

MITCHELL SKATING & HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – March 2026

Tuesday March 10th, 2026 – 6:30 pm – MAC Media Room



Attendance:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darcy Sabers (Pres) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Josh Gebhart (VP) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dustin Warnke |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nick Lemke | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Sabers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Lee |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nichole Bussmus | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AJ Bauer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bri Prickett |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jen Zens | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Maeschen | <input type="checkbox"/> Nick Backlund |

Guests: Lori Goldammer (Treasurer) Mark Zens (SDAHA Rep), Lindi and Ben Rauscher, Drake Hamlin, Amber Goldammer, Matt & Katie Buschbach, Dave Hatwan, Bryan & Jenna Doorn, and Jill Zens

Quorum Met: Yes

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Darcy.

00. Motion to approve the March 2026 agenda by Josh, 2nd by Nick L Motion carried with all ayes.

01. Motion to approve the February 2026 meeting minutes by Nichole, 2nd by Phil. Motion carried all voted aye.

02. Public input –

Concerns About Coaching Support and Parent Conduct:

- Several speakers expressed that coaches often lack support from parents and/or the board.
- They reported ongoing negative comments from a small group of parents (not at the meeting), including undermining coaches from the stands.
- Reports of parents not supporting disciplinary actions contribute to poor player behavior and reward bad conduct.
- Some feel this behavior has driven coaches away and prevents building a positive team culture.

Expectations for Players:

- Concerns were raised that Mitchell players are not held to high enough standards compared to other towns.
- Other communities reportedly provide structured expectations for travel, homework, nutrition, and off-ice development.
- Speakers noted that misbehavior by some takes time away from players who want to grow and succeed.

Coaches on the Board:

- Multiple commenters supported having coaches serve on the board, noting a long history of coach involvement.
- They stated that coaches bring valuable perspective, communication, and understanding of day-to-day team culture.
- Some felt representation from all association levels, including coaches, helps maintain a well-rounded, effective board.

Culture, Community Engagement, and Improvement:

- Several speakers emphasized the need for a broader culture shift, including stronger expectations of respect, effort, and accountability.
- Community outreach and participation were noted as important components of building a positive culture, though some players are not participating consistently.
- A large freshman/sophomore group was seen as a good opportunity to influence younger athletes in a positive direction.

Incident Reporting and Accountability:

- Questions were raised about the Parent Code of Conduct and how negative parent behavior should be addressed.

- It was suggested that more incident reports be completed to ensure issues are documented.
- Coaching discipline should also follow established processes and be documented as needed.

General Support for Coaches:

- Multiple speakers stressed the importance of supporting coaches and allowing them to make coaching decisions without board interference.
- The board reiterated that it does not involve itself in coaching decisions and aims to support coaches appropriately.

03. President's Report (Darcy)

- GV State Update – The event was very successful. Almost all DIBS were filled. A huge thank you to the families, friends, grandparents, and alumni that filled in and volunteered. We heard great reviews from the state and other associations about our atmosphere and details. We had great feedback from spectators about condition of the rink.
- UTV Raffle Update
 - Total tickets accounted for: 142
 - Winners of incentive program:
 - Drake Hamlin 23 tickets sold
 - Justin Fraser 11 tickets sold
 - Darcy Sabers 8 tickets sold
 - Phil has offered to include another LED sign drawing

Reminders:

- March Budget meeting dates – March 9th, 16th, and 23rd
- Awards ceremony – planned for March 27th at the Rink
- Annual meeting will be on April 14th followed by the April board meeting
- Special Olympics concessions again this year at the high school. They will be the last weekend in March. An email update will be sent for volunteer spots.

04. Treasurer's Report (Lori)

- Motion to approve the February 2026 Financials by Nick L, 2nd by Phil Motion carried, all voted aye.

05. SDAHA Delegate Report (Mark Z) –

- Spring SDAHA meeting April 17th and 18th - Mark can't attend but Darcy or someone needs to go in his place.
- SDAHA Hall of Fame April 18th – Culture committee budget paid for Tronnes table at the banquet.
- SDAHA Development Camp – April 24th through 26th in Sioux Falls.
- They will have a proposal to the current freeze 10 rule at Varsity and will submit it to get potentially added to the meeting agenda.
- Mark talked to a lot of state reps from other associations at the Girls Varsity state tourney that we put on. He heard good feedback all around including the attention to detail, the visibility of workers/volunteers, and presentation at the Corn Palace.
- He brought up that we are the only association that turns the President position around yearly and we do need to address that. Other associations have 2-3 or other terms. He felt that will help with some of the issues we talked about due to lack of continuity.

06. Old Business:

- No tabled business from last meeting

07. New Business:

- There will be four open board positions for the April voting. Board member candidates below were reviewed; the Board endorsed several candidates in accordance with established criteria. Nominees who were not endorsed are welcome to pursue the self-nomination process to ensure equal opportunity. That process is listed in the MSHA Bylaws and the Board Petition form on the website. The final slate of board nominees will be voted on by the association in April.

- Jen Zens – endorsed
- Bri Prickett – endorsed
- Josh Gebhart – endorsed
- Kalli Mimmack – self nominated
- Tina Sasse – endorsed
- Grant Lanning – endorsed
- Drake Hamlin – endorsed
- Tony Rezac – endorsed
- Teresa Hart – self nominated
- Amber Goldammer – endorsed
- Tyler Ladd – endorsed
- Motion to approve the above endorsed slate of nominees to be presented for voting in April by Nick L, 2nd by Phil. Motion carried with 7 ayes, 3 abstain.
- By-law & handbook changes to be voted on by association.
 - Updates to the term of office for President & Vice President
 - Board agreed to put the revision to the association to vote on with a recommendation for a minimum of 3-year term.
- Items to move from Program committee’s responsibility to HDC and to get policies updated for the following:
 - Move up requests – need to amend the forms and policy.
 - Team Splits – need deadlines and policy.
 - Coaching – need more defined policies.
- Dusty –
 - Heard parents’ concerns with coaches being on the Board and would just like to express the concerns that were brought up. This was discussed during public input, see above.
 - Discipline chair concerns. He did not have a committee and dealt with everything the best he could this year. Darcy confirmed Dusty needs more help with this area.
 - Also discussed needing to update our Code of Conduct/Handbook regarding discipline to make it less redundant, more condensed and simpler.
 - Dusty recommends the Discipline chair be separated from the SafeSport chair and would recommend the new SafeSport chair be a newer board member.
 - Discussed the IHDC be set up as actual committee with assigned members at the beginning of each season and have monthly meetings if necessary.
- Golf Tournament planning & date will be June 6th @ Wild Oak. Dusty will coordinate and start working with previous Golf Tournament volunteers. Others are welcome to help.

Committee Reports:

08. Hockey Development Committee

- Next meeting will be March 18th @ 6pm in the media room.

09. Buildings Committee

- City would like to order more skates for open skate events and wants MSHA to help with the cost. Discussed having more info for review.

10. Culture Committee

- Reviewed meeting minutes, no board action items.

11. Executive Committee (Darcy)

- No report

12. Financial Development

- No report.

13. Programs Committee (Nichole)

- Reviewed meeting minutes.
- Board items – Lindi presented the Board on some forms and plans for gear rentals and costs. Discussed a potential change and option for season or full year gear rentals and not providing neck guards with rentals. Player/family would be required to purchase those on their own.

14. Governance Committee:

- Online voting in April will be open to all registered MSHA members.
- In-person voting will be on April 14th from 5-6:30pm at the MAC. We will give 30 min to tally votes before start of the Board meeting at 7pm with new board members being announced.

15. Executive Session – None

Information/Discussion

- April Board meeting is planned for April 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the MAC Media Room.
- Motion to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. by Nichole, 2nd by Bri. Motion carried, all voted aye.