EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 16, 2019

Flag Salute

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Mary Liz Ivins, at 11:10 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Greg Bailey, Tom Berrios, Maureen Bilda, Joseph Bollendorf, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jr., Jason Corley, Joanne Dzama, Judy Finch Johnson, James Gaffney, Edward Grande, Robert Grauso, Oscar Guerrero, Robert Haraka, Kurt Karcich, Raymond Kiem, Howard Krieger, Bill McDermott, Timothy McElhinney, Dominick Miletta, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Michael Nitti, Leon Owen, Michael Pellegrino, Christopher Penna, Steve Shohfi, Daniel Sinclair, Vincent Smith, Frank Torcasio, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, Paul Vizzuso, Kathy Whalen, Denis Williams and Dr. Brian Zychowski. Also present: Larry L. White, Executive Director; Jack DuBois, Bill Bruno, Al Stumpf and Tony Maselli, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; and Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Darren Cooper, NorthJersey.com and Mike McGarry, Press of AC. Also present: Casey Langal, Esq. of Lenox Law Firm; Rich Lamberson, Athletic Director at St. John Vianney HS, and Joe Spernal, Ranney School.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Maureen Bilda, to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2019 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Ranney School Appeal to the Co-Op Committee Decision – According to NJSIAA’s Constitution and Bylaws, the Executive Committee shall serve as an appellate body when needed. The Ranney School submitted an application to the Cooperative Sports Committee (CSC) to co-op in ice hockey with St. John Vianney HS. The CSC denied the request. Ranney School then appealed the CSC decision and a hearing was held by the Cooperative Sports Appeals Committee (CSAC), a sub-committee of the Executive Committee. After hearing testimony, the CSAC affirmed the CSC decision. The Ranney School is now appealing the CSAC decision. Today, the Executive Committee, after hearing testimony from the Ranney School, St. John Vianney HS, and a representative from the CSAC, must determine whether the decision issued by the CSAC was fair based on the facts presented or if the decision should be overturned because it was arbitrary and capricious. Casey Langal, Esquire, who served as Hearing Officer for the CSAC hearing, presided over today’s appeal. Members of the Executive Committee who had served on the CSAC, and members of the Executive Committee who served as representatives from the Shore Conference, were asked to recuse themselves. Mr. Shohfi, a member of the Point Pleasant School Board, also recused himself. Presentations were given by Rich Lamberson, Athletic Director at St. John Vianney HS, Joe Spernal on behalf of the Ranney School, and Kevin Carty, on behalf of the CSAC Committee. The proceedings were transcribed by a court reporter. After testimony, a motion was made by Greg Bailey,
seconded by Maureen Bilda to enter in to closed session. When the committee returned to open session, a motion was made by Maureen Bilda, seconded by Greg Bailey, to support the decision made by the Cooperative Sports Appeal Committee. Motion carried by a vote of 27 Yes, 0 No and 7 Abstentions.

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**Executive Director Update – Larry L. White**

**Legislative Update** – Mr. Anzano was unable to attend but there is nothing new to report.

**NFHS Section I Meeting** – From October 2 – 4, Mr. White, along with representatives from the seven other Section 1 states, attended the Section 1 meeting in Connecticut. John Black, attorney for the NFHS spoke about legal challenges across the US right now. Connecticut is currently in litigation over their transgender policy, which is the same policy NJ uses. NJ hasn’t yet been challenged but is monitoring the outcome of Connecticut’s situation. In PA, there is a case involving a lacrosse official, and whether officials are considered employees of state associations or independent contractors who have the right to unionize. In the PA case, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals determined that the lacrosse officials were independent contractors, who did not have the right to unionize under the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. Classifying officials as employees, rather than as independent contractors, would be a difficult for state associations.

**Conference Meeting Visits** – Staff used to attend conferences’ monthly meetings until the Leagues and Conferences Officers meetings began at NJSIAA. Due to the huge turnover of athletic directors, and the fact that only officers go to the monthly meetings held at NJSIAA, each NJSIAA Director including Mr. White will resume visiting the different conferences again. Each director will go to approximately two conference meetings across the state. Mr. White has received good feedback for resuming this practice.

**Gymnastics** – Entries close 10/22. Sectionals are set for 11/2. This year all sectionals will begin at 9am so scores from all meets will be posted at the same time, so there are no advantages to some sites for starting later. The team and individual state championships will be held at Montgomery HS on 11/7 and 11/9 respectively. Mr. White thanked Mr. Penna for hosting both events.

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**Assistant Director Reports**

**Kim DeGraw-Cole**

Ms. Cole was not in attendance because she was in the field hockey seeding meeting. She distributed a written report to the committee.

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**Jack DuBois**

**Football** – Intent cards will be available to fill out on 10/24 and are due back on 10/28. Seeding for the state tournament and scheduling of regional crossover games will take place on 11/3. First round games will be played on November 8th & 9th, with second round games being played the following weekend (Nov. 15 & 16). Public sectional finals will be held at the higher seed on 11/22 & 11/23. The Football Leagues and Conferences met on 9/25. The lack of officials and clock operators available is a big concern.
Corporate – Wilson Sporting Goods has renewed their contract for another five years to be the association's official all-ball sponsor. Mr. DuBois thanked Executive Committee member, Bill McDermott for his assistance in renewing this contract.

Workshops – So far, 20 are registered for the Legal One workshop on 10/21, which focuses on social media and athletics.

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Bill Bruno

Cross Country Update – Approximately 10,000 athletes are expected to compete in sectionals, which will take place at four different sites across the state.

Wrestling Update – Mr. Bruno visited Boardwalk Hall last week. The individual state tournament will start 90 minutes earlier (12:00 Noon on Thursday) and the girls’ matches have been rearranged so they do not overlap with the boys. Rules and Regulations will be posted next week.

Winter Track Update – Tournament Rules & Regulations will be posted next week. The only thing not finalized is the Meet of Champions Order of Events at Ocean Breeze. Mr. Bruno wants boys and girls to compete on the same day, and is adding Long Jump, Triple Jump and the 200-meter run.

NJSCA Clinics – The following NJSCA clinics are coming up: Golf Clinic on 10/29 at Galloping Hill Golf Course, Baseball Clinic at Diamond Nation on 12/12 and Track & Field / Cross Country Clinic at the Bubble in Toms River on 12/14.

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Al Stumpf

Basketball Assignors Update – Interviews finish up by next week, and when completed, four regional assignors will be selected.

Girls Soccer Update – Cutoff is 10/19. 1st round begins 10/26 or 10/28. There are two starting dates because there is a shortage of officials. The non-public group finals will be played on 11/10 while the public group finals will be on 11/16. Both will be at Kean University. Mr. Stumpf distributed a list of semi-final sites.


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Tony Maselli

Boys Soccer Update – Cutoff is 10/19 and seeding takes place next week.

Girls Tennis Update – The team tournament is almost over. The team semis and finals were scheduled for 10/17 but were postponed to 10/18 due to weather. Mercer County Park was concerned about having enough time to clean up debris left by the impending storms. The singles/doubles tournament finals take place on Saturday, 10/19. Then the tennis tournament is completed.
Website / ZebraWeb Update – There have been tremendous strides made in the last few weeks for both programs, and Mr. Maselli hopes to roll out the new website soon. The officials and assignors will be very happy with ZebraWeb, while the new website looks great and has a lot of information that NJSIAA will have access to, which isn’t the case with the current website.

Mike Zapicchi

Establishment of NJSIAA Personnel Committee (Majority Vote) – Article 2, Section 3 of the Bylaws, states that the Executive Committee may, at its discretion, appoint other committees to which it may delegate specific functions. Mr. Zapicchi proposed to form a NJSIAA Personnel Committee to develop protocols for and conduct performance evaluations of NJSIAA’s Executive Director and Assistant Directors. Mr. Zapicchi proposes that the committee be comprised of the three current Executive Committee officers, plus two additional Executive Committee members. If approved, the committee will meet at the end of this meeting. A motion to approve the formation of a NJSIAA personnel committee was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Vinny Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Compliance Initiative – Compliance monitors will now have an additional three check-list items when going on their visits. They will check to assure that 1- Athletic Directors can log in to the new Home Campus system; 2-there’s a Residency Affidavit Form on file and it can be reproduced; and 3-Can show the school’s accreditation.

The International Student Form will go online and be displayed on same screen as the other transfer forms. There will be no more paper forms.

Colleen Maguire – Director of Finance Report

Increase to Annual Dues – By-laws Article IV (Roll Call Vote – 2nd Reading – A motion to increase NJSIAA’s annual dues from $2,150 to $2,500 was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Maureen Bilda. A role call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-36; No-0; Abstain-1 (Whalen). Motion carried with one abstention.

2019-2020 Membership Status – At this time, the total number of member schools for the 2019-2020 school year is 434. There may be one or two add-ons at a later date. The membership is 20% non-public schools and 80% public schools, with 28 independent schools that have no conference affiliation. There are 21 Vo-Tech schools, which is consistent with years past, but there’s been an increase in charter schools (19 this year v 10 five years ago).

Senior Summit Luncheon – This event was another huge success with over 100 student-athletes in attendance. Speakers include four-time Olympian Joetta Clark Diggs, Tyrone Johnson, Bob Hurley and Deb Hult, who did a well received, hands-on presentation about social emotional intelligence and people skills. Special thanks were given to Executive Committee Senator Sarlo, who gave an inspiring speech to kids, and challenged them to give back to their community.

Student Ambassador Officials Appreciation Week – The ambassadors were alarmed after reading the NFHS article about the shortage of officials and the reasons they are quitting. To combat the problem, the students came up with the idea to designate a full week each season to honor officials. Paramus HS created a certificate to hand out, which Ms. Maguire shared with the membership if they want to use as well. Some of the athletes and schools were sharing
pictures on social media of this event, including two fellow ambassadors who competed against each other that week. Ms. Maguire thanked nj.com for their media coverage of this special week. Mr. Maselli added that he received a call from the Georgia Athletic Association, who loved the initiative so much, they plan to do the same in their state. Ms. Dzama asked if there was communication to assignors because though pleased with the initiative, they were not originally aware it was taking place. Ms. Maguire will send out a message through Arbiter next time officials are honored.

Finance Committee Update – Mary Liz Ivins

Approval of Monthly Checks – The September 2019 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Denis Williams made a motion, seconded by Paul Vizzuso, to approve the September 2019 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Counsel (Steven Goodell, Esq.)

The Buena Task Force Committee wrapped up its investigation and came to a final agreement with the Division on Civil Rights. The final report was published and released. It received a great deal of attention when it was released. Mr. Goodell thanked Task Force members Mary Liz Ivins, Vinny Smith and Dave Frazier for their time and willingness to serve.

Old Business / New Business

Old Business - Mr. Bailey felt having a week dedicated to officials has meant a lot to those officiating. He commended the initiative and saluted the ambassadors and Ms. Maguire for the idea.

Mr. Shohfi shared the news that long-time Arthur L. Johnson AD, Lou Peragallo, passed away. He was a friend to the NJSIAA and husband to former NJSIAA Associate Director, Flo Peragallo.

Mr. McElhinney shared that long-time Bergen Catholic Athletic Director, Jack McGovern also just recently passed. There were many moments of silence held for Jack, which was a huge testament to his impact. Thousands came to his wake. Mr. McGovern loved being an Athletic Director and is very missed, so Mr. McElhinney wanted to take a minute to recognize him.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Christopher Penna, to adjourn the meeting at 12:32 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry L. White, Executive Director

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