Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Gregory Bailey, at 11:02 am.

The following members were present: Maureen Bilda, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Chris Calveley, Tom Coleman, Suzanne Cooley, Bill Edelman, Judy Finch Johnson, Dianne Furusawa, Michael Gatley, Dr. William George, Gerald Glisson, Kathy Goldenberg, Sharron Grady, Robert Grauso, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Monsignor Kelly, Chuck Klaus, Matthew McFarland, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Michael Nitti, Sue Petrone, William Quirk, Steve Shohfi, John Stanczak, Beverly Torok, Todd Van Orden, Bruce Watson, and Denis Williams. Also present: Steven J. Timko, Executive Director; Kim DeGraw-Cole, Larry White, Jack DuBois and Bill Bruno, 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; Steve Falk, Asbury Park Press; Darren Cooper, Record; and Matt Stanmyre, NJ Advance Media. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Rob Haraka, seconded by Monsignor Kelly, to accept the minutes of the October 14, 2015 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried with one abstention.

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

Executive Director Update – Steven J. Timko

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – Not much has changed from Election Day. The Lower Chamber picked up four Democratic seats. Lame Duck session started on 11/9/15. The redshirting bill, which poses enforcement challenges for NJSIAA, was introduced. NJSIAA would prefer this not be mandated, but rather handled by the Executive Committee.

N. Valley Old Tappan / N. Valley Demarest / Hasbrouck Heights Ice Hockey Coop Waiver Request – The ice hockey coop program between Hasbrouck Heights HS and N. Valley Demarest HS expired. NV Demarest HS then joined in to a new cooperative sports program with NV Old Tappan HS. The unintended consequence was one junior from Hasbrouck Heights now does not have a team. Bill Edelman asked if all schools in the schedule have been contacted and are ok with this three-school merger. The answer is yes. A motion was made by Tom Coleman, seconded by Bill Edelman, to allow N. Valley Old Tappan HS, N. Valley Demarest HS and Hasbrouck Heights HS to enter in to a two-year ice hockey cooperative sports agreement. Motion passed unanimously.

Medical Advisory Committee – Sadly, Dr. Tim Hosea, chair of the committee, passed away last month. Dr. Jack Kripsak from the Bridgewater Medical Group, who has been on the committee for years, will be the new chairman of the committee. At the last MAC meeting, the Warren Hills
HS/Evan Murray football tragedy was discussed at length. It was agreed that more emphasis needs to be stressed to athletes to communicate to adults if they are not feeling right. Two new members have joined the committee - Louis Teichholz, a cardiac specialist from Hackensack Medical who helped draft the new cardiac component of the new physical forms and Charles Gatt, Jr., orthopedic surgeon from University Orthopaedic Associates. Jack DuBois and Bill Bruno represented NJSIAA on 101.5’s Safety Focus Panel. Lastly, the Department of Education is looking at the length of the school day and considering starting the high school day at a later time, which will impact NJSIAA. Michael Zapicchi will represent NJSIAA in this discussion.

Program Review

Football Power Points Proposal – 1st Reading – A motion was made by Todd Van Orden, seconded by Monsignor Michael Kelly, to award schools playing against the United A division schools (Bergen Catholic, Paramus Catholic, Don Bosco, DePaul Catholic, St. Joseph Regional) power points totaling 2xgroup+wins. Schools playing against North Jersey Super Football Conference United B (Seton Hall, St. Peter’s, Delbarton, Pope John) would receive power points 1xgroup+wins. The football committee unanimously approved this proposal 6-0. Motion passed first reading with one opposition (Gatley) and one abstention.

A second proposal, also unanimously approved by the football committee 6-0, was discussed. A motion was made by Monsignor Kelly, seconded by Rob Haraka to grant schools competing in the North Jersey Super Football Conference United A&B automatic entry into the NJSIAA football playoffs (similar to the Gordon Division in ice hockey.) Motion passed first reading unanimously.

Assistant Director Reports

Larry White

Gymnastics – Sectional results were distributed including the five sectional winners and the teams with the five highest scores. The team finals will take place on 11/12 and the individual finals will take place on 11/14, both at Montgomery HS. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Volleyball – The ten group sectional finals will take place on 11/12. Seeding was better this year now that NJSIAA returned to the RPI method and went away from using power points. The Tournament of Champions outbracket game (#4 v. #5) and semifinal games (#2 v. #3 and #1 v. winner of #4 v. #5) are scheduled for Saturday 11/21 with the T of C championship finals on 11/22 at William Paterson University. On 11/21, three “Legends of the Game” will be honored prior to the semifinal games. The NFHS Network will televise the championship weekend and all broadcasts will be available for 30 days.

Jack DuBois

Football – The tournament commences this weekend.

Soccer Update – The four non-public sectional finals will take place at neutral locations on 11/12 and the non-public finals take place on 11/15, at Kean University.
Corporate Update – NJSIAA has signed an agreement with NJ Advance Media to be both a co-sponsor of the Scholar Athlete Luncheon and a general corporate sponsor.

Workshops/Clinics – On 11/6, in conjunction with Tri County Orthopedics, NJSIAA held its first webinar, which was successful with over 40+ participants. NJSIAA plans to do this more often. Over 50 are registered for the NJSIAA/Legal One/PSA Bullying & Hazing Workshop, which will take place on 11/18 at Stockton University.

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Tennis – Congratulations to the singles and double teams at Millburn HS, who won the Tournament of Champions. A listing of team tournament champions was distributed.

Soccer – The public and non-public sectional finals are scheduled for 11/12. The non-publics will play at four neutral sites – Kearny, PCTI, Eastern and Holmdel while the public schools will be at Kean University.

Field Hockey – The public state semifinals are slated for later in the day at four neutral sites (AL Johnson, Boonton, Robbinsville and Egg Harbor Twp.) St. Joe’s and Bishop Eustace also play their state semifinal games at a neutral site. All games had to be on a turf field. All five group finals will take place at Bordentown HS which Ms. Cole is hoping the NFHS Network will broadcast. The Tournament of Champions will be conducted at WWP North on 11/16 and 11/18 with the finals at Kean University on 11/20.

Swimming – Practice for the season began on 11/9. Sites for the tournament are almost all secured and the tournament regulations will be posted shortly.

NAGWS – This event will be Sunday, 2/7/15. Documentation to attend is not yet available, but will be shortly.

Bill Bruno

Cross Country – The results from last weekend’s sectional meets were distributed. The group championships will take place at 10am at Holmdel Park on 11/14 which will include the non-publics for the first time. The Meet of Champions will take place 11/21.

Approval of Cooperative Programs – A motion was made by William Quirk, seconded by Todd VanOrden, to approve the following cooperative sports programs:

a. Kearny HS / Weehawken HS – Ice Hockey (JV program)
b. Tenafly HS / Cresskill HS – Ice Hockey
c. N.Valley Old Tappan/N. Valley Demarest / Hasbrouck Heights – Ice Hockey
d. Park Ridge HS / Emerson HS – Bowling
e. St. Rose HS / Donovan Catholic HS – Ice Hockey

Motion passed unanimously.
Director of Finance Report – Colleen Maguire

2015-2016 Membership Status – Ms. Maguire was happy to report that dues and paperwork for all public schools have been collected. Only six charter schools haven’t paid/submitted paperwork, including one which was eligible for the field hockey tournament.

Outstanding Accounts Receivable Balances – Less than $5,000 (from 18 schools) is due to NJSIAA in receivables past 90 days, all amounts are under PO. Ms. Maguire is pleased with these numbers.

Ticket Price Update – Approval for ticket prices were received 11/10/15. Cost of a ticket for the field hockey tournament of champions was reduced because the site changed from Rider University to West Windsor-Plainsboro HS. All other prices were same as last fall.

Corporate Sponsor Review – Ms. Maguire reviewed with the Finance Committee a listing of all corporate partners and their allocations. This information can be found on NJSIAA’s website or Ms. Maguire can email it upon request.

Finance Committee Update – Greg Bailey

Approval of October 2015 Checkbook – The October 2015 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. A motion to accept the October check register was made by Kathy Goldenberg, seconded by Denis Williams. Motion carried unanimously.

Project Manager Update – Michael Zapicch

Compliance Initiative – One addition was added to the master checklist for compliance officers, which is to review the Arbiter website and login with Athletic Directors. Monitors are ready to go and will begin their initial visits this week. If anyone knows of a new Athletic Director, please notify Mr. Zapicchi so he can make sure a compliance monitor visits them this year. In December, Mr. Zapicchi will meet with all monitors to assess how the visits are going.

Public/Non-Public Meeting – The committee met on 10/27/15. A presentation was made by the new North Jersey Football Superconference. Discussion took place over whether to pull the non-public football conference ballot from consideration. The committee voted 8-4-1 in favor of leaving the proposal to separate public and non-public schools in football. The redshirting bill and the two football program review proposals (outlined above under Program Review) were also discussed at length.

Annual Meeting Legislation – Final Proposals

Five different proposals will be in front of the general membership on 12/7. A copy of the final proposals were distributed. Monsignor Kelly asked if the proposals pass, would non-public schools be mandated to leave their conference and be part of the statewide conference. He felt this needs to be clarified before the vote. The answer is yes – non-public schools would have to leave their current conference and join the non-public conference. Non-public schools will have to get together to create their own divisions, bylaws, etc. John Stanczak brought up that in the
Constitution, a public school is defined as “wholly funded by taxpayer dollars”, but some public schools are accepting tuition paying students, therefore are not wholly funded by taxpayer money, so they should also be considered non-public schools by definition. Mr. Goodell explained that the intent of the legislation was to separate traditional public and non-public schools but the term in the Constitution can be changed by the membership, if they so choose.

Michael Nitti asked if the executive body has the right to rescind any proposals from being voted on at the annual meeting. The answer is yes.

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**Report of Counsel – Steven P. Goodell, Esq.**

**Ratification of Protest Committee Decision** – The Protest Committee had a hearing to determine the eligibility of a wrestler transferring from Garfield HS to Queen of Peace HS. The committee met and rendered a decision on 10/13/15. A motion was made by Bill Edelman, seconded by Suzanne Cooley, to ratify the decision made by the Protest Committee on 10/13/15. Motion carried unanimously.

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**Old Business** – none.

**New Business – Remove Ballot #4 at Annual Meeting** – A motion was made by Mary Liz Ivins, seconded by Tony Mitchell, to remove Ballot #4 at the annual meeting. Michael Nitti questioned whether more time would be more beneficial than mandating this proposal. Steve Goodell explained discussion has taken place for more than one year, and every effort to make schedules has been made, but some schools are still unable to make a complete schedule. Any attempts for a compromise had been unsuccessful.

Mr. Nitti expressed that the West Jersey Football Conference has been successful, to which Tony Mitchell added that the WJFC expanded from Trenton to Wildwood, encompassing over 80+ teams, and voting for an all-non-public football conference ruins this successful merger and does not help schools in the South. Mr. Goodell asked Mr. Mitchell if there are southern schools willing to play some of the North schools in need of games, which Mr. Mitchell believes can be done. Mr. Goodell explained that helps solve some of the problem, but he hasn’t seen any south schools volunteer and they have been contacted.

Tom Mullahey feels that it’s important to leave the proposal on the ballot for the membership to decide, not pull it four weeks before the vote, to which Mr. Edelman agreed. Rob Haraka expressed concern that the Executive Committee can just pull a ballot from vote by the membership. Mr. Goodell read what the Constitution states, which is “Prior to November 15, at least four (4) sectional meetings of the Association shall be held for the purpose of explaining the legislation pending before the membership. After thorough discussion, the Executive Committee shall recommend the form and substance of the legislation to be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting.” Mr. Goodell did add though that he’s never seen legislation pulled at this late date.

Mr. Mitchell believed the proposal on the ballot was different than what was originally proposed. He thought the original proposal gave non-public schools a waiver to stay in their conference if they wished, but Mr. Goodell explained that is incorrect. A waiver was never included in the original proposal. If a school wishes to leave a conference, there is a process and there is a hearing in front of the Leagues and Conferences Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Executive Committee.
Bill Edelman added that non-public schools in the North support the proposal. John Stanczak does not believe that to be accurate. He feels non-public schools are the minority and are outvoted. Bill Edelman disagreed with that sentiment, based on his observations in the Public/Non-public Committee meetings and from what was expressed by Joe Lennon from DePaul Catholic. Monsignor Kelly spoke of a meeting of certain non-public schools at which it was agreed that the non-public football conference proposal should remain on the ballot. Monsignor Kelly would personally like it removed but knows that does not represent the sentiment of other non-public schools in the North, looking to get relief from the South. Monsignor Kelly also wants to see how the Super Conference in the North develops and plays out. There is also hope that the South, once schedules are out, will pick up some games in the North. Some feel this problem will be solved in time – since this proposal has opened up a lot of discussion like never before. Steve Shohfi ended the discussion saying that this issue is too big for 30-40 people to decide and the Executive Committee last year decided to move the proposal on to the membership to decide, so that’s what should still be done.

Final Vote: Yes-7; No-21; Abstain-1. Motion did not carry.

**New Business - NIAAA Conference** – Mr. Edelman hopes that other NJSIAA staff will attend this excellent conference in future years. He requested budgeting for more directors to attend next time the budget is created. Mr. Timko always attends. Mr. White liked the suggestion.

**Adjournment** – There being no further business, a motion was made by Tom Coleman, seconded by Michael Gatley at 12:08 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

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