

**NMAA Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**February 19, 2025**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**NMAA Hall of Pride and Honor**

Welcome - Meeting called to order by Mr. Anthony Casados, NMAA Board of Directors President, at 9:00 a.m. Mrs. Alissa Wesbrook, NMAA Assistant to the Executive Director, conducted roll call and the following members were present:

Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A - President)  
Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)  
Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)  
Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B) *\*Via Teleconference*  
Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)  
Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C)  
Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)  
Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II) *\*Via Teleconference*  
Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)  
Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)

10 members were present representing a quorum.

Not Present:

Mr. Gary Tripp (New Mexico School Boards Association)  
Mr. Hilario Chavez (Large Area D)  
Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey (Large School District I)

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Diehl made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2024, Board Meeting. Mr. Moyer made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Dempsey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0).

**Affirmation of Board Members**

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to affirm Board positions for the following: NMAA Commission (Mr. Affentranger); Large School District 1 (Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey); Large School District II (Mr. Ignacio Ruiz), New Mexico School Boards Association (Mr. Gary Tripp); and At-Large (Mr. Martin Madrid). Mr. Diehl made a motion to affirm these members. Mr. Lackey seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (10-0)

**NMAA Directors' Report:**

Mr. Dusty Young, NMAA Executive Director, discussed four (4) items in his report: 1) Winter Sports Championships 2) upcoming State Activity Championships 3) the unfortunate passing of Dr. Thomas "Buster" Mabrey, long-time New Mexico High School Coaches Association Executive Director; and 4) the annual Summer Conference taking place July 18-19, 2025, at the Albuquerque Convention Center.

*Dr. Gabriella Duran-Blakey joined the meeting*

### **NMAA Financial Report**

Ms. Shari Kessler-Schwamer, NMAA Business Manager, presented the financial report. She presented three (3) items in her report: 1) final reports from fall championships are still pending facility settlements from soccer and volleyball; 2) ticket sales information for fall championships; and 3) NMAA going out to bid for a new auditor for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond.

### **NMAA Activities Report**

Ms. Julie Sanchez, Assistant Director, presented the activities report. She discussed two (2) items in her report: 1) provided an update on the recently completed state activity events of Scholastic Publications, Bowling, Chess, and Student Council; and 2) reported that upcoming state activity events are BPA, Science Olympiad, English Expo, and FCCLA.

### **NMAA Foundation Report**

Ms. Sanchez discussed three (3) items in her report: 1) provided a recap of the annual Bowl-A-Thon that took place in early February; 2) reported that approximately 70 scholarships will be awarded this spring and recipients recognized at various upcoming state championships; and 3) reported that nearly \$20,000 has been awarded to schools this year through the foundation grant/support program.

### **New Mexico Officials Association Report**

Mr. Zac Stevenson, NMAA Director of Officials Services, presented the New Mexico Officials Association Report. He discussed five (5) items in his report: 1) the NMOA Board's quarterly meeting took place in January, updates to soccer and basketball uniforms were discussed, along with the annual summer conference; 2) stated Winter Sport Officials Appreciation week was held and he thanked the schools for showing their support; 3) state selections are out and invitations have been accepted for winter sports championships; 4) Officials numbers are positive and back to pre-pandemic numbers; and 5) the NMOA is currently working to add NFHS training videos and additional resources within Dragonfly.

### **General Discussion/Information Items**

Perry Weather - Mr. Scott Owen, NMAA Associate Director, discussed adopting a universal weather application for all NMAA member schools due to inconsistency amongst weather apps. Perry Weather is currently utilized by various school districts with positive experiences but comes with subscription costs. Feedback included concerns with cost, but also that consistency is an important factor to consider.

Dual Residency - Mr. Owen discussed issues surrounding dual residency. There has been an increase in the number of families that own/rent dual residences close in proximity and want to claim their newly rented residence as their primary bona fide residence for transfer eligibility. Mr. Owen discussed the difficulty in regulating these issues and also referenced the idea of a one-time transfer rule that other states are beginning to adopt. General feedback was to maintain the current position on transfers with concerns that a one-time transfer exception could lead to an increase in recruitment along with the development of "super" teams.

Bylaw/Handbook Review - Mr. Young stated there is a need for a complete review of the NMAA Handbook and Bylaws due to the changing landscape of interscholastic athletics and activities. He also mentioned an interest in the Commission having a more integral role in the review of potential policies and proposals. Feedback supported these initiatives.

School Day Event Start Times - Mr. Young stated there has been an increase in inquiries regarding start times to events. Currently events must wait until 3:00 p.m. to start on a school day.

He added however, if superintendents from all school districts involved agree to start prior to 3:00pm, the NMAA has allowed it. Feedback supported the current process, and the NMAA will bring a proposal back to the Commission and Board in May/June to formalize it.

Classification and Alignment for 2026-2028 - Mr. Young stated that the NMAA will begin its work on classification and alignment for the next two-year block (2026-2028) which will be voted upon in December. Feedback included possibly looking at this process earlier than December, if enrollment numbers from PED are available.

**Action Items**

Boys Volleyball as a Sanctioned Activity - Mr. Greg Villareal presented a proposal to consider approving Boys Volleyball as an NMAA Sanctioned Activity starting in the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Madrid made a motion to approve the proposal. No second was given, proposal fails due to the lack of a second.

Middle School: Culminating Events - Mr. Young presented a proposal to provide language to permit culminating season events for Junior High/Middle School students that are not championship based. Bylaw 9.7.3 shall read as follows:

9.7.3 Championships Prohibited: (underlined language added)

There shall be no district/regional/state championships declared in any phase of interscholastic competition at the Junior High/Middle School level. Non-championship culminating season events are permissible with NMAA approval.

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Affentranger made a motion. Mr. Lackey seconded. A vote was taken and passed. (8-3)

**Executive Session**

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 10:15 a.m. Mr. Moyer made the motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Affentranger seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran- Blakey (Large School District I)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to exit out of Executive Session at 11:20 a.m. Mr. Dempsey made the motion to exit out of Executive Session. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion. Mr. Casados stated no action was taken in the Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

Yes/For	No/Against	Board Member Name
Yes		Mr. Anthony Casados (Small Area A)
Yes		Mr. Cody Diehl (Large Area A)
Yes		Mr. Matt Moyer (Small Area B)
Yes		Mr. Gene Strickland (Large Area B)
Yes		Mr. David Lackey (Small Area C)
Yes		Mr. Travis Dempsey (Large Area C)
Yes		Mr. Lee White (Small Area D)
Yes		Dr. Gabriella Duran- Blakey (Large School District I)
Yes		Mr. Ignacio Ruiz (Large School District II)
Yes		Mr. Martin Madrid (At-Large)
Yes		Mr. Scott Affentranger (NMAA Commission)

**Consider Adjournment:**

Mr. Casados asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 p.m. Mr. Diehl made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Madrid seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed unanimously (11-0).

**The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2025.**