

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

(February 12, 2009)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting in the Board Room of the OHSAA office building on February 12, 2009. President Mike Richards called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Rock VanFossen and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Keith Bell.

Board Members Present: Mike Richards, president; Keith Bell, vice president; Teresa Alberts; Gene Klaus; Bill Koppel; Rocco Nero; Steve Stirn; Rock VanFossen; Jay Wolfe, and Jeff Jordan (ex-officio) and Tom Farbizo (ex-officio).

Administrative Staff Present: Dan Ross, commissioner; Bob Goldring and Deborah B. Moore, associate commissioners; Steve Neil, Roxanne Price; Jerry Snodgrass, and Henry Zaborniak Jr., assistant commissioners, and Tim Stried, director of information services.

Others Attending: Steve Craig, OHSAA legal counsel; Todd Boehm, OHSAA comptroller; Frank Gamble and Dave Hall, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Dave Froelich, Tom McBride and Bob Walsh, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Jay Niswonger, Bob Brigati, Mike Mauk and Wally Hood, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association; Casey Milligan, Ohio High School Golf Coaches Association; John Johnson, Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association; Dan Peterkoski, Ohio High School Swimming Coaches Association; Greg Fraunfelter, Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches; Scott Taylor and Alyse Consiglio, Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association; Troy Roth, Ohio High School Wrestling Coaches Association; Jerry Fick, OHSAA Officials Advisory Committee; Ron Knight, former OHSAA Board of Directors member; Ken Baker, Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators; Scott Ebright, Ohio School Boards Association; Rich Wilinski, Dan Cernansky, Michael Cernansky and Steve Daly; and Richard Mees and his son, Craig Phillips and Nori Okuma.

I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Keith Bell, second by Rocco Nero to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the February 12, 2009, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Bill Koppel, second by Steve Stirn to **approve** the minutes from the January 15, 2009, Board of Directors meeting and the December 19, 2008, Board of Directors conference call meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

III. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A. Financial Report

Comptroller Todd Boehm provided the financial report for January. The financial report is summarized as follows:

Balance — December 30, 2008	\$590,598.19
Receipts — January 2009	<u>194,909.19</u>
	\$785,507.38
Disbursements — January 2009	<u>531,630.35</u>
	\$253,877.03
Accounted for as follows:	
Checking Account Balance per 5/3 Bank (1/31/09)	\$305,766.44
	\$305,766.44
Less Outstanding Checks	<u>51,889.41</u>
Balance — January 31, 2009	\$253,877.03
Available Funds — January 31, 2009	
Bank Balance	\$253,877.03
Savings	7,623.04
Minus Reserve Fund	<u>(261,500.07)</u>
Working Capital	\$0
Reserve fund	\$261,500.07
Building fund	\$197,953.14

Motion by Gene Klaus, second by Teresa Alberts to **accept** the financial report as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

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IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Minutes of the Track and Field Advisory Committee Meeting of January 16, 2009

The Board was presented the minutes of the Track and Field Advisory Committee Meeting of January 16, 2009, and Assistant Commissioner Neil reviewed the highlights. Among items the committee discussed were: the national pole vault rule; a review of the 2008 state track & field and state cross country tournaments; the involvement of Dale Gabor to assist the OHSAA office in the leadership of track & field and to serve as co-chair of the advisory committee; a review of the 2008 regional cross country sites; combining districts in track & field; new sites for the 2009 regional track & field tournaments; certification for pole vault coaches; proposed modifications to implement at the 2009 state track & field tournament, and recommendations for rule changes that will be forwarded to the National Federation of State High School Associations.

B. Minutes of the Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Committee Meeting of January 27, 2009

The Board was presented the minutes of the Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Committee Meeting of January 27, 2009, and Assistant Commissioner Price reviewed the highlights. Among the items the committee discussed were: the need to replace a few committee members who have moved on to new positions; the OHSAA Foundation student leadership conferences and service week initiatives; a review of current coaches and player ejections for the various sports, and interest from one of the OHSAA's media sponsors, OhioHSsports.com, to become more involved with the Respect The Game program. The committee also had lengthy discussion on the Harold Meyer Sportsmanship Award, and it was decided that a subcommittee would be formed to develop recommendations for possible changes. Additionally, Ms. Price said a recommendation on the 2009 Ethics and Integrity Award recipient will be made later in the meeting.

C. Minutes of the Media Advisory Committee Meeting of January 30, 2009

The Board was presented the minutes of the Media Advisory Committee Meeting of January 30, 2009, and Associate Commissioner Goldring reviewed the highlights. He said Commissioner Ross reviewed various current topics with the committee and answered questions, and that the committee reviewed media arrangements at the recently completed fall sports tournaments and previewed the upcoming winter and spring sports tournaments. The committee also reviewed the proposals to the Board that will be made later in the meeting regarding modifications to OHSAA Tournament Broadcast Rights Fees and the photography section of the OHSAA Media Regulations.

D. Minutes of the Football Tournament Committee Meeting of December 2008

Assistant Commissioner Zaborniak reviewed with the Board the highlights from the Football Tournament Committee Meeting that was held in December 2008. The committee is comprised of OHSAA staff members and members of the state football coaches association, meets annually to review all aspects of the OHSAA football tournaments and recommends changes when appropriate. He said the committee was pleased with the Board's action in January to not divide Division I in half for the OHSAA football tournaments. In addition, he said the committee recommended a change to the football tournament regulations, which will be presented to the Board when those regulations are reviewed in May.

E. Minutes of the Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting of January 13, 2009

The Board was presented the minutes of the Foundation Board of Trustees Meeting of January 13, 2009, and Commissioner Ross reviewed the highlights. He said the main issues discussed by the board were finances, the Foundation Service Week program and the future status of the Foundation.

F. NFHS Coaches Awards

Commissioner Ross and the other OHSAA administrative staff members informed the Board that some head coaches from around the state have been selected as either national, Section 2 or Ohio NFHS Coaches Association Coaches of the Year for 2008-09. Selected were: boys basketball - Ed Heintschel, Toledo St. John's Jesuit High School (state award); girls basketball - David Schlabach, Berlin Hiland High School (national award); volleyball - Donald Conser, Salem High School (Section 2 award); boys tennis - Russ King, Cincinnati St. Xavier High School (Section 2 award); girls tennis - Chris Johnson, Rocky River Magnificat High School (state award), and wrestling - Dick McCoy, Cincinnati Elder High School (state award). The staff reminded the coaches association representatives in attendance to take advantage of this program and submit nominees in the future.

G. Updates on OHSAA Legal Issues/Infractions

The Board was presented with a list of schools that have recently violated OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations along with the penalties that were imposed by the OHSAA staff. **Bedford High School's** boys varsity basketball team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-7-3, Transfer and, in accordance with Bylaw 11-2-1, Forfeiture, the school must forfeit a victorious contest in which the ineligible student participated. **East Cleveland Shaw High School's** boys varsity basketball team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, and, in accordance with Bylaw 11-2-1, Forfeiture, the school must forfeit four victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Richmond Edison High School's** varsity swimming team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-8-1, Exception 2, Exchange Students, because the student was not in an approved program. In accordance with Bylaw 11-2-1, Forfeiture, the school must forfeit six contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Oxford Talawanda High School's** swimming team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, and, in accordance with Bylaw 11-2-5, Forfeiture, the school must forfeit the invitational and all points, records and awards won by the ineligible student shall be

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forfeited. All eligible participants may keep their points, records and awards. **Columbus East High School's** girls varsity basketball team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, and, in accordance with Bylaw 11-2-1, Forfeiture, the school must forfeit two victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Girard High School's** boys freshman basketball team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, and, in accordance with Bylaw 11-2-1, Forfeiture, the school must forfeit the victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Clayton Northmont High School's** junior varsity wrestling team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, and, in accordance with Bylaw 11-2-1, Forfeiture, the school must forfeit the contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Cleveland John F. Kennedy High School's** boys varsity basketball team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-3-4, Eight Semesters, and, in accordance with Bylaw 11-2-1, Forfeiture, the school must forfeit four victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Troy Christian Schools** had two high school student-athletes violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, and an eighth grade student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-4-5, Scholarship. In accordance with Bylaw 11-2-1, Forfeiture, the school must forfeit a varsity wrestling match, a girls junior varsity basketball game and an eighth-grade wrestling match in which the ineligible students participated. **Dalton High School's** varsity wrestling team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, and, in accordance with Bylaw 11-2-1, Forfeiture, the school must forfeit a contest in which the ineligible student participated. **Dublin Coffman High School's** varsity swimming and diving coach violated Bylaw 9-2-2, Practicing Outside the State of Ohio. The OHSAA acknowledged that the action taken by the school on the situation was appropriate. **New Lexington High School's** boys varsity bowling coach violated Sports Regulation 33.3 when an eighth grader was permitted to participate in several contests. In accordance with Bylaw 11-2-1, Forfeiture, the school must forfeit all contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Lakewood High School's** boys seventh grade basketball team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 10-3-1, Playing on Non-Interscholastic Teams, and, in accordance with Bylaw 11-2-1, the school must forfeit all victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Euclid High School's** varsity ice hockey team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-7-3, Transfers, and, in accordance with Bylaw 11-2-1, the school must forfeit all victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Bellbrook High School's** boys varsity basketball team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 10-3-1, Non-Interscholastic Competition, when he played with a non-interscholastic squad twice. The OHSAA ruled the student ineligible for the next four contests.

OHSAA legal counsel Steve Craig also provided updates on current legal issues.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Soccer Proposals

Proposals for changes in the sport of soccer were presented to the Board. Proposals for changes in the sports of football and volleyball were presented at the January 15 Board of Directors Meeting. Action on the proposals will take place at the April 2 Board meeting.

The Ohio High School Soccer Coaches Association made the following recommendations: 1.) Implement two 5-minute, sudden victory overtime periods for regular season varsity contests; 2.) Permit 7th-8th grade teams to play one preseason scrimmage, and 3.) require contest officials to contact a school administrator within 24 hours of a contest to clarify if a player or coach has been ejected or a player has been disqualified. The coaches association was represented by John Johnson.

B. Compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley

Commissioner Ross informed the Board that, to ensure accountability and to promote effective oversight of the Association, the OHSAA is incorporating provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, even though the Association is not required to do so as a non-profit organization. He said the OHSAA already discloses its IRS 990 Form and the Board approved a Whistle-Blower Protection Plan at its January 2009 meeting. The Commissioner said the final provision for compliance is for the Board to approve a Disaster Recovery Plan, of which a copy was provided to Board members. While not required as part of the plan, Dr. Ross said the OHSAA wants to develop procedures for disaster recovery for district athletic boards.

Motion by Bill Koppel, second by Gene Klaus to **approve** the OHSAA Disaster Recovery Plan as presented.

Motion passed 8-0 (Rocco Nero absent).

C. Additional Referendum Items

The Board was provided with a draft of additional proposed referendum issues that reflect changes to the OHSAA Bylaws. Associate Commissioner Moore reviewed the proposals. If placed up for referendum by the Board, OHSAA member schools will vote on the referendum issues between May 1 and 15, 2009. The majority of the referendum issues were approved by the Board at its January meeting.

1.) Bylaws 4-2-1 and 4-2-2, Age — Adds an exception that would permit a student who has repeated a grade from kindergarten through grade 3, at the recommendation of educational professionals, and the student has turned 19 before the August 1 deadline of the senior year (or turned 15 before the August 1 deadline of the eighth grade year in accordance with Bylaw 4-2-2) to maintain eligibility provided certain criteria are met.

2.) Bylaw 4-6-3, Parents Reside Outside of Ohio within the United States — Adds an exception that would permit a student whose parents reside outside of Ohio but within the United States to be eligible provided court-ordered custody is granted to a grandparent, aunt, uncle or sibling who resides in Ohio. The student can only be declared eligible upon submission of documentation to and approval from the OHSAA Office. If approved, this change would become effective June 1, 2009.

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3.) Bylaw 4-7-1, Transfers — Clarifies that the transfer bylaw is referring to students.

4.) Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, Exception 7 — Modifies the exception by providing additional situations that would permit a student who was enrolled in a non-public education system in grades 6 through 8 to enroll in the public school located in the district of residence of the parents and not lose eligibility should he or she transfer to the same system of non-public education in which he or she was previously enrolled from grades 6 through 8.

5.) Bylaw 9-2-1, Contests With Out-of-State Schools — Clarifies what “school time” means and provides a specific penalty for violation of the bylaw. An exception for this regulation is also provided.

6.) Bylaw 10-1-1, Member of a Squad — Moves the definition of “member of a squad” to Bylaw 4-1-3. In addition, **Bylaw 10-2-1, Definition of Non-Interscholastic Teams; Bylaws 10-3-1, 10-3-2, 10-3-3, 10-3-4, 10-3-5, 10-3-6 and 10-3-7, Playing on Non-Interscholastic Squads, and Bylaws 10-4-1 and 10-4-2, Penalty**, are deleted and rewritten as General Sports Regulations, which would allow the Board of Directors to make modifications as deemed necessary without having the membership vote on proposed changes through the referendum.

Motion by Steve Stirn, second by Keith Bell to place the additional proposed changes to the OHSAA Constitution and Bylaws reviewed by Dr. Moore up for a referendum vote by the membership.

Motion passed 9-0.

D. Request to Begin Preseason Football Practice Early

The Board was provided with a letter from the athletic administrator/head football coach at Arlington High School who made a request on the behalf of the schools in Hancock County that they be permitted to begin preseason football practice on August 4, 2009, rather than the current start date of August 6, since the schools in the county begin August 18 with a teacher work day and August 19 with classes.

Motion by Gene Klaus, second by Rocco Nero to move the start of preseason football practices for all schools in the state in 2009 to Monday, August 3.

Motion passed 9-0.

It was noted that the first Sunday following the Monday start date would continue to be a mandatory no practice day.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2009 Regional and State Baseball Tournament Draws

Assistant Commissioner Snodgrass and Frank Gamble from the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association conducted the draw for the 2009 regional and state baseball tournaments. Regional sites are Canton, Dublin, Shelby and Cincinnati in Division I; Hudson, Tiffin, Zanesville and Springfield in Division II; Massillon, Elida, Chillicothe and Wright State in Division III, and Lorain, Hamler, Lancaster and Huber Heights in Division IV. Regional semifinals will be Thursday, May 28, at 2:00 and 5:00 with regional finals Friday, May 29 at 2:00.

The state tournaments will be held June 4, 5 and 6 at Huntington Park in Columbus. Semifinals in Divisions III and II will be held on Thursday, June 4 (Division III at 10:00 and 1:00 and Division II at 4:00 and 7:00); semifinals in Divisions IV and I will be held on Friday, June 5 (Division IV at 10:00 and 1:00 and Division I at 4:00 and 7:00), and the finals will be held Saturday, June 6 (Division III at 10:00, Division II at 1:00, Division IV at 4:00 and Division I at 7:00).

B. 2009 Regional and State Fastpitch Softball Tournament Draws

Assistant Commissioner Price and Jerry Fick from the OHSAA Officials Advisory Committee conducted the draw for the 2009 regional and state fastpitch softball tournaments. Regional sites are the University of Akron, Clyde, The Ohio State University and the University of Dayton in Division I; Akron Firestone Stadium, Bucyrus, Pickerington Central and Clayton in Division II; Massillon, Ashland, Lancaster and Wright State University in Division III, and Kent State University, Findlay, Pickerington Central and Huber Heights in Division IV. Regional semifinals will be Wednesday and Thursday, May 27 and 28, at 5:00 with regional finals Saturday, May 30, at 12:00.

The state tournaments will be held June 4, 5 and 6 at Firestone Stadium in Akron. Semifinals in Divisions I and IV will be held on Thursday, June 4 (Division I at 10:00 and 12:30 and Division IV at 3:00 and 5:30); semifinals in Divisions III and II will be held on Friday, June 5 (Division III at 10:00 and 12:30 and Division II at 3:00 and 5:30), and the finals will be held Saturday, June 6 (Division I at 10:00, Division IV at 1:00, Division III at 4:00 and Division II at 7:00).

C. 2009 Spring Sports Tournament Regulations

Updates in regulations for 2009 spring sports tournaments were reviewed by administrative staff members Snodgrass (baseball), Price (fast pitch softball and boys tennis) and Neil (track & field). Most changes made reflected date changes.

D. Recommendation of Charlie Coles to be the Recipient of the 2009 OHSAA Ethics & Integrity Award

Assistant Commissioner Price said the OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Committee recommended that Charlie Coles be the recipient of the 2009 OHSAA Ethics and Integrity Award. Mr. Coles is a native

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of Yellow Springs, Ohio, and has been the men's basketball coach since the 1996-97 season at Miami University, where he is the school's all-time leader in victories. He would receive the award at the OHSAA Scholar-Athlete Scholarship Banquet June 19 in Columbus.

E. Media Issues

1. Approval of Contract Extension with SportsTime Ohio

2. Approval of Revisions to 2008-09 OHSAA Tournament Broadcast Rights Fees

3. Approval of Revisions to 2008-09 Media Regulations

Associate Commissioner Goldring reviewed with the Board proposed changes to the OHSAA media regulations, where language has been clarified to indicate the rights the OHSAA has given its "official photographer" for state tournaments, what newspapers credentialed to cover OHSAA state tournaments and lower level tournaments are permitted to do in regards to photo sales and what other photographers who are credentialed to cover OHSAA state tournaments and lower level tournaments are permitted to do in regards to photo sales. In addition, the media regulations have been modified to clarify credentialing policies and procedures for student photographers at OHSAA tournament events.

Motion by Rock VanFossen, second by Keith Bell to **approve** New Business Items VI. A., VI. B., VI. C., VI. D. and VI. E. 3. and to table New Business Items VI. E. 1. and VI. E. 2.

Motion passed 9-0.

VII. ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS

A. Recommendation to Add Service Week in the Sport of Volleyball

At the January 15, 2009, Board of Directors Meeting, the Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association proposed that a Foundation Service Week and Foundation Match be permitted in the sport of volleyball, following many of the same parameters that were in place last fall for the same event in the sport of basketball.

Motion by Bill Koppel, second by Rock VanFossen to **approve** the recommendation.

Motion passed 9-0.

Foundation Service Week would be highlighted by a Foundation Match, where schools would be permitted to replace one of their five allotted scrimmages with a regulation match under all normal game conditions, but the contests would not count against a team's record. As part of the match, each participating school would be required to make a contribution to the OHSAA Foundation.

It was noted that among the particulars to be determined are when the week or match would be permitted and how much must be contributed to the OHSAA Foundation.

B. Modification of Fees for State Swimming Tournament Officials

With the OHSAA adding a second division for boys at the state swimming and diving tournament beginning this winter, it was recommended that the fee structure be changed for officials working the swimming portion of the state tournament. Proposed was a daily rate of \$225 for referees, \$205 for starters and \$170 for other officials.

Motion by Jay Wolfe, second by Teresa Alberts to **approve** the proposed state tournament rate change for swimming officials.

Motion passed 9-0.

VIII. APPEALS

A. Bylaw 4-1-2, Eligibility, Mr. Rich Wilinski, Principal, re: An 11th-Grade Student, Steubenville Catholic Central High School (East District)

An 11th-grade student has transferred from Toronto High School to Steubenville Catholic Central High School and has been ruled ineligible in accordance with Bylaw 4-1-2, Eligibility, because the OHSAA ruled that eligibility has been established by falsified information. Dan Cernansky, the student's father; Michael Cernansky, the student's uncle; Rich Wilinski, the school's principal, and Steve Daley, the school's athletic administrator, appealed the ruling so that the student can participate in interscholastic athletics at Steubenville Catholic Central.

Motion by Jay Wolfe, second by Bill Koppel to **deny** the appeal.

Motion passed 9-0.

B. Bylaw 4-4-8, Scholarship, Ms. Patricia Bahr, Principal, re: A 12th-Grade Student, North Ridgeville High School (Northeast District)

A 12th-grade student had been ruled ineligible for the current grading period by the OHSAA in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-8, Scholarship. The student and his father, Richard Mees; Craig Phillips, the school district's superintendent, and Nori Okuma, the school's athletic administrator, appealed the ineligibility so that the student can participate in interscholastic athletics during the current grading period.

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Motion by, second by to **approve** the appeal.

Motion passed 9-0.

It was noted that the student complied with Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship.

C. Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 2, Transfers (Change of Legal Custody), Mr. Debby Ghezzi, Athletic Administrator, re: An 11th-Grade Student, North Ridgeville Lake Ridge Academy (Northeast District)

An 11th-grade student has transferred to North Ridgeville Lake Ridge Academy and has been ruled ineligible by the OHSAA in accordance with Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, because he does not meet any of the exceptions to the Bylaw. Debby Ghezzi, the school's athletic administrator, appealed the ineligibility in writing so that the student can participate in interscholastic athletics at Lake Ridge Academy.

Motion by Rocco Nero, second by Keith Bell to **deny** the appeal.

Motion passed 9-0.

D. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, and Bylaw 4-1-2, Eligibility, Ms. Tanika Greer, re: Her Son, Grade 12, Toledo Scott High School (Northwest District)

A 12th-grade student has transferred from Fremont Ross High School to Toledo Scott High School and has been ruled ineligible by the OHSAA in accordance with Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, and Bylaw 4-1-2, Eligibility, because the OHSAA ruled that eligibility has been established by falsified information. The student's mother, Tanika Greer, appealed the ineligibility in writing so that her son can participate in interscholastic athletics at Scott.

Motion by Teresa Alberts, second by Gene Klaus to **deny** the appeal.

Motion passed 9-0.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS

None

The Board unanimously approved a motion to **adjourn** the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Bob Goldring, recorder.

FUTURE MEETINGS

(All meetings on Thursdays in the OHSAA Board Room at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise stated.)
2009: April 2, May 7, June 11, August 6, September 10, October 8 and December 10.