
NCHSAA Board of Directors | Virtual Meeting via Zoom

July 28, 2025, 6:30pm

Board Members Attending: Bryan Tyson, Paige Badgett, Chris Blanton, Jamie King, Allen Plaster, Andy McCormick, Stephen Gainey, Dana Ayers, Larry Williford, Mark Garrett, Stephanie Phillips, Sam Jones, Eddie Doll, John Williams, Matthew Cheeseman, Brett Lamb, Erica Turner, and Sam Jones.

Absent: Henry Rice, Don Phipps, Elbert Lassiter, Roy Turner, Joe Franks, Brad Alford, and Wendell Hall.

NCHSA Staff Attending: Que Tucker, Janna Fonseca, Karen DeHart.

Dr. Stephen Gainey, Board president, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed the members and thanked them for their time. He welcomed returning Board members and then the new members, Erica Turner, Brett Lamb, and Matthew Cheeseman. He mentioned that he had notified the five (5) affiliate Board members regarding this virtual meeting. He also acknowledged Turner's father's passing with condolences.

Dr. Gainey turned the meeting to Commissioner Tucker to share an item that will need Board action. Tucker opened by thanking the Board members for their time tonight. She indicated that the Board had previously tasked the staff with creating two committees and these have been created. One committee will study the calendar including but not limited to areas of seasonal overlap, season start and end dates, whether there are some sports that should be switched to other seasons, and emerging sports. She noted that boys' volleyball is growing fast in North Carolina. The other committee is tasked with reviewing how flag football should be implemented as it is anticipated that it will be sanctioned in the near future.

Tucker then indicated that one of the challenges associated with going to eight classifications is the scheduling of playoff games and securing host venues, especially for regional and state championship contests. Traditionally these contests have been played on Fridays and Saturdays and in recent years, other weekdays have been included. Swimming/diving championships, for example, are conducted on Wednesday through Saturday to accommodate all classes. With eight classified championships, we will need to play some state championships earlier in the week. She mentioned that typically the Board would approve the sports calendar at the winter Board Meeting in the preceding year although this did not happen last winter due to the realignment process underway. Therefore, she requested that the Board consider approval to allow the staff the flexibility to schedule state championships on other non-traditional days. Staff will continue to work towards minimizing loss of school time and when adjusting the calendar, will look at scheduling contests within the week noted on the calendar.

Dr. Gainey acknowledged that the Board knows that there will be some additional changes when expanding to eight classifications. Mark Garrett echoed Dr. Gainey's sentiment and added that eight classes makes scheduling more difficult and the Board needs to give the staff some flexibility to allow staff to make decisions regarding the event schedules. He further mentioned that notifying the Board of the revised schedule in advance of marketing it is appreciated.

Dana Ayers made a motion to grant staff the authority to adjust the playoff calendar without having to return to the Board for each decision. Turner seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, 17-0.

Dr. Gainey asked for any other discussion in the open session. Tucker thanked the Board for their consideration regarding scheduling flexibility. Dr. Gainey then motioned to move the session into a closed session pursuant to General Statute 143 318.11A6 to go into closed session to consider the performance and conditions of appointment of an officer of the NCHSAA. The board unanimously approved the motion, 17-0.

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:14 p.m. Dr. Gainey thanked the Board members for their time and their support for the Association. Mark Garrett made a motion to approve the personnel report. Cheeseman seconded and the Board approved 17-0.

Chris Blanton made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Turner seconded. The Board voted 17-0 to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.