EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 12, 2014

Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Thomas Coleman, at 11:17 am.

The following members were present: Gregory Bailey, Earl Clymer, Paul Crupi, William DePonte, Thomas DiGanci, Bill Edelman, Dianne Furusawa, Michael Gatley, Richard Giglio, Abdul Hassan, Monsignor Kelly, Howard Krieger, Joe Lennon, Michael Matyas, Bill McDermott, Elaine McGrath, Thomas Mullahey, Rona McNabola, Patrick Murphy, Susan Murphy, Michael Nitti, Frank Pannucci, Jr., William Quirk, Dr. Charles Shaddow, Rod Sharpless, Steve Shohfi, Thomas Stark, Beverly Torok, Barbara Wallace, Bruce Watson, Scott Wolhrab, and Stephen Yesinko. 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: Matt Stanmyre, NJ Advance Media, Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; and Darren Cooper, The Record. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Rod Sharpless, seconded by Howard Krieger, to accept the minutes of the October 8, 2014 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Out-of-State Competition/All-Star Games - A motion was made by Rona McNabola, seconded by Howard Krieger, to accept the listings of Bordering State Sanctions and National Federation Sanctions. Motion carried.

Executive Director Update – Steven J. Timko

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) –
1. Bill A2699 was amended to allot $45,000 more in funds for NJSIAA to conduct year-round steroid testing, not just at championships events.
2. The sponsor of Bill A3346, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, was contacted to revise his law, but he expressed no interest. Mr. Anzano recommends coaches join together to request a meeting with Assemblyman Diegnan since there is more strength in numbers. Questions related to whether coaches are grandfathered in or if the law applies to a calendar or school year have not yet been determined.
3. A3861, related to character education programs for athletes, was introduced after recent headlines in the NFL (Adrian Peterson, Ray Rice, etc.). The goal is that this would pertain to all students, not just student-athletes but this may not advance because its sponsor is moving to the Senate.
4. Senator Codey is currently drafting legislation pertaining to recruiting and will share a copy of it with NJSIAA before moving it forward.

Annual Meeting – The annual meeting will take place at 10:00 am on December 1st, followed by the NJSIAA/Bollinger Hall of Fame program at 11:30 am.
Ticket Prices – The same fall tournament ticket prices as last year was requested. NJSIAA cannot print tickets until the prices are confirmed from the Department of Education.

Medical Advisory Committee – The committee recommends that next year in football, a 90-minute contact per week rule be instituted. Some conferences are already doing this. Parameters just need to be developed with the help of the Medical Advisory Committee and coach input.

Public/Non-Public Meeting – The first meeting took place on 10/28 and was co-chaired by Michael Zapicchi, Principal at West Windsor-Plainsboro North HS and Elaine McGrath, current NJSIAA 2nd VP / Athletic Director at South Brunswick. Fellow Executive Committee member Bill Edelman is on the committee and he reported that there was good dialogue and expects the committee will go forward in a positive direction.

Assistant Director Reports

Larry White

Gymnastics – The team finals will take place on 11/13 and the individual finals will take place on 11/15, both at Montgomery HS. Five sectional winners plus the teams with the five highest scores will compete. There was only .675 point difference between the two top teams, which shows how competitive the competition was.

Volleyball – The sectional semi-finals were played so the ten group sectional final pairings were distributed. There was a major upset when the 24th seed Ridge beat #1 seed North Hunterdon. Power points were used for seeding. Mr. White thanked Elaine McGrath for offering her school, South Brunswick HS, to host the group finals. The Tournament of Champions outbracket game (#4 v. #5) and semifinal games (#2 v. #3 and #1 v. winner of #4 v. #5) is scheduled for Saturday, 11/22 with the T of C championship finals on 11/23.

Jack DuBois

Football – Rowan is hosting the five South championship games. There will not be any Friday night games, but rather three games are scheduled for Saturday (Groups 1, 3 and 5) and two games on Sunday (Groups 2 & 4). There will also be games at Kean, 4 games at Rutgers and 10 at MetLife.

Soccer Update – The non-public and public sectional finals will take place at neutral sites. The non-public finals take place on 11/16, for the first time at Kean University.

Corporate Update – Parisi School just resigned a three-year contract. Lifesavers, Inc. just donated four AEDs for state tournament use ($3,500 value.) IAABO signed on as the official basketball training organization for officials and will give $10,500 for three years. NJSIAA always used them for training, but now it’s official. A motion was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Bill DePonte, to accept IAABO as the official training organization for basketball officials, with the exception of three chapters, who do their own training. Motion carried unanimously.

Workshops/Clinics – There was an ice hockey workshop on 10/17 which was well received. The baseball clinic will be on 12/11/14 at Jack Cust Baseball Academy. Many signed up for the
Legal One – Bullying Workshop, which will take place on 12/16. On the NJSIAA website there is a wealth of information pertaining to bullying and hazing from the NFHS. Also, at the DAANJ Conference, Mr. Elliott Hopkins from the NFHS will speak on this issue so Mr. Timko hopes superintendents and principals will allow their Athletic Directors to attend. Mr. Timko wrote a letter to the Department of Education requesting that ADs do not have to pay out of pocket to attend and districts will cover attendance at this very important event.

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Tennis – A listing of champions was distributed. Congratulations to Kate Fahey, singles tennis player from Rumson Fair Haven who defeated Stephanie Schrage, from Millburn. The first doubles team from Montgomery defeated the Montville second doubles team. The team tournament concluded on 10/16 at Mercer County Park, with 20 teams in competition for a group championship. Millburn HS was the Tournament of Champions winner.

Soccer – The non-public sectional finals and public sectional finals are scheduled for 11/13 and 11/14 respectively. Assigning officials for all rounds was a lot of work and there were some bumps, but Ms. Cole fully expects it to get better. All tournament dates were distributed.

Field Hockey – The non-public sectional finals are slated for later in the day at the higher seed (field must be a turf field) while the public state semifinals, also slated for later in the day, take place at four neutral sites (AL Johnson, Boonton, Robbinsville and Eastern.) Group finals will take place for the first time at Bordentown HS on 11/15. The opening rounds of the Tournament of Champions will be at Rider University, beginning on 11/17 and 11/19 with the finals on 11/21.

Swimming – Reminder to everyone that the men’s and women’s classifications are different. The Public A, B and C divisions for 2014-15 requires new dates which are posted on the NJSIAA website. The team tournament structure is new for 2015 so please review.

NAGWS – Thus far, only two submissions have been received. The event takes place on Sunday, 2/1/15. It’s a worthwhile event to send a female representative from each school.

Website – Input is always welcome. Ms. Cole hopes everyone is utilizing the calendar function, which contains a bounty of pertinent information.

Donald Danser

Cross Country – The tournament has narrowed down from over 6,000 runners at four sites to 2,000 runners. The group meet will be cold, but that's better than being wet.

Approval of Cooperative Programs – A motion was made by Monsignor Kelly, seconded by William Quirk, to approve the following cooperative sports program: 1-Clayton HS & Glassboro HS in wrestling and golf; 2-Mount Olive HS & Hopatcong HS in ice hockey and 3-Hopatcong HS & Mount Olive HS in bowling. Motion passed with no oppositions or abstentions.

Director of Finance Report – Colleen Maguire

Approval of October 2014 Checkbook – A motion to accept the October check register, which was approved by the finance committee as well as our monthly approvals according to policy, was made by Rich Giglio, seconded by Mike Gatley. All in Favor, No Opposed, No Abstentions. The motion was approved unanimously.

2014-2015 Annual Dues / Affidavits / Membership Resolution Status – Having a hard October 20th deadline was a success. All schools paid their dues with the exception of five, who submitted a PO. No schools missed participating in fall tournaments on account of not handing
in dues/affidavits/membership resolution cards. One charter school did not turn in their affidavits but they do not participate in any fall sports.

**Sports Participation Forms Update** – 135 schools still owe their Winter Participation Form.

**Outstanding Accounts Receivable Balances** – 50 schools have balances that are past 90 days due. The bulk of the $7,000 outstanding balance is $80 entry fees from the past year. All winter regulations state that a school is not eligible to participate in a winter state tournament if they have an outstanding balance past 90 days. The finance committee approved this.

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**Program Review**

**5th Fencing District – 2nd Reading** – A motion was made by William DePonte, seconded by Howard Krieger, to restructure teams to establish a fifth district, with Montclair HS to host the championships for the new district. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

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

**Controversies Hearing Decision (Summit/North Plainfield)** – This hearing involved allegations that Summit HS football players were pushing bananas through a hole in the North Plainfield HS’s away locker room door, which was interpreted as a racial message. It was determined after extensive testimony that there was insufficient evidence to determine racial bias was demonstrated by the Summit team however it was found the misunderstanding needed to be corrected. The Controversies Committee determined that

1. **To foster reconciliation**, the Controversies Committee requires that there be a meeting of the captains of the Summit and North Plainfield football teams, to be held at North Plainfield High School before the end of the current football season, with a second meeting to be held prior to the start of the 2015 football season at a location to be determined by this year’s captains.

2. **To promote understanding**, the Controversies Committee requires that Summit High School submit a Corrective Action Plan to the NJSIAA for review and approval. That Corrective Action Plan should include, at a minimum, an in-service training program for the entire coaching staff focused on sensitivity to and understanding of racial bias incidents.

3. **To avoid repetition** of any similar event, the Controversies Committee requires that the Summit High School Athletic Director submit a certification to the NJSIAA prior to the start of each of the next three sports seasons, certifying that he has reviewed all NJSIAA sportsmanship rules in detail with the school’s coaches.

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**Old Business / New Business** –

Joe Lennon (DePaul) – Revisit Big North Early Start of Fall Season Proposal – On behalf of the Big North, Mr. Lennon made a motion to rescind the previous motion or make a motion to amend the early start of fall season proposal that was approved last Executive Committee meeting. He was upset that the proposal by the Big North was never voted on. The Big North requests that the early fall start date apply to all schools, in all sports, in an honest attempt to treat all sports the same, not just the schools that opened up on zero week in football this past
fall season. This would be an option for schools, not mandatory, so schools can open when they choose.

Discussion ensued. Bruce Watson reminded everyone that this motion to amend was granted for schools that opened early last year and will be in second year of two-year cycle. Mike Gatley left meeting concerned about what was passed and felt the voting was reflective of this. Bill Edelman expressed issue that if only some schools are allowed to open up early, as was passed, then they have more game experience behind them which is uneven playing field, which Mr. Edelman feels is wrong and unfair. William DePonte seconded that sentiment. Beverly Torok reiterated her sentiment from last meeting, which is that extending the early fall start date to all sports and all schools reduces family time and makes summer non-existent. Sue Murphy felt this proposal should not be reconsidered because it was clarified in the last meeting that if one proposal was voted on, the other would not be entertained. Mr. Mullahey left last meeting confused as well and Scott Wohlrab voted no to Jamy Thomas’s proposal because he thought he’d have a chance to vote on the Big North proposal. Greg Bailey was in favor of considering the waiver but further waivers like this should not be entertained, and instead should go down the legislative route to make a permanent change. Tom Coleman cautioned approving the Big North proposal based on trying to be nice to all sports since a waiver should be considered because of need/merit. Bill Edelman feels that if the Big North was the first proposal on the table, therefore voted on, it would have passed. Rod Sharpless supported the Big North proposal because it allows flexibility in scheduling and it gives athletes more recovery time from injuries. He feels that fall coaches already give up their summer. That’s just the way it is. He also expressed confusion in the last meeting and wanted to vote for the Big North proposal but never had opportunity to do so. Susan Murphy expressed the following year is different from the past year because opening up early in 2014, games still started when school was in session. If dates push back a week for Fall 2015, teams will open up before school is even in session. Tom Mullahey stressed the optional component of the proposal which means it’s up to the principal or superintendent to decide when their school opens early. Rona McNabola reiterated that the Big North proposal has been approved twice, should not be granted for a third time, and should have gone down the legislative route to make the change. Dianne Furusawa felt the original waiver had to do with football, so it should be granted for football only and not extend to all fall sports. Bruce Watson, member of the Big North, disagrees with the proposal and feels it is a waiver request therefore it should be an extension waiver for those teams that took advantage of zero week in 2014. He also favors families having their summer vacation. Bruce Watson then made a motion to uphold the decision held last month and allow schools that opened up on zero week in football be allowed to open early a week early again but modify the proposal to allow those schools an early fall start date for all sports, not just football. The only schools permitted to open up one week earlier in all fall sports would be the ones that opened up on zero week in 2014. Tom Coleman questioned how a waiver can be requested/approved for schools that did not even participate in zero week last year. Since no one seconded Mr. Watson’s motion, the motion died. Joe Lennon then made a motion, seconded by Greg Bailey, to accept the Big North proposal which would allow all schools in all sports to begin practice and open up a week earlier though these dates are optional, not mandated (Practice Begins – August 10, 2015; Opening Weekend – September 4, 2015.) Monsignor Kelly questioned why the waiver is being extended to all sports. Mr. Lennon explained that it gives Athletic Directors wiggle room since you can’t add games to end of season and rainouts make schedules tighter. Jack DuBois noted that the Jewish holidays also take away 2-3 playing dates so giving an extra week adds flexibility. Greg Bailey called the question. A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-23; No-6; Abstain-1. Motion carries.

Early Opening Date for Wrestling/Track – Add Fencing – Dianne Furusawa made a motion, seconded by William DePonte, to allow fencing to hold tryouts and in the absence of tryouts,
hold practices beginning the Monday before Thanksgiving, with the understanding that the Monday -Wednesday practices do not count towards the six practices needed for a first scrimmage. Ms. Furusawa felt if it was proposed for basketball, but extended to wrestling and winter track, fencing should have been included too.

Since no notice of this was given to the Exec Committee prior to the meeting, this vote required a 2/3 vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment – There being no further business, a motion was made by Earl Clymer, seconded by Rona McNabola at 1:27 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

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