Roll Call / Introduction of Press - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Elaine McGrath, at 11:07 am.

The following members were present: Greg Bailey, Maureen Bilda, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jr., Suzanne Cooley, Judy Finch Johnson, Michael Gatley, Dr. William George, Gerald Glisson, Kathy Goldenberg, Robert Grauso, Robert Haraka, Jack Hurley, Mary Liz Ivins, Richard Kaz, Monsignor Kelly, Chuck Klaus, Howard Krieger, Scott Lodgek, Bill McDermott, Matthew McFarland, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Michael Nitti, Sue Petrone, Paul Popadiuk, William Quirk, Steven Viana sitting in for Danny Robertozzi (but couldn’t vote or participate), Philip Schaffer, Steve Shohfi, Vincent Smith, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, Todd VanOrden, Kathy Whalen, Denis Williams and Scott Wohlrab. Also present: Steven J. Timko, Executive Director; Larry White, Jack DuBois and Bill Bruno, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager; Michael W. Herbert, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; Mike McGarry, AC Press; Steve Falk, Asbury Park Press; Darren Cooper, Record; Tim LeCras, TAPinto; and Matt Stanmyre, NJ Advance Media. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.; Karl Miran, AD at Wardlaw-Hartridge School and Jim Reagan, AD at Union Catholic HS.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Michael Gatley, seconded by Dr. Brian Brotschul, to accept the minutes of the November 9, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Out-of-State Competition/All-Star Games
A listing of Bordering State Sanctions and National Federation Sanctions was given for informational purposes.

Executive Director Update – Steven J. Timko

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – 120 seats will be up for election this year. Currently there are no controversies. The Senate Education Committee will hear a steroids education proposal that sets new standards and appropriates an additional $45,000 in funding from the state to NJSIAA for year-round testing. It was vetoed by Governor Christie before because the $45,000 wasn’t budgeted for so Mr. Anzano expects if passed, it’ll be vetoed again. Mr. Anzano will work with the Senate Education Committee to include the additional testing money in the next budget. As for the proposal the requested NJSIAA oversee cheerleading, it has been agreed to that NJSIAA not be involved with overseeing the sport. The sponsor of the bill is working with USA Cheer, the association that oversees cheerleading, to tweak the proposal. Lastly, Mr. Anzano received correspondence from one assemblyman in opposition to the transfer rule proposal being heard by the Executive Committee today. He will keep the committee informed if he knows of any other opposition.

Annual Meeting – Three ballots were voted on at the annual meeting on December 5, 2016. Results were as follows:
Ballot #1: NJSIAA staff has proposed to change the time-period for classification of member schools from annual (new classifications each year) to biannual (new classifications every other year).

248 in favor, 55 opposed, 0 abstentions. This proposal required a majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting, based on the total number of ballots cast at the annual meeting, therefore was approved.

Ballot #2: Holy Spirit High School proposed to change the way non-public schools are classified for sports that fall under the General Classification (basketball). Currently non-public schools are divided into two groups (Group A and Group B) in each of two sections (North and South). This proposal would create four non-public sections (North 1, North 2, Central and South) within each of the two non-public groups.

146 in favor, 159 opposed, 4 abstentions. This proposal required a majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting, based on the total number of ballots cast at the annual meeting, therefore did not pass.

Ballot #3: The West Jersey Football League proposed to change the system of classification of non-public schools for football. Currently, non-public schools that participate in football are divided into three Groups based on enrollment. This proposal would instead divide those schools into four sections: North Section A, North Section B, South Section A and South Section B.

105 in favor, 198 opposed, 9 abstentions. This proposal required a majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting, based on the total number of ballots cast at the annual meeting, therefore did not pass.

Fall Championship Update – Mr. Timko commended all the directors for an outstanding fall tournament season. There was great competition in each of the tournaments.

Winter Tournaments / Regulations – All winter regulations are up and winter tournament planning is going smooth.

Wrestling Update – Mr. Timko will meet with Toms River next week to finalize the plans for the group meets. The goal is to shorten the gap from the semifinals match to the finals match. It helps that 1-non-public schools don’t have a semi-finals match so that round can be pushed back and 2-public schools are most likely off the next day. A total of 448 wrestlers are expected to participate in the Atlantic City individual tournament since 112 4th place finishers will now qualify. Starting times for the tournament on Friday and Saturday have been pushed back to 2:30pm and 9am respectively. Sunday’s start time will stay at 10am.

NFHS NIAAA Conference – Mr. Timko attended the NIAAA Conference in Nashville. He expressed pride in NJ’s workshop presenters, Joe Piro and Bill Edelman and also in John DiColo, who received the Distinguished Award. Bill Vacca shared that many other states are facing the same problems as New Jersey.

Medical Advisory Committee Meeting – 17 outstanding professionals in the medical field serve on this committee. An expert on concussions did a presentation on concussions, brain waves and the amount of recuperation time needed to recover. The presentation led to many good questions and great discussion, which should lead to better understanding of diagnosis and treatment.
Opioids Roundtable – A consortium was held at NJSIAA in December with law enforcement professionals, attorneys, physicians, pharmaceutical reps, and NJSIAA. All groups are working together to better deal with the rampant opioids abuse problem in NJ.

Assistant Director Reports

Larry White

Gymnastics Final Results – Winners were distributed. The top three schools in the team championships were Red Bank Catholic HS, Colts Neck HS and Bishop Ahr HS. Mr. White thanked Ridgewood HS, Bishop Ahr HS, Manalapan HS, Hillsborough HS and Seneca HS for hosting the sectionals, Montgomery HS for hosting both the team and individual championships, and Barbara Wallace, for being the Tournament Director and State Tournament Assignor.

Girls Volleyball Final Results – The following schools won the group championships:

Group 1 – Bogota HS
Group 2 – Ramapo HS
Group 3 – NV Old Tappan HS
Group 4 – Hunterdon Central HS
Non-Public – Immaculate Heart Academy

In the Tournament of Champions, #4 Hunterdon Central defeated #5 seed Bogota HS in the out-bracket game. In the semifinals, #3 seed IHA beat #2 Ramapo and #1 seed Old Tappan beat Hunterdon Central HS. The finals matched Old Tappan HS vs Immaculate Heart Academy, with Old Tappan HS emerging as the winner in three sets. Mr. White thanked Sharon Hughes, State Tournament Director and Assignor, and her staff for a great tournament.

Basketball – Dates are set. Letters were sent to the neutral state semifinal sites and the sectional final hosts. The North A&B sectional finals will be at Rutgers on 3/8. The boys and girls non-public group finals will be at the Pine Belt Arena on 3/11 at the Pine Belt Arena on 3/12 but please note that this date is daylight savings time. The boys play their group finals at the RAC on 3/12.

Bowling Update – Along with Ms. Cole, Mr. White looked at Bowlero, formerly the Brunswick Zone Carolier Lanes. Mr. White and Ms. Cole don’t anticipate problems with the change of management and some changes have been made to the site that may make it even better. Entry forms for girls are due 1/13 and boys are due 1/20. The boys’ sectionals will be on 2/2 (North 1B), 2/3 (North II) and 2/11 (North 1A, Central and South) while the girls will compete on 2/4. The boys and girls team finals will be on 2/17 and 2/10 respectively. Both boys and girls will compete at the individual finals on 2/15. Snow dates have been built in.

Fall Disqualification Report – Player disqualifications increased by 22 from last fall. The surge is from the sport of football (the amount of boys’ soccer disqualifications stayed relatively the same). Girls soccer was down by 9 and the coaches’ disqualifications were down by four. There was one disqualification that was of a racial nature and two that were of a sexual orientation nature. These were handled in the appropriate manner. Rob Haraka asked if there was a correlation between the increase in football disqualifications and the targeting rule. Mr. White believes it could be possible but will look in to that inquiry.
Jack DuBois

Football – A listing of sectional champions was distributed. Ten championship games were played at MetLife, 4 at Rutgers, 4 at Kean and 5 at Rowan. There was controversy in the North II, Group IV bracket to be worked out so teams had to play their first round games over Thanksgiving week. Besides two seeding issues, all went well with the tournament and some exciting matchups were played.

Boys Soccer – A listing of 2016 champions was distributed. All finals were played at Kean University. Attendance at the non-public finals was good but it was cold and windy on the day the public finals were played.

Ice Hockey – Cutoff is 2/6 and seeding is 2/14.

Fencing – The cutoff for districts is 1/13 and the schedule for the district tournament is below:

| District 1 Championships at Hackettstown: | January 21, 2017 |
| District 3 Championships at Livingston:   | January 22, 2017 |
| District 2 Championships at North Hunterdon: | January 28, 2017* |
| District 4 Championships at Fair Lawn:     | January 28, 2017 |
| District 5 Championships at Montclair:     | January 29, 2017 |

*Independent fencers will compete on this date at this location.

Workshops – Legal One held a workshop at NJSIAA yesterday (1/10/17) about school finances. In December, they hosted a workshop dealing with student athlete health issues.

NJSCA Senior Basketball All-Star Game – Nomination forms were sent out and are due 1/27. The Selection Committee meets 1/30 to select players. The game will take place at Rider University in March.

Corporate – Two new corporates have signed on with NJSIAA. The US Marines will be the official military partner of the NJSIAA and the American Dairy Association will be NJSIAA’s official beverage provider. The ADA plans to distribute chocolate milk at four sites, beginning at the Bennett Center for the winter track Meet of Champions.

Wardlaw-Hartridge School – Union Catholic HS Boys Lacrosse Co-op Waiver Request – Karl Miran, AD at Wardlaw-Hartridge School (a non-public B school), submitted a waiver request to join a cooperative sports program with Union Catholic (a non-public A school). If the two schools combine, total enrollment would be 729 (WH – 150; UC-579), which is a public Group II classification. Combining for two years would allow both schools to start a program since neither has a varsity program now (Wardlaw-Hartridge has a JV program.) It is projected that if the coop is approved, total number of athletes on the team would be about 20. The hope is that it will generate excitement for more students to try out so that two years from now, both schools will have enough numbers to carry their own program. Lacrosse is underrepresented in Middlesex County. Only nine schools out of 34 sponsor the sport so it’s also an attempt to grow the sport. Both conferences – the UCC and GMC – support the merger. The program plans to participate as an independent and can obtain a fairly good schedule. Steve Shohfi expressed sympathy in trying to grow the sport but was concerned about setting a bad precedent. Dr. George responded that it will always be a case by case basis. A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Monsignor Michael Kelly, to grant a waiver to Wardlaw-Hartridge School and Union Catholic HS, to form a boys’ lacrosse cooperative sports program for two years (spring of 2017 and 2018). Motion carried with three oppositions.
Ms. Cole was unable to attend since she was attending the NFHS Field Hockey Committee meeting in Indianapolis, but she distributed her report electronically. On her behalf, Mr. Bruno spoke about the National Women and Girls in Sports Day that is taking place at Seton Hall University. Jill Cosse-Minnella, West Essex HS lacrosse and field hockey coach will be honored.

Bill Bruno

Winter Track Update – The Group Relays will commence tomorrow, 1/12/17. MileSplit worked well with only minor glitches, but the coaches adopted well.

NJSCA Hall of Fame – The Selection Committee meets on 1/27 to select the Class of 2017. Nomination forms are due 1/20 and were distributed.

NJSCA Clinics – The tennis clinic will take place on Friday, 1/13 at Princeton University’s Jadwin Gym. The track clinic is scheduled for 3/18 at Manalapan HS and the wrestling clinic will be 5/5 at Princeton University.

Al Stumpf

Girls Soccer Results – A listing of tournament champions was distributed. The girls had the good weather championship day. Games were played at Kean University, including the Unified Sports championship game, which was played between Moorestown HS and Montgomery HS. Parsippany Hills was the 13th seed in their tournament bracket, and they went on to become the Group II state champions.

Swimming/Diving Update – Sites for the tournament are in place which include PCTI, Raritan Bay Area YMCA, Neptune Aquatics and GCIT. The finals will be at TCNJ. Entries for the team tournament are due 1/30; team seeding takes place on 2/2. Individual entries close 2/10. Every team MUST powerpoint two meets regardless of whether they enter the tournament or not (even if they complete the tournament refusal form.) A sample of what is needed from each school to enter the swim tournament was distributed.

Unified Bowling and Basketball Update – Mr. Stumpf met with Special Olympics of NJ last week and bowling is not progressing the way he hoped. As a result, Mr. Stumpf will set up a committee, made up of administrators and coaches, to analyze why a Unified Bowling championship game is not working this season. As for Unified Basketball, the original plan was to have Unified championship game in 2018 but since SONJ got a spot in the USA 2018 Games, and one of the requirements is that athletes participate in their state’s tournament games, Mr. Stumpf will fast forward the timeline and have a Unified Basketball championship game this winter. Unified Spring Track is going well with a lot of interest. In the next Leagues and Conferences Officers meeting, Mr. Stumpf will survey officers to see 1-how many schools are having Unified relays in their county/conference meets and 2-If they allow Unified races in their dual meets or Saturday Invitationals. Mr. Stumpf plans to add a Unified relay race to next year’s winter track relay event. Track is a relatively inexpensive sport, which makes it easier to do.
Constitution Revisions – 2nd Reading – Last meeting, Mr. Zapicchi presented a list of proposed changes to clean up old language in the NJSIAA Constitution (they were not changes to current practices.) Mr. Zapicchi received three requests for clarifications.

1- A complaint was made regarding the definition of public schools but the new language used was taken directly from Statute 18A, NJ’s administrative code, the law which governs NJ’s public school education.

2- On page 34, In Sections 4 & 8, references were made to state championships but since football does not play for a state championship, Mr. Zapicchi will remove the word “championships” and change it to state “tournaments”.

3- Also on page 34, Section 6 states that “All Non-public schools shall be divided into two equal Groups (A and B) in each Section – North and South. Pupil population shall be based upon the official school report of enrollment in Grades 9, 10, and 11, dated June 1. However, sport specific committees may propose to the Executive Committee different classification models where there is a perceived need.” Examples were given of sports which presently have changed their classification through the action of sport specific committees.

A motion was made by Michael Gatley, seconded by Kathy Goldenberg, to approve the proposed changes to the NJSIAA Constitution. Motion passed second reading with one abstention (Whalen).

Public/Non Public Committee - Changes to Transfer Rule – 1st Reading – This rule was written before the days of AAU and travel programs, choice and charter schools, ESPN televising championship games and the current exorbitant cost of attending college. This is the second attempt of the Public/Non-Public Committee, who reconvened two years ago, to make changes to NJSIAA’s current practices. The proposed concept of open and closed enrollment failed at the 2015 annual meeting because it was too complicated. The committee continued to meet and after many meetings, the committee is asking for the following transfer rule changes:

All student athletes who transfer from one secondary school to another shall be subject to a 30-day period of ineligibility, or one half of the maximum number of games allowed in the sport by NJSIAA rules, whichever is less, in each sport in which the student participated.

For sports that do not have a maximum number of contests allowed by rule, the sit out period will be 30 days from the beginning of the regular season as specified in NJSIAA sport specific regulations or half of the games/meets/matches/events scheduled, whichever is less.

The period of ineligibility for competition (30 day sit) begins at the NJSIAA approved regular season start date for the sport in question.

If the transfer occurs on or after the first interscholastic scrimmage or after the NJSIAA approved regular season start date for the sport in question, the student-athlete is additionally not eligible for state tournament play.

Any subsequent transfer would result in a 30-day period of ineligibility, or half the season, whichever is less, in each sport in which the student participated, and the student-athlete would not be eligible for state tournament play.

This regulation would include all student-athletes who participated at any level.
CL 1 For the purposes of this section, participation shall begin with any practice activity after the NJSIAA approved practice start date for the sport in question.
CL 2 For the purposes of this section, a school’s regular schedule shall begin with the NJSIAA approved regular season competition date for the sport in question.
CL 3 The Transfer Form must be processed whenever a student-athlete transfers from one secondary school to another unless the transfer is by the action of the local Board of Education or governing body of that particular school.
CL 4 Since the sanction of thirty (30) days or one half the maximum number of games allowed in a sport by NJSIAA rules ineligibility period (whichever is less) is recognized as one of the shortest ineligibility penalties in the United States, appeals will not be heard, regardless of reason.
CL 5 Notwithstanding the provisions of the transfer rule, a student-athlete may be declared ineligible for violations of the recruiting or transfer for athletic advantage regulations.
CL 6 In cases involving a residential placement by the Division of Child Protection and Permanency, by the Courts (except in cases involving juvenile or criminal court proceedings), or as a result of military placement, the student-athlete will be immediately eligible.
CL 7 In cases where the previous school has made the decision that a student’s educational program would be best served by a transfer to another school or school district as a result of the resolution of an investigation under the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying statute, the student-athlete will be immediately eligible. This decision must be communicated in writing to NJSIAA as a part of the determination of the student-athlete’s eligibility.

The Public/Non-Public Committee is asking for approval from the Executive Committee so the rule can go in to effect July 2017. If not approved, it will go the annual meeting ballot route and go in to effect July 2018. This rule does not pertain to 9th graders. They are considered initial enrollment. A survey was sent to the membership to gauge feelings towards the proposed changes. Only ¼ responded (about 100 schools) but 56% were in favor; 44% against. 82 comments were received. 15 felt the new rule is unfair to students with a legitimate move; 11 felt sub varsity students shouldn’t be penalized; 39 support the changes; 6 felt NJSIAA should allow all transfers immediately; 2 like the current rule; 1 felt the cheaters should be addressed, not those who follow the rules; and 1 felt removal from the state tournament was too strict a penalty.

A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to have the Executive Committee vote on the proposed changes to the transfer rule. Discussion ensued about the merits of the proposal. After lengthy discussion, Mr. Zapicchi called a question.

Final Vote: Yes-30; No-5; Abstain-0. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Greg Bailey, to approve the transfer rule as proposed by the Public/Non-Public Committee. It will have two readings and if passes, will go in to effect July 1, 2017. Discussion ensued and after another lengthy discussion, a vote was taken.

Final Vote: Yes-27; No-7; Abstain-0. Motion passed first reading.

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**Director of Finance Report – Colleen Maguire**

**ShopRite Cup - Fall** – Last year a committee convened to evaluate the point system for the ShopRite Cup. This fall the recommended changes were put in to effect. Now, Tournament of Champions winners and runners-up receive ten and five points respectively. There is also a three-point deduction for each coach disqualification at a Varsity contest. Three schools received deductions this fall for coaches’ disqualifications.
Fall Financial Review – Ms. Maguire distributed a fall financial summary, which is 80% final. She is just waiting for operation reports from a few first and second round championship football games. Gate revenue is down from last year for multiple reasons. First, the first round took place the same weekend as the NJEA weekend and the second round for one bracket was played on Thanksgiving Day weekend. Fall revenue will fall slightly under budget but staff is still pleased with fall results.

Winter Ticket Prices Update – Allowable ticket prices for the winter season have been requested. There are no changes to the request from last winter. All prices should remain the same.

Finance Committee Update – Elaine McGrath

Approval of November/December 2016 Checkbook – A motion was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Kathy Goldenberg, to accept the November and December 2016 check registers, as approved by the finance committee, as well as our monthly approvals according to policy. All in Favor, No Opposed, No Abstentions. The motion was approved unanimously.

Program Review

Baseball – Three Umpires Starting at Sectional Semifinals Level – 2nd Reading – A motion was made by Monsignor Michael Kelly, seconded by Kevin Carty, Jr., to use three umpires for the public sectional semifinals and non-public sectional semifinal baseball games instead of two. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

Wrestling – Timely Submission of Results – 2nd Reading – A motion was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Chuck Klaus, to implement a two-step penalty system for schools that do not timely report the results of their wrestling matches to NJschoolsports.com. Also, coaches will not receive a print out for the next match until they submit match results. All results are required to be entered within 48 hours of the event time. The first time a school doesn’t do this, a warning will be given. All future instances will be subject to a $150 fine. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

Soccer – Move Start of Season/First Game Date – 1st Reading – The official starting date for soccer in 2017 is September 7th. It was proposed to move the official starting date to September 5, 2017 to account for the loss of four potential playing dates due to holidays in the fall. This would give more flexibility in scheduling games. A motion was made by Rob Haraka, seconded by Bill Vacca, to move the 2017 official starting date for boys and girls soccer games to the Tuesday after Labor Day, which would be September 5, 2017. Motion passed first reading with one abstention. (Tony Mitchell)

Boys Lacrosse – Change to Statewide Classification – 1st Reading – The Program Review Committee rejected a pilot program proposal to change the public school classification from a North/South sectional format to a group state wide classification.

Baseball – Pitch Count – 1st Reading – The NFHS mandated that each state association come up with pitch count limits. A committee made up of veteran umpires, coaches and Athletic Directors met twice, first to hammer out actual pitch count numbers, then a second time to discuss enforcement. If passed, it will go in to effect this season, then will be reviewed by the baseball rules committee post season. New Jersey’s pitch count recommendations fall in the middle, compared to other states. The warmer states had higher allowable numbers; colder
states had lower numbers. It is proposed to follow the below Varsity and SubVarsity Pitch Limits:

1-30 pitches 0 day rest  
31-50 1 day rest  
51-70 2 days rest  
71-90 3 days rest  
91-110 4 days rest

Other details of the proposal:
1. 110 is the max number of pitches a pitcher may throw in any one-day period.  
2. A pitcher who reaches the max while facing a batter may continue to pitch until 1-batter reaches base; 2-batter is out or 3-out is made to complete the half inning.  
3. A pitcher cannot throw three calendar days in a row.  
4. A pitcher cannot throw more than 50 pitches in consecutive calendar days.  
5. For state tournament games that by rule may be suspended and resumed at the point of interruption, if a pitcher has thrown 50 pitches before the game was/is suspended, that pitcher’s pitch count shall carry over to the next day, and that picture may pitch up to the 100 maximum.  
6. Over any five calendar day period, a pitcher may not exceed 140 total pitches  
7. Also, it was decided to have only one set of pitch limits due to the fact that it would be very difficult to monitor pitch counts for pitchers that pitch on the JV/subvarsity level but also come up to the varsity level (and vice versa). Every level has to exchange past day stats before game and they have to be reported to njschoolsports.com there are pitch count apps available.

Bill McDermott asked if there is discussion about switching to a flat seam baseball since colleges have switched. Mr. White has not seen movement on this just yet. A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Gerald Glisson, to approve the recommended pitch counts in baseball, as outlined above. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

Cross Country Change of Entry Fees – 1st Reading – A motion was made by Rob Haraka, seconded by Todd Van Orden, to eliminate the current team entry of $80.00 for Cross Country and to replace it with a $14.00 per individual entry fee. This would be consistent with what is currently charged per entry per event in Winter and Spring Track. This recommendation was unanimously supported by the Cross Country Committee and unanimously endorsed by the Finance Committee. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

Report of Counsel – Michael W. Herbert, Esq. – Steve Goodell continues to recover. The hope is that he will be able to return home in April. All litigation has been settled including the Delbarton School football conference appeal, Wayne Hills football issue, Timber Creek HS/Camden County Prosecutors Office issue and an OPRA lawsuit.

Old Business / New Business – Mr. Stumpf spoke about a Unified Sports panel discussion that will take place at the DAANJ Workshop.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Dr. William George, seconded by Matthew McFarland, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko  
Executive Director

SJT: In