Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press

The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Elaine McGrath, at 11:03 am.

The following members were present: Greg Bailey, Maureen Bilda, Kevin Carty, Jr., Suzanne Cooley, Maureen Dzwill, Judy Finch Johnson, Dr. William George, Gerald Glisson, Kathy Goldenberg, Sharron Grady, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Monsignor Michael Kelly, Chuck Klaus, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Michael Nitti, Paul Popadiuk, William Quirk, Dr. James Sarruda, Steve Shohfi, Vincent Smith, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, and Denis Williams. Also present: Steven J. Timko, Executive Director; Larry White, Kim Cole, Jack DuBois, Bill Bruno and Al Stumpf, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager; Michael W. Herbert, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Phil Anastasia, *Philadelphia Inquirer*; Mike McGarry, *AC Press*; Darren Cooper, *Record*; and Matt Stanmyre, *NJ Advance Media*.

Mr. Timko thanked Maureen Dzwill, departing Executive Committee member, for her service this past year.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Sharron Grady, seconded by Kevin Carty, Jr., to accept the minutes of the May 3, 2017 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 was not present but he distributed a listing of current proposals in the legislature that relate to high school interscholastic athletics. He anticipates it being a quiet summer for NJSIAA in the legislature.

2017-2018 Executive Committee Meeting Dates – 2nd Reading – The proposed dates for next year’s Executive Committee meetings are as follows:

- September 13, 2017
- October 11, 2017
- November 15, 2017
- January 10, 2018
- February 14, 2018
- April 11, 2018 - Combined Advisory/Executive Committee Meetings
  - May 9, 2018
  - June 6, 2018

May 9, 2018
June 6, 2018
A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Dr. James Sarruda, to accept the proposed 2017-2018 Executive Committee meeting dates. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 2017-2018 Officers – 2nd Reading – A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Dr. William George, to accept the following slate of executive committee officers for 2017-2018: President – Chuck Klaus, 1st Vice President – Vincent Smith, and 2nd Vice President – Mary Liz Ivins. Motion carried unanimously.

Scholar Athlete Program – 1,500+ people attended and $203,000 in scholarships was given out. Every student-athlete who attended received a scholarship.

Medical Advisory Committee – The committee, comprised of 17 actively involved medical personnel, met last month. Pitch count, football safety, and guidelines for cold weather acclimatization were discussed but the big topic addressed was mental health and how students, parents and coaches can handle being cut from a team. A mental health webinar being presented this week was recommended. Also, the committee plans to write position papers for NJSIAA to disseminate.

Proposed Amendments to the Handbook – A motion was made by Monsignor Michael Kelly, seconded by Kevin Carty, Jr. to approve the proposed changes to the NJSIAA Handbook. Changes made are proposals that have already been passed by the membership at the 2016 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. Motion passed unanimously.

Drug Free Sports Contract for 2017-2018/Resource Exchange Center Contract – A motion was made by Dr. William George, seconded by Judy Finch Johnson, to allow the NJSIAA to contract with Drug Free Sports (DFS) again this summer to administer the association’s steroid testing. Motion passed unanimously.

Steve Timko Retirement Announcement – Mr. Timko announced his retirement when his contract expires December 31, 2017.

Assistant Directors Reports

Kim DeGraw-Cole

1. Tennis – Montgomery HS won the team tournament. The singles/doubles tennis tournament is underway with two rounds taking place later in day. The tournament will finish up on 6/8.

2. Girl’s Lacrosse – The four group final matches took place at Kean University over the weekend with the following schools making it to the Tournament of Champions: Bridgewater Raritan (Gr. IV), Summit (Gr. III), Bernards (Gr. II) and Oak Knoll (Gr. I). The TOC semifinal games will be played later in the day at Middletown HS North (finals will be at Kean University). Executive Committee member Maureen Dzwill was one of the tournament officials. 189 teams, out of 212, filled the 16 brackets. Moving to a sectional classification has been a positive move.
3. **Softball** – The following six schools were the respective group champions and qualified for the first ever Tournament of Champions, which will be played at Ivy Hill Park on June 6, 7 & 9: Immaculate Heart Academy, Cedar Grove, Egg Harbor Twp, Robbinsville, South Plainfield and Lodi Immaculate. The public state semifinals and non-public sectional finals were held at six college venues on June 1 in double header format. 301 teams out of 403 schools were seeded. All public brackets were filled to 16, however a significant number of non-public softball teams opted out of the tournament therefore non-public brackets were not all filled.

4. **Rules Committee Notifications** – Spring Rules Committee minutes will be posted online as soon as completed by the Assistant Director in charge. Spring Sports Committee meeting dates were distributed. Recommendations, suggestions or input should be emailed from the Athletic Director or Principal and sent to the appropriate NJSIAA director so it can be discussed at the meeting.

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**Larry White**

1. **Baseball Update** – Due to weather, only 5 of the 12 scheduled public state semifinal/non-public sectional final games were completed, all in the Northern part of the state. Results of those five games were distributed along with site/game info for the other 7 games. Mr. White had to secure some new game sites since some fields would not be in playable condition for games this afternoon. Finals take place on 6/9 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** – The boys semifinals were played at South Brunswick HS on 6/6 (big thank you to President, Elaine McGrath for hosting). North 1 sectional winner Fair Lawn defeated North 2 sectional winner Ridge in two sets, 25-11, 25-17 and South sectional winner Southern Regional defeated Central winner Bridgewater-Raritan in three sets 25-18, 25-27, 27-25. Finals will be played at 5pm on 6/8 at South Brunswick HS.

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**Jack DuBois**

1. **Boys Lacrosse** – The six group champions who will compete in the Tournament of Champions are Delbarton School, Ramapo HS, Madison HS, Montgomery HS, Pingry School and Moorestown HS. The semifinals and finals will be played at Kean University. Mr. DuBois thanked the following schools for serving as tournament sites during the tournament: Livingston HS, Hopewell Valley HS, Shore Regional HS (first time host), and Summit HS, who stepped in last minute as a site when games at Hopewell Valley HS had to be postponed due to lightning.

2. **Senior All-Star Baseball Game** – The top 100 senior players (25 from each region) from around the state were selected to play in this game at Diamond Nation on 6/13. Rosters were distributed. Northeast will compete against Northwest and South will play Central. Rich Bender (Delran HS), Ted Jarmusz (Monmouth Regional HS), Robert O’Brien (Don Bosco Tech), John Schmitt (Livingston HS/Roselle Catholic HS) and Lee Ware (Woodstown HS) will be inducted in to the NJSCBA Hall of Fame that night as well.

3. **Corporate Update** – Atlantic Health renewed their contract with NJSIAA for another three years.
4. **NJSIAA Workshops** – Legal One sponsored a very powerful and well attended transgender workshop on 5/9. This workshop will be offered again in the fall. NJSIAA is working on revising its transgender policy.

5. **Cooperative Sports Program Application Approval** – A motion was made by Gerald Glisson, seconded by Suzanne Cooley, to approve the following cooperative sports program requests:

   A) Colonia HS / JFK (Iselin) HS / Woodbridge HS – Ice Hockey
   B) Lyndhurst HS / North Arlington HS – Wrestling, Swimming
   C) Passaic Valley HS / Cedar Grove HS – Ice Hockey
   D) Bernards HS / Somerville HS - Ice Hockey
   E) Nutley HS / Columbia HS – Ice Hockey
   F) Morris Catholic/DePaul Catholic HS/Academy of St. Elizabeth–Ice Hockey (1 year only)
   G) Mount Olive / Hopatcong / Hackettstown – Ice Hockey (1 year only)
   H) Arthur L. Johnson HS / Metuchen HS – Gymnastics* (*contingent upon GMC approval)
   I) Hamilton North HS / Hamilton West HS - Ice Hockey
   J) Glassboro HS / Clayton HS – B Tennis, G Tennis, B Swimming, G Swimming

   Motion carried unanimously.

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**Bill Bruno**

**Spring Track Update** – Mr. Bruno distributed results from the eight sectional meets in which 14,000 athletes participated. Mr. Bruno thanked all hosting sites. Special thank you was given to Executive Committee member, Dr. Sarruda, whose district Northern Burlington HS, hosted the group championships and 5,323 athletes. Northern Burlington will also host the Meet of Champions with 2,200 participants competing on 6/9. 68 Unified athletes competed in seven different events in the Group Meets including 11 athletes in wheelchairs. 27 athletes advanced to compete in the Meet of Champions. Two female seniors - Donovan Catholic's Alyssa Wilson and Union Catholic’s Sydney McLaughlin set national records in the shotput and 400 hurdles respectively. On the boy’s side, Point Pleasant Borough’s sophomore Devin Hart, smashed a Group II 1600 meter meet record with his 4:09.49 time, which is one of the best times ever ran by a sophomore in NJ.

**NJSCA Clinics** – The committee will meet on 6/14 to wrap up the year.

**Cross Country** – Exec Member, Tom Mullahey and the Passaic County Coaches Association, helped Mr. Bruno secure Garret Mountain for the North Jersey sectionals so now all four sites have been secured. They are Garret Mountain, Greystone Park, Delsea Regional HS and Thompson Park.
Al Stumpf

Golf – Results from the sectional and individual championships was distributed. Christian Brothers Academy was crowned the boy’s overall champions, with Bergen Catholic earning 2nd place. Spencer Shih, from Northern Highlands HS won the boys individual championship, golfing seven under par in extreme weather conditions. The girls had better weather for their TOC, with Hunterdon Central winning the team championship and Amy Gianchandani from Pingry earning the girls individual title with a score of 68. The TOC was held at Watchung Valley Golf Club for the first time. NJSIAA will return there next year.

Unified Sports – Unified Track was included in the NJSIAA Group Track championships for the first time in history this past weekend. 32 Unified athletes and their partners from Union County, Vineland HS, and Morristown HS participated at Egg Harbor while 36 Unified athletes and partners from Hamilton West, Hopewell Valley, West Windsor North and Holmdel HS participated at Northern Burlington. Morristown HS and Hamilton West emerged as the group champions. The events were well received by the crowd, resulting in more interest and inquiries to implement Unified at more schools. The majority of teams listed will be taking part in the MOC Meet by competing in the 4x100 and 4x400 relays. Unified meets were held at Jefferson HS, Voorhees HS, North Hunterdon HS and South Brunswick HS and several conferences will be adding Unified track events to their conference meets next season so future looks bright.

Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager

Meeting with Commissioner re: Transfer Rule – Mr. Zapicchi, along with Mr. Timko, Mr. White, Mr. Herbert and Ms. Kayleen Egan from Parker McCay, met with the office of the Commissioner of Education. NJSIAA was told it would receive feedback by 6/1 regarding options available to implement the transfer rule legislation approved by the membership. As of today’s Executive Committee meeting, NJSIAA hasn’t heard anything from the Commissioner’s office. Until more feedback/direction, NJSIAA is in a standstill since the membership must abide by the old current rule. Dr. George expressed that since the Commissioner vetoed the transfer rule, there have been significant transfers in his county and the real losers are the ones who grow up in the community. Mr. Zapicchi and Mr. White attended a PIAAA meeting, and it was clear that no state across the country are happy with the transfer rule they have. Monsignor Kelly questioned if all states’ athletic associations report to a Commissioner of Education. Mr. Zapicchi shared that states either report straight to the legislature or the Department of Education, but majority report directly to the Legislature. Eight states have an open transfer policy, and of those eight, six were required to do so by their legislature.

Annual Compliance Report – An annual compliance report was distributed to the committee. The report included a listing of new Athletic Directors and a summary of schools visited by compliance monitors, and their subsequent reports. The retired ADs mentoring new ADs has been very professional and well received. Though once viewed in a negative light, the program has become a positive, valuable tool for new Athletic Directors. Any comments about the program are welcomed and should be emailed to Mr. Zapicchi.

Director of Finance Update (Colleen Maguire)

Hiring Process for a New Executive Director – Mr. Klaus will serve as Chairman of the Search Committee, which will be comprised primarily of past Executive Committee presidents. The job
will be posted this afternoon and applications will be due by July 7, 2017. The goal is to select a candidate for vote at the September or October Executive Committee meeting.

2017-2018 Budget – The 2017-2018 budget was distributed after the May Executive Committee meeting. Ms. Maguire did not receive any questions so a motion for a roll call vote to approve the 2017-2018 budget was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Bill Vacca. Final Vote: Yes-25, No-0, Abstentions-0. Motion carried unanimously.

Absentee Ballots (Role Call Vote) – Ms. Maguire asked the Executive Committee if they want to pursue absentee balloting. Results of a survey that was taken by the membership asking them the same question was distributed. Dr. George asked if the goal was to maximize participation in the meeting. Ms. Maguire hopes it will increase the number of schools participating in the annual meeting and she also added that the geographic location of the meeting will change next year. It will take place at the NJSIAA office instead of the Pines Manor in Edison. Rob Haraka expressed there is a difference between voting and participation and there are a handful of ADs that rarely show up to meetings, so this process will allow them to submit an uninformed vote. This new process can also lead to block voting where one person will ask a handful of Athletic Directors to vote one way and they will, without showing up and being educated on what they are voting on. He also feels it’s only one meeting and ADs should be present. Judy Finch Johnson asked what the process would be for absentee balloting. It would be a formal request. Ballots, signed by the school’s principal, would need to be returned to NJSIAA by a cutoff date, about a week before the annual meeting. A motion was made by Suzanne Cooley, seconded by Kevin Carty, Jr., to endorse the concept of absentee balloting. A proposal will be written over the summer for a formal vote (two readings) in the September and October 2017 Executive Committee meetings. Final Vote: Yes-7; No-18. Motion was defeated.

Finance Committee Update (Elaine McGrath)

Approval of May 2017 Checkbook – The May 2017 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. A motion was made by Kathy Goldenberg, seconded by Denis Williams, to accept the May 2017 checkbook. Motion passed unanimously.

Program Review

Swimming 4th Official Beginning at State Sectional Finals – 2nd Reading - A motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Maureen Dzwill, to add a fourth official to all the swimming sectional finals, state semi- final and state finals. Motion passed second reading unanimously.

Report of Counsel – Michael W. Herbert, Esq. – Mr. Goodell has been very engaged with NJSIAA business and hopes to be more engaged as months go on. Mr. Herbert also introduced his associates, Ms. Kayleen Egan and Mr. Daniel Davidow, who support and provide legal counsel to NJSIAA. There is a baseball player age eligibility case currently in front of the Commissioner. The West Windsor-Plainsboro football cooperative sports request will most likely also go before the Commissioner. There is a controversy hearing for the Eastside Paterson schools on Tuesday, 6/13 at NJSIAA’s office.

Old Business/New Business – Greg Bailey thanked Ms. McGrath for her leadership this past year. He also expressed best wishes to Mr. Timko for his retirement and expressed gratitude for steering the association through some bumpy roads and assembling a fine staff.
Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Dr. William George, seconded by Gerald Glisson, to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko  
Executive Director

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