Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Mary Liz Ivins, at 11:11 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Greg Bailey, Tom Berrios, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jr., Jason Corley, Judy Finch Johnson, Edward Grande, Robert Grauso, Oscar Guerrero, Robert Haraka, Kurt Karcich, Monsignor Michael Kelly, Raymond Kiem, Howard Krieger, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Michael Nitti, Christopher Penna, William Quirk, Senator Paul Sarlo, Steve Shohfi, Frank Torcasio, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, Paul Vizzuso, Kathy Whalen, and Dr. Brian Zychowski. Also present: Larry L. White, Executive Director; Kim Cole, Jack DuBois, Bill Bruno, and Al Stumpf, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; and Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriter was in attendance: Darren Cooper. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Tom Berrios, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2019 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried with one abstention (Nitti).

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) – The legislature is currently in lame duck session. There are three issues that were dormant prior to the election but are now gaining traction. They are as follows: 1- a bill that prohibits discrimination on basis of hair under "Law Against Discrimination". This bill looks like it is moving but does not impact what the association currently does. 2-a bill from Senate President Steve Sweeney that would redefine independent contractors as employees. This would impact officials. 3- a bill that gives head coaches an automatic three-year contract. The New Jersey School Boards Association has taken a stance against this bill because they feel it gives protection to coaches that teachers don’t receive.

SOAP Initiative – The Stop Opioid Abuse Program has conducted two more high school assembly programs. On November 19, the coalition visited Hamilton North (Nottingham) HS and on November 26 conducted an assembly at Pequannock High School. The goal is to visit 7-8 more schools this school year. The visits have gotten good reviews, and some good PR.

Bill Vacca mentioned that the Attorney General reached out to the DAANJ. They want to hold an opioids session at the DAANJ Conference, which was accommodated. It's a big topic right now. Mr. White is looking to take this assembly program to Newark schools and see if the Attorney General will speak there as well.
Long-Range Strategic Plan – John DiColo will chair this important committee. He served on DAANJ’s Strategic Planning Committee from 2010-2014 and from 2015-2019, was DAANJ’s Technology Chairperson. Mr. White has assembled retired ADs, current ADs, some members of the current Executive Committee, along with the Senior Staff members of the NJSIAA to serve on the four sub-committees (Finance, Legislative, Programs, and Marketing/Technology.)

Assistant Director Reports

Jack DuBois

Football Update – Mr. DuBois first thanked the Philadelphia Eagles for providing a neutral site and hosting the Pleasantville-Camden 2nd Round football playoff game. This game was cut short due to gunfire but was resumed at the Linc on 11/20 thanks to the generosity and sense of community offered by the Eagles organization. The regional championships held at MetLife for the N1 and N2 schools were well attended. The Central and South games held at Rutgers the following weekend had below average attendance. The Football Leagues and Conferences Committee will meet in January. All the championship games at MetLife and Rutgers utilized instant replay through DVSport. The replay was an outstanding tool in supporting officials’ decisions. DVSport is considering signing a sponsorship contract with NJSIAA. The snake seeding method appeared to work very well. There were better matchups and competitive games. Mr. DuBois received an incident report from the Thanksgiving game between Phillipsburg and Eastern, held at Lafayette. The Phillipsburg administration took the incident very seriously and went above and beyond to remedy the situation. They agreed to have their head coach sit out the first game of next season, have their program be on probation for the 2020 season, and will develop a corrective action plan, which will include plans for sideline security for home and away games. On 12/5, both teams met at Lafayette to complete the handshake line. Both coaches spoke to the teams regarding sportsmanship.

Rob Haraka asked if the use of instant replay will be required during regular season. Mr. DuBois explained that the NFHS has allowed NJSIAA to use it during regular season only through a waiver request, but he does intend to request permission for NJ to use it again during the regular season. It would not be mandated, and only utilized if both schools have the equipment and agree to it.

Corporate Update – No update.

Workshops – No update.

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Field Hockey – The Tournament of Champions concluded at Kean University. Oak Knoll finished the season undefeated when they beat Eastern in a well-attended finals game. The field hockey committee met on 12/4. Key areas of discussion were 1-Play-on v Play-by date. If NJSIAA is assigning officials, then there must be a play-on date, because there’s limited qualified state tournament officials. Some schools will have to play on a SAT date, but the sections rotate each year, so it won’t be the same group playing on that Saturday SAT play date each year. 2-During the 2020 field hockey tournament, all sectional finals must be played on turf fields. 3-The committee wants to keep the classifications as is but recognizes this may change based on other recommendations made by special committees. 4-The Tournament of
Champions will be seeded based on power points for the first 16 games. The past two years the Tournament of Champions seeding was based on winning percentage through the group finals. 5-A tie-breaker shoot-out will be utilized during the Fall of 2021 field hockey season, if the score remains tied after the 7 v. 7 overtime for varsity tournament play requiring advancement. The committee strongly recommends all scrimmages in 2020 to practice the shoot-out procedure for officials, coaches and players to become familiar with the practice. Implementation will be Fall 2021.

Eligibility and Transfers – Since NJSIAA has begun to use the new online transfer system on 9/1, 1,576 transfers have been processed. 953 were deemed immediate eligible because they had no varsity participation or had a bona fide change of residence verified based on the documentation provided. 210 will be subject to the 30-day transfer sit. 40 are under review (additional information required in order to render a transfer eligibility ruling). 313 are pending former school response so there can be no ruling by NJSIAA until completed and 59 are saved in system, but the present school has not finalized and submitted the paperwork to the former school.

Bill Bruno

Cross Country – Group and Meet of Champions results were distributed. Mr. Bruno thanked Mr. Goodell for giving out the team awards at the Meet of Champions.

Winter Track – Mr. Bruno hammered down the new order of events for the Meet of Champions that will take place at The Ocean Breeze in Staten Island. The facility can run sprints and hurdles at the same so the 4 x 800 will run simultaneously with the 55-hurdles and 55-meter dash. There is also a dual pole vault, triple jump, long jump and shot-put so a last-chance showcase meet for long-jump and triple jump was added on 3/2 at the Bubble.

Girl Wrestling Update – 302 girls have been entered in to the weight certification program, which is an increase of 200 girls from last year at this time. There are 10 girls’ tournaments scheduled, which is three more than last year. Last, instead of all the girls competing at one site for regions, the regions have been broken down in to North and South and will be held at two different sites. The North site will be Union HS, while the South girls will compete at Williamstown HS.

NJSCA Clinics – The baseball clinic will take place tomorrow (12/12) at Diamond Nation. After that, there’s still the track & field coaching clinic on 12/14, followed by tennis and wrestling coaching clinics in 2020.

Al Stumpf

Girls Soccer – Results from the public group championships played on 11/16 at Kean University are below.

Group 1- Mountain Lakes defeated Shore Regional
Group 2- Parsippany Hills defeated Wall in double overtime
Group 3- Ocean City defeated Ramapo
Group 4- Hunterdon Central defeated Scotch Plains-Fanwood

Girls Volleyball – In the Tournament of Champions semifinals, Immaculate Heart defeated Bogota and Mendham defeated Williamstown, so the finals were a match-up of Immaculate
Heart Academy v Mendham HS. Immaculate Heart won the battle, which was their third straight TOC title.

Unified Bowling/Basketball – Participation numbers are growing. A webinar was held for winter coaches. The basketball semifinals will be 2/22 and 2/29. Those teams that advance will play in the TOC at Rutgers.

NAGWS – The National Girls and Women in Sport Day will take place on February 9, 2020 at Seton Hall University. All those in attendance will receive tickets to the Seton Hall-DePaul girls basketball game, taking place after the event. Deadline to register is 1/15.

Soccer Power Point Procedure Approval – The soccer committee unanimously endorsed a new seeding procedure to seed based on the top 10 highest power point totals from opening day to the cut-off date regardless of how many games you play between those dates. Details are below:

• Seeding will be based on the top 10 power point games regardless of how many games are played by the cut-off date.

• We are eliminating the first 13-game power point seeding procedure

• We are eliminating the .500 team automatically qualifying for the state tournament regardless of that team’s power points.

CL: If a team plays 16 games by the cut off, the power points will be the top 10 highest.
CL: If a team plays 13 games by the cut off, the power points will be the top 10 highest.

ALL SEEDING WILL BE BASED ON POWER POINT TOTALS – a team that is .500 is no longer automatically in the tournament.

This should benefit teams that have issues getting teams to schedule them and will eliminate the stress for teams who want to play better competition but do not because it may mean they do not reach the .500 level to qualify.

A motion to approve the new seeding procedure and seed based on the top 10 power point games regardless of how many games are played by the cut-off date was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Frank Torcasio. Motion passed unanimously (27-0-0).

New Basketball Rules Interpreter – Mr. Stumpf announced that Billy Martin will be the new basketball rules interpreter. Mr. Martin has come up with a new virtual evaluation system that allows officials to be evaluated right after games. This information will be used to secure the best officials for the state tournament.

Tony Maselli
(Report given by Al Stumpf since Mr. Maselli was not in attendance)

Boys Soccer Update – Three of the four games at the group championships went in to overtime, with two of those three games decided by shootouts.

Swimming and Bowling Update – Both sports are underway. Tournament regulations are posted on NJSIAA’s website.
**Director of Finance Report – Colleen Maguire**

Cooperative Sports Program Bylaws – Clarification – 2nd Reading – It is recommended to add the following language to the Cooperative Sports Program Bylaws:

CL. This section establishes a process by which Cooperative Sports Program applications are processed, reviewed, and appealed. A CSP is an exception to the general requirement that students play sports at the school at which they are enrolled. A CSP is not to be used to place students in another school’s program simply because the student(s)’ school does not offer the particular sport. Both schools must demonstrate a need for and commitment to the CSP.

A motion was made by Frank Torcasio, seconded by Christopher Penna, to approve the cooperative sports program clarification to the Bylaws. A role call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-27; No-0; Abstain-0. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

Classifications Review Committee Recommendations – A summary memo of recommendations was distributed, which included a proposal submitted to the Advisory Committee for consideration. If any sports committees choose to adopt the recommendations made by the Classifications Review Committee, it will be presented to the Program Review Committee, then the Executive Committee.

RFP Updates – Next week, Ms. Maguire will put out a request for RFPs for NJSIAA’s broadcast rights. Current contracts for this expire at the end of this year. Currently the association has a primary and secondary broadcast rights partner. Ms. Maguire will also request RFPs for a new auditing partner because our current auditor provides both IT and auditing services, and according to AICPA guidelines, a company cannot do both. NJSIAAA would prefer to retain the IT services from HBK, therefore will seek a new auditor.

**Finance Committee Update – Mary Liz Ivins**

Approval of November 2019 Checkbook – The November 2019 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. A motion to accept the November 2019 check register was made by Michael Nitti, seconded by Greg Bailey. Motion carried unanimously.

**Program Review**

Girls Tennis Start Date Waiver – 2nd Reading – Since Labor Day falls late the next two years, and the tennis tournament begins early, it is recommended that tennis begin on 9/1 (instead of 9/8) for the next two years (2020 & 2021). This will give schools four extra playing days which will help if weather is uncooperative and help teams have enough matches to qualify for the state tournament. A motion was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Tom Berrios, to approve a waiver to allow girl’s tennis teams to open on September 1st for the 2020 & 2021 seasons, and the option to begin practice on August 10, 2020 & August 9, 2021. A role call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-26; No-0; Abstain-0. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

Football – Removal of Waiver Request for Football Early Start – 2nd Reading - A motion was made by Kevin Carty Jr., seconded by Greg Bailey, to eliminate the requirement to request a
waiver for an early start date for the next two-year scheduling cycle and allow schools to begin on zero week without requesting a waiver in 2020 and 2021. If a team opens on zero-week, practice would begin on 8/3/2020 and 8/2/2021. A role call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-25; No-2 (Mitchell and Torcasio); Abstain-0. Motion passed second reading.

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

There are two cases pending, awaiting decision from the courts. Last month, there was a hearing where a student was found ineligible. The decision is ready and will be sent out.

**Michael Zapicchi**

**Report of Personnel Committee** – A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Tom Mullahey, to enter in to closed session at 11:50 am. A motion to return to open session was made by Christopher Penna, seconded by Mohammed Abdelaziz.

**Old Business/ New Business** – Mo Abdelaziz introduced a proposal to move the spring regular season start date from April 1st to April 8th for the 2020-2021 season and beyond for Baseball, Softball, Boys Tennis and Boys Volleyball.

Mr. Goodell explained that the proposed date changes will be presented in January for a second vote in February. The proposed changes will be for the 2020/21 school year, but Mr. Haraka replied that schedules for that time period are already done. Ms. Torok asked if it had to go through Program Review, which it will. Mr. Mullahey asked about the first practice date. Mr. Goodell answered that when the proposal was approved, the actual start date wasn't pushed back, and it should have been. Mr. Grauso asked if it moves the state tournaments back? Answer-no. Some expressed that they would like to see that because they do not want to cut the season short. Mr. Goodell said the proposal will be drafted and introduced to the committee next month.

**Adjournment** – There being no further business, a motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Frank Torcasio at 12:54 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. White
Executive Director

LLW: In