

MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING
NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
Virtual Meeting | May 4, 2023

(Prior to the start of the meeting, Juli Kidd, Director of Information Management shared housekeeping items related to this virtual meeting, namely that attendees should maintain their computer/device on 'mute' and indicated there will be an opportunity for principals to vote on the Nominating Committee's recommendations.)

Welcome and President's Report: President Jackson called to order the May 4, 2023 Annual Meeting of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association at 10:01 a.m. and recognized all attendees from across the state, mentioning the many changes in our lives, some good and some not so good. He expressed appreciation on behalf of the Board for those who work so hard to bring students the opportunities afforded by education-based athletics - our coaches, athletic trainers, volunteers, athletic administrators, school administrators, fans, parents, and communities- without all of this support, our students wouldn't have the opportunities and wouldn't walk across the stage to receive a high school diploma. He recognized the role of athletics in increasing academic achievement in students and indicated that we've had a wonderful year – 110th year of operation and you don't exist for this long unless you're doing something right. He commended the staff and Commissioner who ensure that the Bylaws are used when making decisions to ensure policies are followed and core values are in action to do the best by these student-athletes.

President Jackson spoke of the first year of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the State Board of Education. He indicated that based on everything he knows, the Association has operated with fidelity and met every requirement of the MOU and can be proud of that operation. Jackson offered words of appreciation for the partnership with other organizations in the state such as the coaches' association, the athletic directors' association, the officials, community, and parent support/booster clubs. He saluted all the teams for their success throughout the year. Jackson then recognized the many Board members who have come before and served this organization and the things they did historically such as seeing a need to create an endowment fund and because of this fund and due to their careful stewardship of resources, the Association has given funds to the membership, including during COVID, totaling \$19,249,538.00 over the past ten years alone. He then called on Nominating Committee chair, Marc Payne for the report.

Nominating Committee Report: Marc Payne, committee chair, presented the report of the April 3, 2023 Nominating Committee Meeting held in Chapel Hill, NC. Payne recognized the members of the committee by name, affiliation, classification, and region. He then announced the following individuals to be placed forward by the committee unanimously for consideration as members of the Board of Directors:

- Elect as president Chris Blanton, Watauga High School
- Elect as vice-president Stephen Gaaney, Randolph County Schools
- Elect as past-president Rob Jackson, Buncombe County Schools
- Elect Henry Rise, athletic director at Pamlico County, region 2, class 1A
- Elect Valerie Bridges, superintendent of Edgecombe County Schools, region 3, 1A class
- Elect Jim Butler, principal of Richmond Senior High School, region 4, class 4A
- Elect Alan Plaster, athletic director at East Forsyth High School, region 5, 4A class
- Elect Dan Phipps, superintendent of Caldwell County Schools, region 7, 4A class

- Replace Vernon Aldridge with Roy Turner, representing the NC Athletic Directors Association

The report was made to Commissioner Tucker in the form of a motion by Marc Payne. With no questions, the principals, or designees of member schools were asked to electronically cast their vote 'yes' or 'no' on the new slate of members to make up the leadership team and form the Class of 2027 for the Board of Directors. According to the NCHSAA Bylaws, over half of principals present on the virtual meeting are necessary and according to vote, over 50% voted affirmative to select these members to the Board of Directors. The Commissioner thanked principals for voting and thanked Marc Payne for chairing the Nominating Committee and then reminded the membership of who is currently on the Board of Directors – Mark Garrett, class of 2024, superintendent of Henderson County Schools; Todd Morgan, class of 2024, principal at CB Aycock High School. Representing the class of 2025, Brian Carver, coach and athletic director at Enka High School and Tanya Turner, superintendent of Perquimans County Schools. Paige Badgett, principal of North Surry High School and a member of the class of 2026 along with Sam Jones, principal at West Stokes High School, Jerome Leathers, principal at Southern Durham High School, Andy McCormick, principal at Union Pines High School, Bryan Tyson, system athletic director for Cabarrus County Schools, and Larry Williford, athletic director and coach at Farmville Central High School. Also recognized were the affiliate members: Vernon Aldridge for NC Athletic Directors Association, Joe Franks for NC Coaches Association, Wendell Hall representing the North Carolina School Boards Association, liaison Burt Jenkins who represents the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and Albert Lassiter who represents the North State Football Association and the regional supervisors and officials across the state. Commissioner Tucker recognized the outgoing Board members and mentioned the awards celebration event that will take place in Greensboro at Piedmont Hall on June 14, 2023.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Commissioner Tucker reported on the recent Bylaw change as voted upon by the membership, the various legislation that is currently running through the general assembly which will affect high school athletics as we know them, the new name, image and likeness policy, the creation of a foundation and the positive impact this will have on providing future resources for membership initiatives, change to the regional/state finals basketball format, a study regarding the 35-second shot clock in basketball, pay increase for swimming and diving officials, establishment of an Officials Advisory Council to operate under the auspices of the NCHSAA to make recommendations to the Board while giving voice to officials and regional supervisors, and various sport-specific policy/rule changes. Tucker reminded the membership that any rule/policy changes must next be reviewed by the State Board of Education for approval. She announced that a future virtual meeting of the principals and athletic directors will be held to answer any questions about proposed policy changes. SB636 was mentioned with a reminder for the membership to pay close attention to the details of this bill and others as they will affect high school athletics in NC. Tucker indicated a virtual meeting will be held in the coming weeks to detail all Board action, thanked the membership, and turned the meeting back into the hands of President Rob Jackson.

Jackson again thanked the attendees and reminded them to think of their questions for the upcoming meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.