

**EASTVIEW BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
JANUARY 2026**

**Board Members**

*Present*

Jude Miron, President  
Erik Edstrom, Web and Communications Coordinator  
Erica Eggers, Girls Traveling Director  
Jen Chumley, Fundraising Director  
Angie Pudenz, Registration and Apparel Coordinator  
Tom Madden, In House 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Mark Geber  
Derek Kasper, In House Co-Directors  
Jamie Swenson, Social Media Coordinator  
Brian Cleaveland, Boys Traveling Director  
Michael Peplinski, Boys Traveling Director  
Tara Opsahl, Volunteer Coordinator  
Jeremy Opsahl, Facilities and Scheduling Coordinator  
John Alfonzo, Equipment Coordinator  
Matt Webb, Incoming Treasurer and Financial Aid  
Nate Veldman, Boys Traveling Director  
Christina McNulty, In House Co-Directors

*Absent:*

Erica Sherman, Vice President  
Paul Tarnowski, Treasurer and Financial Aid  
Tami Weber, Girls Basketball Director  
Sue McGrath, VP Boys Program  
Rachel Holmberg, Player Development Coordinator  
Lance Glosemeyer, Boys Tournament Director  
Dan McGrath, Social Media Coordinator  
Linda Dygos, Coach Development Director  
Erin Hanson, Fundraising Director, Outgoing

**Proceedings**

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on March 9 at 7:30 p.m. at Scott Highlands Middle School. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board approved the March meeting minutes; there were no votes opposed.

The Board received the following updates:

**Governance and EVAA Board updates – J. Miron**

- Open Positions
  - President: Erik Edstrom

- Tournament Director (Boys & Girls): Open
- Player Development Coordinator: Open
- Assistant Tournament Director (Boys & Girls): Open

### **Volunteer Coordinator– T. Opsahl**

- All DIBS volunteer hours have been completed and recorded. Seven families were assessed fees for unfulfilled volunteer requirements.
- For next season, receiving a complete list of registered players prior to creating DIBS opportunities would allow for more accurate planning of required volunteer shifts.
- Once teams are finalized, an advance list of head coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers would support more effective organization and distribution of DIBS opportunities throughout the season
- For the 2026–2027 season, reserve gym time in advance for the Girls Tournament and schedule the reserved slots with improved spacing throughout the tournament weekend.

### **In-House Update (K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade) – D. Kasper / C. McNulty**

- Reported that the season was successful overall.
- K–2 programming ran smoothly.
- Grades 3–6 presented additional operational and experience challenges.
- Coaching conduct and sideline behavior were identified as areas for improvement, both within EVAA and among opposing associations.
- Team formation generated concerns; the Board discussed refining the approach, including greater use of school-based groupings and clearer parameters for friend requests.
  - It was noted that team placement decisions can be challenging and that clear communication of criteria remains important.
  - Some teams utilized informal drafts; leadership will review whether team formation should be managed centrally within the In-House program to improve consistency.
- Feedback received during the season was primarily from coaches rather than parents.
- Player development was discussed as a key driver of competitiveness; in SSYBL play across 19 tiers, EVAA teams won three tier championships. Action item: Evaluate enhancements to the player development model to improve competitive outcomes across grade levels.
- Gym availability and shared-space constraints were discussed; coaches requested greater clarity on scheduling rationale and available options.
- The Board discussed adjusting session structure to emphasize skills development earlier (e.g., skills first, games second) to maintain player engagement.
- Boys skills sessions received mixed feedback; content and delivery will be reviewed for improvement. Action item: Identify improvements to the skills-session curriculum and communication to families.
- Coach recruitment remained a challenge. The Board discussed potential incentives tied to coach commitments (e.g., permitting a single player-pairing request when a family provides a coach)It was noted that coaching assignments were still being finalized shortly before the season start. Action item: Develop a coach recruitment plan and timeline for next season. Consideration: Refund a coach's player registration fee (or a portion) upon completion of coaching commitments. Consideration: Provide gift cards or

similar incentives to support coach recruitment and retention. Action item: Review the budget and determine feasible coach incentive options for the In-House program.

- Apparel/equipment options were discussed, including providing basketballs in lieu of performance shirts and potentially alternating items year-to-year.

### **In-House Update (7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) – T. Madden**

- The River South league included 27 teams this season; EVAA fielded three teams.
- Overall, the River South experience was reported as an improvement compared to the middle school basketball program.
- One EVAA team advanced to the upper-tier championship game, while the remaining teams were eliminated in the first round of their respective tiers.
- Jersey, short, coach bag, and ball collection will begin this week, with all items to be returned to the storage locker.
- The expansion of the 7th/8th Grade In-House program was viewed as successful, providing additional development opportunities for players, particularly those not selected for travel teams. Parent feedback was generally positive.
- A post-season survey will be distributed to 7th/8th Grade families to gather formal feedback on the program.
- Late evening practice times (8:15–9:15 pm) were a challenge; earlier practice opportunities would be preferred in future seasons if gym availability allows.
- Participation from middle school teams was lower than anticipated, indicating the In-House program fulfilled a meaningful need for players seeking structured basketball opportunities.
- Coaching support was a significant strength of the program, with notable contributions to player development and team experience.
- The Board discussed potential program expansion in future seasons, including additional teams and increased practice time, subject to gym and coaching availability. Options to support coaching—including potential paid coach roles if the budget allows—will be considered during the budgeting process.
- Financials: While results are trending under budget, the Treasurer will confirm whether the program generated a surplus or incurred a deficit. The current registration fee is \ \$175; registration pricing for next season will be reviewed as part of the annual budgeting process.

### **Boys Travel Program– M. Peplinski, N. Veldman, B. Cleavland**

- Summer Development
  - Cornell offered a summer training program priced at \ \$150 for 10 sessions.
    - Families provided strong feedback regarding training experiences with Never Sleep Academy (NSA).
    - The Board discussed whether a punch-card option could increase flexibility and participation.
    - Summer scheduling constraints were noted as a potential barrier to consistent attendance.
    - Potential partnership opportunities with Eastview (three program directors) were discussed; Danny and Mark will meet with the group to evaluate options and report back.

## **Girls Travel Program– E. Eggers**

- The girls travel program concluded the season successfully. Overall feedback was positive, with input received regarding coaching styles to be further reviewed through end-of-season surveys.
- Feedback was received from families regarding services provided by MSOB for one 4th-grade team. This feedback will be compiled and shared with MSOB for review.
- End-of-season feedback surveys for the girls program will be distributed this week.
- Information regarding practice jersey returns will be communicated this week. An end-of-season event with the high school team was not held this year.
- Information regarding summer camps and related opportunities will be included in the upcoming communication to families.

## **Additional Items / Questions**

- Inquiry was raised regarding the feasibility of offering 3rd-grade travel teams next season, given the availability of new gym space and comparable offerings in neighboring associations.
- Practice jersey and 8th-grade girls jersey collection will be coordinated through team managers, with items returned to the apparel coordinator.
- Clarification was requested on whether end-of-season surveys should be distributed as a single survey or separated by program (Girls Travel, Boys Travel, In-House).
- Questions were raised regarding equipment turn-in expectations for girls travel coaches.
- A discussion was held regarding the feasibility of adding 3rd-grade travel teams, given current gym-space constraints and the goal of remaining competitive with neighboring associations
- Families reported that the MSOB support provided to the girls program did not meet expectations.
  - Concerns were noted regarding the tone and appropriateness of certain coach communications. Action item: Establish and communicate clear expectations for coach engagement, conduct, and sideline presence.

## **Financial– P. Tarnowski**

- Checks for MSOB and Never Sleep Academy (NSA) training services were scheduled to be issued.
- A payment to AVCC was authorized to address prior-year back billing that had not previously been invoiced; the Treasurer reported an approximate \$70,000 surplus, from which this payment will be made.
- Coach stipend payments were expected to be issued during the week following the meeting.

## **Facilities – J. Opsahl**

### **Scheduling Committee**

- Transition planning from Jeremy is underway.
- A structure is in place for the upcoming season.

- Next steps / discussion items:
  - Schedule a quick meeting to share information and align on the approach for next season.
  - Review the new scheduling Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) drafted by Linda, including what happened this year and specific opportunities to improve.
  - Season summary from Jeremy: scheduled 1,431 events across 55 teams.
    - Identify what's working and what's not.
    - Confirm the earliest realistic start date for building next season's schedule (noting we can never get started early enough).
    - Document examples where we were too late securing space (e.g., Wells and other locations) and propose mitigations.
  - Bring player development and coach development planning together—identify how to improve coordination and set a shared strategy.
  - Transition planning: Jeremy is retiring; ensure knowledge transfer and confirm next-year ownership/roles.
  - Convene a joint scheduling working session with Erica (Girls Travel), Boys Traveling leadership, Jeremy, and In-House representatives to identify improvements.
  - Community Education coordination:
    - Define how we will work with Community Ed and how requests/constraints will be handled.
    - Meet with Community Ed in June and July to communicate what we want and need for gym time.
  - Scheduling system decision:
    - Decide whether to continue using Avario (Jeremy to provide an end-of-year summary). Consider the large licensing fee and whether it is worth it.
    - Note: AVCC and Hope have reached out as potential options if we want to use them.
  - Gym space / District 196 notes: We are the same as Eagan, Rosemount, etc.; Apple Valley gets 12%.

### **Scheduling Team Update**

- A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been developed for scheduling. The committee will continue to refine the SOP and finalize committee roles, cadence, and near-term deliverables. Input from Jeremy will be incorporated to ensure continuity and address considerations for next season.
- Key scheduling questions identified for follow-up include:
  - Debrief from the Community Education meeting.
  - Clarification of ownership for maintaining and fostering the Community Education partnership.
  - Determination of whether a separate SOP is needed for In-House programming.
- A Scheduling Team meeting will be scheduled with representatives from Boys Travel, Girls Travel, and In-House programs, along with Jeremy and Linda, to review the season, including:
  - Issues encountered during the season and how they were addressed.
  - Outstanding issues and mitigation strategies for next year.
  - Successful practices to continue.
  - Clarification of team roles and responsibilities.
  - Review of the SOP and opportunity for feedback.
  - Overview of new gym space and coordination considerations with volleyball.

## Equipment – J. Alfonzo

- Equipment turn-in drop-off is planned for the 16th and 18th (5:00–8:00 p.m.). John Alfonzo will coordinate and confirm the location and final dates/times.

## MISC– All

- The Board discussed program ownership and next steps for evaluating training partners (MSOB and Never Sleep Academy (NSA)). **Action item:** Develop a recommendation on the preferred training approach (MSOB, NSA, or a blended model), including proposed scope, cost, and alignment with EVAA player development goals.
- The Board discussed age-appropriate training intensity and progression, particularly for younger players. **Action item:** Define recommended training options by grade band (e.g., K–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8), including objectives and expected outcomes.
- Survey
  - The Board discussed survey scope and whether to segment results by program (In-House vs. Travel) and/or by gender (Boys vs. Girls).
  - Potential survey topics include program experience (In-House vs. Travel) and interest in additional offerings (e.g., away tournaments). The Board also discussed refining survey questions to improve the quality and actionability of feedback.
  - Decision: Continue with a single program-wide survey this season and evaluate alternative formats (including segmentation) for next year.
  - John Alfonzo will confirm whether SurveyMonkey will be used and, if so, the associated cost.
  - Timeline: Finalize survey questions by Friday and distribute the survey next Monday, following completion of the 7th/8th grade season.
  - For reference, last year’s survey received 117 written comments from more than 700 registered players.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.