Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press

The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Greg Bailey, at 11:05 am.

The following members were present: Maureen Bilda, John Bulina, Chris Calveley, Tom Coleman, Suzanne Cooley, Bill Edelman, Judy Finch Johnson, Dianne Furusawa, Michael Gatley, Dr. William George, Gerald Glisson, Kathy Goldenberg, Sharron Grady, Robert Grauso, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Monsignor Kelly, Chuck Klaus, Howard Krieger, Jack Lally, Scott Lodgek, Matthew McFarland, Elaine McGrath, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Michael Nitti, Philip Schaffer, Steve Shohfi, Vincent Smith, John Stanczak, Beverly Torok, 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; and Chris Ryan, NJ Advance Media. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C., Kurt W. Krauss, Esq. of Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP, and Daniel R. Bevere, Esq., of Piro, Zinna, Cifelli, Paris & Genitempo.

Mr. Timko thanked the following departing Executive Committee members for their year(s) of service: Tom Coleman, Dianne Furusawa, and Jack Lally.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Dianne Furusawa, seconded by Judy Finch Johnson, to accept the minutes of the May 4, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Out-of-State Competition Sanctions (informational) - 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) – Mr. Anzano had to leave early, but distributed a listing of current proposals in the legislature that relate to high school interscholastic athletics. On Mr. Anzano’s behalf, Mr. Timko reported that Assemblyman Burzichelli and Senator Codey are putting together a resolution to include an additional $45,000 in next year’s legislative budget for NJSIAA to perform year-round steroid testing.

Delbarton School Appeal of Leagues and Conferences Subcommittee Decision – On 4/19/2016, the Leagues and Conferences Subcommittee held a hearing based on allegations by the Northwest Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) and the North Jersey Super Football Conference (NJSFC) that Delbarton School would not recognize the NJSFC football schedule and did not consider itself to be a member of the NJSFC. The Leagues and Conferences Subcommittee
determined that Delbarton School must be considered a member of the NJSFC and was not entitled to play an independent football schedule. The Subcommittee’s written decision was issued on April 28, 2016. Delbarton appealed that decision to the Executive Committee.

Prior to its June 1 meeting, the Executive Committee was provided with the record before the Subcommittee as well as briefs submitted by Delbarton and NJSFC. The Executive Committee heard oral arguments from attorneys for Delbarton School and NJSFC and met in closed session to discuss the appeal. A motion was made by Michael Gatley, seconded by Dr. William George, to affirm the decision made by the Leagues and Conferences Subcommittee, which determined that Delbarton School is a member of the North Jersey Super Football Conference (NJSFC) and is bound to play the scheduled provided by the NJSFC. After lengthy discussion, a roll call vote was taken in open session. Final Vote: Yes-24, No-0, Abstain-9. Motion carried. A court reporter transcribed the hearing.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Regarding Non-Public Football Championships – 2nd Reading

– A proposal submitted by the West Jersey Football Conference to change the structure of the non-public football state tournament was endorsed by the Advisory Committee and Executive Committee in May. A motion was then made in May’s Executive Committee meeting to have the Executive Committee adopt this proposal so it can be effective for Fall 2016 instead of being placed on the annual meeting ballot in December. Notice of the proposed amendment to the bylaws/vote was sent to the membership. If the proposal does not receive the required 2/3 approval today, it will still be placed on the ballot in December.

A motion was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Steve Shofhi, to amend Bylaws, Article III, Section 7, to read “New Jersey Non-public Schools with football shall be classified by size and geography, with schools competing for North A, North B, South A, and South B championships” (the text “together for football and then divided into three (3) Groups based on pupil enrollment in Grades 9, 10 and 11, as submitted to NJSIAA as follows: Non-public IV, Non-public III, Non-public II” would be removed.)

Discussion ensued. Monsignor Kelly questioned whether the current football tournament structure does violate the NJSIAA Constitution since “no state champion” in football is permitted. Mr. Goodell responded that in 1995, when that clause and structure was introduced, it was not considered to be a violation. Since adoption, the current playoff structure has been in practice for the past 20+ years. Rob Haraka expressed that the membership should vote, not the Executive Committee, but Tony Mitchell expressed that the automatic tournament entry and increased power point proposals did not go to membership, and all three new football proposals should come in to existence at same time. Michael Nitti seconded Mr. Mitchell’s sentiments. He expressed that it makes sense to many members to put this proposal in place as soon as possible since the new two football playoff proposals that were approved by the Executive Committee are being enacted this fall. Tom Mullahey doesn’t think anything was fast tracked. The power points and automatic entry proposals had two readings whereas this proposal was endorsed by the Advisory Committee to be placed on the annual meeting ballot, not to be decided by the Executive Committee. Also, football plays to a sectional championship, not state championship but by creating these groups, only last place won’t qualify and is that really what the membership will want? Tony Mitchell responded that if you look at every sport, non-public schools always qualify for every tournament and there’s hardly ever a bracket due to lack of numbers. Monsignor Kelly opposes this proposal because if approved, state playoffs just mimic regular season play. Michael Nitti reiterated that with the new setup in the North and the automatic tournament bids, this new proposal provides equity. There was no annual meeting vote for the power points/automatic bids proposals. Denis Williams explained that the automatic bids proposal was approved as a response to Commissioner Hespe’s call for equity.
Final Vote: Yes-17; No-16. Since 2/3 approval needed, motion failed. Though it was not approved to begin in Fall 2016, it will still be considered by the full membership when placed on the ballot in December 2016.

2016-2017 Executive Committee Meeting Dates – 2nd Reading – The proposed dates for next year’s Executive Committee meetings are as follows:

- September 14, 2016
- October 19, 2016
- November 9, 2016
- January 11, 2017
- February 8, 2017
- April 5, 2017 - Combined Advisory/Executive Committee Meetings
  - May 3, 2017
  - June 7, 2017

A motion was made by Bill Edelman, seconded by Robert Haraka, to accept the proposed 2016-2017 Executive Committee meeting dates. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 2016-2017 Officers – 2nd Reading – A motion was made by Tom Coleman, seconded by John Bulina, to accept the following slate of executive committee officers for 2016-2017: President – Elaine McGrath, 1st Vice President – Chuck Klaus, and 2nd Vice President – Vincent Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Scholar Athlete Program – 1,400 people attended. $181,000 in scholarships was given out.

Medical Advisory Committee – The committee met. Dr. Damion Martins, an expert on concussions, presented to athletic trainers before the meeting about concussions and heat acclimatization. In the Medical Advisory Committee meeting, important discussion took place about opioids. Mr. Timko was happy to announce more clinics will be held at no cost to the membership. Mr. DuBois spoke to the committee about the First Aid requirement of coaches. The committee approved Mr. DuBois’s recommendation to require all coaches be First Aid certified within the next two years. It is now required but coaches who began prior to 2006/2007 were grandfathered in and not trained. This new recommendation would require all coaches, including those grandfathered in, to be First Aid certified. Steve Shohfi asked if it’s a one-time certification, which it’s not. First aid certification must be renewed every two years and cannot be done online. Some instructors are qualified to teach both CPR and First Aid so both certifications can be achieved in the same day.

Proposed Amendments to the Handbook – A motion was made by John Bulina, seconded by Kathy Goldenberg, to approve the proposed changes to the NJSIAA Handbook. Changes made are proposals that have already been passed by the membership at the 2015 annual meeting or changed by the Executive Committee during the year. Other revisions include date changes to reflect sport specific rules and the ½ season transfer sitting rule. Mr. White made note that Michael Zapicchi will be spearheading a thorough review of the Constitution and Handbook next year so that all discrepancies are fixed. Motion passed unanimously.

Drug Free Sports Contract for 2016-2017/Resource Exchange Center Contract – A motion was made by Dr. William George, seconded by Gerald Glisson, to allow the NJSIAA to contract with Drug Free Sports (DFS) again this summer to administer the association’s steroid testing. Motion passed unanimously.
Golf Update – Bergen Catholic HS broke the state record by 11 strokes at the team tournament with a score of 284. Red Bank Catholic HS won the girls team tournament. Mr. Timko thanked the Hopewell Valley Country Club and the Forsgate Country Club for hosting the boys and girls team tournament championships respectively, and also thanked tournament directors, Steve Skinner and Dick Bennett for an outstanding job.

Assistant Directors Reports

Kim DeGraw-Cole

1. Tennis – The team tournament is underway, with the TOC semifinals taking place later in the day. Winners were distributed. The singles/doubles tournament begins on the weekend.

2. Girl’s Lacrosse – The sectional finals begin today. The four group finals take place at Kean University.

3. Softball – The tournament is at the sectional finals level. Ms. Cole offered flexibility to schools to play Friday games tomorrow, since weather is predicted to be bad on Friday.

4. Rules Committee Notifications – Dates of sports rules committee meetings have been distributed on the forum. Ms. Cole has solicited input from member schools for discussion at these meetings.

5. Athletic Director Representation on Sports Committees Proposal – A subcommittee of the Executive Committee met via phone conference to find a compromise to the TCC’s proposal of adding 5 Athletic Directors to each sports rules committee. It was recommended that each committee be structured to include three Athletic Directors, one to represent N1/N2, one to represent Central/South, and one to represent the non-public schools. Maureen Bilda made a motion to withdraw the TCC Advisory Committee proposal from last month that addressed athletic director representation on sports committees and to address this issue as a policy instead of making it legislation. She expressed that the TCC would approve of this compromise of three athletic directors serving on each sports committee instead of one. Instead of voting on Ms. Bilda’s motion, the committee voted on the motion from last month which was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Maureen Bilda, to increase the number of athletic directors on each sport specific committee to five so that each public and non-public section is represented by an athletic director. Motion failed unanimously. Note – NJSIAA will reimburse all three committee members for their mileage, since the number that will serve was reduced from five to three.

Larry White

1. Baseball Update – Sectional finals take place 6/3. The following facilities are hosting the public semifinals: Belleville HS, Lyndhurst Facility-Breslin Field, Weehawkin HS, Kean University, Rowan University, Rowan College at Gloucester County, Cumberland County College and Monmouth University. The sites for the non-public sectional finals are Ramapo College, William Paterson University, East Brunswick Vo-Tech School, and
Rutgers University. Mr. White almost had to replace Lyndhurst Facility at Breslin Field as a site if Lyndhurst HS had won in the last round since games must be played at a neutral site. Right now colleges have been hosting at no cost, but this will most likely change next year. NJSIAA prefers using turf fields in case of bad weather. The finals take place on 6/11/16 at all three Toms River High Schools. Pairings won’t be determined until after the public states semis and non-public sectional finals are completed.

2. Volleyball Update – Third round/sectional semifinals will take place on 6/2/16. Sectional finals will be played a day later, on 6/3/16 at the highest remaining seed’s home site. State semifinals will be played at South Brunswick HS. Mr. White thanked executive committee member Elaine McGrath for again letting NJSIAA use her school as a championship site.

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Jack DuBois

1. Boys Lacrosse – The Group State Championships will be held at later in the day at the following three predetermined sites (Hopewell Valley, Livingston, Cherokee). Matchups are as follows: Mountain Lakes v. Madison; Chatham vs. Manasquan; Delbarton v. Bergen Catholic; Pingry v Montclair Kimberley; West Morris Central v Moorestown and Montgomery v. Bridgewater-Raritan HS. The Tournament of Champions will be seeded after these games based on LAX power points. The semifinals and finals will be played at Kean University.

2. Senior All-Star Baseball Game – The top 100 senior players from around the state were selected to play in this game at Diamond Nation. Games take place on 6/14/16.

3. Corporate Update – A contract is pending with Cardiac Science to be NJSIAA’s official AED provider. Mr. DuBois is in talks with Dicks Sporting Goods to replace Sports Authority. Last, communication with NJ Advance Media continue.

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Bill Bruno

Spring Track Update – Mr. Bruno distributed results from the eight sectionals that took place on May 27th and May 28th. 12,485 athletes participated in the sectionals! The group championships for Groups 1,4, and Non-Public A will take place over the weekend at Egg Harbor Township and the championships for Groups 2, 3 and Non-Public B will take place at Northern Burlington HS. The Meet of Champions will take place at Central Regional HS on 6/8/16 and will be live streamed by the NFHS Network. 14 schools are signed up to compete in the 4 X 100 Unified Relay.

Cooperative Sports Program Applications Approval – A motion was made by Bill Edelman, seconded by John Bulina, to approve the following two cooperative sports program requests: 1- Bogota HS / Weehawken HS wrestling co-op and 2- Sparta HS / Jefferson Twp HS ice hockey co-op. Motion carried unanimously. Bill Edelman requested having the ability to wear both schools’ names on the jerseys. Mr. DuBois responded that this will be discussed at a later date.
Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager

NJDOE Study Group on Later School Start Times – A report will be released on 6/30/16.

Public/Non-Public Committee – The last meeting was cancelled but the committee will meet in the summer or in September.

Director of Finance Update (Colleen Maguire)

2016-2017 Budget – The 2016-2017 budget, which increased by 2%, was distributed prior to today’s meeting for review. Ms. Maguire did not receive any questions so a motion for a roll call vote to approve the 2016-2017 budget was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Dianne Furusawa. Final Vote: Yes-32, No-0, Abstentions-0. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Committee Update (Greg Bailey)

Approval of May 2016 Checkbook – The May 2016 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. A motion was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Dianne Furusawa, to accept the May 2016 checkbook. Motion passed unanimously.

Program Review

Softball T of C Proposal – 2nd Reading – A motion was made by Bill Edelman, seconded by Gerald Glisson, to add a Tournament of Champions to the current softball tournament structure. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

Report of Counsel – Steven Goodell, Esq. – none.

Old Business/New Business – none.

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Tom Coleman, seconded by Monsignor Kelly, to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

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