Flag Salute

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Elaine McGrath, at 11:09 am.

The following members were present: Greg Bailey, Maureen Bilda, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jr., Suzanne Cooley, Maureen Dzwill, Bill Edelman, Judy Finch Johnson, Michael Gatley, Dr. William George, Kathy Goldenberg, Sharron Grady, Robert Grauza, Robert Haraka, Jack Hurley, Mary Liz Ivins, Richard Kaz, Chuck Klaus, Howard Krieger, Scott Lodgek, Matthew McFarland, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Sue Petrone, Paul Popadiuk, William Quirk, Danny Robertozzi, Philip Schaffer, Steve Shoofi, Vincent Smith, Beverly Torok, Todd Van Orden, Kathy Whalen, Denis Williams, and Scott Wolhrab. Also present: Steven J. Timko, Executive Director; Kim De Graw-Cole, Larry White, Jack DuBois, Bill Bruno, and Al Stumpf, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager; and Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; Mike McGarry, Press of Atlantic City; Steve Falk, Asbury Park Press; Darren Cooper, Record; Matt Stanmyre, NJ Advance Media and Mark Trible, Courier Post. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C., Gus Kalikas - legal counsel for Union Catholic HS, and Steve Yesinko, Acting Athletic Director at St. Mary of the Assumption HS.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Beverly Torok, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to accept the minutes of the June 1, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. Motion was approved with three abstentions. A motion was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Sharron Grady, to accept the minutes of the June 1, 2016 Reorganizational meeting. Motion was approved with four abstentions.

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

Executive Director Update – Steven J. Timko

Mr. Timko spoke of an incident that took place in the first weekend of the fall season, in which the trainer from Trenton Catholic HS saved the life of a Riverside HS student. This story is an example of the importance of Janet’s Law and AED training. It’s also a testament to NJ’s athletic trainers.

Gold Passes – A gold pass was given to new executive committee members.

New Staff – Mr. Timko introduced NJSIAA’s newest Assistant Director, Al Stumpf. Mr. Stumpf is a former coach and athletic administrator at Voorhees HS. He will be in charge of developing new Unified Sports programs in high schools, along with taking over girls soccer, boys and girls volleyball, swimming/diving and golf.

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – The major issues being addressed by the legislature right now include the school funding per pupil formula, the gas tax, and the transportation fund. All issues are currently at an impasse. On 9/16/16, the Assembly Committee meets to consider a proposal which recommends year-round steroid testing. This bill requires the state to provide an additional $45,000 to NJSIAA to cover the cost of additional testing. It has been approved three times before only to be vetoed
each time by the Governor because he believes if the state is to pay an additional $45,000, it should be included in the budget. Other bills being considered by the legislature include proposals dealing with opioid use, a bill prohibiting redshirting in middle school, and a bill that changes a coach’s allowable stipend from $10,000 to $15,000 per year.

**Sectional Meeting Dates and Legislation** – Mr. Timko encouraged all committee members to attend one of these five meetings held throughout the state to discuss proposed legislation for the annual meeting. The first meeting will be at Millburn HS on 9/19/16.

**New Wrestling Proposal** – At last year’s annual meeting, the membership passed a proposal that separated public and non-public schools in wrestling, but the vote was not endorsed by the Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner did ask that the NJSIAA find a different solution for the growing inequities in certain regions/districts. Not all districts are even – for example, one has 34 schools; another 46 schools. The wrestling committee met in the spring and recommends the following:

1. All fourth place region finishers advance to Atlantic City. This adds 112 more wrestlers to the individual state tournament and will cost an additional $10,000 - $12,000. This should satisfy the complaints of public schools since it gives an opportunity for more wrestlers to qualify. Since this will add at least two more matches per session, the tournament will begin at 3pm on Friday night instead of 5pm. This prevents extending the tournament to another day.

2. In the past, it cost $80 to enter the team tournament and $80 to enter the individual tournament. It was proposed to charge $14 per individual to enter the individual tournament (like in track) instead of a fixed $80 fee.

3. Change the team tournament from six qualifying teams to eight teams to fill brackets. This means there will no longer be byes for seeds #1 and #2. The higher seed will be responsible for the cost of hosting the team sectional quarterfinals and sectional semifinals but they will also keep any proceeds made at the event.

4. It was requested to realign the regions using a scientific and pragmatic method. As noted earlier, one region had 34 teams while another had 44. Another disparity that needed to be remedied was one region saw 60 forfeits in route to Atlantic City while another had only three. To realign the regions, Ms. Cole and Mr. Bruno examined northing numbers of all schools and placed an equal number of schools in each region based on their northing number. This method led to an imbalance of power as one region had many award winners. The goal was to have four powerhouse schools in each region so after being placed via northing number, Ms. Cole and Mr. Bruno moved five schools based on power ranking averages from the past five years. In this new realignment proposal, only five teams were moved from their original placement (based on their northing number) to shift the balance of power. To determine districts, schools were placed via a snake method. After two years, the system can be re-evaluated and changed.

**Union County Conference Appeal to Leagues and Conference 6/27/16 Decision** – The Leagues and Conferences subcommittee of the Executive Committee met on 6/27/16 because two schools (Union Catholic HS and St. Mary of the Assumption HS) requested a hearing to appeal their basketball divisional alignment in the Union County Conference (UCC). The Leagues and Conferences Subcommittee granted the appeals of Union Catholic HS and St. Mary of the Assumption HS and reversed the decision of the UCC to move the two schools in to the Watchung Division in basketball for the next two-year scheduling cycle. The UCC is appealing that decision by asking the Executive Committee to overturn the decision rendered by the Leagues and Conferences subcommittee. The Executive Committee’s decision is the final decision. The decision and all backup material was provided. The role of the Executive Committee was not to find new facts but to make a decision based on the record already provided. Representatives for each party (Gus Kalikas - Athletic Director at Arthur L. Johnson HS/UCC President, Vito Gagliardi, Jr., Esq, legal counsel for Union Catholic HS, and Steve Yesinko, Acting Athletic Director at St. Mary of the Assumption HS.) gave oral arguments on behalf of their involved party why the case
should be overturned or sustained. The entire hearing was recorded by a court stenographer. After all oral arguments, a motion was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Tony Mitchell to enter closed session. When closed session was complete, a motion was made by Thomas Mullahey, seconded by Chuck Klaus, to enter back in to open session. A motion was made by Bill Edelman, seconded by Tony Mitchell, to affirm the original decision rendered by the Leagues and Conferences Subcommittee of the Executive Committee. Final Vote: Yes-30, No-1, Abstain-4. Decision was affirmed.

**Steroid Protocols / Drug Free Sports Contract / Steroid Final Report** – 497 students were tested last year (343 males; 154 females) from 68 schools (six of the 68 were tested twice) and 12 sports. There were zero positive tests. The sports tested were football, boys and girls winter track, boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball, wrestling, baseball, girls volleyball, girls lacrosse and softball.

**Fall Championship Sites** – Fall tournament dates have been set and sites have been secured.

**NFHS Summer Meeting** – Steven Timko, Kim Cole, Bill Bruno and Larry White attended this meeting over the summer. Ms. Cole and Mr. Bruno were presenters and Mr. White did an outstanding job as MC of the Hall of Fame banquet.

**League/Conference Officers Meetings** – The first meeting took place on August 11, 2016. Besides this first August meeting, officers always meet the day after Executive Committee meetings.

**Executive Committee – Committee Appointments** – All committee members have been assigned to sub-committees and were asked to check the list to see which subcommittees they had been assigned to.

**Fall Tournament Regulations Online** – All fall regulations are posted online.

**Office Renovations** – Mr. Timko thanked Ms. Maguire for her work renovating the office over the summer.

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**Reports of the Assistant Directors**

**Kim DeGraw-Cole**

**Classifications** – Fall classifications were completed and posted online thanks to Ms. Maguire.

**Field Hockey, Girls Soccer and Girls Tennis** – Tournament dates were distributed.

**Tournament Refusal Form** – If schools don’t want to participate in the field hockey, boys or girls soccer, girls team tennis or girls volleyball state tournament, they must fill out the tournament refusal form interactively on NJSSIAA’s website.

**Non-Member/Out-of-State-Opponent Tournament Reporting Form** – If a school plays an out-of-state opponent or non-member school in field hockey, soccer, basketball, baseball or softball, they must fill out the non-member/out-of-state opponent tournament reporting form. It is crucial for power point seeding.

**Njschoolsports.com** – All rosters, school information, contest scores and statistics must be entered at this site. Power points will be maintained at this site as well. This information is published in championship programs, which are posted prior to the tournament. Brackets will be posted on nj.com.

**School Manager** – Schools must be logged in to access and update the School Manager, which is essential for accurate classifications.
Bill Bruno

Cross Country – Sites are set and officials are assigned for the state tournament. All entries are to be entered online through MileSplit. Page 2 of the tournament regulations instructs how to do this. For the first time ever, entries are due for both public and non-public schools on October 19th. Mr. Bruno has been traveling around the state visiting officials’ chapters. It’s been a positive experience.

Larry White

Pitch Count – A month ago there was an article criticizing NJSIAA for its pitch count limit rule. The NFHS approved a new pitch count rule that requires each state to implement a pitching restriction policy based on the number of pitches thrown in a game but NJSIAA hasn’t changed anything yet. Mr. White would like to convene a baseball committee to meet and decide what the limits should be. Alabama is the first state to enact this policy. Mr. White asked how this new rule should be enforced and tracked? If any executive committee members want to be on the committee, please contact Mr. White.

Girls Volleyball and Girls Gymnastics – Everything is set and tournament dates were distributed.

Officials’ Rules Meetings – Mr. White traveled around the state in August/early September to five regional rules interpretation meetings to review present rule interpretations in football, soccer and women’s volleyball. In late September/October, Mr. White will travel again for the basketball rule interpreter meetings.

DQ Report – This report was distributed. Player disqualifications were down by 48, from 429 in 2014-2015 to 379 this past year. Coach disqualification were up by three, with a total of 47. In the spring, there were only 71 player disqualifications, down from 75 in 2014-2015. There were zero disqualifications in violation of NJSIAA’s Sportsmanship Policy and the six protected categories (race, ethnicity, disability, gender, religious affiliation, and sexual orientation.) These results will be reported to the Attorney General’s Office, Division of Civil Rights.

Jack DuBois

Awarding of Forfeit Victory for Pope John v Eastern Christian of MD 9/3/16 Football Game – A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Greg Bailey, to award Pope John HS a forfeit victory against Eastern Christian of MD since Eastern Christian closed abruptly, only two weeks before the game was to be played. With such short notice, Pope John was unable to find a replacement game. Motion carried with two abstentions (Bill Edelman and Judy Finch-Johnson.)

Waiver Request of 70% Rule for Montclair Kimberley Academy & Morristown Beard School – A motion was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Thomas Mullahey, to waive the 70% rule for Football in Fall 2016 for Montclair Kimberley Academy and Morristown Beard School. Motion carried with two abstentions (Bill Edelman and Mike Gatley.)

Boys Soccer – Mr. DuBois secured all sectional sites. Livingston HS replaces Millburn HS as a north semifinals site and Hopewell Valley HS replaces Neptune as a south semifinals site. The following schools will host the public state semifinals in the north: Indian Hills HS, Livingston HS, Ridge HS and Somerville HS. The following schools will host the public state semifinals in the south: St. Augustine Prep, Haddonfield HS, Toms River North HS and Hopewell Valley Regional HS. The non-public games will be played at PCTI and Kearney HS in the north and Eastern HS and Holmdel HS in the south.

Coaches Education Update – Since July, 607 new coaches have taken the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course. All coaches are now required to be certified in First Aid in addition to their CPR/AED training.
**ShopRite Cup Presentations** – Mr. DuBois and Mr. Bruno are traveling the state to present the ShopRite Cup trophies to the six winners at each of the schools’ presentation ceremonies. The recipients of the 2015-2016 ShopRite Cup is Shore Regional HS (Group I), Haddonfield Memorial HS (Group II), River Dell HS (Group III), Ridge HS (Group IV), Christian Brothers Academy (Group A) and Villa Walsh Academy (Group B.)

**Corporate** – NJSIAA signed a contract with Team Life to be 1-NJSIAA’s official sales supplier of AED units and 2- to provide members schools with maintenance contracts for their AED units. Also signed was a two-year renewal with NJ Advance Media and a three-year renewal with Cliff Keen. Mr. DuBois also met with a lacrosse ball provider yesterday. Wilson is the official sponsor of balls for NJSIAA but they do not produce a lacrosse ball.

**Approval of Cooperative Sports** – A motion was made by Bill Edelman, seconded by Dr. William George to approve the following cooperative sports programs. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Henry Becton HS / Wallington HS - Cross Country, B/G Tennis
2. Lawrence HS / Hightstown HS / Ewing HS – Ice Hockey
4. Bordentown HS / Florence HS – Wrestling
5. Governor Livingston HS / New Providence HS – Ice Hockey
6. Clayton HS / Glassboro HS – Wrestling/Golf
7. Glassboro HS / Clayton HS – B/G Swimming

**Cooperative Sports Issues – Policy Meeting** – The Policy Committee met to discuss ongoing concerns/issues regarding cooperative sports programs such as schools’ names on uniforms, application deadline dates and responsibilities of each school.

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Al Stumpf

**Unified Sports** – Mr. Stumpf has been meeting with Special Olympics of NJ (SONJ) to implement the joint NJSIAA/SONJ Unified Sports program for the 2016-2017 year. A Fall 2016 Showcase will be held on 11/13/16 at 3pm at Kean University between the morning non-public and the afternoon non-public championship games. In the winter, Unified Basketball will be set up on a limited basis with the target to hold a Unified Basketball Showcase during the 2017-2018 Basketball Tournament of Champions. The showcase is subject to how many schools will have Unified Basketball programs next year. For this winter season, member schools will be surveyed to find out how many will have Unified Bowling. They will be encouraged to set up matches with other schools in their conference and to compete at the state level, which will be contested during the state tournament. The schedule will be determined after the number of schools competing is known. In Spring 2017, there will be there will be a Unified 4 x 100-meter relay just like last spring, but Mr. Stumpf's goal is to add Unified Relays in the 4 x 200-meter, long jump and the shotput at the 2017 Meet of Champions.

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Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager

**Site Monitors/Compliance Initiative Report** – 62 public and 16 non-public schools received visits as part of the five-year cycle of school compliance visits, and 51 new athletic directors received visits as part of our mentorship efforts. There are two new monitors for 2016-2017 – Stan Fryczynski for North II and Frank Noppenberger for non-public schools.

**Constitution Review** – The initial review of the Constitution is completed. Most changes that need to be made are structural in nature. Proposed changes in language will be brought to the Executive Committee for review and approval.
**NJDOE Study Group on Later School Start Times** – It was determined that changing school start times would be logistically challenging so local districts should determine their own start times. The Department of Education will be a resource to any schools who need it.

**International Students Report** – In the 2015-2016 school year, 46 International Student Requests for Eligibility Applications were processed. So far, in 2016-2017, 23 have been processed with two pending.

**Director of Finance Update – Colleen Maguire**

**FYE 2015-2016 Audit Report** – NJSIAA’s audit firm is currently finalizing statements and will present a final report to the Executive Committee in October. All went smoothly when the auditors were onsite in August.

**Spring Sports Financials Report** – A handout detailing the spring financial results was distributed.

**Membership Status** – 30% of schools still owe annual dues and Board Membership Resolution Cards, while 80% of schools owe their affidavits. The deadline will be Monday, October 17th, at 4:00pm for all membership requirements as well as outstanding invoices 90+ days past due. Schools that have not submitted and/or settled all outstanding items by this deadline will not be eligible for seeding in our remaining Fall tournaments.

**Accounts Receivable Status** – There is a large amount of receivables owed ($25,000) from 90 schools that are over 90 days past due with no proof of payment such as a PO. Any school that hasn’t paid an invoice older than 90 days by the first fall seeding meeting is ineligible for fall tournament participation.

**Shredding and Going Green** – Ms. Maguire has hired a shredding company in an effort to be more green. Ms. Maguire encouraged everyone present to use the Shred-It bins located by the hospitality tables for unwanted meeting materials in order to assist the Association in its recycling efforts.

**Finance Committee Update – Elaine McGrath**

**Approval of Monthly Checks** – The June through September 2016 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Denis Williams made a motion, seconded by Beverly Torok, to approve the June 1 through September 1st check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

**Program Review**

**Girls Lacrosse Change to Classifications – 1st Reading** – A motion was made by Dr. George, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to structure the girls lacrosse tournament as follows: move to sections - North I, North II, Central and South, each with 4 groups (13 or 14 teams in each section), have sectional champions crowned, and conduct state Semi-finals with North I vs. North II and Central vs. South. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

**Softball Scrimmages – 1st Reading** – A motion was made by Danny Robertozzi, seconded by Robert Grauso, to mirror basketball and allow a school, when competing in the State Tournament, to schedule with teams entered in the tournament one (1) scrimmage during any week in which it has only one (1) or two (2) scrimmages during any week in which there are no games. These scrimmages will not count in the total number of allowable games. There is no cost to the Association and it will permit teams/students to stay sharp without creating an advantage. There is no indication that this will be of any safety concern. Motion passed first reading unanimously.
Wrestling Team/Individual Tournament – 1st Reading – Three changes were voted on.

1- A motion was made by Bill Edelman, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to expand the brackets in the team tournament from six qualifying teams to eight qualifying teams with no byes. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

2- A motion was made by Maureen Bilda, seconded by Sue Petrone, to advance all fourth place region finishers in wrestling to the individual finals. The finance committee approved the cost of the additional rounds to accommodate the additional wrestlers. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

3- A motion was made Greg Bailey, seconded by Dr. William George, to realign schools in wrestling regions by northing numbers and then once placed in regions, realign schools in to districts by a snaking method from power rankings. Dr. George spoke in support of the proposal and how the formula for placement is data driven and was reviewed by experts in the sport. Tom Mullahey had questions about his school and did not believe his school’s placement was equitable. Ms. Cole explained that five top schools were moved so there was more balance and not too much power in one region. Rob Haraka, on behalf of NJAC, which represents three counties and Regions 1&2, spoke against the proposal. NJAC voted against the proposal 27-1. Final Vote: Yes-21; No-6; Abstain-0. Motion passed first reading.

Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell)

1. Delbarton School Appeal to Executive Committee 6/1/16 Decision – Delbarton School appealed the decision made by the Executive Committee on 6/1/16 that affirmed 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. The appeal is pending a decision from the Commissioner of Education and until that decision is made, the decision rendered by the Executive Committee is still in effect and Delbarton must play their current football schedule.

2. Timber Creek HS Allegations – Multiple anonymous complaints were received regarding Timber Creek HS. Allegations were referred to the Camden County Prosecutors Office (CCPO) where the issues were investigated. The CCPO investigation is now closed. The association is awaiting the findings from the CCPO and once received, NJSIAA will determine if action should be taken based on the evidence provided.

3. Drug Free Sports New Protocols – New processes are being utilized by Drug Free Sports that should be easier for schools and make information more secure and private. Changes were approved by staff. A copy of the new protocols was distributed.

Old Business / New Business – none

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Beverly Torok, seconded by Michael Gatley at 1:12 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

SJT: In