

# OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES

## (April 1, 2010)

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors held a regularly scheduled meeting at the OHSAA office in Columbus on April 1, 2010. President Steve Stirn called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was opened with a prayer led by Walt Skaggs and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Teresa Alberts.

**Board Members Present:** Steve Stirn, president; Rocco Nero, vice president; Teresa Alberts; Dave Gray; Jose Hernandez; Steve Keller; Mike Rotonda; Walt Skaggs; Steve Zimmerman, and Jeff Jordan (ex-officio). **Board Member Excused:** Matt Shomper (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; Andrea Rossi and Brenda Murray, OHSAA staff; Tarae Mitchell, OHSAA intern; Matt Lattig, Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association; Pat Pavlansky, Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association; Jay Niswonger, Mike Mauk, Wally Hood and Dick Kerschbaum, Ohio High School Football Coaches Association; Joe Matheny and Casey Milligan, Ohio High School Golf Coaches Association; John Johnson, Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association; Ryan Shaffer, Ohio High School Tennis Coaches Association; Scott Dorne, Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches; Scott Taylor, Kaye Keller and Jim Muth, Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association; Ken Baker, Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators; Scott Ebright, Ohio School Boards Association; Melvin Evans and his daughter and Rene Perez; Toby Hawk and Jeff Goode, and Bill and Margie Gordon.

### I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by Rocco Nero, second by Dave Gray to **adopt** the agenda as amended for the April 1, 2010, Board of Directors meeting.

Motion passed 9-0.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Walt Skaggs, second by Mike Rotonda to **approve** the minutes as amended from the February 18, 2010, Board of Directors meeting. It was noted that some of the sites listed for the baseball and softball regional tournaments were incorrect. In baseball in Division I, Avon (with the semifinals split between Bowling Green State University and Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland) has replaced Shelby; in Division II, the University of Dayton has replaced Springfield; in Division III, there is a site to be determined rather than Chillicothe, and in Division IV, Springfield has replaced Huber Heights. In softball in Division III, Tipp City Tippecanoe has replaced Huber Heights.

Motion passed 9-0.

### III. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### A. State Office Financial Report

Assistant Comptroller Andrea Rossi provided the financial report for the OHSAA state office for February.

The report is summarized as follows:

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Balance — January 31, 2010                      | \$1,112,914.39      |
| Receipts — February 2010                        | <u>234,467.61</u>   |
|   | \$1,347,382.00      |
| Disbursements — February 2010                   | <u>419,632.01</u>   |
|   | \$927,749.99        |
| Accounted for as follows:                       |                     |
| Checking Account Balance per 5/3 Bank (2/28/10) | \$986,726.29        |
|   | <u>\$986,726.29</u> |
| Less Outstanding Checks                         | <u>58,976.30</u>    |
| Balance — February 28, 2010                     | \$927,749.99        |
| Available Funds — February 28, 2010             |                     |
| Bank Balance                                    | \$927,749.99        |
| Savings   | 613,317.57          |
| Minus Reserve Fund                              | <u>(800,000.00)</u> |
| Working Capital                                 | \$741,067.56        |
| Reserve fund                                    | \$800,000.00        |
| Building fund                                   | \$234,576.82        |

#### B. District Athletic Boards Financial Report

Assistant Comptroller Andrea Rossi provided the Board with the financial report for the six district athletic boards through February. The report is summarized as follows:

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| <u>District</u>  | <u>Checking</u>  | <u>Checking</u> | <u>DOC Savings</u> | <u>CD</u>        | <u>Total Cash</u>  | <u>Total Revenue</u> | <u>Total Expenses</u> | <u>Net Profit/Loss</u> |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Central          | \$16,844         | \$0             | \$34,651           | \$0              | \$51,495           | \$66,863             | \$186,595             | – \$119,732            |
| East             | \$13,175         | \$2,788         | \$0                | \$49,889         | \$65,852           | \$66,068             | \$68,339              | – \$2,270              |
| Northeast        | \$147,634        | \$0             | \$7,404            | \$110,607        | \$265,644          | \$386,629            | \$401,672             | – \$15,043             |
| Northwest        | \$118,883        | \$6,920         | \$0                | \$0              | \$125,803          | \$251,642            | \$291,240             | – \$39,597             |
| Southeast        | \$969            | \$1,912         | \$31,722           | \$226,258        | \$260,861          | \$69,182             | \$86,607              | – \$17,425             |
| <u>Southwest</u> | <u>\$39,739</u>  | <u>\$0</u>      | <u>\$85,938</u>    | <u>\$123,866</u> | <u>\$249,542</u>   | <u>\$331,985</u>     | <u>\$417,988</u>      | <u>– \$86,003</u>      |
| <b>Totals</b>    | <b>\$337,244</b> | <b>\$11,620</b> | <b>\$159,715</b>   | <b>\$510,620</b> | <b>\$1,019,197</b> | <b>\$1,172,369</b>   | <b>\$1,452,441</b>    | <b>– \$280,070</b>     |

Motion by Steve Zimmerman, second by Teresa Alberts to **approve** the financial reports as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

**C. Approval of Audit Report for 2008-09**

The Board of Directors was provided copies of the 2008-09 OHSAA audit, as prepared by representatives of Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc., of Piketon. The audit included the OHSAA office and the six District Athletic Boards from August 1, 2008, to July 31, 2009. Jeff Jordan, Board of Directors ex-officio and a member of the OHSAA Audit Committee, noted that the audit included a clean, unqualified opinion and said most of the items listed in management letters from the past few years had been acted upon. Mr. Jordan thanked the committee members for their work and said the committee recommended that the audit be approved.

Motion by Dave Gray, second by Rocco Nero to **approve** the audit report as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

**D. IRS Form 990**

No action was taken since the form was not available.

**E. 2009 Fall Sports Financial Reports**

Assistant Comptroller Andrea Rossi reviewed the regional and state tournament financial reports for the 2009 fall sports of cross country, field hockey, football, golf, soccer, girls tennis and volleyball.

| <u>Tournament</u>             | <u>2009 Net</u>  | <u>2008 Net</u>  | <u>2007 Net</u>  | <u>2006 Net</u>  | <u>2005 Net</u>  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| state cross country           | + \$34,574.81    | – \$5,934.99     | – \$7,547.84     | – \$2,324.05     | – \$6,824.59     |
| regional cross country        | – \$53,653.38    | – \$54,415.49    | – \$53,893.96    | – \$44,498.51    | – \$58,945.43    |
| total cross country*          | – \$30,942.57    | – \$72,127.48    | – \$72,736.30    | – \$57,957.56    | – \$71,930.02    |
| state & st. qual. field hoc.* | + \$4,018.70     | – \$4,200.03     | + \$805.20       | – \$1,237.32     | – \$1,826.35     |
| state football                | + \$299,621.86   | + \$290,337.08   | + \$305,097.32   | + \$403,297.36   | + \$429,035.11   |
| regional football             | + \$1,758,073.26 | + \$1,401,093.36 | + \$1,348,434.13 | + \$1,110,038.14 | + \$1,872,923.34 |
| total football*               | + \$2,052,515.54 | + \$1,687,390.48 | + \$1,649,823.70 | + \$1,511,320.26 | + \$2,300,468.45 |
| state golf*                   | – \$15,040.59    | – \$31,349.75    | – \$27,343.33    | – \$27,351.66    | – \$26,436.95    |
| state soccer                  | + \$87,740.76    | + \$67,803.67    | + \$31,937.88    | + \$45,601.02    | + \$66,163.10    |
| regional soccer               | + \$36,651.05    | + \$23,737.36    | + \$27,083.18    | + \$16,462.56    | + \$68,053.18    |
| total soccer*                 | + \$107,012.57   | + \$74,207.83    | + \$41,695.46    | + \$45,138.38    | + \$117,956.28   |
| state girls tennis*           | – \$5,967.08     | – \$8,698.64     | – \$10,329.94    | – \$9,155.46     | – \$9,289.93     |
| state volleyball              | + \$29,097.52    | + \$35,875.14    | + \$35,440.07    | + \$40,493.80    | + \$45,186.03    |
| regional volleyball           | + \$53,982.43    | + \$42,678.59    | + \$33,542.64    | + \$50,934.86    | + \$49,250.69    |
| total volleyball*             | + \$71,589.47    | + \$78,553.73    | + \$68,982.71    | + \$91,428.66    | + \$94,436.72    |

\* includes all tournament expenses paid by the OHSAA office

Motion by Rocco Nero, second by Walt Skaggs to **approve** the financial reports as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Winter Sports Proposals**

No proposals were presented. Proposals in the sports of basketball, bowling and ice hockey will be presented at the May Board of Directors meeting, and the Board will act on any winter proposals at the June meeting.

**B. Review of Officials Insurance Modifications**

Commissioner Dan Ross provided the Board with an update on modifications that were made to the insurance program provided to the approximately 16,000 OHSAA registered officials. Combined with insurance offered by the National Federation of State High School Associations and policies purchased from American Specialty Insurance, the total rate per official will be \$16.37, with an estimated cost of \$261,920 to the OHSAA.

**C. Minutes from the OHSAA Foundation Board Meeting of February 23, 2010**

The Board was provided the minutes of the OHSAA Foundation Board Meeting of February 23, 2010, and Commissioner Dan Ross reviewed the highlights. He said the board approved moving the Volleyball Service Week date. In addition, the board approved the cost for a school to conduct a Foundation game to be \$250 for the first event. If the school conducts two events (such as having a Foundation game in volleyball and then a Foundation game in basketball), the cost for the second event would be \$100.

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### D. Minutes from the OHSAA Pension Board of Trustees Meeting of August 5, 2009

The Board was provided the minutes of the OHSAA Pension Board of Trustees Meeting of August 5, 2009, and Commissioner Dan Ross reviewed the highlights. He said a proclamation will be addressed later in the meeting that the Board must adopt in order to be compliant with IRS regulations.

### E. Minutes from the OHSAA 7th-8th Grade Committee Meeting of April 1, 2010

The Board was provided the minutes from the OHSAA 7th-8th Grade Committee Meeting from April 1, 2010, and Board member Steve Zimmerman reviewed the highlights. He said the committee and OHSAA staff recently met with a representative of the Ohio Athletic Committee, and discussion included awareness and understanding of OHSAA regulations by the OAC along with student-athletes and their parents. It was agreed that the school staff must be better informed of sport regulations as they relate to activities sponsored by the OAC. Mr. Zimmerman said the committee hopes to soon complete an information pamphlet for incoming seventh graders entitled "Parent and Student Guide to Participation in Middle School Athletics." A Frequently Asked Questions document is also being developed to address specific issues such as recruiting and contact with high school coaches. In addition, he said information will be sent to member schools on topics to be discussed with incoming seventh grade students and their parents during preseason meetings.

### F. Update of OHSAA Legal Issues/Infractions

The Board of Directors was provided with a list of schools that recently violated OHSAA bylaws or sports regulations. **Akron North High School's** boys varsity basketball team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-3-3, Eight Semesters, and, in accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit four victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Leesburg-Fairfield Middle School's** boys eighth-grade basketball team had a student-athlete violate Sports Regulation 4.3, Non-Interscholastic Competition, when he participated in non-interscholastic basketball competition while a member of the school team. In accordance with the Sports Regulation 4.12.1, Penalties, the student was declared ineligible for the school's next four contests (any contests not served this year will carry over to the 2010-11 season) and, in accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit all victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **North Royalton Middle School's** boys seventh-grade basketball team had a student-athlete violate Sports Regulation 4.5, Participation in Non-Interscholastic Program, when he participated in a non-interscholastic basketball program while a member of the school team. In accordance with the Sports Regulation 4.12.1, Penalties, the student was declared ineligible for the remainder of the season and, in accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit all victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Elyria Catholic High School's** girls varsity bowling team had a student-athlete violate Sports Regulation 4.4, Participation in Non-Interscholastic Program, when she participated in a non-interscholastic bowling competition while a member of the school team. In accordance with the Sports Regulation 4.12.1, Penalties, the student was declared ineligible for OHSAA district tournament competition and the first regular season contest of the 2010-11 season. **Youngstown Boardman High School's** girls varsity softball coach violated Sports Regulation 5.11 when he utilized varsity squad members for demonstration purposes (grades 4-8 clinic) without advance approval from the OHSAA office. The coach and school were reprimanded for this violation. **South Webster High School's** girls varsity basketball team had a student-athlete violate Sports Regulation 4.3, Non-Interscholastic Competition, when she participated in non-interscholastic basketball competition while a member of the school team. In accordance with the Sports Regulation 4.12.1, Penalties, the student was declared ineligible for the school's next two contests. **Piketon High School's** boys varsity basketball team had a student-athlete violate Sports Regulation 4.3, Non-Interscholastic Competition, when he participated in non-interscholastic basketball competition while a member of the school team. In accordance with the Sports Regulation 4.12.1, Penalties, the student was declared ineligible for the school's next two contests (any contests not served this year will carry over to the 2010-11 season) and, in accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit six victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Cincinnati Archbishop McNicholas High School's** boys junior varsity basketball team had a student-athlete violate Sports Regulation 4.3, Non-Interscholastic Competition, when he participated in non-interscholastic basketball competition while a member of the school team. In accordance with the Sports Regulation 4.12.1, Penalties, the student was declared ineligible for the school's first two contests of the 2010-11 season and, in accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit six victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Pickerington High School North's** varsity wrestling team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-8-1, Students From Foreign Countries and Exchange Students, and, in accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit two contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Willoughby South High School's** boys varsity bowling team had a student-athlete violate Sports Regulations 4.4, Non-Interscholastic Competition, when he participated in non-interscholastic bowling competition while a member of the school team. In accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit all victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Barnesville High School's** boys varsity basketball team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-4-1, Scholarship, and, in accordance with Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit six victorious contests in which the ineligible student participated. **Huber Heights Wayne High School's** boys varsity basketball team had two student-athletes violate Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, because they did not meet any of the exceptions to the bylaw. The two students were ruled ineligible for the remainder of the basketball season. In accordance with the exception to Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school was permitted to continue playing in the OHSAA tournament since the students' eligibility was established by false information that was provided to the school. **South Euclid Regina High School's** girls varsity basketball team had a student-athlete violate Bylaw 4-8-1, Students from Foreign Countries, because she did not meet any of the exceptions to the bylaw, and the school violated Bylaw 3-1-1, Administrative Responsibility (lack of monitoring of the school's compliance with OHSAA bylaws and sports regulations). In accordance with

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Bylaw 10-2-1, Forfeitures, the school must forfeit any victorious contests in which an ineligible student-athlete participated and, in accordance with Bylaw 10-2-3, Forfeitures, the school was disqualified from the OHSAA girls basketball tournament (and the last team defeated may take its place) for using an ineligible student-athlete during an OHSAA-sponsored tournament.

### V. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Proposals from Various Coaches Associations on Items Presented in January and February 2010

##### 1. Field Hockey

The Ohio High School Field Hockey Coaches Association proposed that players be permitted to participate in a maximum of two games per day up to a maximum of three halves per day per common opponent with a total of 38 halves (rather than the current limit of 32) for the season.

The coaches association also proposed that National Federation Rule 4-2-2 be adopted which allows each state to create a mercy rule.

Motion by Teresa Alberts, second by Dave Gray to **approve** the proposals.

Motion passed 9-0.

##### 2. Soccer

The Ohio High School Soccer Coaches Association proposed that the first scrimmage be permitted on the first Saturday following the starting date for coaching and that the first contest be permitted 18 days following the starting date for coaching.

Motion by Dave Gray, second by Walt Skaggs to **table** the proposal.

Motion passed 9-0.

##### 3. Tennis

The Ohio Tennis Coaches Association proposed that the seeding date for girls and boys tennis sectionals be permitted to be held one week prior to each respective sectional tournament's starting date.

Motion by Rocco Nero, second by Jose Hernandez to **deny** the proposal.

Motion passed 9-0.

##### 4. Volleyball

The Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association proposed that school names and/or logos be permitted to be placed along the top and/or bottom of the net.

Motion by Teresa Alberts, second by Jose Hernandez to **deny** the proposal.

Motion passed 9-0.

#### B. 2010 Track and Field Tournament Regulations

The Board was provided updates in regulations for the 2010 track and field tournaments that were prepared by OHSAA track and field liaison Dale Gabor and Assistant Commissioner Steve Neil. It was noted that a generic statement was added that said a games committee must be in place for each level of the tournament (districts, regionals and state). Most other changes made reflected date changes.

Motion by, second by to **approve** the regulations as presented.

Motion passed 9-0.

### VI. NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS)

#### A. Proposed 2011 Board of Directors Meeting Dates

Dates for future Board of Directors meetings had been set through December 2010. Proposed dates for 2011 are: January 13, February 17, April 7, May 12, June 9, August 4, September 8, October 20 and December 8. All are Thursdays, and all would begin at 9:00 a.m.

#### B. Approval of Self-Supporting Requirements for 2010-11 School Year (Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, Exception 8)

OHSAA Bylaws require that the Commissioner's office annually establishes requirements for transfer students who do not live in the same school district as their parents or legal guardians but are financially self-supporting (Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, Exception 8). Associate Commissioner Deborah B. Moore reviewed the requirements and said the staff recommended that the requirements remain the same as those approved for the 2009-10 school year.

#### C. Sports Regulations Changes for 2010-11

The OHSAA administrative staff reviewed the proposed editorial changes in the general Sports Regulations that will appear in the 2010-11 *OHSAA Handbook*, and Associate Commissioner Deborah B. Moore and Assistant Commissioners Steve Neil, Roxanne Price, Jerry Snodgrass and Henry Zaborniak Jr. also reviewed the proposed editorial changes in Individual and Team Sports Regulations. The following changes in the general regulations were noted:

- 1.) In the *Mandatory Attendance at Rules Interpretation Meetings* section, a modification that says must attend "or participate" was added in the event some meetings are offered on-line.
- 2.) In the *Non-Interscholastic Programs* section, additional language regarding what members of the inter-

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scholastic coaching staff are permitted to do in the sport of football was added.

3.) In the *Ejection for Unsporting Conduct for Coaches* section, it was noted that the required on-line course to be taken is the National Federation of State High School Association's "Teaching and Modeling Behavior."

4.) In the *Individual Non-Interscholastic Competition Date* section, it was noted that only athletes who have participated for the school in the individual sports of bowling, cross country, golf, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field and wrestling (rather than all OHSAA sports) and who violate the non-interscholastic competition date by participating in a non-interscholastic contest shall be ineligible for OHSAA tournament competition in that sport.

5.) In the *Interscholastic Scrimmage* section, it was noted that the length of the scrimmage is limited to a maximum of three hours per squad or individual per day for grades 9-12 and two hours for grades 7-8 (eliminating the notion that these must be consecutive hours).

6.) Modifications as approved by the Board of Directors last fall to the *Lighting and Inclement Weather* section were also noted.

Other changes within the individual sports were also reviewed. Included was clarification in soccer that schools are permitted to conduct four scrimmages and a preview along with clarification on what constitutes indoor soccer. In softball, it was noted that the pitching distance will change beginning in 2011. In volleyball, it was noted that Foundation Service Week will move from August 1 through the Saturday of the first full week of October (which will be October 9 in 2010).

### D. Regional Track and Field Tournament Assignments

The Board was provided with the proposed assignments for district qualifiers to the regionals in the sports of boys and girls track and field. Proposed sites for Division I Regionals (Wednesday, May 26, and Friday, May 28) are Youngstown Austintown-Fitch; Amherst Steele; Pickerington North, and Dayton Welcome Stadium; for Division II Regionals (Thursday, May 27, and Saturday, May 29) are Ravenna, Lexington, Byesville Meadowbrook and Dayton Welcome Stadium, and for Division III Regionals (Wednesday, May 26, and Friday, May 28) are Navarre Fairless, Tiffin Columbian, Lancaster Fairfield Union and Troy.

### E. Contract Extension for Korporate Kasuals as the Official OHSAA Apparel Vendor

Assistant Commissioner Steve Neil said the OHSAA staff recommended that a contract extension be awarded to Korporate Kasuals to continue to serve as the official OHSAA tournament apparel vendor beginning with the 2010-11 school year, pending successful negotiations of a new contract.

### F. Proposed Modification by the OHSAA Pension Board of Trustees

Commissioner Dan Ross said the OHSAA Pension Board of Trustees recommends that the following proclamation be approved that will ensure compliance with IRS regulations:

**Whereas**, the employer maintains the Ohio High School Athletic Association Pension Plan (the "Plan"), and

**Whereas**, the employer wishes to amend the Plan to comply with the determination letter recently issued by the Internal Revenue Service regarding the tax qualified status of the Plan,

**Now Therefore**, the following actions are authorized and approved:

**Resolved**, that Amendment No. 2 to the Plan, a copy of which is attached, is adopted and approved; and

**Resolved Further**, that the actions taken on December 9, 2009, by the Commissioner of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, to sign and place into effect Amendment No. 2 to the Plan, are ratified and affirmed; and

**Resolved Futher**, that the appropriate officials of the employer are authorized to negotiate, prepare, execute and deliver on behalf of the employer all documents and any required governmental forms and to take all necessary actions required to implement these resolutions.

Motion by Rocco Nero, second by Mike Rotonda to **approve** New Business Consent Items VI. A., VI. B., VI. C., VI. D., VI. E. and VI. F.

Motion passed 9-0.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS (OTHER)

### A. Approval of Additional Referendum Items for 2010

The Board was provided with a draft of additional proposed referendum issues that reflect changes to the OHSAA Bylaws. Associate Commissioner Deborah B. 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 17, 2010. The other referendum issues were approved by the Board at its December and February meetings.

**1. Bylaw 4-8-1, International and Exchange Students (Plus Exceptions 1 and 2)** – Clarifies that the eligibility of any student who lives outside the United States and who comes into the country to study is for one year only starting upon the matriculation. The requirement that the international student be in the U.S. in one of the C.S.I.E.T. programs has been removed and the change eliminates those students coming from other programs out of state. Additionally, eligibility will be restricted to those international students in the U.S. on J-1 visas (which provide for strict federal regulation), will not permit eligibility to students directly placed by any organization or individual for athletic purposes and no more than five international students from the same visitor exchange program shall be permitted to be eligible in one member school.

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**2. Bylaw 4-8-1, International and Exchange Students, Exception 5** – Adds an exception for an international student in school owned or operated housing where the school accepts the role of parent in loco parentis. This issue was originally submitted for referendum by petitioner Gates Mills Gilmour Academy in 2008 and a request to resubmit this issue was received by the OHSAA. Adoption could lead to an influx of students from other countries that come to specific Ohio schools under I-20 visas for athletic purposes and would circumvent the proposed changes in Exception 2 of Bylaw 4-8-1 in item 1 above.

**3. Bylaw 4-8-2, Ohio Students Returning from International Exchange Programs** – Modifies the bylaw by permitting eligibility for students who return to the same high school from which they left to attend the International exchange program. There would no longer be a prohibition on receiving credit toward graduation, but each semester would count in the total of eight permitted. Domestic programs would no longer be handled under this bylaw and would instead be part of the transfer bylaw. Should this bylaw be approved, school administrators would be urged to check with the OHSAA office before the student engages in this type of educational experience to determine if there would be any impact on eligibility.

**4. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfer, Exception 12** – Provides eligibility for students returning to their former high schools upon completion of a domestic exchange program provided the program exists primarily for academic and educational learning experiences; the student receives credits that apply toward the student's graduation in the Ohio member school; the student's athletic participation in this program (should it take place) was secondary to his/her academic and educational reasons for participating, and the program has in its curriculum guide a structured beginning and end. This exception strengthens the prohibition on transfers occurring for the purpose of furthering one's athletic career. Students using this exception may not use credit flex or any other type of academic program component to circumvent the provisions of this exception.

Motion by Steve Zimmerman, second by Rocco Nero to **approve** the additional referendum items.

Motion passed 9-0.

## VIII. APPEALS

Board member Walt Skaggs served as the appeals hearing officer.

A. Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, Mr. Melvin Evans Jr., re: His Daughter, Grade 12, Cuyahoga Falls Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy (Northeast District)

A 12th-grade student transferred from Hartville Christian School to Cuyahoga Falls Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy and has been ruled ineligible for interscholastic athletics by the OHSAA in accordance with Bylaw 4-7-2, Transfers, because she does not meet any of the exceptions to the bylaw. The student, her father, Melvin Evans, and her aunt, Rene Perez, appealed the ruling so that the student can participate in interscholastic athletics immediately at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy.

Motion by Dave Gray, second by Steve Stirn to **approve** the appeal.

Motion passed 9-0.

It was noted that the appeal was granted based on the fact that Hartville Christian School was not chartered as a high school by the Ohio Department of Education. Therefore, the OHSAA did not recognize the student's time at Hartville Christian School as part of the eight permissible semesters of eligibility for interscholastic athletics or as a transfer from a high school.

B. Bylaw 4-6-3, Residence, Coach Toby Hawk, re: A Ninth-Grade Student, Columbus Northland High School (Central District)

A ninth-grade student at Columbus Northland High School has been ruled ineligible for interscholastic athletics by the OHSAA in accordance with Bylaw 4-6-3, Residence, because he does not meet any of the exceptions to the bylaw. Toby Hawk, a coach at the school, appealed the ruling so that the student can participate in interscholastic athletics at Northland. Jeff Goode, the school's athletic administrator, also attended the appeal.

Motion by Walt Staggs, second by Rocco Nero to **deny** the appeal.

Motion passed 8-0 (Mike Rotonda abstained).

C. Bylaw 4-3-3, Enrollment and Attendance, Mr. William Gordon, re: His Son, Grade 12, Cuyahoga Falls Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy (Northeast District)

A 12th-grade student at Cuyahoga Falls Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy has been ruled ineligible for interscholastic athletics for the 2010-11 school year by the OHSAA in accordance with Bylaw 4-3-3, Enrollment and Attendance, because he has completed the maximum eight semesters of eligibility as permitted in the bylaw. The student's parents, William and Margie Gordon, appealed the ruling so that their son can participate in interscholastic athletics at Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy during the 2010-11 school year.

Motion by Dave Gray, second by Steve Stirn to **approve** the appeal.

Motion passed 9-0.

It was noted that the appeal was granted based on the discretionary provision within Bylaw 4-3-4, Enrollment and Attendance, which permits the Commissioner's office to disregard a particular semester of "enrollment" if evidence of extenuating circumstances is presented.

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**IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- A. Board President Steve Stirn thanked the OHSAA staff and board members for their work and efforts in conducting successful winter sports tournaments.
- B. Ken Baker of the Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators (OASSA) informed those in attendance that the OASSA's spring conference for athletic administrators will be held on Wednesday, May 12, at the OCLC Conference Center in Dublin, Ohio. Additional information on the conference is posted on the OASSA web site at [www.oassa.org](http://www.oassa.org).

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.)**

**2010:** May 13, June 10, August 5, September 9, October 21 (*note change from the date published during the fall*), December 9; **2011:** January 13, February 17, April 7, May 12, June 9, August 4, September 8, October 20 and December 8.