

## CONFERENCE REALIGNMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 22, 2026

The Conference Realignment Committee meeting was called to order at 7:30am by Marty Fonley (West Monona, West Harrison, Whiting). Members in attendance included Trevor Miller (Exira-EHK, Audubon), Andy Crozier (Central Lee), Brent Jorth (Central Lyon), Adam Riley (Decorah), Scot Lamm (Mount Pleasant), Eric Boyle (Waukee), Tara Paul (Indianola), Bill Watson (Martensdale-St. Marys), Brandon Ruffridge (Fort Dodge), Zach Clark (Central Decatur), Jeff Bissen (Glenwood), Deron Durlinger (Van Meter), Cade Lambert (Des Moines Christian), Brent Cook (Dubuque Senior), Tara Williams (Pleasantville), Barb Schwamman (Osage, Riceville).

Representing the IGHSAU: Kylee Walker and Elise Boulton.

Representing the IHSAA: Tom Keating.

Absent: Erin Gerlich (IGHSAU) and Julie Girsch (Columbus Catholic).

Observer: Steve Pettit.

**Motion to approve the April 22, 2026 agenda by Lamm, second by Boyle, unanimously approved.**

**Motion to approve the March 25, 2026 minutes by Watson, second by Boyle, unanimously approved.**

Fonley explained that several members of the committee had reached out asking if a meeting could be held to discuss and determine the committee's position on conference creation. Fonley then sent a survey to the committee to see if there was collective interest in a meeting to make that determination prior to April 29th. The majority of responses were in favor so this meeting was set up. Fonley asked that each member of the committee state their view regarding when we should consider creation of conferences. All members were given the floor to state their thoughts. Watson asked Director Keating if the IHSAA or IGHSAU have the authority to create a conference and Keating explained that neither organization had that authority in code. With no consensus no action was taken. The April 29th hearing will proceed as previously decided with consideration of conference creation as an option.

The committee discussed the April 29 conference realignment meeting, which will include hearings regarding the placement of Decorah CSD and Waverly CSD. It was emphasized that the committee will honor and respect those presenting their requests. Although both schools are in the same geographic area, their cases will be heard separately. However, due to similarities between the situations, deliberation will take place after both presentations have been completed. Osage has been removed from

bullet point 17, as it was not part of the listed conferences. Fonley will communicate the meeting agenda to all schools included.

Clarification of Committee's Fast Track Unanimous Approval Requirement. Fast-track approval requires a unanimous vote from all conference members present when admittance or exit from a conference is discussed.

**With no further business, Cook motion to adjourn, second by Durlinger and approved unanimously at 8:11am.**

Kylee Walker

Recorder