

Minutes of US Chess Federation Executive Board Open Session

US Open | Grand Rapids, MI

Sunday, August 9, 2026 | 2:10 – 2:47 PM (ET)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President **Kevin Pryor** called the meeting to order at **2:10 PM ET**. All seven board members were present:

Position	Name	State
President	Kevin Pryor	FL
Vice President	John Fernandez	MO
Vice President of Finance	Daniel Serna	NM
Secretary	John Rockefeller	MD
Member-at-Large	Anand Dommalapati	VA
Member-at-Large	David Hater	GA
Member-at-Large	Lakshmana Viswanath	TX
Executive Director	Fred Abousleman	VA

Additional attendees: US Chess staff, members and delegates from the US Open in Grand Rapids, MI.

2. Officer Elections (2026-2027)

The following slate of officers was unanimously elected for the 2026-2027 term. All nominees accepted their positions without objection.

1. Outgoing President Kevin Pryor nominated John Fernandez for President. **EB Motion EB27-001**
 2. Incoming President John Fernandez nominated John Rockefeller for Vice President. **EB Motion EB27-002**
 3. Incoming Vice President John Rockefeller nominated Anand Dommalapati for Secretary. **EB Motion EB27-003**
 4. Incoming Secretary Anand Dommalapati nominated Daniel Serna for VP of Finance. **EB Motion EB27-004**
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3. Board Motions

Three motions were passed unanimously (7-0) in addition to the Motions for nominating the Board Officers:

1. The Executive Board moves to approve the 2026–27 National Scholastic Chess Tournament Regulations with an effective date of September 1, 2026. (EB Motion EB27-005) – Passed 7-0
 2. The Executive Board moves to approve the 2026–27 Committee List reviewed by the board in today's meeting. (EB Motion EB27-006) – Passed 7-0
 3. The Executive Board moves to approve the contracts with the Rosen Centre in Orlando, Florida to host the 2028 US Open. (EB Motion EB27-007) – Passed 7-0
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4. Board Updates

Leadership Transition

- Incoming President **John Fernandez** thanked outgoing President **Kevin Pryor** for his dedicated leadership over the past year
- **Fred Abousleman** (Executive Director) presented **Kevin Pryor** with a signed copy of David Llada's book as a token of appreciation for his service

Board Meeting Schedule Changes

John Fernandez announced a restructured meeting schedule:

- **Previous:** 3 board meetings per quarter (monthly)
- **New:** 4 board meetings per quarter
- **Purpose:** The additional meeting will be dedicated to disciplinary matters, leveraging the Executive Director's 90-day authority. This allows regular board meetings to focus on non-disciplinary items, making them more substantive and valuable

Officer and Board Member Elections & Other Committee updates

- Officer elections occur in **even years**; board member elections occur in **odd years**
- **John Fernandez** is facing re-election this year and has requested member signatures on ballots
- **Anand Dommalapati** presented the Committee List for member review

Discussions, Procedural Improvements & Member feedback

- **Bob Messenger (NH)** requested updates to the ByLaws Committee composition and was directed to submit changes to secretary@uschess.org
- **Robin Ramson (DC)** suggested improvements to delegate floor procedures and requested adequate time for delegates to present motions and discussion items (preferably a 30-seconds pause after presentations before lining up to speak). John Fernandez agreed and thanked her for the feedback
- **Sophia Rohde (NY)** provided feedback on improving time controls and round times for future US Opens; more specifically the 7pm round time causing issues for young New York players needing sleep.
- **Salome Jacob (WA)** requested that the Executive Board and Executive Director ensure the Open Board meeting is well-advertised to increase attendance
- **Steve Immitt (NY)** noted confusion regarding parliamentary procedures (calling the question) and requested a pre-meeting briefing for delegates. Specifically concern raised about calling question before all speakers have opportunity. John Fernandez and Fred Abousleman agreed to provide this briefing
- A delegate raised questions regarding staffing changes, including IT staffing updates. **Fred Abousleman** addressed the rationale behind these changes, citing resource constraints and the need for efficient staff utilization
- **Satya Maddipati (TX)** A delegate inquired about MUIR and API functionality, and Potential to monetize API access through tiered pricing structure which was addressed by **Anand Dommalapati** and **Mike Nolan**
- **Caleb Brown (TX)** commended **Fred Abousleman** for his exceptional work during the US Open. He also suggested developing **online workshops for new delegates** covering rules and procedures for Delegate meetings - Robert's Rules workshop proposed for April before ADM deadline.
- **Multiple members/delegates** expressed gratitude to the Executive Board and specifically to **Fred Abousleman** and the US Chess staff for their efforts in organizing the US Open and supporting the organization

5. Adjournment

With no further business to conduct, the Executive Board voted to adjourn at **2:47 PM ET**.

Anand Dommalapati

Secretary, US Chess Executive Board