Executive Committee Minutes
January 13, 2016

Roll Call / Introduction of Press - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Gregory Bailey, at 11:35 am.

The following members were present: Maureen Bilda, Chris Calveley, Tom Coleman, Suzanne Cooley, Paul Crupi, Bill Edelman, Judy Finch Johnson, Dianne Furusawa, Michael Gatley, Dr. William George, Richard Giglio, Gerald Glisson, Sharron Grady, Robert Grauso, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Monsignor Kelly, Howard Krieger, Dr. James Lavender, Scott Lodgek, Bill McDermott, Matthew McFarland, Elaine McGrath, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Michael Nitti, William Quirk, Philip Schaffer, Vincent Smith, John Stanczak, Beverly Torok, Todd VanOrden, 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; Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Mike McGarry, AC Press; Steve Falk, Asbury Park Press; Darren Cooper and Greg Schutta, Record; and Matt Stanmyre, NJ Advance Media. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Dianne Furusawa, seconded by Todd VanOrden, to accept the minutes of the November 11, 2015 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried with one abstention (Giglio).

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) – The legislature ended 1/11/16 and a new session will begin tomorrow, 1/14/16. The redshirting bill moved forward but did not pass in the General Assembly. Mr. Anzano expects to see it again in the new session but does not expect the cheerleading bill (proposed NJSIAA oversee cheerleading) to be re-introduced. Mr. Anzano has noted that the redshirting bill would be difficult to enforce.

Mr. Timko noted that he was very proud of the coaches/trainers from both Edison HS and Colonia HS because they had revived a freshmen basketball player from Colonia HS with a defibrillator. A life was saved. Mr. Timko said that the more he talks about this subject, the more he finds other instances where the processes in place such, as requiring AEDs to be set up in close proximity to events and requiring CPR training, have saved lives. William Quirk offered a similar story about a football player who had been revived.

Fall Championship Update – Mr. Timko commended all the directors for an outstanding fall tournament season. The tournaments each had great matchups and perfect weather.

Winter Tournaments / Regulations – Almost all championship facilities are secured. NJSIAA just signed a one-year contract with the NJ Devils to hold the ice hockey championships at the Prudential Center. Mr. White was looking for a North 1/Group 2 sectional semifinal site for basketball but he believes he secured a site earlier this morning.
Wrestling Update – 2,300 tickets have been pre-sold to attend the individual championships at Boardwalk Hall. Mr. Timko has already met with Boardwalk Hall and will meet with Toms River later in the week to prepare for the group meets, which will take place on 2/14. There will be five groups on four mats. Mr. Timko is excited to return to Toms River for the group finals.

NFHS Winter Meeting and NIAA Conference – Mr. Timko was unable to attend the NFHS Winter Meeting this year but he did attend the NIAAA Conference where he was proud to see NJ represented in many leadership roles. Congrats to Sean Dowling and Bob Rossi for receiving the Citation/Merit award. Bill Edelman expressed appreciation that Mr. Timko attends all sessions and encouraged all principals and superintendents to allow their Athletic Directors to attend this invaluable experience. Mr. Edelman writes a comprehensive report summarizing the conference, which he is happy to share with anyone who would like a copy.

Annual Meeting – Five ballots were voted on at the annual meeting on December 7, 2015. Results were as follows:

**Ballot #1: Separate wrestlers from public and non-public schools at the district and regional tournament levels.** Northern Valley Regional High School proposed a new section to Article VIII of the NJSIAA Bylaws, “CONTEST RULES – CHAMPIONSHIPS – OFFICIALS,” to separate wrestlers from public and non-public schools at the district and regional tournament levels.

214 in favor, 123 opposed, 8 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: Change Fall Sports Start Dates.** The Big North Conference proposed moving the start-dates for fall sports to an earlier date, as an option for any league, conference or member school.

205 in favor, 138 opposed, 8 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 #3: Change Winter Sports Start Date.** Pascack Valley High School proposed moving the start-dates for winter sports to an earlier date, to allow for try-outs and player evaluation before Thanksgiving.

279 in favor, 66 opposed, no 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 #4: Create a Separate Non-Public Football Conference.** The Public-Nonpublic Committee proposed the creation of a separate football conference for nonpublic schools.

215 in favor, 128 opposed, 2 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 #5: Amending Transfer Rule. The Public-Nonpublic Committee proposed amending the transfer rule.

98 in favor, 244 opposed, 1 abstention. 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.

The approved legislation was submitted to the Commissioner of Education for final approval, as required by New Jersey Statutes 18A:11-3 and 18A:11-5. On December 28, 2015, the Commissioner vetoed Ballot #1 and Ballot #4. In his veto statement the Commissioner requested that NJSIAA conduct further studies and develop a different solution for handling the competition issues between public and non-public schools. Bill Edelman asked if it was possible to appeal the Commissioner's decision and if the NJSIAA had ever done so in the past. A motion was made by Todd VanOrden, seconded by Bill Edelman, to enter closed session. To discuss legal issues regarding an appeal. Motion carried unanimously.

Upon return to open session, it was explained that discussion took place over 1-Bill Edelman's question regarding appealing a Commissioner decision and 2-The two football power points proposals that had a first reading in November, which could help alleviate some of the scheduling issues. Second reading is scheduled for February, after the Football Committee meets on 1/27/16. Todd VanOrden expressed concern about waiting to do the second readings in February, since schools need to get their football schedules completed. Usually schedules are finalized a year in advance. Mr. DuBois explained that there needs to be more clarification – the proposal presented at first reading had incorrect information and needed to be clarified. The multiplier for the B Division should be 1.5, not 1 as was presented. Also the wording needs to be clarified since it can be interpreted two different ways.

Tom Coleman made a motion to table the two football power points proposals until the February Executive Committee meeting. Bill Edelman questioned if members of the Super Conference are on the Football Committee. Answer – yes. Mike Gatley expressed that it is the right decision to table the discussion but it won’t matter at this point. Schools are in their final stages of making schedules so by February meeting, the schedules will be completed.

Assistant Director Reports

Bill Bruno
Winter Track Update – The Group IV men’s relays will commence tomorrow, 1/14/16. The Group IV women will compete the following day – 1/15/16. Over the weekend, the remaining relays will take place (Non Public @ 9am / Group 2 @ 4pm on 1/16/16 and Group 1 @ 9am / Group 3 @ 4pm on 1/17/16. 300 schools have entered the relays so there should be some good competition. Mr. Bruno encouraged all to attend.

Fall ShopRite Cup – Fall standings were distributed.

Larry White
Gymnastics Final Results – Winners were distributed. The top three schools in the team championships were Red Bank Catholic, St. John Vianney HS, and Colts Neck HS. Mr. White thanked his five sectional host sites: Ridgewood HS, Bishop Ahr HS, Manalapan HS, Hillsborough HS, and Brick Memorial (who stepped in last minute to replace Seneca HS whose roof flew off so they were unable to host.) Mr. White also thanked Barbara Wallace, the Tournament Director and State Tournament Assignor.
Women's Volleyball Final Results – Tournament winners were distributed. All games in the Tournament of Champions went to three sets, which made it the best competition Mr. White has ever seen in the tournament. Old Tappan defeated Immaculate Heart Academy in the T of C finals. Mr. White thanked Sharon Hughes, State Tournament Director and Assignor.

Basketball – Dates are set. Sectional finals will be played at the higher seed. The non-public group finals will be played 3/12 at the Pine Belt Arena. The public group finals will take place on 3/13 (women at Pine Belt Arena; men at RAC).

Bowling Update – Times/dates and sectional directors are all set for the tournament.

Fall Disqualification Report – Results from this past fall are more consistent with years past than the previous year which was an anomaly. There was a spike of 30-40 disqualifications in men’s soccer. There was one racial slur type disqualification so Mr. White will follow through with the reporting process with the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Law & Public Safety – NJ Division on Civil Rights. There were no disqualifications of this nature last year.

NJSIAA Interim Vapor/E-Cigarettes Policy – An official called in regards to people using e-cigarettes during NJSIAA events. Mr. White consulted with the NFHS regarding their policy, which he used to develop an interim policy for NJ (below):

It has come to the attention of NJSIAA that vapor/e-cigarettes maybe/are being used by student athletes and/or coaches prior to, during, or after interscholastic events.

The NFHS rule book(s) state “the use of tobacco products” results in a flagrant disqualification, but there is no mention of vapor/e-cigarettes. When contacted, the NFHS replied that vapor/e-cigarettes are to be treated as a traditional cigarette, which is identified as a tobacco/and or nicotine product, and therefore means any use of the vapor/e-cigarettes shall be enforced as a flagrant disqualification.

NJSIAA position on this matter is that we will adhere to the ruling stated above. We will refer this matter to the NJSIAA Medical Advisory Committee for further study and after receiving the Medical Advisory Committees’ recommendation(s), we will develop a permanent policy and will distribute such to the member schools of NJSIAA.

A motion was made by Suzanne Cooley, seconded by Michael Gatley, to adopt the interim vapor/e-cigarettes policy as outlined above until the Medical Advisory Committee meets to review it and approve or recommend changes. Motion carried with one abstention (McDermott).

Lacrosse Waiver to Play Corner Canyon HS in Utah – Corner Canyon HS requested to play three NJ schools (Rumson-Fair Haven HS, Randolph HS and Hunterdon Central HS) in lacrosse but lacrosse is not a sanctioned sport in Utah, therefore under NJSIAA rules is considered a club sport. The three NJ schools would need a waiver to compete against them. Corner Canyon HS has played against schools in other states after the schools had signed off on a legal document outlining certain requirements to play. Mr. White obtained a copy of that legal document and added that “The ‘club team’ agrees to play by the rules and regulations of the NFHS for that specific sport and any modifications NJSIAA may have made to those sport rules, which the NFHS allows.” Maureen Bilda questioned whether a waiver to play a club team is needed for scrimmages or just competition. Answer – just competition. Rob Haraka expressed that he feels this is a slippery slope and is uncomfortable with granting this waiver, with the large number of club teams out there. Mike Gatley echoed the sentiment, saying that if we don’t allow it in our own state, we shouldn’t allow it for out of state competition. Steve Goodell explained that this would not establish a new policy, but is instead a one-time request. He noted that two other states have allowed it. Scott Wohlrab felt that it the committee votes no,
it is hurting kids and by voting yes, the committee can help sports grow all over the country. Robert Grauso asked if playing the games would affect power points. A motion was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Judy Finch Johnson, to grant a waiver to Rumson-Fair Haven HS, Randolph HS and Hunterdon Central HS to play a lacrosse match against Corner Canyon HS in Utah. Final Vote: Yes-13; No-15; Abstain-2. Motion did not carry.

**Jack DuBois**

Football – A listing of sectional champions was distributed. There was outstanding weather for the entire championship weekend, which was reflected in the attendance of games. The football committee meets 1/27.

Boys Soccer – A listing of 2015 champions was distributed.

Ice Hockey – A one-year renewal contract was signed with the NJ Devils for the state finals to be played at the Prudential Center on 3/7. The semifinals will be played at Mennen Arena on 3/2 and 3/3.

Fencing – There are four major tournaments. The first tournament, districts, begins 1/23. Schedule for the tournament is below:

- District 1 Championships at Hackettstown: January 23, 2016 (SAT date)
- District 3 Championships at Livingston: January 24, 2016
- District 2 Championships at North Hunterdon: January 30, 2016
- District 4 Championships at Fair Lawn: January 30, 2016
- District 5 Championships at Montclair: January 31, 2016

The squads, team and individual tournaments follow districts.

Clinics – The tennis clinic will take place on 1/15/16 at Princeton University’s Jadwin Gym. 65 coaches are registered.

NJSCA Senior Basketball All-Star Game – Ballots were sent out and already quite a few names have been submitted. The Selection Committee meets 2/1 to select players. The game will take place on 3/20/16 at Rider University.

NJSCA Hall of Fame – Nomination forms have been sent out. The Selection Committee meets 2/1 to select the Class of 2016. Mr. DuBois encourages nominations from the South since in past years, NJSCA has received very few names for consideration from the South.

**Kim DeGraw-Cole**

Ms. Cole was unable to attend since she was attending the NFHS Field Hockey Committee meeting in Indianapolis, but she distributed her report electronically. One correction to her report should be noted: In the women’s soccer tournament results, Northern Highlands HS was the Group III runner-up, not champion. Colts Neck HS was the Group III winner.

**Director of Finance Report – Colleen Maguire**

Fall Financial Review – Ms. Maguire updated the Committee that the Association’s average cash balance for the current fiscal year has been approximately $2.1 million. The cash balance on a monthly basis has consistently been higher than the cash balance for the same prior year period. As of the meeting date, there are 25 schools with outstanding receivables 90+ days due.
which total approximately $3,000. Ms. Maguire noted she has confirmed payment with any school on the list that is entered in the Winter Track Relays, beginning Thursday, January 14th. Overall, NJSIAA experienced a tremendous fall season. MetLife sent a check from the football championships in the amount of $42,000, which included a $25,000 guarantee plus a share of gate receipts. A final fall financial report will be distributed in February but Ms. Maguire is expecting to report over $200,000 in net profit. Everyone is pleased with the Association’s current financial status.

Winter 2015 Ticket Prices – Three winter tournament ticket price Long Form requests were sent to the Department of Education. First, since the basketball group finals at Rutgers did not make a significant profit last year (only $1,500), NJSIAA requested $8 adult/$3 student/senior prices. The Department of Education did not grant the $3 request so NJSIAA can only charge $8/$2, which is difficult because approximately 50% of ticket sales are students/seniors. Ms. Maguire is not anticipating a significant increase in the total profit from these games in the current year. The second request was to increase the Ice Hockey Championships ticket price from $10/$3 to $15/$5 since the NJ Devils do not make enough to justify giving us the facility for the finals. Unfortunately, the DOE did not approve the increase so ticket prices will be the same as last year - $10 adult /$3 student/senior. Fortunately, the Prudential Center signed a one-year contract to allow NJSIAA to use their facility for the finals for the current year and is looking into alternative options to help offset its losses. Lastly, the Department of Education did approve the Boardwalk Hall Individual Tournament $10/ $2 ticket price request for the next three years. These are the same ticket prices in effect in prior years. The approved request locks in the ticket prices for the same 3 year period as the contract with Boardwalk Hall.

Finance Committee Update – Gregory Bailey

Approval of November/December 2015 Checkbook – A motion was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Dianne Furusawa, to accept the November and December 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.

Project Manager Update – Michael Zapicchi

Public/Non-Public Committee – Next meeting is scheduled for 1/26/16.

Compliance Initiative – Compliance officers have already visited 32 schools. The experience has been positive, especially with the new Athletic Directors. Best practices are being passed on from veteran Athletic Directors.

Program Review

Field Hockey Rule 7, Section 8, Maximum Games – 1st Reading – It was proposed to make field hockey more like soccer, and give schools more flexibility in making their schedules, whether that mean more tournament games and fewer scheduled games, or vice versa. This would also allow high profile teams to play more tournament games. The Field Hockey Committee and Program Review Committee approved this proposal 8-0 and 7-0, respectively. A motion was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Dianne Furusawa, to change Rule 7 to make it the same as in soccer, and give member schools the option of playing one of the following maximum game schedules:
Option 1 Sixteen (16) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2), plus two (2) tournaments, plus the State Tournament.

Option 2 Eighteen (18) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2), plus one tournament, plus the State Tournament.

Option 3 Twenty (20) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2), plus the State Tournament.

A tournament shall be of the single elimination type not to exceed thirty-two (32) teams, limited to a maximum of five (5) games.

Motion passed first reading with two abstentions (Monsignor Kelly and Bill McDermott)

Softball Tournament of Champions – A proposal to add a Tournament of Champions in softball will be postponed until February when Ms. Cole is present. Maureen Bilda expressed discontentment with the idea of a TOC since in June, schools are already squeezing in a lot of end-of-year activities such as graduations, prom, etc. She also was concerned it would interfere with the Carpenter Cup tournament which brings great exposure to athletes. It was also questioned if there is a Title IX issue if this not done in baseball. Mike Gatley expressed that NJSIAA may want to look in to an indoor facility to hold the tournament since typically there’s weather related issues during that time.


Old Business / New Business

Bill Edelman said that he thought Mr. Timko had properly represented the interests of the member schools in his correspondence to the Commission of Education following the votes at the Annual Meeting.

On behalf of the Tri County Conference, Matthew McFarland proposed a waiver to move the spring season opening date to a week earlier than the current 4/1 date. Spring has the longest preseason of all three seasons, so the Tri-County Conference would like to make it more comparable to fall and winter. It was recommended to Mr. McFarland to have his waiver request in writing so it can be distributed to the Executive Committee for the February meeting for consideration.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Dianne Furusawa, seconded by Bill Edelman, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

SJT: In