

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

November 25, 2025 (electronically)

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Georgia High School Association was called to order at 9am., on November 25, 2025 by Jim Finch, President via ZOOM. The meeting was held electronically. Roll call showed the following: Present - 13; Absent – 0

Scarlett Grantham
Steve Waters
Bobby Brewington
Mike Thompson

Steve Simpson
Kevin Petroski
Jim Finch

Michelle Masters
Regina Montgomery
Jose Fernandez

Curt Miller
Eli Connell
Brian Montgomery

The Board of Trustees held a called electronic meeting to consider the appeal by Gainesville High School, of 39 football players deemed suspended for participation in a fight during a playoff football game with Brunswick on November 21, 2025.

Call to order was made by BOT President Jim Finch and roll call was taken by Marvin James via zoom.

Attendance was 100% however, 5A representatives Steve Waters (represented opposing team in Brunswick) and Jose Fernandez (At Large 5A) abstained from voting because of conflict of interest with 5A Gainesville. BOT President Jim Finch did not vote because he had to leave the call because of a prior commitment.

The Gainesville appeal was presented by Athletics Director Adam Lindsey, Superintendent Jeremy Williams and head football coach, Josh Niblett.

Superintendent Williams began with a statement that Gainesville was not appealing the fines or severe warning sanctions assessed against Gainesville by the GHSA; however, they were appealing 35 of the 39-player ejection/suspensions with a request that those suspensions be overturned. They argued that the players were acting more in a role of protecting their teammates and stopping the fight rather than participating in the fight. The school self-reported the 39 players that were on the field at the time of the incident, including the four team members they agreed should be suspended due to their role in the fight.

MOTIONS

- Curt Miller made a motion to overturn the ejection/suspension for defensive players #8, #11 who were on the field as they did not approach or otherwise participate in the fight. Michelle Masters seconded.

Motion passed unanimously 10-0

- Eli Connell made a motion to overturn the ejection/suspensions for defensive players (#3, #6, #7, #10, #20, #21, #26, #51) Kevin Petroski seconded.

Motion fails 4-6 (For: Bobby Brewington, Eli Connell, Regina Montgomery & Kevin Petroski.)

- Kevin Petroski made a motion to overturn the ejection/suspensions for players (#20, #26). Curt Miller seconded.

Motion passed 9-1. (Brian Montgomery opposes)

- Curt Miller made a motion to uphold ALL ejections/suspensions for players other than (#8, #11, #20, #26). Scarlett Grantham seconded.

Motion passed 8-2. (Bobby Brewington, Kevin Petroski oppose)

There being no further business, Steve Simpson made a motion to adjourn, Connell seconded, and it **passed unanimously**.