Flag Salute

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Elaine McGrath, at 11:05 am.

The following members were present: Greg Bailey, Maureen Bilda, John Bulina, Kevin Carty, Jr., Bill Edelman, Judy Finch Johnson, Dr. William George, Sharron Grady, Robert Grauso, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Richard Kaz, Monsignor Michael Kelly, Chuck Klaus, Howard Krieger, Bill McDermott, Matthew McFarland, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahaey, Michael Nitti, Sue Petrone, Paul Popadiuk, Philip Schaffer, Steve Shohfi, Vincent Smith, Beverly Torok, Todd VanOrden, Kathy Whalen, and Denis Williams. Also present: Steven J. Timko, Executive Director; Kim DeGraw-Cole, Larry White, Jack DuBois, Bill Bruno, and Al Stumpf, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager; and Michael W. Herbert, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; Mike McGarry, Press of Atlantic City; Steve Falk, Asbury Park Press: Darren Cooper, Record; and Matt Stanmyre, NJ Advance Media. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C., Heather Anderson, CEO and Bill DePonte, Director of Program Development of Special Olympics NJ.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Beverly Torok, to accept the minutes of the September 14, 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 distributed for informational purposes.

Heather Anderson, CEO, and Bill DePonte, Director of Program Development at Special Olympics NJ presented the association with a plaque for its involvement with Unified Sports. This school year, $380,000 in grants has been given out to schools to develop Unified Sports programs.

Executive Director Update – Steven J. Timko

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – The gas tax issue has been addressed and the redshirting bill has passed one house but is not moving along in the Assembly. Bill A1878, which increases the amount of permitted annual compensation from $10,000 to $15,000 paid to TPAF retirees reemployed as coaches, is being voted on 10/20/16 and should pass. The proposal for NJSIAA to oversee cheerleading and the proposal to prohibit the use of non-wood bats in certain organized games is always monitored but there is no momentum behind either piece of legislation. Bill S367/A2353 which establishes measures to deter steroid use among students and appropriates an additional $45,000 to DOE for New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association testing of student-athletes for steroids and other performance enhancing substances, is being put on hold until NJ has a different governor since Governor Christie has vetoed this bill three times. Lastly, there was concern regarding liability if an athlete doesn’t...
wear recommended safety glasses in certain sports. Mr. Anzano clarified that NJSIAA is not responsible if protective gear is not worn by an athlete.

**FYE 2016 Financial Audit** – Tom Angelo, partner at NJSIAA’s auditing firm, Spire Group, reviewed the June 30, 2016 audit report, which was approved by the Finance Committee. Field work was performed the week of August 15, 2016 here at the NJSIAA offices. The audit went smoothly and the auditors proposed three small adjusting journal entries which were recorded by the Association. The adjusting entries related to invoices from the spring tournaments that were received in August. There are no concerns surrounding internal controls or management. The NJSIAA received an unmodified opinion.

Total assets were up 18% during the current year primarily due to the $446,000 increase in net assets recognized during the 2015-2016 fiscal year. The increase in net assets was primarily attributable to the $310,000, or 6%, increase in total revenues which was due to revenues recognized from two new broadcast contracts entered into during August 2015 as well as increased gate fees, specifically during the football playoffs, resulting from ideal weather and good matchups. Total expenses increased $68,000, or 1.3%, primarily due to the addition of one additional director to the staff.

Mr. Angelo also commented that the Association has already reinvested approximately $145,000 in capital expenditures over the summer months. Capital improvements such as repaving the parking lot, replacing the carpeting throughout the office, build out of a new enclosed office space and new office furniture. The Association is operating just under a five-month reserve and it is not unreasonable to target a 12-month reserve since a large percentage of total revenue is variable, such as gate receipts and corporate sponsorships.

A motion was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Todd VanOrden, to accept the FYE 2016 financial audit. A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-26, No-0, Abstentions-0. Motion carried unanimously.

**Sectional Meetings** – Mr. Timko thanked the following schools - Millburn HS, Montclair HS and Washington Twp HS - for hosting a sectional meeting.

**NFHS Section I Meeting** – The meeting, which was attended by the eight Section I states from NJ to Maine, took place in Vermont. A professor from U Mass Amherst presented effective transgender policies to the group. Some topics of discussion included public/non-public issues and moving some Section 1 states such as NJ and NY, which have more schools, to Section 2 or 4 instead.

**NJSIAA Bollinger HOF – Class of 2016** – A motion was made by Monsignor Michael Kelly, seconded by Judy Finch Johnson, to accept the following Class of 2016, to be inducted into the NJSIAA Gallagher Bollinger Inc. Hall Of Fame on 12/5/16: Alois “Al” Leiter, John Millar, Dr. Dave Sime (posthumous award), Ron “Itchy” Smith, Edward Stinson, and Milt Wagner. Motion carried unanimously.

**NFHS “My Reason Why” Campaign** – NFHS is trying to increase the participation of member schools with a campaign focusing on why athletics is important. The ads showcase values of high school sports. NJSIAA is hoping to solicit stories of NJ athletes. More information about the campaign can be found on NJSIAA’s home page.
Assistant Director Reports

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Field Hockey – Cutoff was 10/18 and seeding will be 10/20. Games will be played at the higher seed until the public state semifinals. Hightstown HS is a new public state semi-finals site, replacing Robbinsville HS. Other sites include Egg Harbor Twp HS, AL Johnson HS and Boonton HS.

Girls Tennis – The first round of the singles/doubles tournament was rained out so all matches were rescheduled for the following weekend, where it turned out to be a beautiful weekend. The team group semi-finals and finals is scheduled for 10/20 at Mercer County Park but it may rain again so Ms. Cole is in the process of securing backup indoor courts. The team Tournament of Champions will be held the following week at the Garden State Tennis Center.

Website Update – Ms. Cole reported that the ability for a Professional Assistant to log in to the NJSIAA website has launched. Ms. Cole also encouraged everyone to check out the sports tournament programs created by Jenny Yelle, posted on NJSIAA’s website.

Jack DuBois

Football – Cutoff is 10/24 and seeding will take place on 11/6. First round games will be played on 11/11 and 11/12.

Boy’s Soccer – Seeding will take place on 10/26, with first round games beginning on 10/31. A listing of sites for all semifinals and finals was distributed.

NJSIAA Sports Awards – A listing of recipients who will receive a NJSIAA sports or service award at the Hall of Fame program on 12/5/16 was distributed. A motion was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by John Bulina, to approve the 2016 NJSIAA sports award honorees. Motion carried unanimously. Congratulations to Executive Committee member, Bill Edelman, who will receive the special Award of Honor for his years of outstanding service as an Athletic Director, DAANJ President, Executive Committee member and member of many NJSIAA committees.

Policy Committee Meeting – Cooperative Sports Issues – The committee met and is reviewing the application process. The committee will meet again in November and January, with a final recommendation/report in February. The committee is discussing application due dates for each season, whether a disqualification should be applied to both participating schools - not just the LEA, whether uniforms that contain both school names should be permitted, and whether a maximum number of players should be established if a school is requesting a three-school cooperative sports program.

Edison/JP Stevens/Metuchen HS Ice Hockey Tri-School Co-Op Waiver – A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Monsignor Michael Kelly, to allow Edison HS, JP Stevens HS, and Metuchen HS to waive Bylaws, Article III Classification of Member Schools, Section 10B, CL 2 (3), and establish a three-party co-operative sports program in the sport of ice hockey for the 2016-2017 season (one year only). Bill Edelman asked if the conferences approve of the merger, which they do. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Cooperative Sports Program – A motion was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Dr. William George, to approve the following two cooperative sports programs:
  i. Camden HS / Woodrow Wilson HS - Wrestling
ii. Edison HS / JP Stevens HS / Metuchen HS – Ice Hockey

Motion passed unanimously.

Bill Edelman asked if NJSIAA staff can discuss forfeitures due to health concerns. He expressed that residual points should be awarded to schools if a Chief Medical Officer says the school cannot play due to a health risk/epidemic. If a school is honest for the wellbeing of others schools and their athletes, it should not be penalized.

Larry White

Gymnastics – NJSIAA is all set for sectionals. Seneca HS will return as a host site. Last year a wind storm damaged their roof, so they were unable to host. All five sectionals will take place on 11/5. The team and individual state championship will be 11/10 and 11/12 respectively, both at Montgomery HS.

Volleyball – Cutoff is 10/19 with seeding on 10/26. The highest remaining seeded teams host the sectional finals with two separate sectional sites per the five brackets. Group Finals and all T of C games will be played at William Paterson University. Dates and times were distributed.

Please note – next meeting the committee will vote whether to waive the 70% rule in basketball for Immaculate Conception Lodi and Saddle River Day School. Both schools are having difficulty scheduling in-state games and are looking for relief.

Bill Bruno

Cross Country – Entries are due today, 10/19. 362 schools entered the tournament. Mr. Bruno distributed a listing of all sectional sites for 11/5 and encouraged all to come support.

NFHS State Coach of the Year Honorees – Mr. Bruno distributed a listing of honorees chosen by the NJSCA Board of Governors to receive NFHS State Coach of the Year awards. A motion was made by Beverly Torok, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to approve the 2016 NFHS State Coach of the Year honorees. Motion carried unanimously.

NJSCA Hall of Fame – Nomination forms, which can be found on the NJSIAA website, are due 1/20/17. Mr. Bruno is hoping that inductees are represented from all sections of the state.

Clinics – There is a golf clinic on 11/1/16 at Galloping Hill Golf Course. To date, 23 coaches are registered. Other upcoming clinics: The baseball clinic is on 12/15 at Diamond Nation and the tennis clinic is on 1/13/17 at Princeton University.

Al Stumpf

Unified Sports – Programs are developing and guidelines for bowling and basketball have been created and distributed. Last week Special Olympics held an orientation meeting for schools that have received grants. Since then, more schools have expressed an interest in developing a Unified Sports program. Somerset County is holding a Unified Sports bowling county tournament, while two other counties are having Unified relays. Mr. Stumpf wanted to clarify a misconception – if schools are self-funding their unified programs, they can participate in the
state and county tournaments. It is not only open to those receiving grants. The soccer Shriver Cup will take place on 10/30 at Mercer County Park in Hamilton at 10am.

**Soccer** – Cutoff is 10/22 and seeding will be 10/26. A listing of all tournament sites was distributed.

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**Michael Zapicchi**

**Compliance Update** – Mr. Zapicchi requested that administrators continue to notify him of new Athletic Director hires.

**NJSIAA Constitution Changes** – Next month the committee will receive the first of two handouts full of recommended changes to the NJSIAA Constitution. Most will be formatting changes.

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**Colleen Maguire – Director of Finance Report**

**2016-2017 Membership Status** – After a tedious collections process, every school that wishes to participate in NJSIAA’s fall tournaments will be eligible. Only 11 schools still owe something (whether it is an unpaid invoice 90 days past due, annual dues, an affidavit, or a member resolution card.) Of those 11 schools, all are either charter schools or academies. Next month, Ms. Maguire will be able to provide the total number of schools that are members of the association.

**Update on Outstanding Receivables** – Last month, there was $25,000 outstanding from invoices past ninety days. Now only $10,000 is due, and all 40 schools have submitted a PO as proof of payment coming.

**Fall Ticket Price Submissions** – There are no changes in fall sites, therefore no new ticket price requests. The request process was smooth with no issues.

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**Finance Committee Update – Elaine McGrath**

**Approval of Monthly Checks** – The September 2016 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 Bev Torok, to approve the September 2016 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Program Review**

**Golf Extension of Season** – This was pulled from the program review agenda since it is already allowable, per the program regulations.

**Swimming: Reporting Swim Times Penalties – 1st Reading** – A motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Rob Haraka, to implement a three-tiered penalty system to any school who does not enter results and first place times at njschoolsports.com. First offense: notification by NJSIAA to school; Second offense: $150 fine; Third offense removal from the team tournament. This was approved by the Swim Committee and the Program Review Committee. Motion passed first reading unanimously. Mr. Edelman asked if there is a time limitation to pay
Girls Lacrosse Change to Classifications-Tournament/Softball Scrimmages/Wrestling Team/Individual Tournament – 2nd Reading – A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Dr. William George, to approve the following three proposals in its 2nd reading:

1- Structure the girls lacrosse tournament as follows: move to sections - North I, North II, Central and South, each with 4 groups (13 or 14 teams in each section), have sectional champions crowned, and conduct state Semi-finals with North I vs. North II and Central vs. South.

2- In softball, allow a school when competing in the State Tournament, to schedule with teams entered in the tournament one (1) scrimmage during any week in which it has only one (1) or two (2) scrimmages during any week in which there are no games. These scrimmages will not count in the total number of allowable games.

3- In wrestling, expand the brackets in the team tournament from six qualifying teams to eight qualifying teams with no byes, advance all fourth place region finishers in wrestling to the individual finals, and realign schools in wrestling regions by northing numbers and then once placed in regions, realign schools in to districts by a snaking method from power rankings.

Motion passed second reading unanimously.

Report of Counsel (Michael W. Herbert)

1. The association is still waiting on a decision from the Commissioner regarding Delbarton School’s appeal to the 6/1/16 Executive Committee decision, which upheld the Leagues and Conferences Subcommittee decision that Delbarton School is a member of the North Jersey Super Football Conference (NJSFC) and is bound to play the scheduled provided by the NJSFC.

2. There was a transfer case where a student-athlete transferred from Shawnee HS to Timber Creek HS. The Timber Creek superintendent believed the transfer was for athletic advantage, therefore enforced NJSIAA’s rule and required student to sit out for 365 days. The parents of said student appealed. The Eligibility Appeals Committee upheld the decision by the Superintendent, and determined that the student had transferred for athletic advantage, therefore has to sit for 365 days. Mr. Herbert’s office is writing up the decision. The parents can appeal the decision to the Commissioner.

3. All information pertinent to the Timber Creek HS investigation has been received from the Camden County’s Prosecutor’s Office. There is a copious amount of material to be reviewed including over twenty audio files. Once all information is reviewed by NJSIAA, a decision will be made whether there was a violation of any NJSIAA rules.

Old Business / New Business – Tony Mitchell made a motion, seconded by Matthew McFarland, to remove the 2.0 and 1.5 power points multipliers in football for this current football season. A team that has only two wins is ranked above teams that have 5-6 wins. A 2-4 team has 105 power points vs a 6-0 team that has 95 power points. Mr. Mitchell is not asking to repeal the automatic tournament entry rule for schools that play the Super Conference football
teams, just eliminate the 2.0 and 1.5 power point multipliers. Mr. DuBois made mention that the tournament regulation worked favorably for public schools willing to play the non-public schools that no one wanted to play. Dr. George asked if the rule is accomplishing its goal – so even if a team is a 2-4 team, based on the strength of their schedule/conference, is it equitable? Mr. Mitchell responded that the three public schools that are receiving the power points multiplier only took the games for the additional power points. Mr. DuBois reminded everyone that is it a pilot program and an incentive program and the jury is still out if it is working and accomplishing its goal. Mr. Edelman feels it is a mistake to remove the multiplier mid-season. He believes you have to see the process through, and then evaluate it. Mr. Bulina expressed that schools may not have scheduled their games the way they did if this rule didn’t exist so it’s not right to change the rules in the middle of the season. Mr. Bailey seconded this sentiment. Mr. Mitchell requested to allow the three public schools the benefit of the multiplier because they did provide games to schools that needed it, but not give the multiplier benefit to the non-public schools who are required to play them. Monsignor Kelly expressed that his school was forced to play in the upper level conference and the power points is one of the incentives/reasons his school permitted it. If this rule is repealed, there will be litigation. Mr. Mullahey questioned if it’s even legal to repeal the rule mid-season. Mr. Herbert would have to look in to the legality but does feel it would be a due process issue. Mr. VanOrden expressed it is wrong to the kids/schools who scheduled the games in expectation of multiplier power points. Ms. McGrath called a question. Final Vote: Yes:2; No-23; Abstain-3. Motion defeated.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Thomas Mullahey, seconded by Sharron Grady, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

SJT: In