

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MID-ALIGNMENT CLASSIFICATION MEETING  
Tuesday, November 29, 2022**

The winter meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Rob Jackson at 11:30 a.m. at the NCHSAA Office in Chapel Hill. Members in attendance included President Rob Jackson, Vice President Chris Blanton, Past President Bobby Wilkins, Paige Badgett, Mark Byrd, Brian Carver, Chad Duncan, Stephen Gainey, Mark Garrett, Sam Jones, Jerome Leathers, Troy Lindsey, Fred Lynch, Andy McCormick, Tod Morgan, Tanya Turner, Bryan Tyson, and Larry Williford. Cathy Moore was absent.

Affiliate members included Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and Elbert Lassiter of North State Football Officials Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association was absent.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Tra Waters, James Alverson, Brad Alford, Rhonda Dreibelbis, Tavares Toomer, Janna Fonseca, and Cecil Mock.

Board members convened to consider Reclassification Requests from 19 member schools, in accordance with Bylaw VI on Classification which allows schools to request reclassification in the second year of an alignment period.

*Blanton made a motion to enter closed session to consider Reclassification Requests, seconded by Garrett. Motion approved 17-0.*

**SOUTHERN ALAMANCE I** Stephanie Smith, athletic director, presented on behalf of the school. Smith detailed the opening of Southeast Alamance which will cause approximately a 12% decrease in enrollment at Southern. Highlighted the school's realignment score was already on the lower end of 4A in the Reclassification data used two years ago. If approved, requests placement in the Central 3A Conference with county rivals and neighboring 3A Orange County Schools. Highlighted the reduction in travel budget and time if placed in Central 3A. Noted that Alamance County Board of Education has settled on Plan D for enrollment at opening of Southeast Alamance. No clear direction on whether the new school will open with 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade only, or a full enrollment.

**POLK COUNTY I** Aaron Green, Superintendent, presented on behalf of the school. Have had difficulty fielding participation due to the increase in competition against schools with much larger ADMs. Highlighted that the retirement community in Polk County is more affluent, while the school age population generally is less affluent. Believe that the affluence in the community helped raise them to the 2A level, though just over the 2A line.

Garrett made a motion to recuse President Jackson and Brian Carver from the A.C. Reynolds presentation and any discussion on matter, seconded by Lindsey, approved 18-0. Both are Buncombe County Schools employees. Vice President Chris Blanton took over the meeting with the President recused.

**A.C. REYNOLDS I** Ben Alexander, Principal, Steve McCurry, athletic director, and Rob Jackson, superintendent, presented on behalf of the school. Requesting to move to 3A from their current 4A status. Cited they are the 134<sup>th</sup> ranked school in ADM this year. Highlighted the lack of individual event qualifiers and roster size limitations that have been a reality for the school against larger schools. Noted the drop in ADM for Buncombe County Schools of 8.5% due to increased school choice in the area. Feeder middle school numbers have declined by approximately 14% per year over the last two years.

Jackson and Carver rejoined the Board following the presentation by Reynolds. Dr. Jackson reassumed control of the meeting.

**CHASE I** Kevin Bradley, principal, and Daniel Bailey, athletic director, presented on behalf of the school. Highlighted county status as Tier 1 Economically distressed county. Had the 14<sup>th</sup> highest numerical decrease in population in the last decade as a county. Noted the lack of recreational league programs in the Chase area of the county due to a lack of funding. Most students have little to no experience in the sport they are considering playing. Only have four JV teams at the school. Only 9 freshman football players this year. Feeder school numbers are lower. At the end of the semester there will only be 640 students in the building. Cohort number leads to having only about 585 students in the building by the end of the alignment cycle. Especially concerned about female sports which have posted a combined 12-71 mark in team sports in the last two years.

**EAST CARTERET I** Jay Westbrook, principal, presented on behalf of the school. Presented the board with a letter of approval by the Carteret Superintendent for the school's request to move down to 1A. Noted impacts from hurricanes and the increase in retirees moving to the East Carteret district. School is at 544 for an ADM. East Carteret is not the side of the county that is growing. Highlighted ADM disparity between the 2A schools they have had to play and the 1A teams they would have competed against.

**JOHN A. HOLMES I** Sonya Rinehart, principal, Wes Mattera, athletic director, and Paul Hoggard, football coach, presented on behalf of the school. Requesting placement in the 1A Classification for the remainder of the alignment period. Projected ADM of 551 based on 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students now in feeder schools. Currently are the second smallest non-charter public school in 2A. Highlighted the school choice issues that are drawing students and athletes away from Holmes. Noted that Conference Cup standings almost always have the two schools with over 900 and 1000 students at the top of the conference. Noted an \$8,000 expense in fall sports for gas fees in the bus, directly out of the budget.

**PIEDMONT I** Dylan Stamey, principal, Kim Cantey, athletic director, and Nelson Garner, Union County athletic director, presented on behalf of the school. Noted that had the traditional method of ADM determining classification solely, Piedmont would have been a 3A School, regardless of whether a 20-30-30-20 or 25% model had been used. Noted that their student enrollment has continued to decline while their conference members in Union County have continued to grow. Highlighted how they believe they do not stack up to the competition level in the 4A members of their league. Noted not filling teams due to lack of interest in participation, which they believe is attributable to lack of competitiveness in conference. Asking for placement in the Rocky River 2A/3A, which voted 5-0 to accept if reclassified. Southern Carolina conference vote was split 3-3 on the request to leave.

**NORTH STANLY I** Andrea Russell, principal, and George Walker, athletic director, presented on behalf of the school. School population is listed as 586 for in-building ADM, they do have 113 students districted to their campus that are enrolled in specialty schools. Mentioned impacts of COVID on their rural school. Sport participation numbers have decreased significantly after COVID. Have experienced an increase in ISP percentage following the pandemic. Noted a size disparity for football roster in the playoffs. Injuries in a 2A game cause their players, three of them, to miss at least 10 days of school time.

**CORVIAN COMMUNITY I** Teri Haynes, athletic director, presented on behalf of the school. She highlighted that the school has had difficulty in having competition within their conference, particularly in women's sports. Requesting placement in the Catawba Shores Athletic 1A/2A, a league where they already play against most opponents. Noted they've started football and have 18 teams in the athletic program now.

**EAST BLADEN I** Patty Evers, athletic director for East Bladen and Bladen County, and Jay Raynor, assistant athletic director, presented on behalf of the school. East Bladen is requesting to be reclassified as a 1A school. Highlighted the downward trend in ADM since 2019. Highlighted that there are 22 1A schools larger than East Bladen and they are the smallest 2A school in the state. Noted a high EC Population that cannot participate. Noted the loss of middle school football at their feeder school. Highlighted that they cannot field teams in all the sports in their current conference. County is projected to

lose 11,000 people in 20 years. Population continues to decline, and county is plagued by unemployment. They are proposing to be placed in the Waccamaw 1A/2A Conference. Southeastern 2A is reported to be agreeable.

**PRINCETON I** Travis Gaster, athletic director, presented on behalf of the school. Highlighted the decline in State Cup Points after the graduation of a successful group of senior female athletes. Believed that the formula used for classification treated Princeton inequitably based on their once-in-a-generation success. Highlighted disparity of ADM in competition. Noted that the shift up to 2A and COVID pandemic have impacted mental health of current student athletes. Noted a decline in participation in many sports, particularly in Olympic Sports. Noted that students stopping participation do not believe they can be successful beyond the conference level.

**LOUISBURG I** Erica Wammock, athletic director, and Christopher Baker, assistant athletic director, presented on behalf of the school. The school is requesting to be dropped to the 1A Classification. The school's ADM is 573. The next closest school in the conference is 850, and Franklinton is the largest at 1251.

**J.F. WEBB I** Michael Fuga, principal, and Alex Tharp, athletic director, presented on behalf of the school. Requesting to move conferences because of disparity within the conference. Noted that the school is at 585 ADM for the current year. Believe they are dealing with a health & safety issue based on lack of depth and JV programs. Only had 32 players on the roster, 15 upperclassmen on roster. Had to forfeit two football games this year due to lack of healthy players. Only had 10 players in soccer, had to forfeit many games due to lack of healthy players. Had to drop softball due to lack of participation. Only have two JV programs, leads to a lack of development. Asking to combine The Big East 2A/3A and the Northern Lakes 2A/3A.

**NORTHWOOD I** Bradford Walston, principal, and Cameron Vernon, athletic director, presented on behalf of the school. Appealing to go from 3A to 2A based on the opening of Seaforth High School in Chatham County. Current ADM is 934 and Seaforth will have a full 9-12 enrollment. Estimated ADM next year around 800 students next year. Struggling to field teams in many sports, particularly lacrosse and swimming. Would propose to go into Mid-Carolina 1A/2A.

**ASHEVILLE I** Derek Edwards, principal, Christ Stuart, coach, Brandon Smith, coach, and Bill Hillier, coach, presented on behalf of the school. Requesting to be moved to 3A. Noted that School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville can participate, but many don't, totaling over 200 students. Central core of Asheville is not growing, as median income does not match median home prices in city. Noted that city school system size is decreasing. Number of subsidized housing units have decreased in the district drastically. Noted that families cannot afford to live in core city of Asheville and subsidized housing moving out and being displaced. Discussed the distance between them and closest 4A competition outside of their conference. Said that their secondary groups like parents, cheer and band can't travel those distances. Significant loss of academic time to participate in 4A/like competition.

Motion by Byrd to recuse Tyson, who serves as system athletic director for Jay M. Robinson, seconded by Lindsey, approved 17-0.

**JAY M. ROBINSON I** Patrick Helm, athletic director, presented on behalf of the school. Robinson is requesting to move up to 3A from the 2A Ranks. Requesting placement in the South Piedmont 3A. Discussed the impact of opening West Cabarrus on Jay M. Robinson. Projected number upon opening of West Cabarrus on Robinson's ADM was 870. The reality of ADM was 1007 and that has increased this year and expecting to increase each of the next two years. Believes that the discrepancy within conference play creates safety issues and issues of competitive balance. Noted positive feedback from Cabarrus County and Lake Norman Charter. Did not receive positive feedback from Rowan County Schools.

**HARDING UNIVERSITY I** Oscar Walker, athletic director, and Steve Robinson, assistant system athletic director for CMS, Glenn Starnes II, principal, presented on behalf of the school. They are requesting to move from 4A to 3A. Noted that the high number of lopsided contests, particularly in non-revenue sports, has discouraged participation. They are trying to build a positive culture of reinforcement and accountability from multiple places. Not having students participate has hurt the culture of accountability they are trying to build through multiple accountability partners.

**MANTEO I** John Luciano, principal, and Alfie Wheeler, athletic director, presented on behalf of the school. Requesting to move down to 1A. Highlighted that they were the smallest school in their 2A school. Believe that it has made it difficult for them from a football perspective, and funding has been challenged because of that. Highlighted they are averaging 28-30 rostered/dressed players on a Friday night, cannot get the numbers for a JV Program to restart. Highlighted that they have yet to win a conference championship but would have won 11 conference championships in a straight 2A conference.

The Board also considered requests to place member schools not currently affiliated with a conference into conferences at their request. The schools requesting conference placement at the mid-point of the current alignment cycle were: Ascend Leadership Academy, College Prep & Leadership Academy, NCSSM-Morganton, Triad Math & Science, Hobgood Charter, Piedmont Classical Academy, and Southeast Alamance High School.

The Board discussed conference placement of the above schools. Will recommend NCSSM-Morganton be placed in Western Highlands 1A/2A. Will recommend placing Hobgood Charter in Four Rivers 1A. Will recommend placing Ascend Leadership Academy in Central Tar Heel 1A. Will recommend placing Piedmont Classical Academy, College Prep & Leadership Academy, and Triad Math & Science in the Northwest Piedmont 1A. Will recommend placing Southeast Alamance as a 2A school in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A.

Board discussed the Realignment Requests heard earlier today.

Will recommend approving Southern Alamance's request to move to 3A. Opening of new school that will draw from Southern Alamance, drop in current enrollment, and current formula number would put them in 3A range. Will recommend subsequent placement in Central 3A.

Will recommend approving Polk County's request to move to the 1A Classification. After consideration of placing Polk in the Western Highlands 1A/2A or in the Southern Piedmont 1A/2A, Board will recommend keeping Polk County in the Mountain Foothills 7 as the only 1A in a 1A/2A Split. Will recommend no special criteria for playoff qualification.

Will recommend approving A.C. Reynolds request to move to the 3A Classification. A.C. Reynolds would fall into the 3A based on the 3A Range of formula and a straight ADM division of current ADM. Will remain in The Mountain 3A/4A.

Will recommend denying Chase's request to move to the 1A Classification. Would not meet the criteria of falling into the 1A Range for the West. Would not reach the 1A West in a classification determined just by ADM alone. Other hardships as presented did not rise to overcome the school size criteria.

Will recommend denying East Carteret's request to move to the 1A Classification. Does not meet the criteria of current 1A East formula range or the 1A straight ADM range.

Will recommend denying Holmes request to move to the 1A Classification. Does not meet the criteria of current 1A East formula range or the 1A straight current ADM range. Discussed whether to provide relief to Holmes by placing in another 1A/2A league.

Will recommend approving Piedmont request to move to the 3A Classification. Did not meet the current 3A West Range criteria but did meet the current 3A ADM Range. Board did weigh the argument of size disparity in current conference as a favorable factor to support a hardship in current arrangement and classification. Will recommend placement of Piedmont as a 3A school in the Rocky River 2A/3A.

Will recommending denying North Stanly request to move to the 1A Classification. Does not meet the criteria of current 1A West formula range or the 1A straight current ADM range.

Will recommend approving a request by Corvian Community to the Catawba Shores Athletic 1A/2A and the Football Only 1A/2A Conference. Board looked favorably on a request to increase competitive opportunities, particularly in female sports.

Will recommend approving a request by East Bladen to the 1A Classification. Meets criteria of current 1A East formula range, is the smallest 2A East school by current ADM criteria. Board noted continued economic distress across Bladen County and significant continued population loss in the County. Will recommend placing East Bladen as a 1A School in the Waccamaw 1A/2A.

Will recommend denying a request by Princeton to move to the 1A Classification. Does not meet the criteria of current 1A East formula and does not meet the criteria of the current 1A East ADM.

Will recommend denying a request by Louisburg to move to the 1A Classification. Does not meet the criteria of current 1A East formula and does not meet the criteria of the current 1A East ADM.

Will recommend denying a request by J.F. Webb to move to the 1A Classification. Does not meet the criteria of current 1A East formula and does not meet the criteria of the current 1A East ADM. Also did not approve a request by Webb to realign all conferences for a straight 2A and a straight 3A.

Will recommend approving a request by Northwood to move to the 2A Classification. Opening of a new school at Seaforth which will go to a full 9-12 has caused a large drop in enrollment. Will recommend a placement in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A.

Will recommend denying a request by Asheville to move to the 3A Classification. Does not meet the criteria of current 4A West formula range or the current 4A West ADM.

Will recommend approving a request by Jay M. Robinson to move to the 3A Classification. Will recommend placement of Robinson in the South Piedmont 3A.

Will recommend approving a request by Harding University to move to the 3A Classification. Meet the criteria of dropping to the 3A West formula range and are right on the border of the 3A West straight ADM line. Will recommend placing in the Queen City 3A/4A.

Will recommend denying a request by Manteo to move to the 1A Classification. Does not meet the criteria of current 1A East formula and does not meet the criteria of the current 1A East ADM.

Board asked staff to post the Straight ADM numbers broken out by East and West Regions as that is how classifications are done.

*Motion by Morgan to come out of closed session, second by Lindsey. Motion approved 18-0.*

*Motion by Garrett to enter a recess until 8:30 a.m. tomorrow morning, seconded by Byrd. Motion approved 18-0.*

The meeting was adjourned for the day by President Jackson at 9:09 p.m.

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WINTER MEETING  
Wednesday, November 30, 2022**

The winter meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Rob Jackson at 8:32 a.m. at the NCHSAA Office in Chapel Hill. Members in attendance included President Rob Jackson, Vice President Chris Blanton, Past President Bobby Wilkins, Paige Badgett, Mark Byrd, Brian Carver, Chad Duncan, Stephen Gainey, Mark Garrett, Sam Jones, Jerome Leathers, Troy Lindsey, Fred Lynch, Andy McCormick, Cathy Moore, Tod Morgan, Tanya Turner, Bryan Tyson, and Larry Williford.

Affiliate members included Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and Elbert Lassiter of North State Football Officials Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association was absent.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Tra Waters, James Alverson, Brad Alford, Rhonda Dreibelbis, Tavares Toomer, and Cecil Mock.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:** President Jackson began the meeting by welcoming in all who were in person, but also all schools that were able to listen in on the stream for the first time in the Association's history. He thanked all the many people responsible for making education-based athletics possible, including coaches, athletic directors, gate workers, etc. He noted that the Board held a 10-hour closed session yesterday to hear Reclassification Requests at the mid-point of the alignment cycle from 18 member schools from across the state, noting that action on those requests was forthcoming. He thanked the membership for their participation in Regional Meetings earlier this year. He highlighted the core values of the Association and commended member schools for "walking their talk" in the areas of organizational core values for more than 100 years.

*Garrett made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as presented, McCormick seconded. Motion approved 18-0.*

*Byrd made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Morgan. Motion approved 19-0.*

**AUDIT REPORT:** Rob Lewis from Blackman & Sloop, the NCHSAA's Independent Auditing Firm, made a presentation of the group's findings. He provided an overview of the Association's financing. The following points were noted:

The Association has a clean audit.

The association's cash on-hand went down, but the cash on hand in 2021 was an anomaly due to consolidating investments to fewer investment portfolios.

There is a difference in assets with donor restrictions and those without.

The Association has a fiduciary responsibility on donor-designated funds.

There was a 27% return on investments in 2021 and a 12% loss on investments in 2022.

There is little variance in expenditure types.

There was an increase in professional services which was largely attributable to attorney fees.

*Gainey made a motion to accept the Auditor's Report, seconded by Lindsey. **Motion approved 19-0.***

Commissioner Tucker thanked Blackman & Sloop for their work to make the Association finances easy to understand.

**COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS:** Commissioner welcomed the Board, highlighting this was the first time many of them have been able to come into the building since the beginning of the pandemic. She thanked

them for their support throughout COVID and particularly their sacrifices of time and effort to guide the organization through the past several years.

**MID-ALIGNMENT RECLASSIFICATION REQUESTS:** Requests for Reclassification are allowed under Bylaw VI of the NCHSAA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The Board heard requests from 18 schools yesterday in closed session. Decisions were

**Southern Alamance** requested to be reclassified as a 3A school and placed in the Central 3A Conference. The school highlighted the opening of a new school, Southeast Alamance, for 2023-2024 that will impact the enrollment figures at Southern Alamance.

*Motion by Blanton to approve Southern Alamance's request to move to 3A and subsequently place them in the Central 3A Conference, seconded by Garrett. Motion approved 19-0.*

**Polk County** requested to be reclassified as a 1A school. They would prefer to remain in the Mountain Foothills 7, making that conference a split conference, if approved.

*Motion by Garrett to reclassify Polk County as a 1A school, maintaining their conference membership in the Mountain Foothills 7, which would become a split conference, and place no special qualifications on Polk for playoffs, seconded by Wilkins. Motion approved 19-0.*

Note: Jackson and Carver both requested to recuse themselves from any discussion and vote on A.C. Reynolds as they are both employees of Buncombe County Schools.

*Motion by Byrd, seconded by Morgan. Motion to recuse approved 17-0.*

**A.C. Reynolds** requested to be classified in the 3A Classification and remain in the Mountain 3A/4A. School cited a continued decline in ADM and the fact that their current ADM would place them in the 3A Range.

*Prior to the vote on the motion, Vice President Blanton assumed the chair of the meeting for discussion on A.C. Reynolds and the requested motion for recusal by Jackson and Carver.*

*Motion by Lindsey to reclassify A.C. Reynolds as a 3A School based on the school's current 3A West Formula Range and straight ADM within current 3A West range, leaving in the Mountain 3A/4A Conference, seconded by Duncan. Motion approved 17-0.*

*Following the vote, Blanton yielded the chair back to President Jackson.*

**Chase** requested to be placed as a 1A school and remain in the Mountain Foothills 7. The school highlighted the tier 1 status of the county and lack of recreational programs in the area.

*Motion by Gainey to deny Chase High School's request to move to the 1A classification based on the school's current ADM and classification formula range exceeding current 1A West ranges, seconded by Garrett. Motion to deny carries 19-0.*

Jackson highlighted the considerable amount of time the Board spent in finding the facts of each case and information available to the Board.

**East Carteret** requested to be moved to the 1A Classification, fitting with their current conference. The school noted their ADM decline and already participating in a 1A Conference as the only 2A member. Also mentioned earning 2A playoff berths that they feel they did not qualify for.

*Motion by Lynch to deny East Carteret's request to move to the 1A Classification based on the school's current ADM falling in the 2A East Range and remaining above the 1A East Range for classification formula, seconded by McCormick. Motion to deny carries 17-2 with Jackson and Morgan in dissent.*

Garrett and Gainey both voiced support for the motion for the sake of consistency after denial of Chase's request based on criteria of current school size and ranges for the 2A West classification formula.

The Board noticed an error in count on the motion concerning the request from Chase.

*Chair requested reconsideration of the motion by Gainey to deny Chase High School's request to move to the 1A classification, leaving them as a 2A school in the Mountain Foothills 7 2A, seconded by Garrett. Motion to deny carries 18-1 with Duncan in opposition.*

**John A. Holmes** requested to move to the 1A Classification based on projected ADMs and challenges that have been faced since moving to 2A, including financial and competitive challenges.

*Motion by Lindsey to deny John A. Holmes' request to be reclassified into the 1A Classification based on the current data range of the 1A East Classification Formula and current ADM in the 1A East, seconded by Moore. Motion carries 16-3 with Jackson, Morgan, and Duncan in dissent.*

**Piedmont** requested to be placed in the 3A classification and move to the Rocky River 2A/3A Conference. School presented the request based on school size and current disparity in their conference competition at the 4A level.

*Motion by Carver to approve Piedmont's request to move to the 3A classification and subsequently be placed in the Rocky River 2A/3A, seconded by Duncan. Motion to approve carries 18-1 with Garrett in dissent.*

**North Stanly** requested to be reclassified as a 1A school and remain in the Yadkin Valley 1A/2A. They presented based on the current student population in the building, highlighting the high percentage of specialty school students who are eligible but do not participate as well as COVID's impact on their athletic program.

*Motion by Gainey to deny request by North Stanly to move to 1A classification based on current ADM and formula not meeting criteria used in other requests, seconded by Lindsey. Motion to deny carries 19-0.*

**Corvian Community** requested placement in the Catawba Shores 1A/2A and out of the Metro 8 1A due to the number of schools in their current conference not offering sports they field, particularly impactful to female sports competitive opportunities at their school. School noted support in the Catawba Shores 1A/2A for the move.

*Motion by Lindsey to approve Corvian Community's request to move to the Catawba Shores 1A/2A Conference and the Football Only 1A/2A Conference for the 2023-2024 school year, seconded by Lynch. Motion approved 19-0.*

**East Bladen** requested to be classified as a 1A school and to be assigned to the Waccamaw 1A/2A. School highlighted significant downward trends in ADM and County population and that they were the smallest 2A school in the state. Highlighted the loss of middle school football at their feeder middle and a significant number of students who cannot participate due to special needs.

*Motion by McCormick to approve East Bladen's request to be classified as a 1A school and placed in the Waccamaw 1A/2A, seconded by Carver. Motion approved 19-0.*

Garrett highlighted this will continue to be a theme for the Board to address in rural areas of NC where population decline is a significant issue, while in urban areas population is booming.



**Princeton** requested to be classified as a 1A school and to be placed in the Carolina 1A Conference. School shared a decline in State Cup points after the departure of a successful group of seniors. Highlighted the disparity in ADM for competition at 2A within their conference and in the playoffs. Highlighted challenges in fielding Olympic Sports based on students not feeling they could be competitive at the 2A level.

*Motion by Garrett to deny Princeton's request to be reclassified as a 1A School as it does not meet the current criteria for formula or current straight ADM, seconded by Byrd. Motion to deny carries 19-0.*

**Louisburg** is requesting to be reclassified to the 1A Classification, noting their current ADM and disparity between the schools in their conference and their current population reality.

*Motion by Gainey to deny the request by Louisburg to be reclassified as a 1A school and recommend placing Louisburg in the Northern Lakes 2A/3A, seconded by Morgan. Motion to deny and reassign carries 19-0.*

Lindsey voiced support for the motion based on the unique situation for Louisburg. Garrett added his support for Louisburg based on their difficult unique situation. Gainey noted the discussion on travel time for the conference members they would be joining. Blanton highlighted the large number of variables that had to be considered to make the best decision possible for all schools involved.

**J.F. Webb** requested to combine schools in their area into straight 2A and 3A Conferences. They discussed the disparity of sizes in their current conference. Discussed lack of depth and problems fielding JV programs. Noted having to forfeit two football games due to lack of players.

*Motion by Garrett to deny a request to move to 1A Classification and deny their request to combine conferences into straight 2A & 3A conferences in their area, seconded by Turner. Motion to deny carries 19-0.*

**Northwood** is requesting to be reclassified as a 2A School in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A. They noted the drop in ADM due to the opening of Seaforth High in their area. Provided an estimate of 800 as their ADM next year due to Seaforth reaching a full 9-12 membership.

*Motion by Wilkins to approve request by Northwood to be reclassified based on loss of student population due to opening of a new school and to be placed in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A, seconded by Gainey. Motion approved 19-0.*

**Asheville** is requesting to be classified as a 3A school, noting a discrepancy in the number of students who do not participate from their specialty school. They also detailed the changing housing landscape in the district and lack of affordable housing putting a strain on families being able to remain in the district.

*Motion by Morgan to deny the request by Asheville to move to the 3A Classification, as the school does not meet the current criteria of 3A based on the formula or current ADM in the 3A West, seconded by Lindsey. Motion to deny carries 19-0.*

Tyson requested recusal from discussion and voting on Jay M. Robinson as he serves as the athletic director for Cabarrus County Schools.

*Motion by Byrd to recuse Tyson from discussion on Robinson's request, seconded by Turner. Motion approved 18-0.*

**Jay M. Robinson** requested to move up to the 3A Classification based on current school size and to be placed in the South Piedmont 3A. School highlighted the settled issue of ADM following the full opening of West Cabarrus which drew students from Robinson.

*Motion by Byrd to approve Robinson's request to be moved to the 3A Classification and to subsequently be placed in the South Piedmont 3A, seconded by Duncan. Motion approved 18-0.*

Tyson was welcomed back to the meeting for continued action on requests.

**Harding University High** requested to be moved to the 3A Classification and to be placed in the Queen City 3A/4A conference. The school noted a high number of lopsided contests in non-revenue sports discouraging participation. The school has also experienced significant drop in ADM.

*Motion by Garrett to approve the request of Harding University to be reclassified as a 3A School and placed in the Queen City 3A/4A Conference, seconded by Moore. Motion approved 19-0.*

Garrett noted there has been a significant decline in ADM and how that decline puts Harding in the 3A ADM range for current formula and right on the line based solely on ADM.

**Manteo** is requesting to move to the 1A Classification, highlighting the significant disparity of ADM within their current conference and the financial and competitive challenges they face in their conference.

*Motion by Blanton to deny the request of Manteo to be reclassified as a 1A School as the school does not meet the ADM criteria that has been used for other schools to deny their requests, seconded by Morgan. Motion approved 19-0.*

**MID-ALIGNMENT CONFERENCE PLACEMENT REQUESTS:** Several schools took the opportunity afforded to member schools who are independent at the mid-point of an alignment period to request conference placement.

*Motion by Lindsey to place Ascend Leadership Conference in the Central Tar Heel 1A Conference, seconded by Morgan. Approved 19-0.*

*Motion by Gainey to place College Prep & Leadership Academy in the Northwest Piedmont 1A Conference, seconded by Moore. Approved 19-0.*

*Motion by Byrd to place NC School of Science and Math – Morganton in the Western Highlands 1A/2A, seconded by Lindsey. Approved 19-0.*

*Motion by Gainey to place Triad Math & Science in the Northwest Piedmont 1A, seconded by Lynch. Approved 19-0.*

*Motion by Morgan to place Hobgood Charter in the Four Rivers 1A, seconded by Wilkins. Approved 18-1 with Turner in dissent.*

*Motion by Gainey to place Piedmont Classical Academy in the Northwest Piedmont 1A, seconded by McCormick. Approved 19-0.*

*Motion by Garrett to place Southeast Alamance as a 2A school in the Mid-Carolina 1A/2A Conference, seconded by Morgan. Approved 19-0.*

*Motion by Williford to recess meeting into Committees until 1:00 p.m., seconded by Morgan. Motion approved 19-0.*

Jackson moved the meeting into a recess until 1:00 p.m. following Committee work and lunch.

President Jackson reconvened the Board at 1:00 p.m. for the afternoon work session of the full board.

**BYLAW AMENDMENT PROPOSAL:** Commissioner Tucker updated the Board of Directors on the Basketball Coaches Association's proposal to amend Bylaw IV relative to Classification. Commissioner charged the Board to review the proposal for clarity and set dates for a membership vote on the proposal. Noted that staff encouraged Basketball Coaches Association to work with the Football Coaches Association on a Bylaw proposal, rather than proposing separate language that might divide the membership vote and work against both proposals.

Jackson highlighted the authority of the principal of member schools to cast the vote on behalf of their school for all proposals. Noted difficulty getting all member schools to participate in a vote. Board asked about other considerations that need to be discussed. Commissioner highlighted staff questions about whether the classifications would be determined based on participating schools in a particular sport. Jackson discussed combining classifications as a precedent in cases where not enough schools participate. McCormick discussed how this might narrow the gap of ADM discrepancies within mixed conferences. Morgan indicated he supported the proposal as it would alleviate some issues with size disparity in classification, while increasing split conferences would not necessarily unnecessarily burdening schools in a classification.

Board requested to know whether this proposal would replace all of Bylaw VI or just the section on the number of classifications? It was later noted the presenters of the proposal, let that determination to staff and the Board.

**OFFICIATING AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORT:** President Jackson welcomed Steve Schwartz, a basketball official in the Triangle Area Officials Association, who served as Chairperson of the ad hoc Officiating Committee. He presented the Committee's findings from a survey of the Officiating Ranks across the state. Schwartz noted that nearly all members of his committee were present for a special meeting with the Review & Officiating Committee of the Board of Directors on October 25<sup>th</sup>. He thanked the Board for their consideration and time. Asked the Board to have empathy and look for ways to improve the recruitment and retention of officials. Noted that officials have responded to the Committee's survey in great numbers and the survey uncovered numerous items that need immediate attention. Asked the Board, what is their recruitment strategy? Noted the high number of officials considering quitting. Asked what could the Board do to redress those issues? Suggested improving pay for officials, substantively, efficiently, and decisively. Asked to welcome in officials as true partners in the high school athletic association. Noted losing tenured officials who are tired of the abuse from players, coaches, and fans. Asked for decisive leadership from the Board of Directors to affect change. Asked the Board to sell officials in NC a bold vision of where the NCHSAA is going on pay, sportsmanship, and recruitment issues so they can support the Board and return NC to being the envy of the nation.

Jackson thanked Schwartz and the 23 members of his ad hoc committee for the quality of their presentation and the passion they have displayed in the conduct of their work.

**REVIEW & OFFICIATING COMMITTEE REPORT:** Mark Byrd, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Discussed the comprehensive listing of incidents per school.
2. Discussed the 2022 ejection report to-date. Noted some highlights that ejections seem to be down over a three-year period. Noted football ejections were down, along with soccer. Coach ejections and disqualifications appeared to be down.
3. Reviewed and discussed the Ad-Hoc Committee report and potential recommendations on recruitment and retention of officials. Noted that sportsmanship is just as important as officials pay.

- a. Currently officials all receive an increase of 5% every four years.
- b. Committee will propose increases effective January 1, 2023.
  - i. Will recommend eliminating doubleheader officiating fee in all sports and pay all sports on a per game basis.
  - ii. Will recommend a 10% increase across all sports, rounded to the nearest dollar amount.
  - iii. Will recommend a bi-annual review of officiating fees across all sports.
- c. Board did raise concerns about the revenue restraints this would put on member schools, particularly in schools that are in conferences that do not travel well.
- 4. Reviewed a proposal by the Carolina Umpire Association. Believe that a potential increase is covered in item 3.
  - a. Recommended a time limit on JV Baseball. No new inning will begin after two hours of elapsed time on field.
- 5. Recommend approval Nicole May as the regional supervisor for Women's Lacrosse in the Charlotte Association.
- 6. Discussed Regional Supervisor openings in five sport/regions across the state.
- 7. Committee wants to review decreasing time in JV Football quarters for the meeting in May.

**POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Cathy Moore, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

- 1. Discussed developments around Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL). Reviewed a presentation from the National Convention on NIL. Currently there is an absence of guidance on what is allowable and what is not.
  - a. Consider forming a committee to study and develop policy around NIL for the NCHSAA Handbook.
  - b. Will be opportunity for resources to inform stakeholders on NIL issues through NFHS Learn, National Coaches Association, etc.
- 2. Discussed approving a revision to the NCHSAA Regulation on Gender of a Player requiring an annual review by the Gender Identity Committee of any student granted a waiver.
- 3.
- 4. Discussed sportsmanship best practices and how those best practices in the Handbook are applied by member schools.
  - a. Discussed that officials must officiate, and others are needed to handle game management.
  - b. Identified difficulties in asking coaches or athletic directors to step into game management roles.
  - c. Discussed ways the NCHSAA can support the development and understanding of game administrator duties for administrators at a school.
- 5. Reviewed and discussed recommendations and findings from the Ad Hoc Committee on Officiating.
  - a. Discussed needing some type of tiered approach to handle the numerous concerns over what can be done across a multi-year timeframe.
- 6. Reviewed and discussed Mountain Island Charter's scheduling concerns with not being scheduled for contests by Gaston County Schools for non-conference contests.
  - a. No Handbook regulation dictating how non-conference contests are scheduled.
- 7. Discussed the current process for individuals to request and receive Senior Tar Heel Cards. Talked about the distribution and potential fraudulent use for a Senior Tar Heel Card at many schools.
  - a. Commissioner reminded the group that the NCHSAA does not issue Senior Tar Heel Cards.
  - b. Requesting that the NCHSAA reach out to the issuing agency for clarification on how they are issued.
- 8. Discussed a possible recommendation for media outlets to provide background check history for personnel requesting credentials. Potential that individuals requesting credentials through independent outlets that cannot provide a background check history will be required to pay a fee for a background check conducted by the NCHSAA prior to issuance of credentials.

**SPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Troy Lindsey, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Discussed the NCTCA proposal to expand the Dual Team Tennis playoffs to 64 teams in 3A & 4A, 48 teams in 2A, and 32 teams in 1A. Committee believes this would bring tennis more in line with other sports in terms of team playoff events.
2. Discussed approval of the sports calendar for the 2023-2024 school year and the football calendar for 2023 and 2024 seasons.
  - a. If item 1 is approved, recommend adjusting the 2023-24 sports calendar with updated dates for dual team expansion.
3. Discussed the request for by Union Academy from the 1A West to the 1A East Regional for the 2022-2023 Individual Wrestling Regional Competition. Appeared to be no sentiment to honor this request since just in first year of the realignment and such a decision would be counter to what is allowed relative to the East-West dividing line.
4. Discussed the recommendation of approval of request by NCTCA that dual team matches played against “partial teams” (defined as those with three or fewer players on the roster), nor matches against schools not fielding the team. It was noted that you should not penalize schools if they are able to play contests, even if not a full slate. Likely no recommendation to approve this request
5. Discussed approval of a proposal by the NCGCA to amend Handbook Policy 4.6.1(n) as follows:
  - a. “Maximum Score on a Hole Rule – No student-athlete shall score more than triple bogey on any hole (6 on a par 3, 7 on a par 4, 8 on a par 5) during the regular season. Once a student-athlete has reached this threshold, they shall pick up their ball, record a triple bogey on the scorecard and let the group complete the hole and move onto the next hole.”
6. Discussion centered around allowing an adjustment to the current policy for state championship qualification from the regionals to the following proposed by the NCGCA:
  - a. Men’s Golf State Championship Qualifying:
    - i. 3 teams per regional will qualify and will be allowed to take 5 players to the state championship.
    - ii. Top 9 individuals that are not on a qualifying team will advance to the state championship
  - b. Women’s Golf State Championship Qualifying:
    - i. 3 teams per regional will qualifying and will be allowed to take five players to the state championship.
    - ii. Top 17 individuals that are not on a qualifying team will advance to the state championship.
7. Will recommend approval of revised language in the NCHSAA Handbook regarding the current tournament rules and structure in the sport of volleyball.
8. A discussion of the recommendation by the NC Basketball Coaches Association to phase in the Basketball Shot Clock proposal over the course of three years. Discussion points included the inequities that could be created, the financial implications, et.
9. Reviewed and discussed the survey findings and recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Officiating.
  - a. Did look favorably on eliminating the doubleheader fees in all sports effective January 1.

**FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Chris Blanton, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Referenced the clean Audit Report given by Blackmon and Sloop.
2. Discussed the draft 2022-2023 Annual Operating Budget and review revenues and expenditures to-date.
  - a. Clarified that proposed budget is posted much earlier in the year but voted on now due to the Board coming together for the first time in the fiscal year.
  - b. Still in the red, but still able to distribute money to the member schools.
  - c. Championship expenses are up, like everything due to inflation. Highlighted that venues for championships are not provided to us for free in most cases.

3. Will need to set a ticket price for the 2023 Women's Wrestling Invitational Regional Tournaments. There was a favorable opinion of an \$8 ticket charge
4. Reviewed and discussed of investment report by Association money managers at the Fordham Group. Noted a formal report to be given on Thursday.
5. Reviewed and discussed the sports revenue comparisons versus previous years.
6. Reviewed and discussed Endowment Funds distributed to member schools. Over \$1.3 million distributed last year.
7. Reviewed and discussed the Education-Based Grant Program, managed by a committee.
8. Reviewed and discussed o corporate partnerships through TPG and legacy NCHSAA partnerships.
9. Reviewed and discussed the future of NCHSAA Endowment Funds.
  - a. Committee suggests President Jackson appoint an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of NCHSAA Board Members to initiate the process for establishing a separate Foundation to manage NCHSAA Endowment Funds.
10. Reviewed and discussed the financial implications of officials' survey results and ensuing recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee.
11. Received an update on personnel matters.

**President Jackson thanked the Board for their work and long hours today and yesterday.** Noted that the meeting would be streaming live again tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. and highlighted the SAAC Report and Affiliate Member Reports for tomorrow's agenda.

*Motion by Garrett to adjourn the meeting for this afternoon, second by Lindsey. Approved 19-0.*

Jackson adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

**NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS WINTER MEETING  
Thursday, December 1, 2022**

The winter meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors was called to order by President Rob Jackson at 8:30 a.m. at the NCHSAA Office in Chapel Hill. Members in attendance included President Rob Jackson, Vice President Chris Blanton, Past President Bobby Wilkins, Paige Badgett, Mark Byrd, Brian Carver, Chad Duncan, Stephen Gainey, Mark Garrett, Sam Jones, Jerome Leathers, Troy Lindsey, Fred Lynch, Andy McCormick, Cathy Moore, Tod Morgan, Tanya Turner, Bryan Tyson, and Larry Williford.

Affiliate members included Vernon Aldridge representing the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association, Joe Franks of the North Carolina Coaches Association, Burt Jenkins of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and Elbert Lassiter of North State Football Officials Association representing Officials and Regional Supervisors. Wendell Hall who represents the North Carolina School Boards Association was absent.

NCHSAA staff in attendance included Commissioner Que Tucker, Karen DeHart, Tra Waters, James Alverson, Brad Alford, Rhonda Dreibelbis, Tavares Toomer, Janna Fonseca, Cecil Mock.

President Jackson welcomed the Board of Directors and thanked them for their hard work over the past two days.

**SAAC REPORT:** Evan Shotwell, a senior student-athlete at Rockingham County, presented on behalf of the group. He is a four-sport athlete and member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. He detailed the goals and activities of the SAAC Program. He detailed their goal for planning the Student Leadership Conference for the spring semester. Highlighted the ability to attend and enjoy the National Student Leadership Conference in Indianapolis with NCHSAA Staff and fellow members of the NCHSAA SAAC.

**INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT:** Geoff Hudson from Fordham Group provided an update to the Board on a challenging year in the market for varying asset classes. Highlighted the unique challenges of both the Stock and Bond markets declining over the course of the year. Noted that inflation has been the driving factor behind the economic downturn, coupled with the Federal Reserve decision to combat inflation. The portfolio is typically managed in moderate growth plan. Last year, expecting volatility, the group hedged out of higher-risk investment classes. Noted over the course of time the portfolio has averaged roughly 8% return, which is about expected for the level of risk associated with the portfolio. Noted now may be the best time to get back into the market as consumer confidence is at nearly its lowest point and is traditionally the time to find the highest returns. Noted that the bond market may be primed for its best opportunity cost in the coming months.

**REGIONAL SUPERVISORS & OFFICIALS REPORT:** Elbert Lassiter, Regional Supervisor for the North State Football Officials Association presented on behalf of the Regional Supervisors and Officials. Highlighted the concerns about recruitment and retention of officials. Noted that this Board has been open to hearing the concerns of officials and truly cares about doing what they can to include officials' voices in the conversation.

**NORTH CAROLINA ATHLETIC DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION:** Vernon Aldridge, Assistant Executive Director, presented on behalf of the group. Highlighted strong continued partnerships with the NCHSAA and the NCCA that benefit student-athletes and athletic directors across the state. They want to add value to education-based athletics programs, inspire change, and create healthy growth. The organization continues to focus on education of administrators and athletic directors and coaches through the NFHS and NIAAA. Asks that members nominate deserving athletic directors in their area for awards through the NCADA. Noted the dates and sites for the National and State Athletic Director Conferences.

**NORTH CAROLINA COACHES ASSOCIATION:** Joe Franks, Executive Secretary, presented on behalf of the group. Noted the collaborative effort between the Coaches Association and the NCHSAA specifically around the Coaches Clinic annually in Greensboro. Noted the dates of the NC Coaches Clinic in Greensboro for Monday, July 17, through Wednesday, July 19, 2023. This will be the last year for the All-Star Football Game to be played in July. Their NCCA board voted to move that contest to December of each year.

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION:** Burt Jenkins presented on behalf of the group. Noted the collaborative conversation that is ongoing between DPI, Commissioner Tucker, and the various members of the Board and their districts. Noted that Gfeller-Waller audits have been pushed back slightly this year. Working to promote activities and education through NC Shape. Highlighted the Middle School Manual update that DPI does annually. They try to mirror the NCHSAA regulations to make the transition easier for parents, students, and administrators.

**REVIEW & OFFICIATING COMMITTEE REPORT:** Mark Byrd, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

1. Recommend approval of the comprehensive listing of incidents per school. No discussion. **Motion approved 19-0.**
2. Discussed the 2022 ejection report to-date. Noted some highlights that ejections seem to be down over a three-year period. Noted football ejections were down, along with soccer. Coach ejections and disqualifications appeared to be down.
3. Review and discussion of the Ad-Hoc Committee report and potential recommendations on recruitment and retention of officials. Noted that sportsmanship is just as important as officials pay and must continue as a point of emphasis.
4. Committee put forth **three recommendations** from their discussion of this item, which if approved would be effective January 1, 2023. **Motion for all three recommendations; approved 19-0.**
  - i. **Recommended** doubleheader officiating fee in all sports and pay all sports on a per game basis.
  - ii. **Recommended** a 10% increase across all sports, rounded to the nearest dollar amount.
  - iii. **Recommended** a bi-annual review of officiating fees across all sports.
- b. Board did raise concerns about the revenue restraints this would put on member schools, particularly in schools that are in conferences that do not travel well. Garrett noted the strain this would put on schools in the middle of a budget year.
- c. Noted that this would eliminate an automatic 5% increase every four years and replace it with a bi-annual review for officiating fees across all sports.
5. Reviewed a proposal by the Carolina Umpire Association. Believe that a potential increase is covered in item 3.
  - a. **Recommended** a time limit on JV Baseball such that no new inning will begin after two hours of elapsed time on field. **Motion approved 19-0.**
  - b. Gainey highlighted that this was another area of concern for officials across the state and a different way to address those some of those concerns.
6. **Recommended** approval Nicole May as the regional supervisor for Women's Lacrosse in the Charlotte Association. **Motion approved 19-0.**

McCormick requested that the Board revisit the **recommendation** on JV Baseball time limit of two hours. Tyson requested the committee amend their motion to establish the time limit only on JV games that do not have a varsity game following the contest at the same site. Committee could not reach agreement on the amendment. Chair called the question on the original motion. **Motion approved 10-8.**

7. Discussed Regional Supervisor openings in five sport/regions across the state.



**POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Cathy Moore, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

1. **Recommended** approving a revision to the NCHSAA Regulation on Gender of a Player requiring an annual review by the Gender Identity Committee of any student granted a waiver. **Motion approved 19-0.**
2. Discussed developments around Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL). Reviewed a presentation from the National Convention on NIL. Currently there is an absence of guidance on what is allowable. Asked for creation of a committee to study the issue and report at the Spring Board Meeting with information or a possible recommendation.
3. Discussed sportsmanship best practices and how those best practices in the Handbook are applied by member schools.
  - a. Discussed that officials must officiate, and others are needed to handle game management.
  - b. Identified difficulties in asking coaches or athletic directors to step into game management roles.
  - c. Asked what ways can NCHSAA support the development and understanding of game administrator duties for administrators at a school?
  - d. Requesting staff to reach out to NFHS specifically about a game management module for NFHS Learning platform.
4. Reviewed and discussed recommendations and findings from the Ad Hoc Committee on Officiating.
  - a. Discussed needing some type of tiered approach to handle the numerous concerns over what can be done across a multi-year timeframe.
5. Reviewed and discussed Mountain Island Charter's scheduling concerns with not being scheduled for contests by Gaston County Schools for non-conference contests.
  - a. No Handbook regulation dictating how non-conference contests are scheduled.
6. Discussed the current process for individuals to request and receive Senior Tar Heel Cards. Talked about the distribution and potential fraudulent use for a Senior Tar Heel Card at many schools.
  - a. Commissioner wanted to state that the NCHSAA does not issue Senior Tar Heel Cards.
  - b. Requesting that the NCHSAA reach out to the issuing agency for clarification on how they are issued.
7. **Recommendation** for media outlets to provide background check history for personnel requesting credentials. Recommended that individuals requesting credentials through independent outlets that cannot provide a background check history will be required to pay a fee for a background check conducted by the NCHSAA prior to issuance of credentials. **Motion approved 19-0.**
  - a. Board discussed an effective date of January 1, 2023.
  - b. There was much discussion about what the process, infrastructure and level of check is conducted. Board agreed that something needed to be done, but there were outstanding questions on the details of implementation.

**SPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT:** Troy Lindsey, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

1. No recommendation of request to phase in the Basketball Shot Clock proposal over the course of three years.
2. **Recommended** approval of NCTCA proposal to expand the Dual Team Tennis playoffs to 64 teams in 3A & 4A, 48 teams in 2A, and 32 teams in 1A. **Motion approved 19-0.**
  - a. Committee believes this would bring tennis more in line with other sports in terms of team playoff events.
  - b. Would be effective for 2023-2024 School Year.
3. No Recommendation of approval of request by NCTCA that dual team matches played against "partial teams" (defined as those with three or fewer players on the roster), nor matches against schools not fielding the team.
4. **Recommended** approval of revised language in the NCHSAA Handbook regarding the current tournament rules and structure in the sport of volleyball. **Motion approved 19-0.**
  - a. Would amend current language based on Winter Board 2022 Attachment S5.
5. **Recommended** approval of a proposal by the NCGCA to amend Handbook Policy 4.6.1(n) as follows below. **Motion approved 19-0.**

- a. "Maximum Score on a Hole Rule – No student-athlete shall score more than triple bogey on any hole (6 on a par 3, 7 on a par 4, 8 on a par 5) during the regular season. Once a student-athlete has reached this threshold, they shall pick up their ball, record a triple bogey on the scorecard and let the group complete the hole and move onto the next hole."
- b. Rule will go into effect for Spring 2023.
- 6. **Recommended** an adjustment to the current policy for state championship qualification from the regionals to the following proposed by the NCGCA listed below. **Motion approved 19-0.**
  - c. Men's Golf State Championship Qualifying:
    - i. 3 teams per regional will qualify and will be allowed to take 5 players to the state championship.
    - ii. Top 9 individuals that are not on a qualifying team will advance to the state championship
  - d. Women's Golf State Championship Qualifying:
    - i. 3 teams per regional will qualifying and will be allowed to take five players to the state championship.
    - ii. Top 17 individuals that are not on a qualifying team will advance to the state championship.
- 7. Based on discussion on Wednesday, no recommendation to approve the movement of Union Academy from the 1A West to the 1A East Regional for the 2022-2023 Individual Wrestling Regional Competition.
- 8. Review and discussion of the survey findings and recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Officiating.
- 9. **Recommended** approval of the amended sports calendar for the 2023-2024 school year and the football calendar for 2023 and 2024 seasons. **Motion approved 19-0.**
  - e. Amended the previously presented 2023-24 sports calendar with updated dates for dual team expansion playoff expansion.
  - f. No change to the 2023-2024 Football Calendar.

**FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT:** Chris Blanton, chairperson, presented on behalf of the committee.

- 1. Audit Report was reviewed and discussed by the committee. It was reviewed by the full board and approved yesterday.
- 2. **Recommended** approval of the draft 2022-2023 Annual Operating Budget and review revenues and expenditures to-date. **Motion approved 19-0.**
  - a. Clarified that proposed budget is posted much earlier in the year but voted on now due to the Board coming together for the first time in the fiscal year.
  - b. Still in the red, but still able to distribute money to the member schools.
  - c. Championship expenses are up, like everything due to inflation. Highlighted that venues for championships are not provided to us for free in most cases.
- 3. **Recommended** approval of an \$8 ticket charge for the 2023 Women's Wrestling Invitational Regional Tournaments. **Motion approved 19-0.**
- 4. Reviewed and discussed investment report by Association money managers at the Fordham Group.
- 5. Review and discussion of sports revenue comparisons versus previous years.
- 6. Review and discussion of Endowment Funds distributed to member schools. Over \$1.3 million distributed last year.
- 7. Review and discussion of the Education-Based Grant Program, managed by a committee.
  - a. Noted that there is a \$10,000 cap for each grant request.
- 8. Review and discussion of corporate partnerships through TPG and legacy NCHSAA partnerships.
- 9. Review and discussion of the future of NCHSAA Endowment Funds.
  - a. **Recommended** that President Jackson appoint an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of NCHSAA Board of Directors Members to initiate the process for establishing a separate Foundation to manage NCHSAA Endowment Funds. **Motion approved 19-0.**

10. Reviewed and discussed of the financial implications of officials' survey results and ensuing recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee.

President Jackson paused at the conclusion of the committee reports, requesting that the Sports Committee revisit the JV Baseball time limit proposal during the Spring 2023 meeting.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:** Commissioner Tucker reflected on the Board of Director's support throughout the pandemic and the past two years as she highlighted the many meetings, often late in the night and last-minute, that they have been faithful to attend and give attention to. Noted that she is disappointed that the Association found themselves in a position to have to change policies during a school year that will impact member schools financially. She thanked the Board for adjusting quickly to allow students to continue participation in education-based athletics. She highlighted the work to be done to help Bench Bad Behavior at athletic events, noting that it will take all stakeholders working together to get where we need to go in changing behavior. Assured the Board that as a staff we are committed to doing what needs to be done to emphasize importance of good sportsmanship to all stakeholders.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** President Jackson began by thanking the staff for the work that they do each day to support the mission of the Association. He highlighted a life lesson learned from fellow Board member, Tanya Turner, "Your talk talks. Your walk talks. But your walk talks louder than your talk talks." He highlighted the over \$12 million dollars returned to member schools over the last 12 years that is a direct result of the foresight and vision of past Boards of Directors.

**Motion to adjourn by Garrett, seconded by Lindsey. Approved 19-0.**

**Note: Virtual Media Briefing afterwards with President Jackson, Vice President Blanton, Commissioner Tucker and other selected staff.**