Flag Salute

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Mary Liz Ivins, at 11:08 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Ralph Aiello, Heather Andersen, Greg Bailey, Maureen Bilda, Joseph Bollendorf, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jr., Jason Corley, James Gaffney, Dr. William George, Edward Grande, Robert Grauso, Oscar Guerrero, Robert Haraka, Kurt Karcich, Monsignor Michael Kelly, Raymond Kiem, Howard Krieger, Timothy McElhinney, Dominick Miletta, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Michael Nitti, Leon Owen, Michael Pellegrino, Christopher Penna, Senator Paul Sarlo, Steve Shohfi, Vincent Smith, Frank Torcasio, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, Paul Vizzuso, Kathy Whalen, Denis Williams, Dr. Robert Zega and Dr. Brian Zychowski. Also present: Larry L. White, Executive Director; Kim DeGraw-Cole, Jack DuBois, Bill Bruno, Al Stumpf and Tony Maselli, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager; and Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Darren Cooper, NorthJersey.com and Mike McGarry, Press of AC. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.

Gold passes were given to new executive committee members.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Vincent Smith, seconded by Maureen Bilda, to accept the minutes of the June 5, 2019 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed with one abstention (Paul Vizzuso). A motion was then made by Dr. Brian Brotschul, seconded by Kevin Carty, to accept the minutes of the June 5, 2019 Reorganization meeting. Motion passed with one abstention (Paul Vizzuso).

Out-of-State Competition
A listing of National Federation and Bordering State Sanctions were distributed.

Executive Director Update – Larry L. White

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – A list of pending bills in the legislature was distributed, as well as information about the upcoming election. All 80 seats in the General Assembly will be up for a vote. Mr. Anzano doesn’t expect significant changes. The legislature hasn’t met since June so there are no big updates. Mr. Anzano did thank Executive Committee member, Senator Sarlo, for all his help in advocating for NJSIAA last year.

Steroids Final Report – Of the 488 tests (340 males; 148 females) that were conducted last year, there were zero positive results and 0 protocol violations. The association sent a schedule to Drug Free Sports recommending the sports that should be tested every year, sports that should be tested every two years, and those that should be every three years. Mr. White will not publicly share that information because he does not want students to be aware since that could affect their actions/choices.

Gymnastics - Regulations are posted. The sectional tournament is scheduled for the first Saturday in November (11/2), which is always a SAT date. All sectional meets will start at 9am so that each sectional
site reports scores at relatively the same time. Mr. White thanked Exec Committee member, Chris Penna of Montgomery HS, for hosting the team finals on 11/7 and the individual finals on 11/9.

**NFHS Summer Meeting**  – At this year’s Summer Meeting, the National Federation celebrated its 100th year anniversary with former NFHS employees attending, including former NJSIAA and NFHS Executive Director, Bob Kanaby. Next year’s meeting will take place in Denver.

**League/Conference Officers Meetings**  – The first meeting took place on August 15, 2019. Officers were given a presentation of the new Home Campus system for transferring students. These monthly meetings help NJSIAA build and strengthen relationships with Athletic Directors as well as create open communication between the association and its member schools. Staff used to attend conferences’ monthly meetings, but as a cost and time saving measure, the association stopped. Now that there is such high turnover among Athletic Directors, NJSIAA Directors will resume attending these meetings. Mr. White attended the Colonial Conference meeting yesterday.

**Executive Committee – Committee Appointments**  – All committee members have been assigned to one or more sub-committees. Check the list to see your assignment(s).

**Reports of the Assistant Directors**

**Kim DeGraw-Cole**

**Field Hockey**  – Tournament dates were distributed. The public state semi-finals will be on 11/5 and take place at the following sites: Hightstown HS (replacing AL Johnson), Boonton HS, Robbinsville HS and Egg Harbor Twp HS. The group finals will be played at Bordentown HS, while the Tournament of Champions finals will be played at Kean University. In order to have the top officiating for the tournament, games must be played on the play-on dates.

**Eligibility & Eligibility Appeals Committees**  – The Eligibility Committee reviewed 28 waiver cases on August 21, 2019. As a result, the Eligibility Appeals Committee met today to hear five appeals cases and will listen to seven more on September 17th. The athletic advantage case that was scheduled for the afternoon was cancelled. The school rescinded its appeal because the two schools came to an agreement of an appropriate sit time for the student in question.

**Transfers – Home Campus**  – The new Home Campus system has launched. There are always bugs when you begin using a new system, so the association is working through that right now. With the new system, athletic administrators have access to managing their own transfers. You can see all the information in a portal. NJSIAA staff then goes in to the system and deems a student eligible, ineligible, or notes if more documents are needed. The system will help to provide transfer data.

**Girls Lacrosse**  – Moving forward, there will be a non-public division so classifications will change, even though we are in the second year of the cycle.

**Bill Bruno**

**Cross Country**  – Sites are set and officials have already accepted their tournament roles. There are two entry dates for the tournament – October 7th for paper entries and November 1st for online entries.

**Wrestling Update**  – There is a meeting tomorrow to discuss the 2019-2020 tournament. Girls participation is on an upward trend so Mr. Bruno believes two regional sites will be needed and is currently seeking sites. There will be a new format in Atlantic City. Last year, the committee learned what worked and what didn’t so adjustments will be made, based on that feedback. Dates have been adjusted
to accommodate the Big 10 Tournament at Rutgers, which is hosting their finals on 3/8. Hard core fans will be able to make the finals of both tournaments.

**NJSCA Hall of Fame** – Applications to nominate a coach for the NJSCA Hall of Fame are being accepted.

**NJSCA National Federation Coach of the Year Nominees** – A list of coaches selected as 2018-2019 NFHS Coaches of the Year was distributed and will be submitted to the NFHS today.

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**Jack DuBois**

**ShopRite Cup Presentations** – Mr. DuBois is in the process of giving out the six Shop-Rite Cup trophies. Trinity Hall, an NJSIAA member for only four years, has earned the Non-Public B trophy. Mr. DuBois also congratulated Executive Committee member, Leon Owen, and his school (Willingboro HS) on earning the Group 1 honor. Below is the presentation schedule:

- a. NPB – September 9th – Trinity Hall
- b. Group 4 – September 13th – Ridgewood HS
- c. Group 3 – September 20th – Moorestown HS
- d. Group 2 – September 26th – Haddonfield HS
- e. Group 1 – September 27th – Willingboro HS
- f. NPA – September 27th – Christian Brothers Academy

**Football Update** – Mr. DuBois is happy to report that there have been no issues in Week 00 or Week 0. The Intent Card will go online 10/21 and be due 10/28. 163 schools are participating in the Instant Replay pilot program. There are 100 games scheduled for replay review. Results from this pilot program will be reviewed and shared in January.

**Fencing** – For the first time ever, the districts have been restructured by northing number. A few years ago, a 5th district was added at Montclair for safety reasons. It’s been agreed that using northing numbers is the fairest way to divide schools into districts. The new district sites will be:

- District 1 - Ramapo HS
- District 2 - PCTI (previously Hackettstown)
- District 3 - Livingston HS (same as last year)
- District 4 (and Independent Fencers) - North Hunterdon HS (same as last year)
- District 5 - Montgomery HS

**Corporate** – American Athletic signed a three-year contract to be the Spring Track and Field sponsor.

**Cooperative Sports Review Committee** – A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Kevin Carty, to approve the following cooperative sports programs, previously approved by the Cooperative Sports Review Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Lakeland Regional / West Milford – Boys Swimming, Girls Swimming
- d. Hopewell Valley / Montgomery – Ice Hockey
- e. Academy of St. Elizabeth / Morris Catholic – Field Hockey
- f. Morris Catholic / Academy of St. Elizabeth – Girls Cross Country
- g. Fair Lawn / Bergenfield / Dumont – Ice Hockey

**Co-Op Appeals Committee** – The committee met in the am, prior to the Executive Committee meeting.
Al Stumpf

**Girls Soccer** – The non-public semis used to be at a neutral site, but this year will be played at the higher seed. Also, the public finals will no longer be a boy/girl double header but rather played on two separate dates so the kids can get home earlier.

**Girls Volleyball** – The Tournament of Champions will be played at William Paterson University. This summer, a 3-man crew clinic was held. Feedback from the clinic was that it was very helpful and those who didn’t attend, wish they had.

**Girls Golf** – Due to an explosion in participation, a central section has been added. Previously there was only a North and South section.

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Tony Maselli

**Boys Soccer** – See Mr. Stumpf update.

**Girls Tennis** – Weather has been good therefore matches have been played in a timely fashion.

**New Website** – The association is still preparing for the new site to roll out. Mr. Maselli does not want to role it out until it is 100% ready. Right now, the home page has all relevant, important documents for the season posted under the Important Documents section. Most of these documents can only be seen if the administrator is logged in.

**DQ Report** – The 2018-2019 Disqualification Report was distributed. Though the total number of disqualifications went down slightly from the year prior, there are no trends up or down to report. Mr. Maselli has been hammering in to officials that they need to ensure coaches know there was a disqualification before the coach leaves the facility. This way, the coach knows they cannot play their player in the next contest. Last year there were a ton of calls asking if an athlete can play. This year, Mr. Maselli is happy to report that there have been no calls.

**Assignor/Interpreter Hiring Process** – The entire process of becoming an assignor or state interpreter has changed. Now to become one of these two positions, interested parties must go through an interview. Also, the association is no longer traveling the state to host regional meetings. Instead each chapter must have their own meeting to spread the information.

**Arbiter/ZebraWeb/Zpay** – The association is switching to ZebraWeb next year, but the backend process will begin in January. There is a pay feature like ArbiterPay and there will be the same fee structure as Arbiter. More information is forthcoming in the next month or two. The big difference between the two programs is that with ZebraPay, the process will be like the normal payroll process, where you control the exact amount being paid out. The end goal was to put people on the fields that have been fully vetted by NJSIAA.

On separate topic, Bev Torok asked if schools still need to contact NJSIAA to wear pink for October breast cancer awareness. For field hockey, schools are permitted to wear pink at home through October 16th, as long as their opponent is notified. For soccer, a formal request is not needed. For volleyball, Mr. Stumpf will put out a message on what is permissible.

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Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager

**Compliance Initiative** – Compliance officers are busy, already visiting new Athletic Directors. There are almost 40 new ADs to visit, in addition to going to the schools scheduled to be seen in the fifth year of
the five-year cycle. Since this is the last year of the five-year plan, Mr. Zapicchi will send out a survey for feedback on the program. Mr. Haraka requested that Mr. Zapicchi share the schedule on the AD forum.

**Director of Finance Update – Colleen Maguire**

**Increase to Annual Dues – By-laws Article IV (Roll Call Vote – 1st Reading)** – Last year, the association sent a request to the Commissioner of Education to increase tournament entry fees and dues. NJSIAA hadn’t solicited an increase since 2010, when the statute that fixed these prices was instituted. The only increase allowed was a CPI yearly increase. In 2017-2018, NJSIAA absorbed its first net loss since the statute was put in to effect because incoming revenue is 60% set and expenses continued to increase 2 to 2-1/2 % each year. Ms. Maguire submitted a four-page proposal to the Commissioner, then in March, met with him to discuss the request, along with his staff and Senator Sarlo. The association is looking to provide more student-led opportunities and develop girls wrestling, so it needs more revenue to offer these new programs. In June, the Commissioner approved increasing annual dues from $2,150 to $2,500 a year. Using the model of CPI increases since 2010, annual dues should total $2,480, so Ms. Maguire rounded it to $2,500. A motion to increase NJSIAA’s annual dues from $2,150 to $2,500 was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Bill Vacca. A role call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-36; No-0; Abstain-2 (Sarlo and Whalen). Motion carried with two abstentions.

**Spring Sports Financials Report** – A summary of the 2019 spring financial results was emailed. There was a slight net profit increase (from the previous year) due to an increase in spring track gate receipts/entries, which offset the decrease in gate receipts from the boys and girls lacrosse state semi-finals (was weather-related).

**Student Athlete Advisory Council Meetings (SAAC) & Spotify Playlist** – SAAC was launched so students can better understand our organization and rules, which in turn will help the adults understand. It’s also a great leadership opportunity. Requested topics of interest by the council include injury prevention and diet/nutrition. There will be 85 student-athletes participating in this year’s SAAC. The group will meet at Rutgers on 10/29, 1/15 and 3/25. The original 31 student ambassadors from last year are returning and will facilitate and drive the agenda for the three SAAC meetings. Mr. Goodell is coming to the first meeting to speak to the students about the sportsmanship rule. Two student ambassadors, Jillian Ryan and Sean Furlong, accompanied Ms. Maguire this summer to the NFHS Student Leadership Conference in Indianapolis. There, the two experienced great workshops and speakers, and was a good experience for them to meet peers from across the country. Ms. Ryan and Mr. Furlong will share their learnings with their fellow student ambassadors. The ambassadors also created a music playlist that will be played at NJSIAA’s state tournament venues. Ms. Maguire encouraged all committee members to download the playlist, which spans three generations of music.

**Senior Leadership Summit** – This is the second year NJSIAA will hold this event, which will take place on 10/7 at the Westin, Princeton. Speakers include four-time Olympian Joetta Clark Diggs, along with Tyrone Johnson and NFHS Student Leadership Conference favorite Deb Hult, who will talk to the students about the importance of in-person relations and authentic conversation vs social media relationships. Senator Sarlo will address the students at lunchtime, and the event will end with words from Bob Hurley. The link to nominate one senior from each school is on the AD forum. Nominations are due 9/20.

**NJSIAA Handbook** – A copy of the 2019-2020 handbook was distributed to Executive Committee members. Ms. Maguire thanked Parker McCay for sponsoring the handbook. All member schools received a copy as well.

**NFHS Article – “Parent and Adult Fan”** – Ms. Maguire may display this important message at all tournament events. Mr. Williams used this article at a parent meeting and Mr. Stumpf attended a meeting that also shared this thought-provoking article that has been eye-opening to parents.
Finance Committee Update – Mary Liz Ivins

Approval of Monthly Checks – The June through September 2019 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Rob Haraka made a motion, seconded by Paul Vizzuso, to approve the June 1 through September 1st, 2019 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

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Old Business / New Business – none

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Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell) – A motion to enter in to closed session was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Greg Bailey at 12:11 pm. Motion carried unanimously. A motion to enter open session was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Maureen Bilda at 12:14 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

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Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Joseph Bollendorf, seconded by Kevin Carty at 12:14 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. White
Executive Director

LLW: In