Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press

The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Greg Bailey, at 11:03 am.

The following members were present: Maureen Bilda, Dr. Brian Brotschul, John Bulina, Chris Calveley, Tom Coleman, Bill Edelman, Judy Finch Johnson, Dianne Furusawa, Michael Gatley, Dr. William George, Richard Giglio, Gerald Glisson, Kathy Goldenberg, Sharron Grady, Robert Grauso, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Monsignor Kelly, Chuck Klaus, Howard Krieger, Bill McDermott, Matthew McFarland, Elaine McGrath, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Sue Petrone, William Quirk, Steve Shohfi, Vincent Smith, Beverly Torok, Todd VanOrden, Kathy Whalen, Denis Williams and Scott Wohlrab. Also present: Steven J. Timko, Executive Director; Larry White, Jack DuBois, Kim Cole, and Bill Bruno, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager; Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Steve Falk, Asbury Park Press; Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; Darren Cooper, Record; Matt Stanmyre, NJ Advance Media and Mike McGarry, Press of AC. Also present: Michael Hughes, Asst Superintendent of North Hunterdon-Voorhees Schools, and Bud Kowal, Athletic Director at Ewing HS.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Dianne Furusawa, to accept the minutes of the April 6, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Out-of-State Competition/All-Star Games
A listing of Bordering State Sanctions and National Federation Sanctions was given for informational purposes.

Executive Director Update – Steven J. Timko

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – Though the legislature is on a budget break, Atlantic City talks and passing the budget in June are the dominant topics of discussion. Mr. Anzano anticipates NJSIAA will receive its annual $50,000 for steroids testing since it was included in the Department of Education (DOE) budget. Also, there is discussion about enacting a gas tax to help renew funds in the transportation trust fund. A decision is expected by July 1st. As for NJSIAA related proposals in the legislature, Mr. Anzano and NJSIAA have shared statistics with the sponsor of the redshirting bill, showing that this issue is not a significant problem. There is also a proposed bill requiring the DOE to distribute more information about steroids to parents/students. NJSIAA released a position paper about opioids, drafted by NJSIAA’s Medical Advisory committee members, Dr. Jack Kripsak and Dr. Greg Mulford. Student athletes are at higher risk for opioid addiction due to the higher risk for injuries. NJ is the first state association to tackle this growing issue.
Advisory Committee Proposed Legislation for 2016-2017 – Michael Hughes, Chairperson of the Advisory Committee and Asst Superintendent of the North Hunterdon-Voorhees School District, reported that the following five proposals were approved by the Advisory Committee on 4/6/16 for consideration by the Executive Committee. If approved, each piece of legislation will be discussed at sectional meetings in the fall, and placed on the ballot at the annual meeting in December.

a. **West Jersey Football League proposal to divide the non-public schools into Non-public North A&B and Non-public South A&B.**

This proposal was approved 17-3 by the Advisory Committee. A motion was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Mike Gatley, to endorse the West Jersey Football League proposal to divide the non-public schools into Non-public North A&B and Non-public South A&B, and place on the ballot at December 2016 annual meeting.

Tony Mitchell asked since Article 9 in the Constitution states there is no state champion allowed in football, can the Executive body approve this proposal today instead of placing it on the annual meeting ballot. Mr. Goodell recommended it go to the membership because it is a significant change in the playoff structure. Also, this proposal developed because the Executive Committee passed both the NJSFC Football Power Points Incentive proposal and a proposal that gave automatic entry in to the playoffs for schools in the United Division A&B. When those proposals were discussed by the executive body, the impact on other football schools was debated and considered at length. Mr. Goodell discouraged revisiting the same issue this year.

Discussion took place about voting on something that is unconstitutional. Mr. Goodell explained that 15 years ago, the Executive Committee made a conscious decision to make the playoffs the way they exist now. And the legislation that has been proposed can change the way the non-public football playoffs operate. Mary Liz Ivins added that the bylaw prohibiting a football state champion can be interpreted as there cannot be “a” state champion, which is singular, which there is not. There are many sectional champions and technically the non-public schools are given a sectional championship trophy. Tom Mullahey added that since there are only 37 non-public football schools, the section is set up statewide to make up for the lack of numbers. Mr. Gatley expressed that this proposal is a chance to make the Constitution correct since technically the non-publics play a state championship and this is against the rules as stated in the Constitution. Bud Kowal added that this proposal puts football in line with all other sports, having North/South A&B sections, and giving 6 out of 8 playoff spots, and leaving only two spots for teams to make playoffs is an unfair situation. He thought the two football proposals hurt South Jersey schools.

The question was called and vote taken. Final Vote: Yes-32; No-2. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mike Gatley, seconded by Bill Edelman, to approve the West Jersey Football League proposal to divide the non-public schools into Non-public North A&B and Non-public South A&B, now, by the Executive Committee, instead of placing it on the ballot at the annual meeting in December. It will take a second reading and 2/3 vote in June to be enacted for Fall 2016. The membership will be notified of the proposal ten days in advance of the June 1
Executive Committee meeting. Schools will be polled six months later. If this passes, there would only be a sectional title for non-publics (a North A, North B, South A, and South B champion.) Mr. Edelman asked how seeding would be done. Answer – power points seeding. Mr. Kowal encouraged the Executive Committee to adopt the proposal instead of placing it on the ballot because the power point structure and automatic entry bids will affect kids playing football in Fall 2016. Monsignor Kelly said that his school agreed to join the United Division because of the automatic football entry clause so he feared this proposal would take that away. Mr. Goodell assured him that approving this proposal does not affect his automatic entry in to the tournament. Only change is the teams that schools would play (example – Seton Hall will only compete against North A schools.) Robert Grauso asked how many teams would play in each division. The answer is approximately nine. Mr. Edelman asked Mr. DuBois how he feels about the proposal, to which Mr. DuBois expressed that every conference is entering its two year scheduling cycle next year so passing it now, would coincide with that. He also expressed if this passes, the quality of play is some divisions may be lower, but that is the case with other sports.

Final Vote: Yes-26; No-8. Motion passed. Notice will be sent to all member schools and second reading will take place June 1, 2016.

b. **West Jersey Conference Alliance / Tri County Conference proposal to change NJSIAA Rule 2: Section 8, Start of Regular Season by changing the start of regular spring season from April 1 to March 25 for all spring sports.**

This proposal was approved 11-9 by the Advisory Committee. A motion was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to change NJSIAA Rule 2: Section 8, Start of Regular Season by changing the start of regular spring season from April 1 to March 25 for all spring sports. Todd VanOrden expressed that many schools in the North are struggling to start by 4/1 and it makes more sense to open later, such as the first or second week of May, instead of earlier. Tony Mitchell felt that it’s hard to push the state tournament later because of proms, vacations, senior trips, etc. Rob Haraka shared that many Athletic Directors in the North are against this proposal because of the optional component, which always feels like it is not really optional. There’s competitive advantage if some schools start earlier so schools feel forced to start at the earlier date, even if it is optional. Dr. William George questioned whether the earlier start date conflicts with winter sports. Basketball ends later than any other winter sport and the last possible date would be before opening day of spring sports. The problem lies with practice facilities, especially if a team needs to practice indoors because of weather. Some schools may not have enough gym space for winter and spring teams to practice, which also provides competitive advantage for those schools with more facilities to offer. Tom Coleman expressed that opening the season on March 25 just gives more flexibility and open dates in rescheduling games if the weather is bad. Maureen Bilda felt the membership should get the chance to vote on this. Final Vote: Yes-14; No-19; Abstain-1. Motion failed.

c. **Holy Spirit HS proposal to reclassify the two non-public groups in baseball and basketball into four geographic sections that would mirror the public sectional classifications of North I, North II, Central and South.** The Advisory Committee passed this proposal 12-8. A motion was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to reclassify the two non-public groups in
baseball and basketball into four geographic sections that would mirror the public sectional classifications of North I, North II, Central and South. Monsignor Kelly appreciates the problems with travel in the South, but this is not an issue in the North and will work against the schools in the north. Tony Mitchell explained that while travel is part of the reason for the proposal, the main issue is cost to schools. Sue Petrone asked why only two sports were addressed in this proposal, to which Tony Mitchell explained that these are the only sports left that are based on general classification. All other sports use sport specific classification. Final Vote: Yes-22; No-9; Abstain-3. Motion passed.

d. **NJSIAA proposal to divide school enrollments into four groups every two years rather than the current one year.** The Advisory Committee passed this proposal 20-0. A motion was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Maureen Bilda, to divide school enrollments (public and non-public) into four groups every two years rather than the current one year. Since schools schedule based on a two-year cycle, NJSIAA thought it would be beneficial for a school to know its classification for the next two years. If passed, the proposal will go into effect after the next two-year cycle. It'll begin in the 2018-2019 school year. Final Vote: Yes-34; No-0. Motion passed.

e. **Tri County Conference proposal to increase the number of athletic directors on each sport specific committee to five so each section (public and non-public) is represented by an athletic director.** The Advisory Committee passed this proposal 20-0. A motion was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Maureen Bilda, to increase the number of athletic directors on each sport specific committee to five so each public and non-public section is represented by an athletic director. Currently there is one Athletic Director on each sports specific committee so this proposal increases the representation to 6 total. Some expressed feeling there is a need for more representation from the Athletic Director’s point of view since the committees are made up of mostly coaches, interpreter, etc. This proposal requires that Athletic Directors would be reimbursed for mileage by their local school boards, rather than NJSIAA, since this increase in committee members multiplied by the number of sports committees is a significant cost increase to NJSIAA. Instead of making this formal legislation since currently there is nothing in the Constitution or Bylaws about the formation of sports committees, it was recommended by NJSIAA to go from one AD to four (one from each geographic region North 1, North 1, Central and South). Of those four, one representative would have to be from a non-public school. Tom Coleman does not recommend asking local districts to reimburse the Athletic Directors since many already have deficits in their budgets and most will not likely approve the additional expenditure. He added that NJSIAA should cover the cost of mileage, not schools. Mr. White also suggested a compromise. He proposed one more Athletic Director for a total of two. One AD would represent N1/N2 and the other would be an AD from Central/South. John Bulina made a motion, seconded by Tom Coleman, to refer this proposal to a subcommittee of the Executive Committee to recommend a better solution for having Athletic Director representation on sports specific committees. Motion carried unanimously. The committee will make a recommendation in the June 2016 Executive Committee meeting.
2016 / 2017 List of Banned Substances – A motion to approve the new banned substances list for 2016/2017, which was preapproved by the NJSIAA Medical Advisory Committee, was made by William Quirk, seconded by Richard Giglio. Motion carried unanimously.

NFHS Legal Meeting – Along with Mr. Goodell, Mr. Timko attended and gave a presentation about public and non-public issues at the NFHS Legal Meeting in Indianapolis. Two states expressed interest in learning more from Mr. Goodell and Mr. Timko to use in their states.

Nomination of Officers – 1st Reading – On behalf of the nominating committee, Tom Coleman made a motion, seconded by William Quirk, to accept the following slate of officers for next year's Executive Committee:

President - Elaine McGrath, Athletic Director at South Brunswick HS
1st VP – Chuck Klaus, Principal at Haddonfield Memorial HS
2nd VP – Vincent Smith, Superintendent, Point Pleasant Borough School District

Motion carried unanimously.

2016-2017 Executive Committee Meeting Dates – 1st Reading – Proposed meeting dates for next year were distributed. A motion was made by Kathy Goldenberg, seconded by Maureen Bilda, to approve the meeting dates for 2016-2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Assistant Directors Reports

Bill Bruno

Outdoor Track – Mr. Bruno had to leave the meeting early but he distributed dates and sites for the outdoor track spring tournament.

Cooperative Sports Program Approvals - A motion was made by Michael Gatley, seconded by Dr. William George, to approve the below listing of cooperative sports program requests. Motion passed unanimously.

Mount Olive HS / Hopatcong HS – Ice Hockey
Hopatcong HS / Mount Olive HS – Bowling
Manasquan HS / Point Pleasant Beach – B/G Swimming, Ice Hockey, Gymnastics and B/G Bowling
Lawrence HS / Ewing HS – Ice Hockey
Morris Catholic HS / DePaul Catholic HS – Ice Hockey
Ocean Twp HS / Shore Regional HS – Ice Hockey
Manasquan HS / Pt Pleasant Beach HS – B/G Swimming, Ice Hockey, Gymnastics, and B/G Bowling
Larry White

**Baseball** – Cutoff is 5/13 but it may change due to the weather this spring. Mr. White has received multiple requests for an extension but wants to be in accordance with softball so Mr. White will confer with Ms. Cole.

**Boys Volleyball** – Cutoff is 5/12.

Jack DuBois

**Clinics** – The wrestling clinic will take place on 5/6 at Princeton University’s Jadwin Gym. On 5/9, there will be a Unified Sports workshop held at NJSIAA and on 5/20, there will be a trainer workshop, sponsored by Tri County Orthopedics.

**NJSCA HOF** – Over 575 attended this event on 4/10 at the Pines Manor. 34 coaches and one trainer were inducted into the NJSCA HOF. Recipients of the NFHS Coach of the Year and Official of the Year were also celebrated.

**Scholar Athlete Program** - 333 scholar athletes will be honored and 1350 are registered to attend this program, which takes place on 5/15 at the Pines Manor in Edison. $181,000 in scholarships is being awarded through 219 scholarships. This is $20,000 more than last year.

**Boys Lacrosse** – Seeding takes place 5/10. The public tournament begins 5/18, while the non-publics begin play on 5/21.

**Ice Hockey** – The ice hockey committee met and recommends the following three changes:

1- Cory Robinson, Athletic Director at Fair Lawn HS, will take over as Tournament Director. Paul McGinnis is stepping down.

2- Next year, at all varsity interscholastic ice hockey games, a site manager should be a representative employed by the school, but it should not be a coach or athletic trainer.

3- In the Gordon Division, the three-official system should be allowed if both schools agree.

Kim Cole

**Boys Tennis** – Seeding for the team tournament is 5/9. Entries are flowing in. Brackets will be posted on nj.com but the singles/doubles will be posted on NJSIAA’s website as soon as possible. 65 tennis teams opted out of the team tournament.

**Girls Lacrosse** – Girls lacrosse seeding takes place 5/14 using LAX power. Cutoff is 5/13. The group finals will be at Kean University on 6/4, the T of C semifinals at Monmouth University on 6/8 and the T of C finals at Kean University on 6/11.

**Softball** – Power points are calculated for the first 15 games as of the cutoff of 5/14. Seeding will be 5/17. The state public semi-finals and non-public sectional finals will take place at six predetermined sites on 6/7. The finals will be played at Kean University on 6/10 and 6/11.
Tournament Refusal – Tournament Refusal Forms are now automated and requires the Athletic Director to log on to the website to complete the task. Forms are no longer accepted.

Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager

Compliance Monitors – Schools should notify Mr. Zapicchi of any new Athletic Directors so that compliance monitors can visit the school and provide mentorship.

Public/Non-Public Committee – At the next meeting on May 31st, the issue of recruiting will be tackled.

NJDOE Study Group – Mr. Zapicchi surveyed the committee for positive and negative feedback to starting the high school day later in the morning. Mr. Zapicchi provided data, outlining positive outcomes associated with later school start times. Michael Gatley expressed that some schools already do not allow their student athletes to leave school early for sports, so this would exacerbate that existing problem. He also felt the later time will be an issue in the fall with daylight savings time and JV games. Tom Coleman felt that the study had important data, but realistically all adults would benefit from more sleep time as well, so this proposal doesn’t align with real world and schools should prepare kids for real life schedules. Bill Edelman is uncomfortable with younger students waiting at a bus stop in the dark in the mornings and going home to an empty house. It’s not an issue having older kids come home early to an empty house. Steve Shohfi spoke of a school that changed their dismissal time to later in the day (4:20pm) and as a result, the athletic program weakened. Mr. Zapicchi will share the committee’s concerns with the NJDOE study group. As of now, it will be a pilot program or schools that currently begin their day at 8/8:30am will be surveyed.

Finance Report

Winter 2016 Championships Financial Report – Net profit was approximately $2,000 under budget for the entire Winter season. Earlier in the week, the Directors met with Rutgers and had a very positive conversation regarding our relationship overall. The Association received $18,000 in net proceeds for the boys basketball games held at the RAC…this is the contractual maximum amount. Everyone was very pleased with this settlement.

2016-2017 Budget – The budget was reviewed line by line in the Finance Committee meeting. A copy was distributed to all in attendance. For those not present, a copy will be mailed. Ms. Maguire is available for any questions.

New NJSIAA Assistant Director – The ad for a new NJSIAA Asst. Director has been posted. The 2016-2017 budget includes the salary allocation for this new position plus an additional $10,000 for expenses to run the Adapted Sports program.

Finance Committee Update (Greg Bailey)

April 2016 Checkbook – A motion was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Dianne Furusawa, to accept the April 2016 check register, which was approved by the finance committee as well as our monthly approvals according to policy. Motion carried unanimously.
Program Review

Softball TOC Proposal – 1st Reading - On behalf of the Program Review Committee, Gerald Glisson made a motion, seconded by Dianne Furusawa, to have a Tournament of Champions in the sport of softball. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

Report of Counsel – Steven P. Goodell – Mr. Goodell had three updates for the committee:

1. The Protest Committee met to hear an Eligibility case that was challenged. Mr. Goodell has not heard of any further appeals, so the decision by the Protest Committee stands.

2. There was a Leagues and Conferences hearing to hear an issue between Delbarton School and the NJSFC. Delbarton School refused to play their schedule. It was determined that Delbarton School is obligated to play their schedule. If they appeal, it will be heard by the Executive Committee in June.

3. There was a baseball player eligibility case that received a lot of media attention. If there are questions, please contact Mr. Goodell or Mr. White.

Old Business / New Business

1. Cooperative Sports Program Jerseys – There was a recommendation from Jefferson Twp HS to allow both school names on the jerseys of cooperative sports programs. That would require a bylaw change.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made for adjournment Michael Gatley, seconded by Tom Coleman. Meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

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