

# Full Board of Control Meeting

January 16, 2025 12:00 PM  
KHSAA Office, Lexington, KY

## **Present Board Members:**

Greg Howard, Russell Thompson, Matt Wilhoite, Jim Demler, Damon Kelley, Marty Mills, Gavin Washington, Brian Courtney, Michael Phillips, David Zuberer, Randy McCallon, Claudette Herald, Brandy Carver, Mandi Hudson, Noel Crum, Coy Samons, and Chuck Mullins.

## **Present Others:**

David Couch (KDE), Marty Park (KDE), DT Wells (Scott County Schools), Jason Frakes (Courier-Journal), and Jared Peck (Herald-Leader).

## **Present KHSAA Staff:**

Julian Tackett, Joe Angolia, Darren Bilberry, Sarah Bridenbaugh, Rob Catron, Butch Cope, Jenny Elder, Kara Howard, Abby Jackson, Connor Link, Sara McClain, and Chad Collins.

**Board of Control convened at 8:00 AM and adjourned into an Orientation and Strategic Goals Session; then moved into the Work Session. The work session concluded and the full Board reconvened.**

## **Gavin Washington Led the Pledge of Allegiance**

## **Brandy Carver Gave the Reflection**

Mrs. Carver talked about the transformative effect sports has had on her life. One of the aspects of sports that was most important to her was learning the value of being part of a team, leading her and her husband to raise their children like a sports team. The Board appreciated her reflection.

## **Work Session Items**

## **Public Comment if Requested in Advance**

## **Legal Session for Updates on Specific Items Per KRS 61.810(c)**

Commissioner Tackett and General Counsel Collins requested the Board go into Closed Session per KRS 62.810 (c) to review legal matters.

A motion is required to go into closed session under the KRS 61.810(c) provision.

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Moved to go into closed session per KRS 61.810(c). Passed with a motion by David Zuberer and a second by Gavin Washington. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Moved to come out of closed session per KRS 61.810(c). There was no action proposed or taken in the closed session. Passed with a motion by Coy Samons and a second by Randy McCallon. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes,

Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

## **Items for Information of the Board**

### **Operations Reports**

Staff presented various reports around operations since the last Board meeting.

#### **Sports and Sport-Activities Reports from Staff**

Primary sports contacts presented updates on their various tournaments held after the November meeting and the winter season.

#### **Confirmation of Teams Withdrawing from Football Playoffs and District Play**

Staff reviewed situations around teams withdrawing from football district play for 2025 and 2026. Holmes, Ohio County and Thomas Nelson had withdrawn.

#### **Long-Term Wrestling Site Commitment**

This information was follow-up to previous discussion of three-year state facility agreements for the State Wrestling Tournament.

#### **Non-Championship Reports from Staff**

Staff submitted written reports summarizing activity not directly related to championships

#### **Transfer and Appeals Eligibility Report**

The staff shared ongoing appeals status reports and timelines.

#### **Status of Bylaw 11 Financial Aid Reports**

The Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner Bridenbaugh reported on recent submissions and status of the annual reports around financial aid limitations and Bylaw 11.

#### **Update on Bowling Green Independent Schools**

As required by the consent agreement, staff reviewed progress as well as other issues that may have arisen.

### **Approval of the Operations Reports**

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Accepted the reports and directed necessary action. Passed with a motion by Coy Samons and a second by Randy McCallon. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

### **Officials Division Report**

#### **Officials Licensing Comparison and Arbiter Sports Update**

The Commissioner and Staff presented a written report on the background checks for officials.

#### **Disqualification Report and Comparison**

Staff presented the customary reports on the disqualifications and suspensions of players and coaches in contests.

### **Acceptance of Officials Division Reports**

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Accepted the Officials Division Reports and directed necessary action. Passed with a motion by Claudette Herald and a second by Greg Howard. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

### **Finance and Business**

#### **Status of Regulations and Legislation**

Staff reviewed ongoing discussions with members of the General Assembly as well as other agencies.

#### **TPG Sponsorship Review**

Sara Hacker of TPG provided an updated corporate sponsorship report.

### **Acceptance of the Finance and Business Reports**

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Accepted the Finance and Business Reports and directed necessary action. Passed with a motion by Gavin Washington and a second by Noel Crum. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

### **General Reports**

#### **2025 HOF Selection Committee Status**

The Commissioner and staff reviewed the ongoing Hall of Fame Selection process and banquet dates.

#### **Around the State and Nation**

The Commissioner and staff reviewed highlights of items occurring throughout the state and nation which could potentially impact the Association and were included in the agenda material.

#### **Member School Issues - Mergers and Splits**

Updates on candidacy schools, and known mergers and splits of schools were discussed.

### **Acceptance of the General Reports**

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Accepted the General Reports and directed necessary action. Passed with a motion by Jim Demler and a second by Michael Phillips. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

## **Handbook Issues Including Bylaws**

### **Bylaw 21, Video Review Policy, Judgment Calls and Suspension Period Discussion**

Staff again reviewed the Association's video review policy and the provisions of Bylaw 21, including specific situations that have occurred as a reminder of information for the Board of Control.

### **Bylaw 21, Issues with Teams Leaving Bench Area during Situations, Possible Options**

The Commissioner and staff discussed several situations and the resolutions, while also discussing the current provisions in Bylaw 27. This discussion was designed not only to illustrate the situations to the board, but educate on the need for additional steps already allowed within the rules.

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Accepted the report and requested reminder communication to the membership. Passed with a motion by Damon Kelley and a second by Mandi Hudson. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

## **Championship and Competition Rules Information and Discussion**

### **Reviewed State Soccer Scheduling and Site Alternatives**

The Commissioner and staff briefed the board on potential changes to the championship calendar as well as options for the state finals site.

### **Reviewed Feedback Around State Soccer Bracketing**

The Commissioner and Staff reviewed and discussed situations around the state soccer state bracketing and possible alternatives. No action was proposed at this meeting.

### **Approved Changes in Region 6 and 7 Basketball Alignment Following Evangel Christian Clarification**

The Commissioner and staff reviewed the follow-up data related to Evangel Christian and other potential moves in the basketball alignment as discussed in November.

The Commissioner and staff have been working with the representatives of the Board of Control, Jefferson County and Bullitt County schools for more than a year on basketball alignment. There was no discussion of schools coming and going from the collective 6th and 7th region schools, but much discussion about moving around within the districts in those two regions.

Since the alignment was adopted in the mid-2000s, several schools have relocated to new facilities as well as at least two schools being opened in that time. Other construction projects and moves are ongoing.

Working with the board members from that area and the Commissioner, the schools attempted for more than a year to reach consensus on a change in alignment. The Association provided a basis for a minimally invasive couple of changes that would at least align schools that had new facilities in more appropriate locations. From that, the committee held several meetings in an attempt to address the issues on a deeper level.

As is usual in these cases, when dots were placed on a map, there was a good deal of consensus on groupings, however when specific names and programs were labeled, discussion took on a different tone.

One difference in this area than most any other area of the state is the need to be concerned about placement of the single gender schools in the area. Placing them, without at least considering grouping them, can lead to issues in postseason play and significant differences in bracket sizes and scheduling issues.

In the end, this committee was unable to reach consensus and deferred to the Association for any changes. In light of the many coming changes in the next couple of years, the best course seems to be to simply address the geographic issues, and continue to work on a more comprehensive factual basis can be used as facilities are completed.

The remaining concern point right now is Evangel Christian is reportedly completing a new facility in a different area of the county (near Billtown Road at Snyder), but until that is complete, the movement should likely be delayed.

The Board previously addressed the other situations in November.

None of these fixes addressed a key issue in that area, and that is disparate participation in some of the other sports offered that generally match the basketball alignment. That would require a much more comprehensive review and likely be much more complex if geographic principles are to be honored.

The map of the original and proposed alignments are illustrated

at <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=1pSBTbLS-T6bjP7KfkqFKsKmlcliGDnY&ll=38.18662869863283%2C-85.66005363208008&z=12>

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Accepted the recommended alignment changes to be implemented in basketball for 2025-26, and in those team sports championships that utilize the basketball alignment as a framework. The change would be – District 23 – Bullitt Central, Bullitt East, Moore, North Bullitt, Southern; District 24 – Evangel Christian, Fern Creek, Jeffersontown, Mercy Academy, WEB DuBois, Whitefield Academy. Passed with a motion by David Zuberer and a second by Coy Samons. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

## Items for Discussion and Action

### Officials Division

#### **Lacrosse/BVB Assigning Issues and Arbiter Setup, Clarifications on Pay Scale**

During the adoption of the officiating fees for lacrosse, there was no three-person crew established as a minimum. This has been corrected with the revised scale.

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Accepted the recommended fee schedule for boys' lacrosse with three officials and directed publication. Passed with a motion by Michael Phillips and a second by Claudette Herald. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

### **Required Four-Year Review of Officials Fees - Cross Country, Track& Field and Swimming & Diving**

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Accepted the recommendation to make no adjustments to the required standard fees in these sports. Passed with a motion by Noel Crum and a second by Marty Mills. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

## **Finance and Operations**

### **Approval of Minutes, November 2024 Board Meeting**

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Approved the minutes from the November 2024 meeting and directed publication. Passed with a motion by Greg Howard and a second by Russell Thompson. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

### **Authorization to Pay Workers and Team Travel Expenses**

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Accepted the reports and authorized payments to workers for fall sports and sport-activities and team travel in fall team sports prior to March 1. Passed with a motion by Brandy Carver and a second by Jim Demler. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

### **Approval of Financial Reports for July to Current**

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Accepted the reports and authorized continued operations until the February meeting. Passed with a motion by Damon Kelley and a second by Gavin Washington. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

### **Approval of Contract for Heat/Air Control System**

The Commissioner and staff detailed the current situation. For nearly all of its 33 years in this location, heating and air has been a continual expense. Two years ago, the Board of Control approved the use of Titan Building Solutions as the new vendor solution. This company does many large facilities in Lexington, including such challenging projects as the "Blue Building" downtown.

They have worked on projects large and small. This project, which could be completed in and around the latter part of March, would finally allow for centralized control of the air flow and mechanical systems at the office. With the recent replacement of the rooftop units, this change would allow for complete control and regulation, and undoubtedly lead to lower costs and higher efficiency.

The results of their study and recommendation are attached, and this is the first time that the Association has clearly had the funds to undertake this project. Comparative proposals in the industry show that this proposal is at or slightly cheaper than others in the market, and they will have the advantage of having done the early review to be sure it will work.

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Approved the expenditure for the new controls system for the facility heating and air system as an amendment to the prior budgeted amounts. Passed with a motion by Randy McCallon and a second by Brandy Carver. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

**Approval of Expenditure of Building Fund Reserve to Repair and Update the Lobby and Reception Area, and the Office Kitchen (which are original to the building).**

The Board has been apprised on multiple occasions of the issues surrounding the now 33-year-old counter and cabinets used throughout the year in the office kitchen, as well as the condition of the front reception area.

This proposal would allow for the replacement of those items and can be fully funded by the equipment reserve from prior year operations.

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Approved the kitchen and lobby projects as submitted while reducing the physical plant reserve for the entire amount. Passed with a motion by Randy McCallon and a second by Marty Mills. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

**Competition Rules Related Items**

**Final Review Site Criteria-State First Round Sites-Volleyball, Soccer, Golf, Swimming, Female Wrestling**

For several meetings, the staff and board have discussed the state first rounds. Options vary within sports (combining, etc.), and those have been left to local discretion. These criteria relate to the physical plant requirements in most cases

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Approved the emphasized revisions and directed publication on the website. Passed with a motion by Greg Howard and a second by Noel Crum. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

**Consider Formal Approval of Adopted Format for Postseason Lacrosse**

Following the distribution of the board action in November, there was a small amount of, but fairly united feedback, about the qualifying teams for postseason. Despite the

relatively few numbers, it was the consensus of nearly everyone that provided feedback that the runners-up in each region should also advance to the state tournament.

This would permit lacrosse to use the same format as boys' volleyball.

There was also feedback about bracketing. In some cases, this came from regions where schools that traditionally have been stronger, might be paired together in early rounds, rather than late. This is not unlike many other sports and championships. The suggestion from a coaches' association group (attached) was that the RPI be used for the entire tournament bracket.

Due to the now statewide nature of the sport, staff feels strongly that until there is more data available to show the results of the true statewide championship, this change should not be made. It was staff's original recommendation that the final four be seeded via RPI, but the Board discussion led to a blind draw format for both tournaments after the paired-region based first two rounds. The discussion then was to monitor the championships for the first couple of years before making changes.

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Approved the request to expand the state format to include the region runners-up using the same bracketing as the approved boys' volleyball tournament, but to deny the request to amend the event format for 2025 or 2026 after which the event can be further evaluated. Passed with a motion by David Zuberer and a second by Michael Phillips. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

#### **For the Good of the Order**

**Motion Passed (17-0):** Moved to adjourn the meeting. Passed with a motion by Michael Phillips and a second by Randy McCallon. Greg Howard Yes, Russell Thompson Yes, Matt Wilhoite Yes, Jim Demler Yes, Damon Kelley Yes, Marty Mills Yes, Gavin Washington Yes, Brian Courtney Yes, Michael Phillips Yes, David Zuberer Yes, Randy McCallon Yes, Claudette Herald Yes, Brandy Carver Yes, Mandi Hudson Yes, Noel Crum Yes, Coy Samons Yes, and Chuck Mullins Yes.

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Matt Wilhoite, President

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Date

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Julian Tackett, Commissioner

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Date