

Minutes | NCHSAA Foundation Trustee Meeting | July 15, 2025 | 4:00pm

Present Trustees included Mark Mansfield, Bill Steed, Kathy Spencer, Bill Miller, Anna Hipps. Volunteer Foundation staff included Tavares Toomer and Karen DeHart

Absent Trustees included Neil Blankenship and Andre' Lassiter.

Karen DeHart confirmed quorum and requested a motion to accept the meeting minutes from April 22, 2025. Kathy Spencer made the motion to accept the previous meeting minutes and Bill Miller seconded. **The Trustees approved unanimously, 5-0.**

Discussion then shifted to conversation regarding the education-based grant program and year-end funding distribution to NCHSAA member high schools. Trustees and volunteer staff discussed the need for effective communication at the upcoming Regional Meetings especially in region 8 which was affected by Hurricane Helene in fall 2024. Bill Miller expressed the need to get information to the principals, athletic directors, and superintendents in Regional 8 through these regional meetings as well as the Western RESA Meeting.

An overview of the current grant program was provided by DeHart, highlighting \$107,000 allocated for education-based grants and another \$59,000 for student scholarships and several awards.

Tavares Toomer then reviewed the 2024-2025 revenues and expenses, noting that the IRS tax bill expense was the main revision to budgeted expenses. Since the main source of revenue in 2024-2025 came from one source, the Foundation pays higher tax rate at this time. We should see this decrease as revenue sources become more diverse.

Next the group discussed the Hall of Fame endowment fund account and need to transfer interest earnings from the fund account to the Foundation checking account so that the Foundation may be billed by the host venue in August 2025 following the annual Hall of Fame Banquet event.

Bill Miller made the motion to allow transfer of interest earnings from the Hall of Fame endowment fund account to the Foundation checking account in the amount of

\$21, 121.19 which is equal to 5% of the average monthly value of the account for the preceding twelve month period (July 2024 -June 2025). Kathy Spencer seconded the motion and it **passed unanimously, 5-0.**

Discussion turned to year-end distributions to NCHSAA member schools following the 2024-2025 school year. Whether every member school should receive some funding or

whether it should be an application process was mentioned. The conversation shifted to the complexities of the funding distribution formula, with members stressing the importance of clarity and strategic planning. Miller mentioned that the existing formula attempts to accommodate school size (average daily membership-ADM) as well as Individual Student Percentage (ISP). Spencer raised concerns about the practicality of additional grant submissions, noting that schools are already having to write grants for funding and school personnel do not have the time to write additional grant requests. Anna Hipps highlighted the need for proactive communication regarding future changes to the disbursement process. The group agreed on the necessity of gathering feedback from NCHSAA member schools early this coming school year, such as during or following the September Regional Meetings, and ensuring clear communication about any future potential changes. The Trustees agreed that they need to be able to explain how the distribution is made and be able to articulate such if and when asked by member school representatives. Miller suggested that school representatives need to be asked specific questions and to provide feedback such as what they would do if all schools do not receive year-end funds from the Foundation or if funding became all needs-based.

Spencer reminded the group that so many schools are in need of funding and that districts that are rural tend to be the most challenged versus metropolitan areas. Larger counties have more options for where to seek funding than the rural counties. After further discussion regarding how to seek feedback, DeHart suggested that a script be created for the Regional Meetings to ensure consistent messaging across all regions and indicate that the Foundation Trustees are assessing future distribution methodology and seeking input from NCHSAA school representatives. A post-Regional Meeting survey could be sent to all schools asking a few pointed questions to seek feedback which the Foundation Trustees will then review and utilize in future discussions regarding how funds are dispersed.

DeHart then requested a motion regarding release of the year-end funds for 2024-2025 from the General Endowment Fund (5% of preceding twelve-month average, less two scholarship subsidies, education-based grant awards for equipment and student programs, funds to Officiating Fund account, and 2024-2025 administrative expenses) totaling \$908,586.70. In addition, after education-based grants for health & safety and education grants were awarded, there is a remaining balance of \$83,090.78 that will need to be spent down to accommodate the 5% rule. This funding could be split evenly between all member schools for health & safety use in the amount of \$186.30 each. DeHart also reported that less than half the schools responded with an evaluation to share how they used the funds they received at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 year. Spencer remarked that almost half was a great return rate for an evaluation.

Miller indicated that the requested motion should be split into two separate motions and Mark Mansfield requested an email be sent to the Trustees outlining the amounts and allow them to respond electronically, to also include votes from the absent Trustee members of the Board.

The meeting was then opened up for discussion. Spencer asked if there were any new legislative notes that the Board should know about to which DeHart indicated that there are some active bills which do affect education but none that she is aware of that directly impact the NCHSAA with the exception of the bill related to cash option at the gate for middle and high school athletic events. However, the NCHSAA Board of Directors proactively approved requiring all member schools to offer a cash option.

Final discussion related to the meeting schedule and whether the 4-year calendar that DeHart created and sent to the Trustees should be further modified as some expressed that January travel can be tough given weather issues. The Trustees then agreed to keep the schedule as is and if a revision is needed due to weather, it can be made on a case-by-case situation.

Bill Miller made a motion to adjourn at 4:58pm and it was seconded by Kathy Spencer.

APPROVED: 10/14/2025 Meeting