Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Chuck Klaus, at 11:03 am.

The following members were present: Heather Andersen, Greg Bailey, Joseph Bollendorf, Kevin Carty, Jr., Teri Connor, Joanne Dzama, Judy Finch Johnson, James Gaffney, Michael Gatley, Sharron Grady, Robert Grauso, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Richard Kaz, Monsignor Michael Kelly, Howard Krieger, Timothy McElhinney, Elaine McGrath, Dominick Miletta, Tony Mitchell, Michael Nitti, Paul Popadiuk, Dr. James Sarruda, Philip Schaffer, Steve Shohfi, Vincent Smith, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, Todd VanOrden, and Scott Wohlrab. 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 Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Mike McGarry, Press of Atlantic City; Darren Cooper, Record; Matt Stanmyre, NJ Advance Media and Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Kevin Carty, Jr., seconded by Monsignor Michael Kelly, to accept the minutes of the October 11, 2017 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.

Executive Director Update – Steven J. Timko

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – The House and Senate picked up a few Democratic seats. Currently there are no issues for/against NJSIAA being considered by the Legislature. The bill that appropriates additional funding for steroid testing has been vetoed three times by Governor Christie, so it will be reintroduced when NJ's new governor, Phil Murphy takes office. The legislature is currently in Lame Duck Session. The new Commissioner of Education just put together a transition team, which Mr. Anzano will monitor. He will also introduce Mr. White to key legislators and the new Commissioner.

Assistant Director Reports

Larry White

Gymnastics – The five sectional winners and next five teams with the highest scores competed in the team championships. For the first time in Mr. White’s tenure, there was a tie, so eleven schools competed for the overall championship instead of ten. Both the individual and team finals saw great competition. Ally Cucich from Red Bank Catholic broke the All-Around high mark with a new record of 38.875 (old mark was 38.775)
Football Officials Controversy – Several weekends ago, two officials walked off the job because Monroe football players took a knee during the national anthem. The Central Jersey Football Chapter held a hearing in front of their grievance committee and asked NJSIAA to approve their actions, which NJSIAA could not agree to since if there is an appeal, the appeal would be heard by NJSIAA. NJSIAA advised the chapter to just follow their bylaws. There has been no further correspondence regarding this matter. The IAABO attorney has notified basketball chapters that this type of behavior is not to be tolerated and can be considered a breach of contract.

Jack DuBois

Football – First round game results were distributed. 35 games will be played in the second round, on 11/17 & 11/18. Championship matchups will be determined on Monday, 11/20. For the sectional championships, 8 games will be played at MetLife, 4 games at Rutgers, 5 games at Kean University and 6 games at Rowan University.

Soccer Update – Delbarton School won the Non-Public A championship over Christian Brothers Academy (last year’s champion) while Morris Catholic defeated Moorestown Friends to win the Non-Public B title. On Sunday 11/19, the four public group finals will be played at Kean University. Matchups are as follows: Group 1-Pompton Lakes HS v Glassboro HS; Group 2-Dover HS v. Holmdel HS; Group 3 – Mainland Regional HS v Mendham HS and Group 4 - Princeton HS v. Kearny HS.

Corporate Update – NJSIAA received three-year renewals from both Parisi Speed School and Bollinger Insurance. Mr. DuBois thanked Bollinger for their continuous support over the past twelve years.

Boys Lacrosse Proposal Result – The Boys Lacrosse Coaches Association put out a survey to change the tournament seeding process. The proposal was not supported by schools with boys lacrosse therefore no change will be made to the current tournament seeding procedure. Final Vote: No-156; Yes-23; Abstentions-9.

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Approval of Advisory Committee 2017-2018 – A motion was made by Mike Gatley, seconded by Bill Vacca, to approve the proposed list of Advisory Committee members for 2017-2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Tennis – The singles/doubles tournament has been completed. Congratulations to Tess Fisher of Vineland HS, who defeated Angela Hess from Academy of the Holy Angels. In the doubles tournament, the Millburn doubles team of Sara Jacobs & Joanna Atwater defeated the Holmdel team of Natalie Cipriano & Victoria Vought in three sets. In the team tournament, six state group champions were crowned and Millburn HS defeated Holmdel HS in the Tournament of Champions. Ms. Cole distributed a listing of all winners.

Field Hockey – Five state group champions were crowned. Later in the day, the Tournament of Champions semifinals will take place at Rancocas Valley HS. Oak Knoll HS is scheduled to play Rumson-Fair Haven and Moorestown will compete against Eastern HS.

Winter Tournament Regulations – All winter tournament regulations are posted online.
Winter Tournament Refusal Process – Ms. Cole aims to have this set up by 12/1.
NAGWS – This event will take place on Sunday, 2/4/18 at Seton Hall University. The luncheon ticket also includes tickets to the Seton Hall v Butler women’s basketball game. Price of ticket has not yet been determined.

Bill Bruno

Cross Country – Mr. Bruno distributed a list of the top five teams from each section of the sectional meets and results from the group meets. 4,162 runners competed at the sectional meets, 1,952 competed at the group meets, and 418 will compete in the Meet of Champions at Holmdel Park on 11/17.

Winter Track – The rules and regulations have already been posted. The first event takes place on 1/18, for which Mr. Bruno is already receiving entries.

Wrestling Update – Mr. Bruno is waiting for the Wrestling Committee to finalize the Rules and Regulations. Once that is done, they will be posted online. Schools are entering in to their second year of the modified regions alignment. Once the season is over, the realignment will be reviewed. Mr. Bruno met with the new management at Boardwalk Hall. Rooms are going quickly at Bally’s and Caesars. Hotel reservation information is posted on NJSIAA’s website.

Spring Track – RFPs were sent. The following schools will host sectionals May 21st through May 26th: Don Bosco (North NP A&B), Donovan Catholic (South NP A&B), Clifton HS (N1, Groups 1&4), River Dell (N1, Groups 2&3), Ridge HS (N2, Groups 1&4), Middletown North (N2, Groups 2&3), Howell HS (Central, Groups 1&4), Jackson Liberty HS (Central, Groups 2&3), Washington Twp HS (South, Groups 1&4), and Delsea Regional HS (Central, Groups 2&3). Group meets will take place at Franklin HS (Groups 1, 4 & NPA) and Central Regional HS (Groups 2, 3 & NPB) the weekend of 6/1 and 6/2. The Meet of Champions will be on 6/9 at Northern Burlington Regional HS.

NJSCA Clinics – 47 people attended the golf clinic which featured eight presenters. Upcoming clinics include the baseball clinic at Diamond Nation on 12/14, the tennis clinic on 1/12/18, and the track clinic on 1/23/18. Nomination forms for the NJSCA Hall of Fame are due 12/22/17.

Al Stumpf

Soccer – The two non-public championship games both ended in double overtime, resulting in co-champions for both games. Immaculate Heart Academy and Bishop Eustace are the 2017 Non-public A co-champions while Moorestown Friends and Montclair Kimberley Academy are the Non-public B co-champions. On 11/18, the four public championship games will take place at Kean University. The matchups are as follows:

Group 1- Glen Ridge HS v Shore Regional HS  
Group 2- Westwood HS v. Wall Twp HS  
Group 3- Middletown South HS v Allentown HS  
Group 4- Ridge HS v Freehold Twp HS

Volleyball – The Tournament of Champions will take place at William Paterson University, beginning on 11/18. The out-bracket matchup will be played between Verona HS and Old
Tappan HS, with winner playing #1 seed Immaculate Heart Academy. #2 seed River Dell Regional HS plays #3 seed Ridge HS. Championship game is played at 2pm on 11/19.

Unified Bowling Pilot Program – Mr. Stumpf shared a bowling pilot program on the NJSIAA forum and is hosting a webinar tomorrow, 11/16. Mr. Stumpf hopes to conduct a Unified bowling sectional championship.

Regional Assigning of Officials 2017 Tournaments – NJSIAA was asked to assign officials to all tournament games, not just some rounds. Of the 901 games NJSIAA assigned in volleyball, girls and boys soccer, and field hockey, there were only 4 conflicts/concerns, which averages to .004439 percentage, so this process is working.

Michael Zapicchi

Compliance Update – Visits are underway. The program has seen success when the Principal is invited to attend the meeting. It becomes an evaluative experience for all present.

International Student Committee Update – The first meeting has already taken place, with the second meeting scheduled for 11/21. In March, legislation will most likely be proposed to streamline the form and make one form for both F1 and J1 Visa students. Mr. Zapicchi has been in contact with the NFHS and CSIET, the agency that regulates international students.

Director of Finance Report – Colleen Maguire

Introduction of Tony Maselli – Larry White had introduced NJSIAA’s newest Assistant Director, Tony Maselli from Montgomery HS earlier in the meeting. Ms. Maguire distributed a realignment of each Director’s duties.

Steve Timko’s Retirement Party – An invite was given out to all Executive Committee members. RSVPs can be emailed to Liz Nodeland.

Winter Classifications – Winter classifications have been finalized and posted. In January, Ms. Maguire will start drafting the spring classifications but they cannot be finalized until after the February 1st cooperative sports deadline.

Special Committees (Out of Season/Classifications) – Both the Classifications Committee and Out of Season Coaching Committee have been formed. They will both meet in December for the first time. Each committee is made up of approximately 10 members.

Finance Committee Update – Chuck Klaus

Approval of October 2017 Checkbook – The October 2017 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. A motion to accept the October 2017 check register was made by Elaine McGrath, seconded by Greg Bailey. Motion carried unanimously.
Program Review

Spring Track Qualifications for the Meet of Champions – 2nd Reading – A motion was made by Judy Finch Johnson, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to change the qualifying parameters for the Spring Track Meet of Champions. In all group meet individual events, only gold and silver winners would advance from each event (12 individuals) plus 18 wild card spots (nine athletes from Site 1 which is NPA, Groups 1&4 and nine from Site 2 (NPB, Groups 2&3). This reduces the amount of competitors from 42 to 30 per event. For the three relays (six when you combine boys and girls), all gold and silver medalists from each group automatically advance, plus the next 12 fastest overall from all groups. This makes 12 total (24 including boys and girls), for a total of 24 relays, down from 42. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

Golf Early Start Date – 1st Reading – The Golf Committee recommended moving the 2018 official starting date for games from Saturday, March 31 to the last Monday of March (March 26, 2018), because securing a golf course on Saturdays is impossible. The Program Review Committee recommended adjusting the request to the same opening day as boys and girls lacrosse (March 28, 2018) so there’s not as many spring start dates. A motion was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Joseph Bollendorf, to move the 2018 official golf start date from Saturday, March 31, 2018 to Wednesday, March 28, 2018. Motion passed first reading with two oppositions (Dr. Sarruda and Richard Kaz).

Annual Meeting Legislation – Final Proposals

Three proposals will be voted on by the general membership on 12/4/17. A copy of the final proposals was distributed. Discussion took place over Ballot #2. Monsignor Kelly questioned the power points while others asked about the plan if the bylaws are changed to allow for a ten-game football season instead of nine. If Ballot #2 passes, then the Football Committee will recommend to the Executive Committee their new tournament structure and address power points in their recommendation. The membership is voting on the bylaw to allow change to the playoff structure but ultimately the actual playoff structure details will have to be approved by the Executive Committee. A motion was made by Kevin Carty, Jr., seconded by Tony Mitchell, to approve the final proposals as written to be placed on the ballot at the 2017 annual meeting. Motion passed unanimously.


Update on Paterson Eastside Case – All briefs have been submitted and we are awaiting a decision from the Commissioner of Education.

Drone Policy – Due to many requests from schools to use drones (also known as UAS or unmanned aerial systems), NJSIAA decided it was time to update the policy and allow schools to use UAS for practices and games, with certain qualifiers. First, member schools will be permitted to use UAS during practice and at home events in accordance with applicable local, State and Federal laws and regulations. Second, at away events, UAS can be used with advanced written permission of the host school, or, in the event there is no home school, the site manager. Third, if only one school operates a UAS at an event, the UAS video shall be provided to all other participating schools as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the event. Last, the use of UAS at an NJSIAA tournament event is prohibited.
There are no state or federal regulations that outline parameters for how far away a drone must be from people or property. NJSIAA has been contacted by a company that has used drones for soccer games in Europe and can be a good resource if any schools wish to contact them. A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Bill Vacca, to adopt the new drone policy as outlined. Final Vote: Yes-21; No-6; Abstentions-2 (Bollendorf and Gatley)

Transgender Policy – The NJSIAA transgender policy was first adopted in 2009. An amended policy was distributed for consideration by committee members prior to the November meeting. Changes were necessary due to, among other things, a state law adopted in July, 2017, which required the Commissioner of Education to develop guidelines permitting transgender students to participate in gender-segregated school activities in accordance with the student's gender identity. The changes being considered by the committee were designed to update and clarify the 2009 policy. The new policy would no longer require a student to produce proof of transgender status by way of an official document or doctor’s note; would clarify that a student may participate in sports in accordance with the student’s gender identity or birth sex, but not both; and would clarify when the policy applies and when it does not. Mr. Bollendorf questioned NJSIAA’s right to overturn a school’s decision and whether the policy was a recommendation or a rule. Mr. Goodell noted that the NJSIAA does not determine gender identity and that the policy applies to all member schools; it is not a recommendation. Mr. Popadiuk asked if there were guidelines about a transgender student changing gender midseason. Mr. Goodell replied that a student cannot change sports midseason. A motion was made by Mr. Popaduik, seconded by Mr. Smith, to adopt the new transgender policy. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business/New Business – none.

Adjournment – There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded at 12:01 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

SJT: In