



***REPRESENTATIVE  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 3-4, 2026***

**ATTENTION!** Please make copies of this and share with your Board of Education and staff. These minutes will be published on [MHSAA.com](http://MHSAA.com). Unless otherwise indicated, changes made by the Representative Council take effect on Aug. 1, 2026.

# MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

## REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Gaylord, May 3-4, 2026

### Members Present:

Chris Adams, Camden  
Jay Alexander, Detroit  
Mike Bakker, Fenton  
Fred Bryant, Cadillac  
Jerry DeGroot, Hudsonville  
Karyn Furlong, Richland  
Aaron Gaffney, Ellsworth  
Chris Hartman, Kingsford  
Sean Jacques, Calumet  
Jeff Kline, Mt. Morris  
Jason Malloy, Westland  
Dr. Monica Merritt, Plymouth  
Chris Miller, Gobles  
Fred Smith, Bangor  
Adam Stefanski, Boyne City  
Dr. Arnetta Thompson, Wyoming  
John Thompson, Brighton  
Jennifer Thunberg, Freeland

### Staff Members Present:

Tony Bihn  
Brad Bush  
Sam Davis  
Andy Frushour  
Dan Hutcheson  
Cody Inglis  
Geoff Kimmerly  
Cole Malatinsky  
Will McKoy  
Andi Osters  
Jon Ross  
Mark Uyl (Recorder)  
Jamie VanDerMoere  
Kathy Vrugink-Westdorp  
Paige Winne

**Accounts of Meetings** – Motion by Michael Bakker, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of March 20, 2026; the Executive Committee meeting minutes of March 19 and April 8, 2026; and the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting minutes of April 23, 2026. Adopted.

A brief report was provided on the discussion items from the April 23 UP Athletic Committee meeting.

### REPORTS

The following reports were provided to the Council.

**Administration – MHSAA membership** during the 2025-26 school year was 756 high schools and 773 junior high/middle schools as of April 1, 2026. This compares with 754 and 777, respectively, as of April 1, 2025. In addition, there were 61 elementary schools with 6<sup>th</sup>-grader participation.

As of April 11, 2026, there were 425 **cooperative program agreements** for high schools for 807 teams (an increase of 16 programs and 57 teams over the previous year). There were 128 cooperative program agreements for 427 teams for junior high/middle schools (an increase of 1 program and 19 teams). The most frequent sports involved in cooperative programs at the high school level are (in order) ice hockey, girls softball, girls and boys swimming & diving and boys lacrosse. At the junior high/middle school level, the sports most frequently involved in cooperative programs are football, boys and girls track & field, and boys and girls cross country.

There was 1 **eligibility advancement** application received during the 2025-26 school year. This compares with 4 during 2024-25; 1 during 2023-24, 3 during 2022-23; 0 during 2021-22, 0 during 2020-21, 3 during 2019-20, 3 during 2018-19, 6 during 2017-18, 5 during 2016-17, 5 during 2015-16, 4 during 2014-15, 14 during 2013-14, 15 during 2012-13, 9 during 2011-12, 15 during

2010-11, 2009-10 and 2008-09, and 7 during 2007-08. The highest number of applications was 94 during the 1991-92 school year.

There were 162 **Educational Transfer Forms** processed for the 2025-26 school year through April 15, 2026. Other than 114 during the 2020-21 school year (which cannot be compared to previous years because of the COVID-19 pandemic), previous years' numbers were 142 for the 2024-25 school year, 130 for the 2023-24 school year, 132 for the 2022-23 school year, 153 for the 2021-22 school year, 213 for the 2019-20 school year, 215 for the 2018-19 school year, 219 for the 2017-18 school year, 237 for the 2016-17 school year and 266 for the 2015-16 school year. Public-to-public school transfers continue to be the most common (109), and the divorce exception (#8) is the most frequent reason (61) for the Educational Transfer Form to be used.

There were 41 "**Travel Forms for Out-of-State Practice**" filed during 2024-25, compared to 43 the year before. The highest number filed was 113 during the 2007-08 school year. The lowest was 40 during the 2003-04 school year and the requirement began in 1994-95. Staff will continue to monitor these numbers in light of the recent change that will allow teams on spring break to hold up to four scrimmages against other MHSAA member school teams.

A listing of **violations** by schools and officials between April 11, 2025, and April 21, 2026 indicated that the total number of violations for the year was higher than the previous year. Staff reported no significant changes in the penalties for schools and coaches in rules meetings and failure to attest to requirements from previous years.

**Athletic Director In-Service and Update Meeting** programs conducted by the MHSAA attracted more than 731 registrants in 2025-26, which was a decrease from the 832 participants the previous school year. The schedule for the fall of 2026 in-person meetings was presented and possible topics for those meetings were identified throughout this meeting. For the 16<sup>th</sup> year, two in-service programs for athletic department administrative assistants are being planned for September due to high interest in recent years.

The MHSAA **Coaches Advancement Program (CAP)** has already involved more than 2,000 participants once again in 2025-26, with 1,635 registrations in CAP 1. CAP programs continue to be developed and held throughout the year, and include the added value benefits of insurance, *GamePlans* and SCECHs. This has been a successful year with many CAP programs held in many area high schools and at the MHSAA, as well as in Michigan colleges and universities. By the end of this year, individuals will have completed over 45,000 Coaches Advancement Program levels since the start of the 2004-05 school year.

A brief update was given on concussion insurance claims, coaching compliance reports and concussion report data. Staff highlighted the benefits of the MHSAA-provided concussion insurance program, along with the data and challenges of getting 100% compliance from schools in reporting coaching requirement completion and concussions.

For the fifth consecutive year, **officials' registrations** increased. This year's increase was 159 officials from last year, continuing the rebound from the low of 7,907 in 2020-21, caused by the lingering pandemic challenges in recruiting and retaining officials. A report on the partnership with Ref Reps was provided which will give schools a turnkey curriculum program for officials' education. One of the reasons for registered officials leaving the game is the lack of sportsmanship from adults, coaches and spectators. This environment and culture within school sports must continue to be addressed.

**Officials Reports** for the spring 2025, fall 2025 and winter 2025-26 seasons were provided. The reports were broken down not only by sport but also by level: varsity, junior varsity, and sometimes also 9<sup>th</sup>-, 8<sup>th</sup>- and 7<sup>th</sup>-grade levels. The frequency of sportsmanship problems is statistically rare in sports conducted by MHSAA member schools when compared to other levels of non-school sports, but data was provided that shows trends and situations that must be addressed now. One positive data point again was that the number of “repeat offenders” of ejected coaches and players, who now must complete an online sportsmanship course before being eligible to return to competition, was extremely low, which shows that this requirement is achieving the desired results. Data was also provided on the review process for ejections and the subsequent suspension for individuals who are ejected for flagrant physical contact, misidentification, and misapplication of playing rules.

Brief updates were given on the AD Connection program, student services and PBA/NIL from the 2025-26 school year. It was noted that the AD Connection program continues to be one of the best values provided to member schools. Basic data from the PBA/NIL deals approved thus far (115 as of April 22) indicate that a vast majority include no cash compensation but include in-kind benefits (e.g. food, apparel, haircuts).

**National Federation of State High School Associations** – Staff provided an update on the NFHS Network and MHSAA plans for television/streaming options for football (Selection Sunday and Finals) and basketball in 2026-27. The current plan is to stream these events exclusively on the NFHS Network again next school year, with a successful first year having been completed. Staff also reported that the MHSAA Radio Network will not continue in future years.

Staff presented on a number of current national issues and challenges regarding the NFHS and high school sports in general in terms of personnel, policy, litigation, and governance. Making the case for school sports will continue to be the focus for the Council and staff moving forward.

**Legislation** – A report was provided, which included that the current focus in the State Legislature is devoted to the budget and election process.

**Litigation** – An update was provided on current legal items that involve the association.

### ONGOING BUSINESS

**Transfer Tracker Update** – A status report was provided on the progress of the Transfer Tracker system, which is being developed by the MHSAA and FinalForms. Staff provided handouts and a demonstration of the system.

Motion by Adam Stefanski, supported by Jennifer Thunberg, to affirm that the Transfer Tracker system as provided by FinalForms is the tool for entering student information when transferring between schools, required with the 2027-28 school year. Adopted.

**Dropped Programs** – Staff led a discussion on current approaches when a program is “dropped” at the last minute. Rationale for the current rule was provided, along with possible alternative approaches for future consideration.

**Awards Discussion** – Council members provided good thoughts and feedback on the current awards rule. One area where the MHSAA has been historically “behind” (or “ahead” depending on one’s personal perspective) is the awards limitation, which currently sits at \$40. Staff provided the most recent comparison figures from the surrounding Big Ten states and will survey schools during the 2026 Fall Update meeting series.

**Transfer Rule Topics** – Two transfer rule scenarios have come before the Executive Committee recently, which the full Council discussed at length. This first dealt with a student who transferred from a public school to a non-public school, but the new non-public school of attendance is not the closest to the new residence. In these cases, students have attempted to provide background information related to religion by seeking an exception from the Executive Committee. Staff provided clarity on the current interpretation, which the Council fully supported.

Second, the transfer rule has historically treated school personnel (administrators, teachers, coaches, etc.) no differently than any other person/profession when students are transferring to or from a school that has a connection to the parent. Examples would include a student who changes schools when one of the parents gets a new job or position at that school (e.g. new administrator, teacher or head coach). Another would be when a parent loses a job or position at a school (e.g. head coach is not renewed), and the situation at the former school is such that the family believes the student must transfer to a new school. Staff provided these scenarios and received feedback from the Council. Moving forward, the Executive Committee will continue to consider these requests on a case by case basis.

## **REGULATIONS**

**Regulations I through V** of the *MHSAA Handbook* and their interpretations were submitted for review by the Representative Council.

Motion by Jennifer Thunberg, supported by Dr. Arnetta Thompson, to approve the consent package of miscellaneous changes for the purpose of organization, clarity or updating and to incorporate changes or interpretations previously adopted by the Representative Council. Adopted.

**Regulation I, Section 9A, Exception #1 – Sport-Specific Transfer Regulation** – Motion by Jennifer Thunberg, supported by Jason Malloy, to approve the following:

A student makes a full and complete residential change, as defined throughout this Section, to a different public high school district with the persons with whom he or she was living ~~for at least the last 30 calendar days~~ during his or her most recent previous high school enrollment (not summer school) as defined in Interpretations 65, 77 and 82. See Section 9(E), Athletic-Related Transfers (Link Rule) where Exception 1 is not applicable. ~~See Interpretation 67.~~

Adopted.

**Regulation I, Section 10, Interpretation #102 and #106** – Motion by Dr. Monica Merritt, supported by Michael Bakker, to approve the following:

102. In addition to what is permitted at Interpretation 101 above, high school coaches or athletic directors may conduct ~~once each school year~~ at the high school building for all feeder schools or at each of the feeder schools as defined below – sport specific group presentations to groups of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students and/or their parents assembled in advance by the school for the purpose of encouraging students to participate in specific sports when enrolled in that high school. ~~Once each school year season~~ For each sport sponsored by that high school, these presentations may be conducted for junior high/middle school teams or groups of students from schools which either (1) are subject to the same governing board, or (2) are of the same religious denomination as the high school and from which at least 25 percent of the students in the previous year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade attended that high school. (Single gender high schools count only 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students of that gender.)

These sport specific group presentations must adhere to all applicable Undue Influence Interpretations and the following:

- a. They must be voluntary on the part of the junior high/middle school (a school or team may decline to permit the presentation).
- b. They may only be conducted at the high school or junior high/middle school building, regular practice location for the junior high/middle school team, or a facility/location jointly operated and governed by the high school and junior high/middle school.
- c. ~~They may not be held in conjunction with regular season high school or junior high/middle school contests or MHSAA tournament competitions (on the same day, site or time as an interscholastic scrimmage or contest).~~

Informational communication (written or oral) announcing the starting dates of practices and other allowed summer activity may be distributed to groups of 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students (not individuals) on or after April 1, provided they are informational only and confined to students who have formally registered an intention to attend that high school in the fall or who attend a junior high/middle school which has a relationship to a high school as described above (same governing board or religious denomination and 25 percent previous enrollment)

106. Except as permitted under Interpretations 101 and 102, a high school coach may not initiate contact with a student at a junior high/middle school or other high school, or the parents of that student, about attendance at the school. It is not a violation for a coach to have ~~normal community~~ **contact (e.g. 4-player coaching with students in grades 7-12)** with a student who attends a junior high/middle school of the same system which is a feeder to that high school.

Adopted.

**Regulation II, Section 1, Interpretation #178 – Competition Limited to Eligibles** – Motion by Adam Stefanski, supported by Jennifer Thunberg, to approve the following:

178. Except as required by Regulation II, Sections 5 and 6, MHSAA member schools may participate against in-state non-member teams (including non-school community teams), regardless of who the sponsor is and the number of school and non-school teams involved, except that senior high school varsity football competition may only be against bona fide high school teams. See Regulation II, Section 9(D). Member schools may not compete in any sport against out-of-state teams that are not bona fide high school teams. A student who is enrolled at an MHSAA member school may not compete as an unattached or non-school participant in any regular-season school contest.

Adopted.

**MHSAA Handbook, Pages 110-111, Game Suspension Guidance** – Motion by Chris Adams, supported by Karyn Furlong, to approve the following:

- I. On threatening days, game management should consult with contest officials about steps to be followed if conditions worsen.

- II. When lightning has been observed or thunder is heard, the contest must be suspended. Officials and game management may consult weather applications to make suspension, resumption and continuation decisions using the following policies:
- A. ~~When lightning has NOT been observed and thunder is NOT heard, the contest must be suspended. When independently validated lightning-detection devices or mobile phone apps are available, this technology could be used to assist in making a decision to suspend play if a lightning strike is noted to be within 10 miles of the event location.~~  
If lightning has not been observed and thunder has not been heard, the contest must be suspended if independently validated lightning-detection devices or mobile weather applications indicate a lightning strike within 10 miles of the event location.
- B. At night, under certain atmospheric conditions, lightning flashes may be seen from distant storms. In these cases, it may be safe to continue an event before the full 30-minute suspension has expired. If no thunder can be heard and the flashes are low on the horizon, the storm may not pose a further threat. Independently verified lightning detection information would help eliminate any uncertainty.
- C. Severe weather with precipitation (rain or snow) may make the field unplayable.
- III. When a contest is suspended, the home school administration shall attempt to arrange for the security of all participants.
- A. Contestants and support personnel shall be moved to appropriate indoor facilities.
- B. ~~When lightning is observed or thunder is heard and the contest is suspended, contestants shall not return to the playing field until lightning has been absent from the local sky and thunder has not been heard for 30 minutes unless the resumption criteria in Item II-B above has been satisfied.~~
- C. Spectators shall be advised of the action being taken to seek shelter. (Some hosts may be able to offer shelter to spectators but are not required to do so.)
- D. The final decision shall consider liability and conditions of facilities as well as future schedules, the need to play the contest, and finally the quality of all other options.

Adopted.

The Council also discussed Regulation II, Section 6, as it relates to the competition rule. MHSAA regulations have always put regular-season scheduling in the hands of MHSAA member schools and the travel rule was simplified recently to allow competition in bordering areas (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Ontario) regardless of miles. This change has been positively received by the membership.

The issue discussed by the Council focused on the competition rule (who you play, not where you play). For competition that takes place in Michigan, regulations are very permissive where member schools can play just about anyone (e.g. non-member schools, home schools, club teams) except in varsity football.

When Michigan schools travel out-of-state into the six allowed border areas, regulations are more restrictive requiring that opponents in an event are bona fide school teams in good standing with their respective NFHS-member state associations.

Following a long discussion, the Council made no changes to the current interpretation and application of Regulation II, Section 6.

### **CLASSIFICATION**

The Summary of MHSAA Tournament Classification for 2025-26 was provided to Council members.

Motion by Chris Adams, supported by Jason Malloy, to approve the Classification Committee recommendation to create an MHSAA “study group” of member school personnel that will continue to analyze school demographics, championship data at all levels of MHSAA tournaments and success factors in assisting future classification processes. Adopted.

### **OFFICIALS**

Motion by Jennifer Thunberg, supported by Michael Bakker, to approve the Officials Review Committee recommendation to require officials who make aggressive and/or intentional physical contact with a student or coach be suspended for a minimum of 14 days and be excluded from postseason assignments. Adopted.

### **SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

A general overview of the purpose and work of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) was provided. Highlights included an update on Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), along with concussion data and reporting. Other topics discussed included NFHS items, Coaches vs. Overdoses and preparticipation physical exams. It was reported that the MHSAA continues to receive feedback from the chiropractic community, advocating a change in policy to allow chiropractors to be included in the group that can administer that physical exam. The SMAC group discussed this issue at length, and the association will continue to monitor this issue.

### **COMMITTEES**

In mid-May, the Council was supplied with a description of MHSAA committees, a review of the committee appointment procedures adopted by the Representative Council, a list of those who had identified themselves as candidates for committees in 2026-27, and a list of schools not represented on any committees for the past five years. Council members were encouraged to submit nominations for committees, making special efforts to provide nominations from superintendents, principals, small schools, females and minorities, and any school that has not been represented in recent years. The staff will compile the suggestions and submit them to the Executive Committee for review and appointment.

### **SPORTS ACTIVITIES**

**Baseball** – Motion by Michael Bakker, supported by Jerry DeGroot, to not support the Baseball Committee recommendation to allow teams that are traveling outside of the bordering states, with an approved Out of State Travel Form, to be allowed to scrimmage a school-based team that is from Michigan or a border state. Adopted (no change).

Staff also provided a brief update on NFHS baseball issues which included the proposed requirement of the double first base and the longstanding issue of pitch counts mandated by NFHS rules.

**Basketball** – Motion by Jay Alexander, supported by Adam Stefanski, to approve the Basketball Committee recommendation to change the point differential rule to forty (40) points in the first half and thirty (30) points in the second half. Once the point differential rule is activated, it no longer reverts back to normal timing rules. Adopted.

Staff also provided a brief report on the current status of the shot clock conversation with BCAM.

**Bowling** – Staff provided a brief report on Finals venue challenges and future dates.

**Boys Lacrosse** – Staff provided a brief report on alternative tournament options for future consideration.

**Competitive Cheer** – Motion by Jason Malloy, supported by Dr. Arnetta Thompson, to approve the Competitive Cheer Committee recommendations:

**For high school only: Include new allowances for Inversions:**

- Turns that are 180 degrees or less into the inversion.
- Tumbling that includes contact with the cheering surface into the inversion and comes to a stop in the inversion before transitioning to the next stunt.
- Add – p. 59 to 2. Inversions may only dismount/transition to the following:
  - Non-inverted stunt, cradle, or transition at shoulder level or below, or transition to a braced extended level stunt with two points of contact.
  - Page 64 – Add language: The flyer does not move through an inverted position – except for a legal suspended roll or braced inversion.

Page 56 Vault: Include an allowance which includes a suspended roll during a vault (shoot through).

A flyer may pass through a head-over-heels motion during a vault if all of the following conditions are met:

- The flyer begins in a stationary sponge position.
- The post is in direct contact with the cheering surface.
- The bases initiate a continuous motion.
- The flyer is transitioned in a head-over-heels motion and maintains continuous hand/hand or hand/arm contact with the post.
- The flyer is caught by a new set of bases in a cradle position only.
- The bases catching the flyer were not part of the initiation of a stunt prior to catching.

Adopted.

Staff also reported that the Competitive Cheer Task Force will reconvene to review and consider changes to the competitive cheer format, given the fundament format has remained consistent for many years. The primary focus will be on the long-term health and growth of this sport, with the safety of athletes and increasing participation numbers at all levels being reviewed.

**Cross Country / Track & Field** – Motion by Michael Bakker, supported by Chris Miller, to not approve the Track & Field Committee recommendation to establish an MHSAA Track & Field Team Finals meet and extend the Track & Field season by one week. Adopted (no change).

**Field Hockey** – Motion by Michael Bakker, supported by Dr. Arnetta Thompson, to not approve the Field Hockey Committee recommendation to modify or provide an exception to the four-player rule for field hockey to support growth and development at the middle school level, allowing coaches to work with more than four students in grades 7-8 of the school district on five separate dates outside the season but during the school year. Adopted (no change).

Motion by Dr. Monica Merritt, supported by Chris Adams, to approve the Field Hockey Committee recommendation to adopt the 10-minute reduced player overtime procedures for all regular-season varsity contests to align with postseason reduced-player procedures. This would provide teams and officials the opportunity to practice this procedure. Unless it is a regular-season bracketed tournament, games still tied at the end of the 10-minute overtime would then end in a tie. Adopted.

Motion by Jennifer Thunberg, supported by Dr. Arnetta Thompson, to approve the Field Hockey Committee recommendation to adopt a field hockey-specific tournament rule for inclement weather situations where a game cannot be resumed after delays. A game with a three or more-goal differential at any time following completion of the second quarter would be considered a complete game. This applies only to MHSAA tournament contests when there is inclement weather, and the game cannot be resumed after delay. Adopted.

**Football** – Motion by Michael Bakker, supported by Sean Jacques, to approve the Football Committee recommendation that states a team shall participate in no more than one game of interscholastic football in five consecutive calendar days, in no more than four interscholastic scrimmages and in no more than nine games in a season, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament. A student shall participate in no more than four interscholastic scrimmages and in no more than nine games in a season, exclusive of the MHSAA tournament. A student may participate in no more than one game in a day four quarters in a day and in no more than five quarters in a week. Five or fewer quarters in a week shall constitute one of the nine allowed games. For the purposes of this regulation, a “football week” is defined as Wednesday to Tuesday. Adopted.

Motion by Jay Alexander, supported by Chris Adams, to approve the Football Committee recommendation to move to a Regional pairing model in the 11-player football tournament. Regionals would be seeded 1 through 8, with two District tournament pairings (District 1: 1 vs. 8, 4 vs. 5; and District 2: 2 vs. 7, 3 vs. 6.) for at least the next two football tournaments (2026 and 2027). Adopted.

Staff also provided a brief report on the first year of the 8-player Semifinal process that was approved by the Council last May.

**Golf** – Motion by Dr. Monica Merritt, supported by Jennifer Thunberg, to approve the Golf Committee recommendation to update Regulation II, Section 15(F), that states a student must participate in at least eight (8) dates of competition to be eligible for the MHSAA Golf Tournament. If a school’s varsity golf team plays fewer than sixteen (16) regular-season dates of competition, a student must instead participate in at least one-half (50%) of the varsity team’s total regular-season dates of competition to be eligible for the MHSAA Golf Tournament. The current staff waiver process would remain in place. Adopted.

**Soccer** – Motion by Adam Stefanski, supported by Jerry DeGroot, to approve the Soccer Committee recommendation to expand the Limited Team Membership allowance for college ID camps to permit unlimited participation during the girls season. Adopted.

Motion by Chris Adams, supported by Michael Bakker, to not approve the Soccer Committee recommendation to eliminate the “next day” penalty for red card ejections for two yellows, handling

or DOGSO (Rule 12-6-1, a-d). If either caution is for dissent or abusive language, the suspension remains. Adopted (no change).

Motion by Jason Malloy, supported by Jennifer Thuberg, to approve the Soccer Committee recommendation to modify the calendar in years where Halloween falls on the Wednesday Semifinals date (2029, 2035, 2040), to move the Semifinals to Tuesday. Adopted.

**Swimming & Diving** – Motion by Michael Bakker, supported by Jason Malloy, to approve the Swimming & Diving Committee recommendation, beginning in 2026-27, to require that all entries for MHSAA Girls & Boys Swimming & Diving Final meets (L.P. and U.P.) be completed via SwimCloud. Adopted.

**Volleyball** – Motion by Adam Stefanski, supported by Jeff Kline, to approve the Volleyball Committee recommendation to be granted a #1 or #2 seed in a Girls Volleyball District tournament, a team must have a minimum of 15 varsity match results. Adopted.

Motion by Sean Jacques, supported by Jeff Kline, to approve the Volleyball Committee recommendation, beginning in 2026-27, to allow the competition volleyball used for the MHSAA Boys Volleyball postseason tournament to be a textured volleyball. Regular season contests may be played with either a smooth or textured volleyball. Adopted.

**Wrestling** – Motion by Dr. Monica Merritt, supported by Jennifer Thunberg, to approve the Wrestling Committee recommendation to act as a presenting sponsor as it pertains to JH/MS Individual Regionals at the conclusion of the Winter 1 and Winter 2 season which will be conducted by the wrestling coaches association. JH/MS participants may only compete in one of these events. This event will not count as one of the 10 competitions allowed during the JH/MS season. Adopted.

Motion by Michael Bakker, supported by Chris Adams, to approve the following Wrestling Committee recommendation. When there is an odd number of teams at a wrestling team tournament (dual meet format), eligible individual student athletes from those participating teams may assemble as a group to compete against other teams in the event. Adopted.

## OPERATIONS

**Calendar** – Motion by Jason Malloy, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the Quick Reference Calendars for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years, as well as the seven-year calendar of MHSAA events, reflecting changes required by other Representative Council action. Adopted.

**Meeting Expenses** – Motion by Jay Alexander, supported to Sean Jacques, to approve the meeting expenses for the specified hotel rate, the IRS-stipulated amounts for meals, and a 55¢ per mile mileage allowance, round trip. Adopted.

**Future Meetings** – The next meeting of the Representative Council is Dec. 4, 2026, at the Jack Roberts Building in East Lansing. The March meeting of the Representative Council will be the morning of Friday, March 19, 2027, in East Lansing. The May meeting of the Council will be Sunday and Monday, May 2 and 3, 2027 and will be held at Gaylord.

**Budget** – Looking at MHSAA finances over the past five years, the association has done an excellent job managing and rebuilding its financial position. The MHSAA experienced good budget performance in 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24, with a slight deficit in 2024-25. With rising costs, however, the association has experienced a budget deficit in 2024-25, and will see a bigger deficit in the current fiscal year.

The 2026-27 budget includes GoFan ticket increases and modest budget additions. The presented budget included revenue of \$16,830,000 and expenses of \$16,472,040 for an anticipated budget surplus goal of \$357,960.

Motion by Jason Malloy, supported by Jerry DeGroot, to approve the 2026-27 budget. Adopted.