Steve Timko opened up the meeting with an introduction of all the directors and attendees.

Guardian Innovations Presentation – Tony Plagman

- Guardian Innovations is the newest corporate sponsor of the NJSIAA. They will be providing the Pearl Lacrosse Ball which will be the official ball of the NJSIAA Lacrosse Tournament. Tony Plagman went over the specifications of the lacrosse ball and the advantages it has over the traditional ball used and the different price points.
- Guardian Innovations also provides Guardian Caps which can be placed over the helmet for added protection. The specifications and different uses and advantages of the Guardian Caps was discussed.
- An electronic email with more detailed information will be provided to all of the League & Conference Officers to forward to your schools. Tony Plagman is the contact person for Guardian. He can be reached at tony@guardiancaps.com; Cell: 770-714-1144; Company Website: GuardianInnovations.com.

Conference Topics

- Gus Kalikas – Union County Conference/Mid State 38 Football Conference Power Points as they relate to schools playing the top two divisions in the NJFSC.
  - Jack DuBois advised the officers that a football committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 25, 2017 to address this issue.

Steve Timko Report

- Legislative Update – Paul Anzano’s Report was provided. A Bill is listed which establishes measures to deter steroid use among students; $45,000 to DOE for NJSIAA year round testing of student-athletes for steroids and other performance enhancing substances. If money is put into the budget, chances of receiving the added funds will be in our favor. The NJSIAA will not be in charge of Cheerleading. The rules and regulations of the NJSIAA would present issues with the cheer community.
Report of Annual Meeting Legislation—Three ballots were voted on at the annual meeting on December 5, 2016.

- Ballot #1: NJSIAA staff has proposed to change the time-period for classification of member schools from annual (new classifications each year) to biennial (new classifications every other year). 248 in favor, 55 opposed, 0 abstentions. This proposal 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 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 did not pass.

- The Fall Championship season went very well, thanks to the hard work of the Directors.
- All Winter Championship Sites and Regulations are set. Winter Regulations can be found on the website under each specific sport.
- Wrestling Update:
  - Shorten gaps from the semifinals match to the finals match.
  - An additional 112 wrestlers will now qualify. The starting time has changed for the tournament on Friday with a start time of 2:30pm and a Saturday start time at 9am. Sunday’s start time will remain the same, 10am.
  - A total of 448 wrestlers will be competing, rooms are still available at Bally’s & Caesar’s at a great rate.
- The NIAA Conference was held in Nashville, Tennessee. Congratulations to John DiCollo who received the “Distinguished Award.” Joe Piro and Bill Edelman did a wonderful job presenting this year.
- The Medical Advisory Committee Meeting focused on Concussions. A concussion specialist spoke about measuring brain waves to determine how the injury took place and how long the athlete should be out. A large number of doctors are not knowledgeable in concussions and the proper precautions are not taken.
- Opioids Roundtable was held in December. In attendance were doctors, attorneys, law enforcement professionals, pharmaceutical reps, and NJSIAA. The goal is to better educate our athletes on how to prevent substance abuse.

Jack DuBois Report

- 10 Football championship games were played at MetLife, Rutgers, Kean and Rowan. The controversy with the North II, Group IV bracket resulted in having to play their first round games over Thanksgiving weekend. Overall the Football Championships went well.
- Boys Soccer Results were provided. The Tournaments were held at Kean University which were a success.
- Fencing Districts Tournament Cut-off Date is January 13, 2017.
  - 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
- Ice Hockey cutoff date is February 6, 2017 and seeding will take place on February 14, 2017.
- The 2017 New Jersey High School All-Star Basketball Classic will be held at Rider University on March 19, 2017. All submissions are due on Friday, January 27, 2017. The selection meeting will be on Monday, January 30, 2017.
- Corporate Status Update. We have 3 new sponsors, Guardian Innovations, the U.S. Marines and American Dairy Association Northeast. At the February League & Conference Meeting the Marines and America Dairy Association will be here to make a presentation which will provide more detailed information on their sponsorship roles.
- The Wardlaw Hartridge School and Union Catholic High School Boys Lacrosse Co-Op has been granted.
- The Boys Lacrosse Proposal did not come out of program review to change the public school classification from a North/South sectional format to a group state wide classification as a one-year pilot program.

Larry White Report (Absent)

- Fall 2016 Disqualification Report
- In Larry’s absence a handout was provided with detailed information on Gymnastics, Volleyball, Basketball and Bowling Updates.
- Baseball Rules Committee Proposal was distributed with the information as to (3) three men umpire crews being used during the Public and Non-Public Sectional Semifinals.
- Pitch Count Pilot Program, Assignment of Ice Hockey Officials and Management of Contests Played at Regional Venues Packet distributed.

Kim DeGraw-Cole Report

- In Kim’s absence a handout was provided of her Report which contained Field Hockey Results and Softball/Baseball/Volleyball Rules interpretation Meetings.
- New Jersey Celebrates National Girls and Women in Sports Day will be held on January 29, 2017. 170 female athletes will be honored. West Essex High School’s field hockey and girls lacrosse coach, Jill Cosse-Minnella, will receive this year’s prestigious National Girls and Women in Sports High School Honor Award.

Bill Bruno Report

- Winter Track Relays begin on Thursday, January 19, 2017. Our new corporate sponsor American Dairy Association North East will be providing chocolate milk to the athletes at our Meet of Champion Events.
- The NJSCA Hall of Fame Applications are due on January 20, 2017. As of today’s date, the response has been very low. Please considering nominating a coach.
- On January 13, 2017 the NJSCA will be holding a coaches clinic at Princeton University. 77 coaches have signed up for this clinic.
- Upcoming Clinics: Track & Field/XC Coaches Clinic will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at Manalapan High School. Wrestling Coaches Clinic will be held on Friday, May 5, 2017 will be held at Princeton University. More information is available on our website.
- Cross Country Entry Fee Proposal eliminating the current $80.00 team entry fee to be replaced with a $14.00 per individual entry fee was approved at the committee level with a vote of 12-0.

Al Stumpf Report

- Girls Soccer Tournament Results were included in a handout. Parsippany Hills won the North II Championship Title by coming from the bottom of the bracket for the Championship win.
- Swimming Entry Deadlines are due in the office on January 31, 2017 by 11AM. Team Seeding will take place on February 2. Every team must powerpoint 2 meets regardless of whether they enter the tournament or not. All Tournament Refusal Forms must be submitted by January 30, 2017.
- Diving Entry Deadlines are due on February 17, 2017 by 8PM to the Tournament Director. All divers must be entered on edive. Divers must have competed in 50% of the school’s meets to be eligible to enter.
- Al provided a copy of the Swimming/Diving Forms.
- Swimming Sites have been set. The Finals will be held at the College of New Jersey.
- Unified Sports Update
Unified Bowling will not be held this year
Unified Basketball - Teams need to have played at least 2 interscholastic games to enter tournament, the tournament will be on the same dates as the State Tournaments if numbers show an interest, and if teams plan on entering SO Summer Program they must play in the state tournament to be eligible to enter the Summer Program.
Spring Track - Spring Sports Participation Forms have been modified. If your school is planning on competing please check off the box. So far the response for Unified Spring Track has been good, please encourage your schools to get involved with the Unified Program.
A Unified Spring Track Questionnaire was included on the last page of the handout. Please complete and return to Al Stumpf at astumpf@njsiaa.org or fax to 609-259-3047.

Colleen Maguire Report

- A list of Missing Winter Participation Numbers which was due back to the office on December 15, 2016 was distributed. Please forward to your member schools on the list to submit this information as soon as possible.
- A detailed list of Outstanding Invoices Greater than 90+ Days Past Due was provided. PO’s need to be on the books in order to participate in the Winter Relays.
- The Fall Season financial results are being finalized. The season looks to be 7%-8% under budget.
- Drafts of the Spring Classifications have been posted to the AD Forum, the final classifications will be posted to the website by the end of the month.

Mike Zapicchi Report

- Constitution Revisions will be posted on the website. One document will highlight all the changes and the other will separate and list the specific changes. Any questions please do not hesitate to contact Mike Zapicchi.
- Proposed changes to the NJSIAA Transfer Rule were distributed. The handout provided detailed information on this proposal. A lengthy discussion ensued on the advantages and disadvantages of this change. Mike Zapicchi is willing to come out to any conference to further discuss this proposal. Please contact Mike at mzacicchi@njsiaa.org with any questions.

The next League & Conference Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2017