Flag Salute

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Thomas Coleman, at 11:05 am.

The following members were present: Gregory Bailey, Earl Clymer, Elizabeth Cresci, Paul Crupi, William DePonte, Thomas DiGanci, Bill Edelman, Dianne Furusawa, Michael Gatley, Richard Giglio, Abdul Hassan, Monsignor Kelly, Howard Krieger, Dr. James Lavender, Joe Lennon, Michael Matyas, Elaine McGrath, Thomas Mullahey, Rona McNabola, Patrick Murphy, Susan Murphy, Michael Nitti, Dr. Charles Shaddock, Rod Sharpless, Steve Shohfi, Vincent Smith, Thomas Stark, Beverly Torok, Barbara Wallace, Bruce Watson, and Scott Wolhrab. Also present: Steven J. Timko, Executive Director; Kim DeGraw-Cole, Larry White, Jack DuBois and Donald Danser, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Greg Schutta, Record; James Kratch, Star-Ledger, Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; Mike McGarry, AC Press; and Steve Falk, Asbury Park Press. Also present: Tom Angelo, partner at Spire Group; Denis Nelson – Athletic Director at River Dell Regional HS and Jamy Thomas, Athletic Director at Pennsville Memorial HS.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Dr. James Lavender, seconded by William DePonte, to accept the minutes of the September 10, 2014 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Out-of-State Competition/All-Star Games – A motion was made by Barbara Wallace, seconded by Rod Sharpless, to approve the listing of Bordering State Sanctions and National Federation Sanctions was given for informational purposes. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Update – Steven J. Timko

FYE 2014 Financial Audit – Tom Angelo, partner at NJSIAA’s new auditing firm, Spire Group, reviewed the June 30, 2014 audit report, which was approved by the Finance Committee. NJSIAA received an unqualified opinion with no need for adjustments to entries or for management comment letters, including no significant deficiencies in internal control. In conclusion, this was a very favorable audit. The net assets grew by $200,000 but only due to the one-time printing cost reduction of no longer printing programs. Total revenue was 5.2 million, a 1.7% decrease from last year. Expenses were down by 5%, to just over 5 million (again – because of no longer printing programs.)

A motion was made by Rich Giglio, seconded by Barbara Wallace, to accept the FYE 2014 financial audit. A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-31, No-0, Abstentions-0. Motion carried unanimously.

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – Three key bills were discussed:
1. **Bill A3312** provides that students attending a choice district may only play interscholastic sports on sending district sports teams unless sending district does not offer a sport that choice district offers. This bill is being held indefinitely. It will only be moved by Assemblyman Burzichelli if a solution is not reached between the Department of Education and the association.

2. **Bill A2699** proposes giving NJSIAA $45,000 more in funding to perform year-round steroid testing instead of just during championship events.

3. **Bill A3373** would require NJSIAA to regulate cheerleading. A survey has been sent out to members to gauge whether there is interest here.

Bill Edelman questioned Bill A3346, which allows reemployment by school district of TPAF retirees as coach of athletic activity when compensation is under $10,000. Mr. Edelman fears schools will lose good coaches if this bill passes. Paul Anzano will look into it and provide more information next meeting.

**Big North Early Start of Fall Season 2015 Waiver** – Past Big North Executive Director, Denis Nelson, submitted a waiver to start the fall season in 2015 one week earlier so practices would begin on 8/10 and opening days would be 9/4 or 9/5. Opening up early is optional, not mandatory. The request comes because this is the second year of a two-year cycle and is especially critical to those football schools that played on zero week in 2014. There are at least 32 schools from seven different conferences that would not be able to play a game if the waiver is not granted. This is because schools have already committed to play on zero week in 2015 so trying to find a replacement game will be too difficult since schedules are basically set at this point. This request is for football, but extended to all sports in an honest attempt to treat all sports the same.

Jamy Thomas, on behalf of the TCC, proposed a variation to the Big North’s proposal, and only provide a waiver to the schools that opened up on zero week in 2014, to be able to open up early again in 2015, and in football only. This is the third year that an early opening fall start date is being requested so it shouldn’t be a waiver, but should really go down the legislative path to make a change and have membership vote on it. That said, Jamy respects the fact that schools will have trouble finding a game now since schedules are basically set for schools and he feels that his request is a slightly different waiver than the one approved for past two years, therefore can be justified.

Discussion took place. According to Steven Goodell, waivers should be an exception, should be rare, and based on a short time and unique circumstances, and for good purpose. Bill Edelman asked if the Big North opposed the TCC proposal. Denis Nelson acknowledged that in other sports, there is enough space to maneuver games for a schedule, but in football there are a limited number of weeks to get the games in so as long as football is granted, the Big North would be satisfied. Some expressed that the extra week this past season did make the season easier to get games in, especially in tennis. On behalf of the CAL, Mike Gatley supports the TCC waiver, but if waiver is not granted, Mr. Gatley will be back to the committee with his own waiver request. Dr. Lavender asked Mr. Nelson if his conference would be opposed to only opening up the season early for the schools that opened up on zero week in 2014, to which Mr. Nelson expressed he does not have the authority to amend what was presented, but if that is what was decided, the Big North would also be ok with that solution. Mr. Nelson did express though that if only the schools that opened up on zero week in 2014 are able to open up a week early in 2015, it may upset other schools. Bill Edelman expressed liking the Big North proposal since it spreads the season and in sports like soccer which has become more physical, teams
don’t have to play three games per week. He also felt allowing exceptions for one sport and not for others sends the wrong message. Rona McNabola expressed dissatisfaction with this request being done via waiver, and not through legislation since there was ample time to go the legislative route. Bruce Watson expressed favoring the Big North proposal since it allows flexibility but ultimately leaves the starting date up to conferences. Abdul Hassan and Rod Sharpless also favor the Big North proposal since it allows for more rest and recovery time during the seasons, which is important for safety of athletes.

A motion was made by Dr. James Lavender, seconded by Bill DePonte, to approve a one-year waiver of the fall football start date for the schools that opened on zero week in 2014 and allow them to open up again, one week early, in football only, in 2015. A few expressed it was a disservice to apply this waiver to only those schools who opened up early this past year. Bev Torok expressed dislike for the earlier start date since it encroaches on family vacation and kids being able to freely enjoy their summer vacations.

William DePonte expressed that it’s difficult to get students back in August with completed physicals. Mr. DePonte made a motion to amend the original motion, and only apply the waiver to football, but extend the waiver to all schools, and not just the ones that opened on zero week in 2014. This was seconded by Tom DiGanci. Dr. Lavender expressed the amended motion is a slippery slope since a waiver should be for an extenuating circumstance, which in this case, is schools being in the second year of a two-year cycle and that’s the only issue the waiver should be addressing. Tom Coleman supported Dr. Lavender. William DePonte felt that it could affect other football programs than just those who played on zero week in 2014, with which Mike Gatley concurred and supported. Final Vote on Mr. DePonte’s motion to amend: Yes-14, No-16. Motion to amend was defeated.

A vote was then taken on the original motion, made by Dr. James Lavender and seconded by Bill DePonte, to approve a one-year waiver of the fall football start date for the schools that opened on zero week in 2014 and allow them to open up again, one week early, in football only, in 2015. Final Vote: Yes-16, No-14. Motion carried. Bill Edelman expressed displeasure with this ruling since he questioned the “level playing field” if 32 schools are able to open up earlier than the rest of the membership.

Sectional Meetings – All five meetings have been completed.

Public/Non-Public Committee – The committee has been formed and all 20 invited to serve have accepted. The first meeting will take place at the end of the month.

Surveying of Schools – Passed Legislation – The Executive Committee passed two legislative changes over the past year (outlined below). Under the NJSIAA Constitution, any legislation approved by the Executive Committee shall be forwarded to the membership and the membership shall be polled. If a majority of the membership casts ballots, the ballots shall be official and the majority of the votes cast shall decide the issue; if less than a majority of member schools respond the position of the Executive Committee is sustained. In both these cases, less than a majority of schools responded, therefore the decisions made by the Executive Committee stand. See polling results below:

1. **BALLOT #1 - SECTION 14. VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING.**
   Final Schools Vote: Yes-184; No-9; Abstain-0.

The approved change to Section 14 was as follows (material deleted is struck through; material added is underlined):
Section 14. Videotaping and Filming. Electronic Communication equipment, including but not limited to computer, film, television and videotape is permissible, but may not be used for coaching purposes during the game or between periods. Videotaping of scrimmages is a local option.

Section 14. Video and Audio Recording. Video and audio recording of interscholastic competition may only occur as permitted by NFHS rules for the sport in question. Video and audio recording of scrimmages is a local option. No video or audio recording may be used to review or challenge the decision of a sport official.

2. BALLOT #2 - BYLAW ARTICLE III, SECTION 10.B – CO-OP AMENDMENT

Final Schools Vote: Yes-175; No-15; Abstain-2.

The following was added to bylaw Article III, Section 10.B:

(7) The restrictions set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection B shall not apply to Cooperative Sports Programs in the sport of ice hockey. A Cooperative Sports Program in the sport of ice hockey may be formed between schools of any Group, as long as the program meets all other requirements of the Bylaws and the Guidelines for Cooperative Sports Programs and the program will not diminish the playing opportunities for student-athletes of the two schools or adversely affect competitive balance.

NFHS Section I Meeting – This took place in Maine. The two main topics of discussion were sportsmanship and social media policies.

NJSIAA Bollinger HOF – Class of 2014 – A motion was made by Paul Crupi, seconded by Howard Krieger, to accept the following Class of 2014, to be inducted into the NJSIAA Bollinger Hall Of Fame on 12/01/14: William "Billy" Austin, Miller Bugliari, Gil Chapman, Jessica Michelle Galli, Rich Giallella, Gilbert J. Gibbs, Jr., Joseph Hartmann, and Bruce Taylor. Motion carried unanimously.

Fall Ticket Price Submissions – Colleen Maguire submitted fall ticket price requests to the Commissioner’s Office weeks ago.

Assistant Director Reports

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Girls Tennis – The team tennis tournament is well underway and the single/doubles tournament has begun.

Field Hockey – Cutoff is 10/21 and seeding will be 10/23.

Soccer – Cutoff is 10/25 and seeding will be 10/29.

National High School Activities Month – October is National HS Activities month. A week-by-week breakdown was provided and suggested activities to do can be found at www.nfhs.org

Website Workshop – NJSIAA hosted a free workshop to help navigate and learn the new website, with focus on logging in for first time and the forum.
Website Update –

1- **Updating School Manager is critical for classification.** If a coach is not listed under a sport, then your school will not be seen as having that sport, therefore not included when classifications are calculated. Not updating School Manager can also be problematic for the disqualification process. The disqualification form is now submitted electronically through the website. Once submitted, an email notification is sent to the principal of each school involved, and if there is no name under Principal, the school will not be notified electronically.

2- Forum – is working effectively now.

3- Interactive Tournament Forms – this should be in effect for winter sports.

4- Programs – are always on the home page until after the sport is completed. Then they are moved to the individual sports tab.

National Girls and Women in Sports Day – Ms. Cole shared a story to reinforce the benefit of nominating a female for this event. One senior, when asked her best memory, cited representing her school at the National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

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**Donald Danser**

Cross Country – All sites are set. Graystone Park will host North II since Warinaco Park is under construction. Don Danser reiterated that sectionals take place the same day as SATS (11/8) so he encouraged schools to make students aware of the conflict, and the availability of testing on 11/9.

Approval of Cooperative Sports Program – A motion was made by Rona McNabola, seconded by Greg Bailey, to approve a cooperative sports program between Marlboro HS and Holmdel HS in ice hockey. Motion passed unanimously.

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**Jack DuBois**

Football – Over 200 intent cards have been received. They are due 10/22. Cutoff is 11/9, first round games – 11/14 & 11/15, second round games – 11/21 & 11/22 with finals being played 12/5 – 12/7.

Boy’s Soccer – Mr. DuBois thanked all the neutral sites (schools) for offering to host the non-public sectional finals and the public state semi-final games. All finals will be played at Kean University, non-publics on 11/16; public women’s game on 11/22 and the public men’s game on 11/23.

NJSIAA Sports Awards – Monsignor Kelly, on behalf of the Awards Committee, presented a listing of recipients who will receive a NJSIAA sports or service award at the HOF program on 12/1/14. A motion was made by Paul Crupi, seconded by Abdul Hassan, to approve the proposed 2014 sports and service award recipients. Motion carried unanimously.

Corporate – Mr. DuBois received verbal agreements from the following corporates: Parisi, Investors Bank and IAABO. Fully executed contracts are expected by the November meeting.

Ice Hockey Cooperative Sports Waiver for Paramus HS, Lyndhurst HS and Hackensack HS – A motion was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Monsignor Kelly, to grant a one-year waiver for a three-school ice hockey co-op program between Paramus HS, Lyndhurst HS and Hackensack HS.
HS. Together Paramus and Lyndhurst have 13 players and Hackensack has 9. Motion carried with one opposition (Rona McNabola).

**Larry White**

**Gymnastics** – All sites set and dates/times were distributed. The Sectional Tournament, being played at Ridgewood HS (North I), Bishop Ahr HS (North II), Manalapan HS (Central I), Hillsborough HS (Central II) and Seneca HS (South) is also an SAT date, so athletes should be aware. The team and individual state championship will be 11/13 and 11/15 respectively, both at Montgomery HS.

**Volleyball** – Group finals will be played at South Brunswick HS since William Paterson University is not available this year. The only caveat is if South Brunswick HS makes the playoffs, and it rains Friday night, then South Brunswick HS will reschedule their Friday night football game to Saturday, and the volleyball group finals will be postponed to Sunday. Also, the times of the T of C games on 11/22 were pushed to earlier in the day since there is an event at South Brunswick HS at 4pm but the finals on Sunday will still be at 2pm.

**Colleen Maguire – Director of Finance Report**

**Approval of September 2014 Checks** – A motion was made by Joe Lennon, seconded by Dianne Furusawa, to approve the September check registers, which were approved by the finance committee as well as our biweekly approvals according to policy. Motion carried.

**2013-2014 Annual Dues, Resolution Cards, Affidavits** – There has been significant collection since the last meeting. Ms. Maguire attended each sectional meeting and communicated extensively on the forum and NJSIAA website that if dues, resolution cards and affidavits were not received by 10/20, then that school would be considered not a member of NJSIAA, therefore ineligible for fall tournaments. As of this Executive Committee meeting, 90% of dues and board resolution cards have been collected and 80% of affidavits have been turned in.

**Sports Participation Surveys** – A list of schools that have not turned in their Fall Participation surveys, which were due 10/1, will be posted shortly.

**Program Review**

**5th Fencing District – 1st Reading** – A motion was made by Dianne Furusawa, seconded by Howard Krieger, to restructure teams to establish a fifth district, with Montclair HS to host the championships for the new district. This request from the Fencing Committee creates fewer teams per district, hence a safer environment since the number of fencers has increased and the closeness of the strips has created a safety concern using four sites. A championship site must have at least two gyms for competition. There is no additional cost for this since money used for tennis can now be used towards fencing (tennis received an additional sponsor so they are covered.) Districts would be realigned as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>CURRENT # TEAMS PER DISTRICT</th>
<th>PROPOSED # OF TEAMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>@ Hackettstown</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9 boys / 9 girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ North Hunterdon</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12 boys / 12 girls+ independents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ Livingston</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10 boys / 10 girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ Fair Lawn</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9 boys / 10 girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>@ Montclair</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>9 boys / 9 girls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are more fencers in NJ than any other state in the country. Motion passed first reading.

**Five Wrestling Groups – 2nd Reading** – A motion was made by William DePonte, seconded by Howard Krieger, to change the format of the wrestling group finals from four groups to five groups, still with six schools per group. Sun Bank Arena can host since the Pine Belt Arena cannot accommodate the additional mats. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

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**Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell)** – The Protest Committee meets on an emergent basis when the Controversies or Eligibility Appeals cannot meet. All decisions made must be ratified by the Executive Committee. A motion was made by William DePonte, seconded by Howard Krieger, to approve the five decisions made by the Protest Committee. Motion carried with two abstentions (Shohfi and Lennon).

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**Old Business / New Business** – Bill Edelman made a motion, seconded by Tom DiGanci, to include wrestling and indoor track in the one-year pilot that allows three days of men’s and women’s basketball practice/tryouts from Monday – Wednesday before Thanksgiving, followed by a mandatory break from practice Thursday – Sunday, before resuming practices again on the Monday after Thanksgiving, with the understanding that the unofficial practices prior to Thanksgiving break do NOT count towards the six practices needed for first scrimmage. Dianne Furusawa and Michael Nitti expressed that the proposal was for tryouts, which is why it passed but Bill Edelman felt coaches will use it as extra practice and not tryouts so the rule should be extended to other winter sports. Steve Shohfi would like the three different winter start dates condensed. Even with the new start date, the Olympic and Colonial Conference voted to still start after Thanksgiving. Final Vote: Yes-15; No-10. Motion carried.

**Adjournment** – A motion was made by William DePonte, seconded by Patrick Murphy, to adjourn the meeting at 12:53 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

SJT: In