Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Vincent Smith, at 11:08 am.

The following members were present: Ralph Aiello, Heather Andersen, Greg Bailey, Maureen Bilda, Joseph Bollendorf, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jr., Teri Connor, Suzanne Cooley, Jason Corley, Joanne Dzama, Judy Finch Johnson, James Gaffney, Robert Grauso, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Monsignor Michael Kelly, Chuck Klaus, Howard Krieger, Timothy McElhinney, Elaine McGrath, Tony Mitchell, Michael Pellegrino, Sue Petrone, Paul Popadiuk, William Quirk, Philip Schaffer, Steve Shohfi, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, and Paul Vizzuso. Also present: Larry L. White, Executive Director; Kim DeGraw-Cole, Jack DuBois, Bill Bruno, Al Stumpf, and Tony Maselli, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager; and Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Mike McGarry, Press of Atlantic City; Darren Cooper, Record; and Matt Stanmyre, NJ Advance Media.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Judy Finch Johnson, to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2018 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried with four abstentions.

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 – Larry L. White

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – Mr. Anzano was unable to attend today’s meeting since he was being honored by the League of Municipalities.

SOAP Initiative – Mr. White distributed minutes from the Stop Opioids Abuse Program (STOP) meeting that took place on 11/7, and was attended by Mr. White, NJSIAA’s PR Firm – Success Communications, and representatives from the Attorney General Office, NJ Cares, Garden State Pharmacy Owners (GSOP), and PDFNJ. This is a collaboration of many, working to spread the message out to schools about the dangers of the current opioids crisis. A follow-up meeting will take place on 12/12. The group hopes to begin rolling out prevention/educational programs in 2019.

Gymnastics – Mr. White distributed a listing of winners from the 2018 gymnastics tournament. At the team championships, Freehold Township HS set a new meet record of 113.35, as they placed first, followed by St. John Vianney and then Bishop George Ahr.

Medical Advisory Committee Meeting – At the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) on 10/17, a Heat Participation Policy was discussed. The policy was unanimously passed in May by the MAC, but wasn’t rolled out in the summer because it needed to pass two readings of the
Executive Committee. It was discussed and redrafted and will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

Another topic of discussion was a 3-question survey that the MAC would like sent out to Athletic Trainers in hopes to gather data about concussions. The committee is looking to reduce the number of contact minutes in football practices based on the book, “Practice Like Pros” by Terry O’Neill. The theory is that the majority of injuries occur from tackling at practice, not in games. Dartmouth University and Princeton University do not tackle in practice, and there have been no injuries at practice, both schools have a full squad, and both are 7-0.

Assistant Director Reports

Jack DuBois

Football Update – Tournament brackets were distributed. On the weekend of 11/16, 20 public sectional final games will be played at the higher seed for the first time, instead of at neutral sites. Winners will advance to the next round, which will be played at MetLife. If teams do not have a Thanksgiving game, they’ll play Thanksgiving weekend. If they do have a Thanksgiving Day game, they’ll play the following weekend. Mr. DuBois requested two more game slots from MetLife for that second weekend. The non-public sectional final games will also be played at MetLife.

Corporate Update – Mr. DuBois is in the negotiation process with First Line Technology. They manufacture and sell portable cold immersion tubs.

Workshops – The Post Game: How Social Media Helps or Hurts Young Athletes Workshop took place on October 24, 2018 at Montclair State University. Hosted by Rick Wolff, nationally recognized expert in sports parenting, author, coach, and host of WFAN's Sunday morning program, “The Sports Edge”, the workshop touched on the dos and don'ts of social media and the evolving issues of social media usage. Other panelists were Roman Oben - Former 12-year NFL offensive lineman and currently NFL's Director of Youth and High School Football, Courtney Cunningham - Associate Head Coach of Montclair State women's basketball team and Director of Academic Advising in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Vito Chiaravalotti - Athletic Director at Christian Brothers Academy, and Doug Abrams - Professor at University of Missouri and nationally renowned expert on youth sports. Good questions were posed and the workshop was well attended.

On 10/26, Legal One hosted a workshop called “Legal Liability and Athletics - Keeping Everyone Safe: Preventing Forseeable Harms in Athletics.” Good discussion took place and the workshop was well attended. On 11/3 there was an Ice Hockey Officials Interpreters meeting and on 12/7, Legal One will host another workshop, this one titled “Legal Liability and Athletics - Supervising Coaches and Student Athletes in Interscholastic Athletics.”

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Field Hockey – 203 teams were seeded in the tournament out of a potential 224 field hockey teams. At meeting time, the tournament was at the Tournament of Champions semi-finals round, being conducted at Rancocas Valley HS on 11/14 (play-in game took place at same location on 11/12). Oak Knoll will play Moorestown while West Essex will play Eastern. Winners
will compete in the finals on 11/16 at Kean University at 6:30pm. The five group final games were broadcasted on the NFHS Network.

**Girls Basketball** – The 2018-19 Girls Basketball Classifications are posted. Tournament Regulations and the Gym Utilization Online Forms will be posted soon.

**Eligibility and Transfers** – The Eligibility Committee will meet on December 6, 2018. Waiver Forms and documentation must be received by November 26, 2018. Due to the amount of appeals to decisions made by the Eligibility Committee, the Eligibility Appeals Committee had to meet on two dates for a total of 11 hearings. Ms. Cole thanked the committee for adjusting their schedule to hear additional appeals on two separate dates. There were no Controversies Hearings on October 24 but there is a potential Controversies Hearing on December 12, 2018. Transfers continue to be monitored. Do not wait to submit your transfers forms.

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**Bill Bruno**

**Cross Country** – The last round of the tournament, the Meet of Champions, will take place this weekend at Holmdel Park. There will be two races. The boys compete at 11am, followed by the girls at 11:45am. The sectionals proved yet again that every runner counts as seen when Metuchen’s 6th place runner displaced Holmdel’s 6th place runner. Sectionals took place at four different sites (North I - Garrett Mountain, North II - Central Park of Morris County, Central - Thompson Park, Monroe and South - Delsea High School). 4,232 participated in the sectionals, 1,770 participated in the group meets and 371 will compete in the weekend’s MOC (189 boys; 182 girls). In total, 387 schools run cross country programs.

**Winter Track** – The Rules and Regulations have already been posted. Sites are set and entries are already being received. 12/14 begins the official start date of the season.

**Spring Track** – The goal is for the Rules and Regulations to be up by 2/4. The ten sectional sites, two group sites and site for the Meet of Champions has been secured.

**Wrestling Update** – Rules and Regulations for both the boys’ and girls’ tournaments have been posted. On 11/19, Mr. Bruno will meet with Boardwalk Hall to discuss tournament details. Mr. Bruno is happy to report that there are at least six stand-alone girl tournaments since girls wrestling rolled out. At least nine schools with girl wrestling programs went through hydration testing. Raritan has 31 girls; Jackson Memorial has 18 girls and High Point has 21. The sport is really taking off.

**NJSCA Clinics** – 59 people attended the golf clinic on 10/30. The baseball clinic will take place on 12/7 at Diamond Nation. Nomination forms for the NJSCA Hall of Fame are due 12/21/18. The HOF program will be on 3/24 at the Westin Hotel.

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**Al Stumpf**

**Girls Soccer** – The tournament is winding down. There were some complaints that first-round games should utilize three officials but to do so would require over 700 officials, which is not feasible at this time. Pingry beat Oak Knoll 3-1 in the Non-Public A Championship while Morristown Beard defeated St. Rose 2-0 in the Non-Public B Championship. The following Public Group Final matchups will take place at Kean University.
Girls Volleyball – The following are the results from the Group Finals:

- Group 1: Bogota defeated Verona 2-0.
- Group 2: Northern Valley Demarest defeated Rutherford 2-0.
- Group 3: West Morris Mendham (#6 seed) defeated Northern Valley Old Tappan 2-0.
- Group 4: North Hunterdon defeated Southern Regional 2-0.
- Non-Public: Immaculate Heart Academy defeated Union Catholic 2-0.

The Tournament of Champions will take place at William Paterson University. The out-bracket matchup will be played between Bogota HS and Northern Valley Demarest HS, with the winner playing #1 seed Immaculate Heart Academy. #2 seed North Hunterdon HS will play #3 seed West Morris Mendham HS. The championship game will be played at 2pm on 11/18.

Unified Bowling Pilot Program – There will be enough participants this year to do a North/South Sectional, and possibly enough to do a North/South/Central sectional.

Boys Volleyball – Spring Survey – The Volleyball Committee wants to survey the membership to see if at the sectional level, they prefer playing three out of five games or stay with the current format of 2 out of 3 games. If there is a good response, a proposal will be submitted to the Program Review Committee and the Executive Committee.

New Rules of Golf – USGA Digital Learning Tool – Mr. Stumpf sent a link to Athletic Directors explaining how to use the digital tool. Using it should speed up the game.

NAGWS – The nomination forms have been posted online and are due next month.

Basketball and College Coach Observations – NCAA & NFHS agreed on allowing college coaches to go to high schools in the summer to observe kids working out. Two weekends in June were approved for this initiative but it must be run by the state organization. NJSIAA is working on plans for implementation.

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Tony Maselli

Boys Soccer Update – Christian Brothers Academy won the Non-Public A championship while Gill St. Bernards won the Non-Public B title. On Saturday 11/17, the four public group finals will be played at Kean University. Matchups are as follows:

- Group 1: New Providence v the winner of Glassboro / Highland Park
- Group 2: Glen Rock v. Holmdel
- Group 3: Millburn v Ocean Twp
- Group 4: Morris Knolls v Washington Twp

Tennis – The tournament concluded with the following schools winning their group championship:

- Group 1: Mountain Lakes HS
Group 2- Holmdel HS  
Group 3- Millburn HS (eventually went on to win the TOC)  
Group 4- Bridgewater-Raritan HS  
Non-Public A- Holy Angels  
Non-Public B- Moorestown Friends

For the singles/doubles tournament, Andrea Cerdan from Paramus Catholic won the singles title while Millburn won the doubles title.

Winter Tournament Regulations – All winter tournament regulations will be posted online within the next few weeks.

Winter Tournament Refusal Process – The process is the same as in the past few years. Schools should submit their refusal in a timely manner.

Winter Participation Numbers – The new electronic form is up on the website. Submitting the information electronically has been working out well.

Swimming/Bowling – Both swimming and bowling have already started their seasons.

Non-Member/Out-of-State Form – Mr. Maselli reminded the committee that if a school plays an out-of-state opponent or a non-member school, they must fill out the form, which is online.

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Michael Zapicchi

International Student Rule Update – 3 NJ schools (1 public and 2 non-public) are going/have gone through the process to be CSIET approved agencies.

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Director of Finance Report – Colleen Maquire

Classification Review Committee – The committee will meet again in January to consider alternate classification scenarios. The goal is to minimize the growing enrollment gap when schools go to sport-specific classification. The committee will also examine gender-specific classifications.

Student Athlete Advisory Council Preview – The first in-person Student Advisory Council meeting will take place 11/15 at the Woodbridge Community Center. 125 council members will attend in addition to NJSIAA’s 31 Student Ambassadors, who will lead the meeting. The ambassadors conducted an online survey to gauge students’ feelings about 1-length of seasons and 2-the summer recess period. Almost 2,000 responses were received so there is good data for discussion. The meeting will have speakers Greg Bailey and Maureen Dzwill talk about the role of officials, followed by Special Olympics of NJ to discuss Unified Sports. Then the students will break up in to smaller discussion groups.

100th Anniversary Pin – Pins were distributed to committee members to commemorate NJSIAA’s 100th year anniversary. Ms. Maquire shared some historical information with the committee including its beginnings, which started with 32 football schools forming a NJ Football Association in November 1918. Then in March 1919, the association added basketball. Since these beginnings, NJSIAA has grown to overseeing 32 sports and championships.
Finance Committee Update – Vincent Smith

Approval of October 2018 Checkbook – The October 2018 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. A motion to accept the October 2018 check register was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by James Gaffney. Motion carried unanimously.

Program Review

Football Early Start of Regular Season – 2nd Reading – A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to grant a one-year waiver for the football contest start date to move to Friday, August 30, 2019 under the following conditions:

• This is a one-year request due to an anomaly in the calendar and coinciding scheduling cycle seeking to help teams attain a full schedule within an already rigid two-year scheduling cycle.

• Only those teams that are impacted by the schedule cycle anomaly described above would qualify for this waiver, there will be no other exceptions under this waiver.

• The SFC schools that meet the above criteria and would need the waiver are:

• Member schools that qualify for the week 00 waiver will be permitted to being their heat acclimatization and scrimmages 7 days earlier than the official start dates listed in the 2019 regulations.

Monsignor Kelly made note of a typo in bullet #4. The sentence should read “Member schools that qualify for the week 00 waiver will be permitted to BEGIN their heat acclimatization and scrimmages 7 days earlier than the official start dates listed in the 2019 regulations.” The word “being” should be replaced with the word “begin”

Motion carried unanimously.

NJSIAA Heat Participation Policy – 1st Reading – The Program Review Committee tabled this proposal.

Annual Meeting Legislation – Final Proposals

A motion was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Jason Corley, to approve Ballots 1-5 and Ballots 7&8, as written, to be placed on the ballot at the 2018 annual meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

For Ballot #6, a revised ballot from the sectional meetings was distributed to the Executive Committee. The sponsors wanted to add a second question to the ballot, which is “Should this amendment become effective immediately?” According to the Constitution, “all amendments
become effective on September 1, following the Annual Meeting unless by a separate two-thirds (2/3) vote of the ballots cast an earlier date is set.” (Constitution Article XXII, Section 5, Handbook, page 34). The Constitution allows the starting date to be in effect earlier if the general assembly at the annual meeting approves. Mr. Shohfi expressed that approving the second question on Ballot #6 may help with waivers down the road. Mr. Haraka asked if the committee had ever approved accelerating legislation before September 1st, to which Mr. Goodell responded they have. No one expressed being against the second question on Ballot #6, so a motion to approve Ballot #6 as presented was made by Joseph Bollendorf, seconded by Suzanne Cooley. Motion passed unanimously.


Litigation – There is no new litigation. One case is pending a decision from the Commissioner of Education while another is pending a decision from the Appellate Division.

Old Business – none.

New Business – A motion was made by Joanne Dzama, seconded by Bill Vacca, to allow a waiver of the 70% in-state competition rule for the St. Mary of Assumption HS Boys Basketball Program for the 2018-19 Basketball Season Schedule. Motion carried with one abstention.

A motion was made by Monsignor Kelly, seconded by Bill Vacca, to allow a waiver of the 70% in-state competition rule for the Immaculate Conception Lodi HS Girls Basketball Program for the 2018-19 Basketball Season Schedule. Motion carried with one abstention.

Adjournment – There being no further business, a motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Maureen Bilda at 11:53 am, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. White
Executive Director

LLW: In