

**UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025
@ SLEEPY RIDGE - 9:00 a.m.**

Attendees: Jerre Holmes, Bryce Dunford, Amber Shill, Jason Smith, Ryan Bishop (attending for Paul Sweat), Mike Mees, Luke Rasmussen, Devin Smith, Zack McKee, Patrick Lambert, Bryan Durst, Carol Lear. Steve Marsing, Rob Cuff, Jeff Cluff, Brenan Jackson, Jan Whittaker, Missy Mackay-Whiteurs and Chris Shipman. **Excused:** Burke Staheli, David Warren and Ian Adams. **Minutes:** Jennifer Thomas

1. Welcome & Chair Business

A. Chair's general observations: Chair Holmes welcomed the board.

B. Reverence/thought: Mr. Jason Smith shared a quote by Bishop Desmond Tutu: *"We must embrace our differences, even celebrate our diversity. We must glory in the fact that God created each of us as unique human beings. God created us different, but God did not create us for separation. God created us different that we might recognize our need for one another. We must reverence our uniqueness, reverence everything that makes us what we are: our language, our culture, our religious tradition."* He then provided a prayer.

C. Pledge of Allegiance/Patriotic thought: Mr. Bryan Durst shared that he admires this board as they always focus on what is best for students/everyone moving forward. He thinks the board does amazing things. Sometimes there is frustration about how slow things can move, but here people give their time, and he is grateful for all they do. He then led the board in the pledge.

D. Approval of Board Agenda:

MOTION: Mr. Luke Rasmussen made a motion to approve the current board agenda. Mr. Jason Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried.

E. Approval of Minutes: Chair Holmes asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous board meeting held on January 23, 2025.

MOTION: Ms. Amber Shill made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. J. Smith. The motion carried.

F. Board Meeting Public Comment: Ms. Tammy Bennett, a mother from Skyridge, Region 3 expressed her concern over their region having only five schools and the challenges that come with that, including trouble scheduling.

G. Awards Luncheon Protocol: Mr. Rob Cuff outlined the itinerary for the awards luncheon.

2. USBE Report: Ms. Carol Lear shared that the USBE will be implementing the recent legislative changes, and this could potentially affect UHSAA.

3. Executive Committee Meeting Report:

A. March 19, 2025, meeting: Mr. Devin Smith gave a summary of the previous meeting held on March 19, 2025.

4. **Winter Activities Report**

- A. **Winter results:** Mr. Cuff provided a copy of the winners to the board and shared that 50 state champions occur in the winter season. He congratulated those who won championships.
- B. **Winter Financial Report:** Mr. Cuff provided the gross revenue for winter sports. Overall, it was a great winter sports season.
- C. **Basketball:** Mr. Brennan Jackson announced the state winners in each classification in basketball and congratulated each school. He discussed venues and the challenges of scheduling that come with scheduling college venues. Ms. Lear asked about how the schools who attend the state tournament manage the absences related to their competition schedule. It was discussed and shared that in some schools, they are doing their best to schedule days off for the entire school to avoid absences.
- D. **Wrestling:** Mr. Chris Shipman announced the winners in each classification and the number of students now participating in wrestling. It is growing, especially in girls' wrestling. Discussion ensued regarding the challenges with space related to the growth of the sport.
- E. **Drill Team:** Ms. Jan Whittaker shared that the drill season was highly successful and continues to grow. Next year drill team will be a mixed sport, having both boys and girls. She then announced the winners in each classification.
- F. **Cheer:** Ms. Missy Mackay-Whiteurs said that cheer went well overall. She then announced the winners in each classification.
- G. **Swim:** Mr. Steve Marsing shared that they had the fastest swim season ever. It was a great season where thirteen records were set. He announced the winners in each classification.
- H. **Ejection report:** Mr. Jeff Cluff referenced the winter report on ejections that was provided to the board. Two tricky situations occurred. There was a fight in a basketball game, where thirteen players were ejected. A subsequent basketball game resulted in seven players being ejected. Despite these two events, overall ejections improved over the winter season. Boys' sports have an ongoing sportsmanship issue. Ninety percent of all ejections occur on that side. However, we are moving in the right direction.
- I. **Officiating Update:** There has been a positive increase in officials this year. Things are trending in the right direction. Mr. Cluff appreciates the support of the board for officials around the state.

5. **UHSAA Calendar:**

- A. **2024-25 and 2025-26 Calendars:** These two calendars are constantly evolving, so please check them often. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, due to conflicts with spring state tournaments.

MOTION: Mr. Zack McKee made a motion to move the next Board of Trustees meeting to May 6. Mr. Bryan Durst seconded it. The motion carried.

6. Staff Items:

- A. Sportsmanship Award Criteria:** Ms. Whittaker explained that there are several sportsmanship initiatives going on. Each school can earn their star. The criteria for this is on the UHSAA website.
- B. Women in Sports Day Report:** This was held last month and went very well. They are hoping to increase the number of attendees for next year.
- C. Esports Update:** This activity will start next year from January to April. Super Smash Brothers, Mario Kart and Rocket League are the games that will be sanctioned. They will be partnering with Ken Garff to start the season next year. More information will be sent out to the schools soon.
- D. Student Leadership Conferences – Fall 2025:** Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs gave a shout out to Ms. Whittaker for starting the Women in Sports initiative. It was grown and is such a positive experience for female athletes around the state.

Student Leadership Conferences can be held in districts or by schools. Ms. Mackay-Whiteurs just attended a conference in region 20 and it was a wonderful experience.
- E. Cheer Safety Clinics 2026:** This year will still be managed by the state Risk Management, but after this year it will need to be changed. A committee has been formed that is looking at options and deciding which option will be best.
- F. Special Olympics Utah - Unified Sports:** Mr. Shipman shared that the Unified basketball championships will be held on March 28 at the Delta Center. He encouraged everyone to try and attend the event.
- G. Academic All-State:** Activities have been posted, and spring sports are currently open for submissions.
- H. UHSAA Summer Moratorium:** Mr. Jackson explained that the summer moratorium is different than the winter moratorium. The entire school must change the date for the moratorium. It cannot be changed sport by sport.
- I. Coaches Certification:** Mr. Jackson gave a reminder that there are over one hundred courses. If districts allow, the NFHS Learn can provide many of the required certifications.
- J. Member School Request:** Mr. Gabe Pethtel from Layton Christian Academy made a request to the board for their school to become independent in boys' Soccer, boys' Volleyball and Football. They are already independent in Boys' Basketball.

MOTION: Mr. Dunford made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Executive Committee to allow Layton Christian Academy to go independent in boys' Soccer, boys' Volleyball and Football. Mr. Lambert seconded the motion. The motion carried. There was one opposed.

- K. Swim Items:** Mr. Marsing shared that if they have enough teams for 2A, they will have their own state event. Unified swimmers participated last year, and it was great. He provided a reminder that they must be part of the school's swimming team to participate.
- L. UHSAA Ticketing:** Mr. Cuff provided a meeting handout that provides the history of ticket prices and shared a brief history of the changes over time. After Covid, digital ticketing came into play. With the service charge, the ticketing increased, so no increases in ticketing have increased since that time. He is proposing that the service charge be put into the price of the ticket. It has been an issue when the advertised costs are \$5.00 and \$10.00, but the final cost is more than that with the service charge and fees. Student prices go to \$8.00, including fees. The adult ticket goes to \$13.00, including fees. This would bring the student ticket increase to \$1.75 per student ticket and \$1.50 per adult ticket. Another option is not to include the service charge and go to \$7.00 for students and \$12.00 per adult (not including the service charges). With this change, we should not have to increase again for 3-5 more years. The venues are going up, and this is causing this necessary increase in ticketing. This will only be for the Endowment football game, and post season events. The schools can choose what to charge for their own games/activities during the regular season. It was then turned over to the board for discussion.

MOTION: Mr. Durst made a motion to raise ticketing to \$13.00 for adults and \$8.00 for students, with service charges and fees included, for the 2025-26 season. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. The motion carried.

7. **Board Terms:** Mr. Cuff referred the board to the current board on page 114, and the changes coming to the board (page 115).

A. Board of Trustees terms:

1. 5A Principal to BOT (two years)
2. 3A Principal to BOT (three years)
3. 1A/2A Superintendent to BOT (two years)
4. 5A/6A Superintendent to BOT (three years)
5. Charter School Representative (three years)

B. Executive Committee terms (pp. 116-119) An update will be provided in May on who will be representing the regions for next year.

8. **Legal Report:** Mr. Mark Van Wagoner provided a legal report to the board.
9. **Constitution and By-Laws Committee Report:** Mr. Van Wagoner/UHSAA Staff shared that a meeting was held last week.

Transgender participation was discussed with the board.

MOTION: Mr. Durst made a motion to support changes to transgender participation. Mr. Rasmussen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Interps. & Guidelines 1.9.1: TRANSFER STUDENTS: Changes were made for students transferring into a Utah school. They must show they attended the equivalent of 8th or 9th grade

and did not participate with the high school in their sport/s before their entry into the Utah school. Changes were made to Interps. & Guidelines 1.9.3, paragraphs B and C.

MOTION: Mr. Bryce Dunford made a motion to support the changes. Mr. Patrick Lambert seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- 10. For the Good of the Order:** Mr. Cuff referred the board to the provided page on music programs. Most states don't offer music activities. He then pointed them to the provided article on "Being a Good Teammate," where a student from a Utah school provided an answer.