe. If sports were to continue, they would have to carve out an exception from the Lead Together plan. He said it would take 3-4 weeks of conditioning to safely return athletes to play. Transporting students between different counties was a concern, and we do not want to negatively affect the potential recovery. He said Utah can do hard things, but there just is not enough time. It would be difficult to start up while in the “Orange” phase. There was discussion of the issues to do screening and swab testing of athletes. Rapid testing would be needed and it is not readily available to the public.

Mr. Oglesby said there was commonality with the staff, state superintendent and board members. Ideas were discussed on considering to returning to play. He reviewed the Return-To-Play Brief. It showed solvency if it was determined to move forward to play and the legitimate concerns.

Mr. Sherwood said from the data he has seen, the school aged person is not part of the mortality rate of this disease. Is the primary reason for not playing sports for public transmission or concern for the athlete? Dr. Weenig said the concern for athletes is taking it home to others who are susceptible to the disease. If a player has a temperature at screening, on the extreme side of things, do you quarantine the entire team? Policies will need to be developed if we move forward.

Ms. Belnap wondered about the fall and what will be the process. Mr. Jarman said it is projected that another wave of the virus is thought to occur around October or November. Will we shut down the fall season after it begins? Dr. Weenig said that is why he feels doing the right thing on the front end will help us to come out better on the end of pandemic. We need to make good decisions right now. Not enough is known about the virus to know how it will affect us in the fall and next spring. Hopefully, there will be a vaccine next year. What we do not want is a resurgence that will affect and delay normal return to school in the fall.

Mr. Whitlock said the reason the meeting was called this morning was because it was thought there would be some action. It does not appear with all that has been presented there will be any action. It is unfortunate spring sports are cancelled. With timing, risk factors and concerns, it makes it impossible to startup spring sports.

Ms. Richards said her district has had discussion to potentially play games within their district. She asked for Dr. Weenig’s thoughts. Dr. Weenig said he had heard there had been discussion of sporting events within districts. He feels we need to support the Governor in his Lead Together plan in counties that are in the orange phase. It might be more appropriate in the yellow phase.

Mr. Cuff said after the second meeting with the Governor and superintendent’s meeting, the staff has worked closely with Justin Harding, Chief of Staff for the Governor and Tami Pyfer, Education Advisor, to develop guidelines to provide a statement after today’s meeting. He discussed phases being different from county to county is a possibility. He reviewed the guideline suggestions. The Board of Trustees will consider sanctioning state-wide competition once all 29 counties move to the yellow phase. In the May 21 meeting, the Board will be looking at start dates for fall. We are trying to transition from spring sanctioned activities to off season summer activities. There is always a transition period after Memorial Day and first of June to other organizations.

Mr. Jarman was concerned that if the UHSAA is not formally involved and encourages summer activities, it puts pressure on the districts, without support of the UHSAA, to develop

tournaments and games not connected to anything. We need to just wish them well and send them to their regular summer activities. One district doing tournaments will put pressure on other districts. Staff is open to suggestions to formulate the statement. Ms. Johnson feels everyone needs to be in it together not to put added pressure on districts.

Mr. Sherwood said it is easy for the UHSAA to disconnect from summer activities, but it is not easy for schools. The summer activities occur at school facilities. We need policies and procedures.

Mr. Whitlock said nothing is changing and it is same as other years. The UHSAA does not want to be involved in what they have not been in past years. The Governor encouraged schools and districts to work with clubs and their facilities.

Ms. Belnap said the UHSAA has always been done by Memorial Day. She emphasized that during the orange phase schools are still closed. Once the city moves to yellow, the schools will need to decide on opening schools. Do districts have the money to run their own tournament? Mr. Young asked how any group can get around the governor restrictions. Ms. Johnson said no group can get around the restriction until the yellow phase.

Mr. Van Wagoner said he is not sure the Association has the authority or ability to force schools and districts to play any sport when the school is closed. Would they support busses and items they regularly supply during the regular season? It is a huge obstacle if not following the Governor's plan. If we open play, how many would play?

Mr. Britt said he has two schools in his district and he talked to both principals and received two different messages. After hearing from coaches, one wants to play at all costs and the other wants to just move on looking to fall. If there is no vaccine, will we be comfortable to open in the fall even in yellow phase?

Dr. Weenig said he does not remember any comment from the Governor regarding starting in the fall if in the yellow phase. Based on the Lead Together Plan he thinks the yellow phase would open the possibility. There will be a new normal on hygiene protocol for athletics and schools.

Mr. Whitlock said we are in a wait and see mode as testing becomes available. Mr. Jarman said the yellow phase allows a maximum number of 50 to assemble. He discussed the problems with bussing, classrooms and hallways. He feels we are limited until we are in the green phase.

Dr. Weenig said it is a waiting game. Possibly, there will be a change to the requirements and the number of individuals for gatherings. He said we need to be patient and pointed out that the medical community is not even in agreement. It is tough and we need to keep people protected and follow guidelines to ramp things up as we can. Things might look a lot different in August because we are learning as we go.

Mr. Whitlock said we need to be patient to see what it will look like in August. We need solidarity to follow Governor's plan. We can continue to do the best we can. He asked board members if staff could develop a statement centered around SMAC recommendation and Dr. Weenig's research and the Utah Lead Together 2.0. No spring sports and no team sports until all 29 counties are in yellow phase. Mr. Cuff said the staff could develop the statement and send to members for feedback before releasing the statement. Schools can be open in the yellow phase and he is certain there will be more guidelines coming as we move into the yellow phase. If we stick to the Governor's plan, there are more grounds for an effective way for making decisions.

**MOTION:** Mr. Sherwood made the motion that the BOT develop a statement in align with the Governor’s plan and the SMAC recommendation to be released. Mr. Holmes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The staff will develop the statement and send to the BOT for approval prior to release.

Mr. Cuff said the Board needed to discuss the petition and video, “Let Us Play”. The petition had nearly 6,000 signatures. Mr. Jarman felt the UHSAA statement will reiterate the status of no spring sports and recognize students will be moving into summer leagues, etc. and look forward to preparing for fall activities if in the yellow status.

Mr. Cluff said are we assuming summer begins after Memorial Day. During the interim between today and summer start, does the moratorium date need to change from Memorial Day? The current restrictions (moratorium) is in effect to May 9. If we are cancelling spring sports, should we move the date up and start summer? Mr. Cuff said they are meeting with the Executive Committee on Thursday, May 7. The schools are feeling anxious about moving out of a complete moratorium. The EC could allow some things to start happening prior to Memorial Day. A statement could possibly state that team practice could resume in accordance to Lead Together 2.0 guidelines, school/district policy and regulations and county public health orders. Do we want to start summer activities now or hold firm to the Memorial Day window and try to maintain a level playing field? Mr. Brotherson feels decisions only need to made for that which is under the UHSAA umbrella. He felt it would help to keep the ending date of Memorial Day. Mr. Holmes stated he is concerned because school is still in session. He thinks the less we get involved with changing dates the better and let it play out. Mr. Jackson said there was some confusion because the orange phase allows group gatherings of 20, but it also stated no team sports.

Mr. Sherwood said they had discussions with the County Health Department regarding in-person tryouts. They were told, in controlled situations and limited numbers, that would be permissible in the orange phase. That would currently violate the current UHSAA moratorium. He asked if the hard moratorium could be lifted so they could hold dance, drill, band, etc. tryouts. Mr. Cuff said it will be discussed with the Executive Committee. Mr. Young said he was concerned if they open the schools prior to graduation activities. Mr. Sherwood said they have received specific criteria for bringing students back in the building. He pointed out that class schedules are contingent on tryouts. Ms. Belnap has a concern that schools are closed and want to open for tryouts. She asked about virtual tryouts for drill that have taken place. Ms. Whittaker said many drill team tryouts took place prior to the Covid 19 restrictions. Other schools had virtual tryouts, but some schools would not allow virtual tryouts.

Mr. Whitlock said the Governor reminded them that schools are not closed and students can receive remedial and graduation help. Mr. Sherwood said he could hold tryouts without violating the orange phase restrictions. The only thing he is violating is the UHSAA moratorium. Mr. Jarman thinks it should be left up to the district and county health department. Keep UHSAA statement to no spring sports.

Mr. Cuff said there would be two statements. One regarding cancellation of spring sports and another regarding the moratorium (May 9 – Memorial Day). The moratorium will be discussed with the Executive Committee on May 7. Mr. Cuff received support to have the Executive Committee develop a plan for May 9 – Memorial Day. On May 21, the BOT can discuss fall start dates. No start dates begin before July 15.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:40.