
Petoskey Area Hockey Association

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 27, 2026

Time: 6:05 PM

Location: Doug Knowles Office, Petoskey, MI

Attendees

- Stephanie Jones – President
 - Brent Bolin – Vice President
 - Chris Firman – Coaching Director
 - Henry Pfeifer – Registrar
 - Emma Tuthill – Secretary
 - Patrick Barton – Instructional Programs
 - Daniel Walsh – Player Parent
 - Mike Heflin – Treasurer (Absent)
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Public Remarks

Daniel introduced himself to the Board. He is SafeSport certified, background checked, and USA Hockey coach certified. He is new to PAHA and has a child new to hockey. Although residing in Boyne, his family is active in the Gaylord community and resides within the Petoskey Hockey co-op district. Daniel has extensive experience as a skating instructor and rink employee and expressed interest in supporting PAHA with insight and assistance. Daniel remained present during the open meeting and departed before confidential incident reporting was discussed.

President's Report

Move-Up Policy

The current move-up policy requires requests to be submitted by September. The Board discussed reviewing and updating the policy language and ensuring families are notified earlier to plan for the following season.

- Motion made by Henry Pfeifer to reaffirm October 1 as the submission deadline
 - Seconded by Patrick Barton
 - Coaches will be responsible for recommending players and communicating with families
 - Siblings will not be considered as part of move-up determinations as currently stated in current policy
 - Initial practices should focus on player ranking to support move-up evaluations
 - Coaching Director to connect with coaches at the end of the season to identify potential move-up candidates
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FHA / PAHA 6U & 8U Game

Potential March dates were discussed in coordinating mixed/combined full ice games with FHA, 6U & 8U PAHA players to ready skaters for full ice next year. Stephanie Jones will coordinate with Nicky and coaching staff to confirm timing.

Sponsorship & Scholarship Account

- Funds currently exist with PAHA that could be used and allocated for player sponsorships
 - A formal process and criteria will be developed for families requesting financial assistance
 - Discussion held about adding a donation location and form to the PAHA website for businesses to contribute to a scholarship fund, outside of team and individual player sponsorship
 - Scholarship naming and verbiage to be reviewed
 - Further discussion to continue at the next meeting
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12U Team Update

- Two emails were received by the Board regarding parent behavior; both originated from coaches' spouses
 - No additional concerns have been brought forward to the board by other player parents

- Henry Pfeifer, Daniel Sterlin, Andrew Battinger and Shannon Synder are currently SafeSport certified and approved as locker room attendants due to previous locker room behavior concerns
 - PAHA requested the 12U team roster more than two coaches on the bench to assist with doors and shift changes
 - Andrew Battinger and Daniel Sterlin were previously added to the roster
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Incident Reports

- Two incident reports were filed in the past two weeks
- One of the reports has a \$150 non-refundable administrative fee due to MAHA attorney review

Incident 1:

A 14U player sustained a direct, intentional hit to the head resulting in loss of consciousness during a game against Bell Tire 14UA at a tournament in Holland, Mi.. Bell Tire coaching staff allegedly taunted the player. An incident report has been filed with video evidence; no update has been received from MAHA at this time.

Incident 2:

A second 14U incident was reported and filed with USA Hockey. Details remain confidential for player safety. Coaches, staff, and involved parents have been notified.

Alpena Friendly Games

Alpena requested non-league “friendly” games with the 12U and 14U teams. Due to prior incidents involving Alpena parents taunting PAHA players, PAHA will decline participation in non-league games with Alpena. No incident report was filed with MAHA regarding this. Communication will be sent back to Alpena Hockey Scheduling staff to decline invite.

Learn to Skate

Notification was sent to Anne Murray that PAHA will not be participating nor funding per request as stated last meeting.

IRS Penalty Update

Handled by Stephanie Jones.

End-of-Year Party

Discussion held to host the event at the rink prior to spring break. A tentative date of Thursday, March 19 was proposed.

Fundraising Goals

Initial discussion held regarding fundraising goals for the upcoming season & PAHA board to help find candidate to hold the fundraising chair.

Insurance Review

Liability insurance policies will be reviewed and presented prior to the current policy expiring in March. Previous policies have been reviewed in past years. The last change in policy was 4+ years ago, estimated.

Treasurer's Report

- Five outstanding invoices remain
 - Parents have been contacted and payments are expected promptly
 - Most teams are currently aligned with budget
 - Fraud update: the open invoice remains unpaid; the President issued a payment reminder this week
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Old & New Business

- Old jerseys: options discussed for redistribution or sale
- Little Wings Program: discussions to continue with Fed regarding Little Wings and 6U Mini Mites, possibly free or low-cost for future state
- Coaching expectations: beginning next season, coaching staff will meet mid-summer or at season start to review expectations, rules, and distribution of practice binders

- VP followed up with 11U coaching staff regarding a parent incident with a downstate team; notification to be sent to the reporting team parent
 - Spring teams were discussed; no decisions made at this time
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Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at **8:38 PM**

Minutes submitted by:

Emma Tuthill

Secretary, Petoskey Area Hockey Association
