Steve Timko opened up the meeting with an introduction of all the directors and attendees.

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**Presentation – American Dairy Association North East**

The American Dairy Association North East is the newest corporate sponsor of the NJSIAA. Brenda Beltram briefly discussed the corporate sponsorship that they will provide to the NJSIAA. Sports nutrition is the main focus of their campaign “Refuel with Chocolate Milk”. Chocolate milk is a great choice after exercise to help muscles refuel. The American Dairy Association will be attending the Track & Field Meet of Champions at the Bennett Center to distribute chocolate milk to participating athletes. Monthly emails, recipes and information will be distributed as part of the sponsorship. Dr. Felicia D. Stoler gave a brief explanation of the various benefits of low-fat chocolate milk. It is a nutrient-packed fitness drink that can play an important role in your recovery routine. Chocolate milk is a great choice after exercise because it contains a unique mix of nutrients that help muscles refuel, which can help towards the next workout. More information can be found on the website at [http://www.dairyspot.com/welcome-american-dairy-association-north-east/](http://www.dairyspot.com/welcome-american-dairy-association-north-east/)

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**Conference Topics**

- **NJAC – Sean Dowling: Crowd Control/Fan Spectator Behavior.** A discussion ensued on how to handle various issues with crowd control and spectators. Sean expressed his concern about a few instances where the behavior of the spectators was not handled correctly. Several schools voiced their opinions and concerns as well. Steve Timko suggested that they develop a workshop on this topic to enforce positive fan behavior.

- **BNC – Sharon Hughes: Fee for the Pitch Counter.** A discussion ensued about who should be in charge of keeping track of pitches. It should be an adult, whether it’s a parent or an 18 year old student. Another idea that was mentioned was possibly seeing if older officials that are no longer officiating to keep track. [At the varsity level it has to be reported on njschoolsports.com. At the junior varsity level it can marked in the scorebook.] Cell phones also have an app that can be downloaded onto your phone to keep track of the pitches. As for the fee, as of now the NJSIAA cannot mandate schools to pay for a pitch counter, it was not included in the school’s budget.
Steve Timko Report

- Legislative Update from Paul Anzano was distributed. The report did not have any significant effects on the NJSIAA.
- Wrestling Update: Hotel rooms in Atlantic City are selling quickly for the 2017 NJSIAA Wrestling State Tournament at Boardwalk Hall. Rooms are still available at a discounted rate. A reminder that Friday, March 3, 2017 will be an earlier start time at 2:30pm. Team Sectional Finals will be held today, Friday, February 10, 2017 and Group Finals will be held at the Pine Belt Arena on Sunday, February 12, 2017.
- Latest controversies in the newspaper were an alleged racial incident between Clark HS and Plainfield HS. The schools are gathering information from the Union County Prosecutors Office. Another alleged racial incident took place between Dover HS and Jefferson HS. Both schools are submitting reports to the NJAC Controversies Committee, which will then be forwarded to NJSIAA.
- East Side Paterson Transfer/Eligibility is being worked on by Larry White with the Eastside Paterson administration regarding allegations made about their boys’ and girls’ basketball teams.
- All new legislation for the following year must be submitted to the NJSIAA, c/o Steve Timko, no later than March 15, 2017.

Jack DuBois Report

- The 2017 Football Committee Report was distributed.
  - Playoff Proposal and Power Point Adjustment Plan being developed.
  - “Practice Like Pros” NJSIAA sponsorship opportunity and student-athlete scholarships.
  - Football Summer Period for 2017-Sunday June 11 through August 6; Practice Sessions limited to 3 hours; No player protective equipment can be issued during the summer period.
  - Official Start of Practice Date-August 7, 2017. On that date players can be issued protective equipment and mandatory heat acclimatization protocol is set in place.
  - Black Out Week-every NJSIAA football member school must shut down all practices for at least 1 week anytime school is not in session including 2 weekends surrounding the black out week. Each school must report their black out week and the conferences must submit their composite list to the NJSIAA by June 1, 2017.
  - All items will go to Program Review in April and a 2nd reading will take place in May.
- Boys and Girls Fencing Semifinals will take place on February 15th and 16th. The Finals will be held on February 22, 2017 at Morris Hills.
- The Annual Senior New Jersey High School All-Star Basketball Classic will take place on March 19, 2017 at Rider University. Boys will play at Noon followed by the Girls at 2:30PM. Rosters were provided for the North/South Boys and Girls teams.
- Ice Hockey cut-off date was on February 6, 2017. First Round takes place on February 20-21, 2017. The Finals Site has not been determined as of yet, there are some scheduling conflicts at the Prudential Center. An alternative site may be the Mennen Arena in Morristown, New Jersey. When all details are finalized it will be posted on the website.
- A handout was provided which detailed the four major issues regarding Cooperative Sports Programs.
  - #1- Team Name on Uniforms – The committee supports amending the rule that team uniforms and team names are to reflect the LEA, not both teams. Amending this rule would allow co-op schools to select team names and uniforms that reflect both schools, if they so choose.
  - #2-Penalties Resulting from a Disqualification – Current practice is regardless of which school receives a disqualification, the DQ is applied to the LEA school. It is recommended to assign the DQ to the school of the offending athlete but if it is the coach who receives the DQ, the disqualification will be assigned to the LEA.
  - # 3-4 Establishing Hard Deadline Dates and Permitting Three Schools to Form a Cooperative Sports Program in Ice Hockey - The Policy Committee supports both 1-allowing a tri-school ice hockey cooperative sports program and 2-establishing hard seasonal deadlines for the cooperative sports application. If passed by the Program Review Committee, the Executive Committee will vote on these concepts in April.
Cooperative Sports Program One Year Extension Request between Henry Hudson and Keyport has been approved.

Changes will be made for Boys/Girls Lacrosse this year. LaxPower is owned by a private firm. LaxPower will have an app that you can download on your phone for a small fee. You can only report on your phone, not from your desktop. As far as the fee and how this will all work is still up in the air. As information becomes available it will be provided.

Larry White and Kim DeGraw Cole (Absent)

- Larry provided a report with detailed information regarding Basketball seeding, Bowling and Interpretation Meetings.
- Kim and Larry were unable to hold the Seeding Meeting originally scheduled on Thursday the 9th due to the snow day. The seeding was done by Larry & Kim and was sent electronically. Brackets will be posted by Noon today.
- Kim provided a report on the 2017 Softball State Tournament. The Proposal is for a three-person umpire crew beginning at Round 3 (Sectional Semi-Final). She also included a handout which covered information on the upcoming Basketball Tournaments, the Girls Bowling Sectionals and included a brief recap of the National Girls and Women in Sports Celebration. This year 172 high school seniors were nominated and recognized. Jill Cosse from West Essex was recognized as the 2017 Honor Award Recipient.

Bill Bruno (Absent)

- A handout was provided of the coaches which will be inducted into the NJSCA Hall of Fame on March 26, 2017.
- Due to Bill’s absence Al Stumpf briefly went over the Report. The Winter Relays went very well. A handout with the Winter Track & Field Sectional Meet information and results was distributed. New Jersey is one of the leading states in the country with participants in Winter Track & Field.
- Clinic Update: 75 people attended the Tennis Coaches Clinic held in Princeton on January 13, 2017. The next upcoming Track & Field/XC Coaches Clinic will be held on March 18, 2017 at Manalapan High School. More information can be found on the NJSIAA website.

Al Stumpf Report

- Al provided a swimming update with a handout that set forth all the sites, dates and times. The seeding took place on February 2, 2017. The Individual/Relay forms are due back on February 10, 2017 and Diving Entries are due back on February 17, 2017.
- Update on Unified Sports. Special Olympics has met with several conferences to give more information on how to run a unified program and to answer any questions. If your conference needs clarification please contact Al to set up a roundtable meeting. Upcoming unified sports are Basketball and Spring Track.

Colleen Maguire Report

- A proposed “Fine” Matrix was provided as a handout which detailed various fines that will be implemented for all sports and will be included in the Rules and Regulations of the By-Laws to the Constitution, if passed. The money collected will be used for the NJSIAA Scholar Athlete Scholarship Fund.
- An Absentee Ballot Proposal was discussed for the Annual Meeting in December. Several members were strongly in favor of this idea and others were not. In order to be fair, Colleen passed out an Orange Card to each Conference so that they can survey their member schools and provide their feedback on whether or not they are in favor of the idea or not. The cards must be returned by the April Meeting so that a decision can be made as to whether or not we will change the voting procedure.
Mike Zapicchi Report

- The Transfer Rule passed with a final vote of, Yes-25; No-9; Abstain-1. The new rule will go into effect July 1, 2017. Six months later, schools will be polled to see if they want to keep the rule as is or repeal it. As set forth in the NJSIAA Constitution, if a majority of member schools submit a ballot, the vote will be valid, whether the rule is affirmed or repealed by the membership. If the majority of schools don’t cast their ballot, then the vote doesn’t count. The change in the transfer rule has the welfare of the kids in mind and the change was necessary. In the near future the transfer form will be submitted electronically and it will be easier to submit and keep track of all the transfers.

Program Review

- **Start Date of Soccer**: Has been approved to September, 2017, Field Hockey may follow the same schedule for the upcoming Fall Season.
- **Baseball Pitch Count**: Has been passed.
- **Cross Country Change of Entry Fees**: Has been passed. The cost will now be $14.00 per individual (max of 7) instead of $80.00 per team.
- **Softball 3 Umpires at Sectional Semi-Final Round**: Approved to move forward to a 2nd Reading.

The next League & Conference Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2017