EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 9, 2019

Roll Call / Introduction of Press - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Vincent Smith, at 11:11 am.

The following members were present: Heather Andersen, Greg Bailey, Maureen Bilda, Joseph Bollendorf, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jr., Jason Corley, Joanne Dzama, Judy Finch Johnson, James Gaffney, Dr. William George, Edward Grande, Robert Grauso, Robert Haraka, Jack Hurley, Mary Liz Ivins, Monsignor Michael Kelly, Howard Krieger, Bill McDermott, Elaine McGrath, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Michael Nitti, Sue Petrone, Paul Popadiuk, Steve Shohfi, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, Todd VanOrden, Paul Vizzuso, Kathy Whalen, Denis Williams and Scott Wohlrab. Also present: Larry White, Executive Director; Kim Cole, Jack DuBois, Al Stumpf and Tony Maselli, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager; Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; Mike McGarry, AC Press; Darren Cooper and Mike Kelly, NorthJersey.com and Matt Stanmyre, nj.com. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Maureen Bilda, seconded by Bill Vacca, to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2018 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed with one abstention (Whalen).

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 – Larry White

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – The Governor’s goals are consuming the legislature’s time, therefore there has not been much room for other agenda items. NJSIAA is still hoping year-round steroid testing will be passed but it’s not a focus of the legislature right now.

Annual Meeting – Eight ballots were voted on at the annual meeting on December 3, 2018. Results were as follows:

Ballot #1: New Milford High School proposed to change the 70% State Competition Rule. Under the proposal, a team would not be eligible for the state tournament unless it played at least 60%, instead of 70%, in-state competition.

Vote of the Membership: 237 in favor, 56 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: The proposed legislation would amend the Fall and Spring start-of-season and start-of-practice dates and would take effect in the 2020-2021 school year, to coincide with the next scheduling cycle.
Vote of the Membership: 237 in favor, 62 opposed, 3 abstentions. This proposed change to the Rules and Regulations required a majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting, based on the total number of ballots cast, therefore was approved.

Ballot #3: This legislation adds a representative of Special Olympics New Jersey as an ex officio member of the Executive Committee.

Vote of the Membership: 295 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstention. This proposed change to the Constitution required a two-thirds 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:  NJSIAA staff proposed to amend the Constitution and Bylaws to provide a streamlined legislative process. Currently, legislation must be proposed by March 15, considered by the Advisory Committee by May 15, reviewed by the Executive Committee by June 1, and voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting in December. The proposed legislation would accelerate this timeframe so that legislation could be proposed and voted on within a single school year. The Annual Meeting would be held in May, instead of December.

Vote of the Membership: 302 in favor, 7 opposed, 1 abstention. This proposed change to the Constitution required a two-thirds 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: The proposed legislation would eliminate the existing bylaws related to Cooperative Sports Programs and replace them with a comprehensive new set of bylaws.

Vote of the Membership: 267 in favor, 43 opposed, 3 abstentions. This proposed change to the bylaws 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 #6: This proposal would eliminate the rule requiring no contact with a coach for 365 days before hire.

Vote of the Membership: 303 in favor, 9 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 was approved.

A second vote was taken by the membership, whether they were in favor of implementing this rule immediately. Final Vote: 295 in favor, 16 opposed, 2 abstentions so ballot #6 became effective immediately.

Ballot #7: The proposed legislation would allow teams to meet during the out-of-season period for organizational, as opposed to instruction purposes.

Vote of the Membership: 302 in favor, 9 opposed, 0 abstentions. This proposed change to the Rules and Regulations 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 #8: The proposed legislation would add a new section to the Rules and Regulations to permit high school coaches to have contact with eighth grade students under certain circumstances.

Vote of the Membership: 291 in favor, 22 opposed, 0 abstentions. This proposed change to the Rules and Regulations 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.

Winter Championship Facilities / Regulations – All winter regulations are posted on the NJSIAA website and all facilities are secured for winter tournaments.

Assistant Director Reports

Jack DuBois

Football – A listing of sectional champions and Bowl Game winners was distributed. This year, having the public sectional championship games played at the higher seeds, rather than at neutral sites, was embraced by the local communities and a big success. This month, Mr. DuBois is attending the NFHS Football Rules Committee meeting in Indianapolis. The following football committees also meet this month: 1/18 is the State Football Coaches meeting; 1/23 is the NJSIAA Football Rules Committee meeting and on 1/28, the NJSIAA Football Leagues and Conferences Committee will meet.

Ice Hockey – Cutoff is 2/4/19 and seeding is 2/12/19.

Fencing – The districts tournament cut-off date: is 1/11. District 1 will open up the tournament at Hackettstown HS on 1/19. Other districts will compete on the following dates/locations: District 3 at Livingston HS on 1/20; District 2 at North Hunterdon HS on 1/26; District 4 at Fair Lawn HS on 1/26 and District 5 at Montclair HS, on 1/27. Winners from districts move on to the team championships. Out-bracket matches are scheduled for 1/29 & 1/30.

Workshops – A Legal One workshop about Supervising Coaches and Student Athletes in Interscholastic Athletics was held on 12/7. It was well attended. There will be a similar workshop offered in the spring.

NJSCA Senior Basketball All-Star Game – The Selection Committee meets on 1/31/19 to select players. The game will take place at Rider University on March 16th.

Corporate – The association just signed a three-year renewal with Wakefern to sponsor boys and girls basketball, continue sponsoring the ShopRite Cup, and provide scholarships for NJSIAA’s annual scholar-athlete program.

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Field Hockey Results – The semifinals and finals were exciting matchups. Eastern defeated West Essex and Oak Knoll defeated Moorestown. Due to snow, Kean University wasn’t able to host the finals, so Rancocas Valley HS stepped up. In the finals, Eastern defeated Oak Knoll. The field hockey rules committee met post season. Minutes from that meeting are posted on NJSIAA’s website.
Girls Basketball – Required paperwork for the tournament is online and was updated to be more user friendly. Ms. Cole encourages schools to get their non-member tournament reporting forms completed or it will cost them to lose power points.

Softball/Baseball/Volleyball Rules Interpretation Meetings – Meeting dates are posted on NJSIAA’s website. These meetings are mandatory for officials, recommended for coaches.

Transfers & Eligibility & Controversies Update – There has been a significant number of transfers. The Eligibility Committee met on 12/6 and reviewed 23 eligibility waiver forms. The Eligibility Appeals Committee met earlier in the morning, will convene again in the afternoon, and possibly again for an additional EAC later in January to deal with an athletic advantage situation. Ms. Cole thanked the committee for adjusting their schedules and their time commitments.

Bill Bruno

Mr. Bruno was not in attendance since he was attending the NFHS Cross Country/Track Rules Committee meeting in Indianapolis. He did distribute a written report to the committee which is included below. He also distributed a listing of spring track and field sites, dates and times.

Winter Track - State Relays get underway on Thursday 1/17/19 thru Sunday 1/20/19. All events are at the Toms River John Bennett Athletic Complex (The Bubble.)

Boys Wrestling - All District and Region Sites are set. Reminder, Individual State Championships in Atlantic City are on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 28th, March 1st and March 2nd.

Girls Wrestling - as of 1/4/19, there are 422 girls involved in wrestling in NJ. Girls Regions are set for 2/17/19 @ Red Bank Regional. Top 6 in each weight class advance to Atlantic City the weekend of 3/1—3/2.

NJSCA—HOF - There are 122 candidates for the 2019 Hall of Fame. The NJSCA HOF Committee is in the process of narrowing down the list to 40. Mr. Bruno hopes to have that list for the February Executive Board Meeting.

NJSCA Clinics—Update - Tennis Clinic will be held at Princeton University on 1/11/19. Track Clinic will be held at Monmouth University on 3/22/19. Wrestling Clinic will be held at Princeton University on 5/3/19.

National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Convention – Took place in San Antonio, Texas from 12/14/18—12/19/18. There were over 2,500 attendees, the largest turnout to date. 48 four-hour Leadership Training Courses were offered (the most ever offered) and 30 45-minute workshop seminars were offered. NJ was well represented with 38 attendees. Dave Suiter and Bill Bruno taught LTC’s while Joe Piro served as a presenter for a workshop. NIAAA Committees were represented by the following NJ AD’s: Dr. Ted D’Alessio (Millburn - Coaches Education), Jason Corley (Long Branch - Membership Committee), John DiColo (Oak Ridge - Publications Committee) and Bill Bruno (NJSIAA Awards Committee). NJ Delegates @ the NIAAA Convention: Denis Nelson, President (River Dell); Dave Ryden, President-Elect (Marlboro); Sharon Hughes, Trustee (Retired); Anthony Mitchell, Voting Member (Paul VI) and Kevin Murphy, Voting Member (Washington Twp.)
Al Stumpf

Girls Soccer Results – A listing of public group champions was distributed (non-public champions were distributed in November’s meeting). Group champions were as follows:

Group I – Audubon HS defeated Glen Ridge HS in penalty kicks.* (Score of game was 0-0)
Group II - Governor Livingston defeated Ramsey HS 3-2.
Group III – Northern Highlands defeated Moorestown HS 1-0.
Group IV – Eastern defeated Bridgewater-Raritan HS 1-0.

*There was a boys’ championship game also determined by penalty kicks. There were only a few complaints about this new system so overall instituting penalties kicks to determine a winner vs having co-champions has been successful.

Girls Volleyball Final Results – Results from the group championships and Tournament of Champions is below:

Group 1  Verona vs. Bogota, Bogota wins 2-0.
Group 2  Rutherford vs N. Valley Demarest, NV Demarest wins 2-0.
Group 3  Old Tappan vs. West Morris, West Morris wins 2-0.
Group 4  North Hunterdon vs. Southern Reg, North Hunterdon wins 2-0.
Non-Public  IHA vs Union Catholic, IHA wins 2-0.

The Tournament of Champions took place on November 17 & 18th, 2018 at the William Paterson University – Rec Center. Results are below:

   Play-in game: NV – Demarest (4) vs. Bogota (5) - Demarest wins 2-1.

   Semifinals: North Hunterdon (2) vs. West Morris Central (3), North Hunterdon wins 2-1.
    Immaculate Heart (1) vs. Demarest –IHA wins 2-1.

   Finals: IHA vs. North Hunterdon – IHA wins 2-0.

Soccer/Volleyball Assignor Requests – NJSIAA needs to communicate better with the leagues and conferences in efforts to secure the best officials. League assignors are not communicating with state assignors.

Boys Basketball – Schools no longer need to fill out a security form. They are only responsible for the Gym Availability Form and the Preferred Officials Form. Cutoff is 2/2. Tournament Refusal date is 2/4.

Boys Bowling Update – Cutoff is Sunday, 1/20.

Unified Bowling and Basketball Update – 9 teams are registered for the NJSIAA Unified Bowling tournament and 18 are registered for Unified basketball. Unified Basketball is growing. Last year there were only six teams.

NAGWS – The deadline to return nomination forms is 1/16. Since the event is growing, honorees are limited to only bringing three guests for a total of 4 people (in past, five total people per school were able to attend)
Tony Maselli

Fall Disqualification Report – The total amount of fall disqualifications only went up by two from last fall so the amount of disqualifications is staying on par with years past.

Girls Bowling Update – Entries are due 1/21.

Swimming/Diving Update – Entries are due at the end of the month. All sites are set.

Lifeguards – Mr. Maselli has been questioned whether a coach can serve as a lifeguard at away facilities. This is allowed if the facility permits it. It’s up to the facility.

Transgender Swimsuits – Mr. Maselli is receiving many questions on this topic. The swim regulations address this situation and what is and isn’t permissible. No letter is needed.

WSI – This is another topic causing much confusion. This is a Department of Education requirement for swim coaches. To coach, swim coaches need this certification. Mr. Maselli can send a copy of the rules if needed.

Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager

Changes to International Student Eligibility Guidelines – The move to using only CSIET-approved agencies is working well but a clause in the new rule is outdated so Mr. Zapicchi is proposing two changes. First, on pg. 13 of the International Student Eligibility Guidelines, Mr. Zapicchi proposes to delete the section about “Prior to 9th grade … Registration with the NJSIAA of an international-born student is not required if that student has begun his/her schooling in a member school district below the 9th grade level.” Mr. Zapicchi explained that this section is outdated given the approved changes to these guidelines.

Examples:
• International-born student – The current guidelines provide a working definition of an international student as: a "non-immigrant" student visitor who comes to the United States temporarily to take classes. A non-immigrant is someone who:
  o intends to stay in the US temporarily
  o does not have US citizenship or legal permanent resident status (a "green card")
  o applies for a student visa (either F-1 or J-1) to be allowed entry into the US
  o is enrolled in an NJSIAA member school for credit whose parents/guardian(s) have not moved into your school district at time of enrollment
  o The term International-born as currently described is not congruent with the approved definition of students under the aegis of these guidelines.

• Member school district -The Constitution and Bylaws provide for membership by schools, not school districts.(only high schools are able to be NJSIAA members)

• The section as written also exacerbates the differences between public and non-public schools as outlined by DHS (Department of Homeland Security) for admission under the F1 student visa. Under current rules, public schools are limited to one year of eligibility for this student visa, while non-public schools are allowed to honor the visa for the duration of their educational program. This section of the guidelines was written when the majority of international students came to the US for educational travel under the J1 student visa. The duration of the J1 student visa is for one year for public and non-public schools.
In some states, all F1 students get only one year of eligibility, regardless of school type (public or non-public). NJSIAA will continue to follow the rule as outlined by the DHS but will monitor the situation to see if changes need to be made.

The second change Mr. Zapicchi would like to see is the removal of the following requirement: As a part of applying for athletic eligibility for the international student, the admitting school is asked to provide a description of living conditions for the student, as described by the host family. With the rule change that says only students that come to a member school through a CSIET approved agency can be eligible for athletics, this requirement is redundant. CSIET approved agencies routinely check on the living conditions for the students so this removal would reduce the clerical requirements for member school athletic directors.

This proposal was voted on later in the meeting, under the Program Review section of the agenda.

**Director of Finance Report – Colleen Maguire**

**ShopRite Cup Standings- Fall** – Ms. Maguire distributed the ShopRite Cup Fall 2018 standings/report. Fall leaders are as follows:

- **Group 4** - Ridgewood HS
- **Group 3** - Millburn HS
- **Group 2** - Holmdel HS
- **Group 1** - New Providence HS
- **Non-Public A** - Christian Brothers Academy
- **Non-Public B** - Trinity Hall

**Student Advisory Update** – The Student Advisory Council met on 11/15. A speaker from the Special Olympics and officials, Greg Bailey and Maureen Dzwill spoke to the council. The students felt there wasn’t enough time for discussion, so the Central/South Student Advisory representatives and ambassadors will meet in February for open discussion time, while the North Student Advisory representatives and ambassadors will meet in March for the same purpose. On Sunday, 1/6/19, the student ambassadors met and are brainstorming future legislative proposals.

**Annual Meeting Update – New Legislation Timeline** – Due to the passed legislation in December, there is a new timeline for proposing new legislation. There will no longer be a March legislation deadline or an April Advisory Committee meeting. The new legislative proposal deadline is 12/1. Proposals submitted on 12/1, if approved, will roll out the same time in 2020/2021 as they would have if they were still due March 15th.

**Classifications Committee Meeting** – The committee will meet on 1/10 and can focus on classifications only, since last year the concentration was more on cooperative sports. The goal is to minimize the enrollment gap and look at non-public gender specific classifications. The committee will run through all the possible different scenarios and brainstorm solutions.

**Cooperative Sports Legislation Implementation** – All approved cooperative sports agreements will be grandfathered in. Dan Vivino will continue to serve as chair of the committee, along with nine other committee members. On 1/23, the committee will meet with the following three goals: 1-Identify a transition plan; 2-Approve an application process; and 3- Set review dates by season. The Executive Committee will serve as the appeals review committee.
Finance Committee Update – Vincent Smith

Approval of November/December 2018 Checkbook – A motion was made by Rob Haraka, seconded by James Gaffney, to accept the November and December 2018 check registers, as approved by the finance committee, as well as monthly approvals according to policy. The motion was approved unanimously.

Program Review

Changes to International Student Eligibility Guidelines – 1st Reading – This proposal was outlined under Mr. Zapicchi’s report. A motion was made by Rob Haraka, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to approve the proposed changes to the International Student Eligibility Guidelines, as outlined in Michael Zapicchi’s report. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

Old Business – None.

New Business – The Patrick School Boys Basketball Waiver Request of the 70% Rule – A motion was made by Edward Grande, seconded by Bill Vacca, to waive the 70% in-state competition for The Patrick School’s boys’ basketball team for the 2018-2019 season. Steve Shohfi made mention that this same waiver was granted for St. Mary’s, who is in the same conference as The Patrick School. Rob Haraka questioned 1-why the school is asking now and not earlier in the season and 2-if the school has exhausted all their options? Mr. Grande only received the information two weeks ago so he was unable to speak as to why it wasn’t submitted earlier. Ms. Cole concurred that it should have been submitted earlier just to cover themselves if they needed it; but she did explain that the original request came from the conference. NJSIAA told the conference they can’t request a waiver for the whole conference schools had to make their requests individually. That may be part of the reason for the hold up. Mr. Grauso questioned if waivers had to be submitted by a certain deadline, which they don’t. Mr. Haraka asked if waivers are permitted once this rule goes to 60% in-state competition instead of 70% (this was approved at the 2018 annual meeting.) and if allowed, Mr. Haraka recommended not granting them since the required percentage was lowered. Final Vote: Yes-25, No-6; Abstain-0, therefore motion carried.

Report of Counsel – Steven P. Goodell, Esq. / Closed Session

A motion was made by Maureen Bilda, seconded by Greg Bailey to enter in to closed session at 12:03 pm. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Dr. William George, seconded by Mary Liz Ivins to come out of closed session at 12:25 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Bill Vacca, to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. White
Executive Director

LLW: In