

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 31, 2025

The regular winter meeting of the Board of Directors was held in a hybrid format on January 31, 2025.

President Ingold called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. The following members were present in person: Haupt, Marski, Yoder, Ingold, Marquardt, Davis, Drees, Johnson, and Duncan. Present via Zoom were Hogue, McAlister, Chavers, Biggs, and Marquardt. Also present were Nicole Schaefbauer, Chris Frasco, Jonathan Hauter, and Jackie Litwiler from the IESA staff. Not present were Vanausdall and Kerr.

President Ingold appointed Allen Duncan, Todd Davis, and Tim Haupt to canvass the votes for the Board of Director elections. All three members agreed the voting report was accurate.

Motion by Davis/Yoder to approve the seating of Michelle Biggs as the Division K replacement. Carried.

Motion by Haupt/Johnson to approve the September 16, 2024, regular meeting minutes as presented. Carried.

Dr. Hogue presented the Treasurer's report. **Motion by Hogue/Marski to approve the Treasurer's report as of December 31, 2024. Carried.**

Division Reports

Division H--Mr. Ingold was contacted by a member regarding the change to the post-season tournament admission structure, which now offers one ticket price for all attendees. The member encouraged the Board to consider the impact of ticket prices on families and their ability to attend post-season contests. The Finance Committee and the Board considered many factors when approving the recommendation for a flat fee admission. Mr. Ingold also received feedback from an administrator regarding the possibility of setting a season for Cheerleading. This discussion item will be added to the agendas of the Cheerleading and Athletic Director Committees. An additional administrator reached out regarding the financial burden of hosting IESA events. This is a continual discussion among staff, committees, and the Board.

Division O--Dr. Duncan was contacted by a member regarding the move of the wrestling post-season dates. Staff assured the Board the change was for the current year only. Dr. Duncan was also asked about the possibility of a school within his division being assigned a state final tournament. Mrs. Schaefbauer shared the status of the current state venue contracts. As those contracts come due, the IESA staff will make site visits to interested schools. Schools interested in hosting a state tournament should indicate their interest online.

Administrative Reports

Matt Hawkins- Updated the Board on the progress and status of his outstanding proposals. Shared social media numbers with the Board and updated them on the reach of several campaigns.

Jonathan Hauter- An update was given on the upcoming IESA Wrestling State series and ongoing discussions with NIU and DWC on future tournaments. Current chess and bowling deadlines were shared with the Board. Shared information regarding the recognition section of the IESA website. The Recognition Committee will meet sometime this Spring.

Jackie Litwiller—Reviewed the State Softball tournament. Updated the Board on the keynote presenters for the 2025 AD Workshop and her recent meetings with the IADA. Mrs. Litwiller will work with the IADA to implement a junior high/middle school athletic director's mentor program. She will be exploring more ways to provide access to resources. Reported on the progress of the upcoming Cheerleading State Competition. Entries this year are the largest we have had to date. Updated the Board on the various partnerships in place this year to assist with the competition- ISU cheer and Washington HS cheer programs. The Volleyball season status was shared. An update on Music was given. A report on the Athletes With Disabilities Committee was also shared.

Chris Frasco-- Reported on the success of the Officials Spotlight and Winter Official's Appreciation Week campaigns. Both initiatives have been received well. Current ejection numbers were presented to the Board. Ejections are above previous years at this same time. The increased player ejections were noted as troubling. As the Scholastic Bowl season has started, many regional and sectional hosts must still be secured. A review of the Sportsmanship School of the Month was given.

Nicole Schaefbauer—Recapped the insurance review that was recently conducted with our broker. The Association will see an increase in premiums over the calendar year. Updated the Board on the online improvements the Association has made over the past year. Craig Johnson, the IT Director, has created an online system for assigning and contracting officials which has streamlined the process for staff and officials. Scholar Attitude submissions have been moved entirely online. This is a better tracking system for students and IESA staff. Online Financial Reports will make their debut next year. All of the online improvements have reduced the amount of paper that travels between the IESA Office and member schools and streamlined the entry procedures for both the membership and the staff. Digital ticketing is becoming more common among regional and sectional hosts. Mrs. Schaefbauer shared the current policy for allowing digital ticket sales during the state series. An overview of the conversations that have been had with NIU and DWC was shared. With the current contract ending with the 2025 tournament, discussions have started on future agreements. The IESA will see a substantial increase in tournament expenses this year and project that the expense will double over the next two years. Further conversations will be had with NIU on the possibility of future tournaments. The Board directed the staff to investigate other possible venues across the state.

Old Business

The Board reviewed the NFHS Summer Meeting attendance opportunity for the upcoming Chicago meeting. Since IESA will IHSA as the host state, Board members will be needed to assist with conference duties. Mrs. Schaefbauer asked for Board members to respond with their attendance by the end of February.

The IESA staff has been meeting with the emerging activity groups for Boys' Volleyball, Girls' Wrestling, Soccer, and E-Sports. All of the Committees have had a preliminary meeting. Before any other meetings occurred, the IESA staff asked the Board for their input on how additional activities would impact their schools. The Board directed the staff to craft and disseminate a survey to the membership to gather more data. Once the survey has been conducted, a more comprehensive conversation can occur within the Committees and the Board. Minutes from the emerging activities may be found here: [E-Sports](#), [Boys Volleyball](#), [Girls Wrestling](#), [Soccer](#)

An update was given on the progress of the strategic plan. The administrative staff has had several meetings with Joshua19 on organizing and updating the association's messaging. The Board provided some direction for the staff to relay to the company.

President Ingold recessed the meeting for lunch at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

New Business

The Board reviewed by-law 3.170- Provisions for out-of-season contact. Staff provided a brief history of this by-law and asked for the Board's feedback on its continued inclusion in the Handbook. **Motion by Yoder/Johnson to remove by-law 3.170 from the IESA Handbook. CARRIED.**

The Board reviewed the Rawlings contract. The contract will run from 2025-26 through 2027-2028 and designate Rawlings as the Official Ball of the IESA Baseball, Softball, Boys and Girls Basketball state series. **Motion by Davis/Drees to approve the Rawlings ball contract. CARRIED.**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to update the IESA School Publicity policy included in the IESA Handbook to mirror the IHSA policy. **Motion by Drees/Johnson to approve the recommended policy update. CARRIED.**

The Board received information in October regarding the need for a one-year adjustment to the 2025 wrestling post-season. **Motion by Marski/Yoder to approve the 2025 Wrestling post-season dates. CARRIED.**

The Board modified a ruling regarding the status of the Calumet City Schrum boys basketball program. **Motion by Ingold/Allen to modify the ruling of the Executive Director. CARRIED.**

Board Committee Reports

Finance Committee- The Finance Committee met on December 9, 2024. Information was shared on the recent investment of emergency funds and how that supports the strategy of building a solid financial foundation for the Association's future. A recommendation was made to increase the participation fee for Bowling (\$22 per bowler) and Chess (\$20 per player). **Motion by Davis/Hogue to approve the recommended increases to Bowling and Chess. CARRIED.**

Staff Relations Committee- The Staff Relations Committee will meet prior to the April Board meeting.

Advisory Committee Reports

Athletes With Disabilities- Meeting minutes were shared with the Board with no recommendations. **Complete AWD Advisory minutes may be found [here](#).**

Baseball— The Baseball Advisory Committee met on November 6, 2024. Motion by Yoder/Duncan to approve recommendation #1 (adjustment to regional play dates). **Complete Baseball Advisory minutes may be found [here](#).**

Cross-Country—The Cross-Country Advisory Committee met on November 20, 2024. Motion by Haupt/Yoder to approve recommendation #1 (use athletic.net for roster entries and race results). **CARRIED.** Motion by Johnson/Marski to approve recommendation #3 (reduction in sectional team plaques). **CARRIED.** Recommendation #2 did not receive any support. **Complete Cross Country Advisory minutes may be found [here](#).**

Golf--The Golf Advisory Committee met on October 23, 2024 via Zoom. Motion by Marski/Johnson to approve recommendation #1 (increase the total number of advancers). **CARRIED.** Motion by Yoder/Davis to approve recommendation #2 (reduce the number of team trophies awarded). **CARRIED.** Recommendation #3 was not presented. **Complete Golf Advisory minutes may be found [here](#).**

Softball--The Softball Advisory Committee met on October 25, 2024. Motion by Yoder/Drees to approve recommendation #1 (adjustment to the post-season play dates). **CARRIED.** **Complete Softball Advisory minutes may be found [here](#).**

Speech—The Speech Advisory Committee met on January 16, 2025. Motion by Marski/Drees to approve recommendation #1 (move all events to a rubric adjudication form), recommendation #2 (increase in hospitality line), recommendation #3 (add Week 16 as additional contest dates), and recommendation #4 (add additional prop for solo events). **CARRIED.** Complete Speech Advisory minutes may be found [here](#).

The dates of the remaining meetings for 2024-25 were announced- April 11 and June 6.

Motion by Drees/Johnson to approve the expenses of the meeting. **CARRIED.**

Motion by Haupt/Drees to adjourn the regular meeting sine die at 2:02 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Mrs. Schaefbauer seated the following members: Darryl Hogue, Renee Marski, Antonio Johnson, Tony Ingold, and Tim Kerr. Motion to seat by Yoder/Davis. **CARRIED.**

The floor was opened for nominations for the office of President. Tony Ingold was nominated. Nominations were closed. Motion by Drees/Johnson to approve Tony Ingold as President. **CARRIED.** The floor was opened for nominations for the office of Vice-President. Pat Drees was nominated for Vice-President. Nominations were closed. Motion by Johnson/Marski to approve Pat Drees as Vice-President. **CARRIED.** The floor was opened for nominations for the office of Secretary-Treasurer. Darryl Hogue was nominated for Secretary-Treasurer. Motion by Haupt/Ingold to approve Darryl Hogue as Secretary-Treasurer. **CARRIED.**

After Officers were elected, President Ingold asked for a motion to ratify all previous legal affairs of the Association. Motion by Drees/Johnson to ratify all previous legal affairs. **CARRIED.**

New Business for Board

The Board was given an updated IESA Board of Directors seniority list.

There being no further business, motion by Duncan/Drees to adjourn the meeting. **CARRIED.** President Ingold adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

