Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press
The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday February 10, 2016 at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Greg Bailey, at 11:02 am.

The following members were present: John Bulina, Chris Calveley, Tom Coleman, Bill Edelman, Judy Finch Johnson, Dianne Furusawa, Michael Gatley, Dr. William George, Richard Giglio, Kathy Goldenberg, Sharron Grady, Robert Grauso, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Monsignor Kelly, Chuck Klaus, Howard Krieger, Jack Lally, Bill McDermott, Matthew McFarland, Elaine McGrath, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Michael Nitti, Sue Petrone, William Quirk, Steve Shohfi, Beverly Torok, Todd VanOrden, Bruce Watson, 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: Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; Darren Cooper, Record; and Matt Stanmyre, NJ Advance Media. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Denis Williams, seconded by Dianne Furusawa, to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried with two abstentions.

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) –

1- The steroid bill passed but Governor Christie removed the $45,000 appropriation because it was not in the state budget. The additional funds would have allowed NJSIAA to do year round testing instead of just testing at state tournaments. Mr. Anzano will work with the sponsors of the bill at the appropriate time so the cost can be included in the budget.

2- The redshirting bill (bill that proposes that students lose their senior year of eligibility if they repeat a middle school grade for athletic reasons) has passed the Senate. Mr. Anzano will suggest changes to the sponsors including exempting students who repeat for academic reasons or for life changing events such as illness, death in family, natural disasters, etc. Also, Mr. Anzano had two surveys sent to Athletic Directors; one to see if any freshmen had repeated grades prior to high school; the other to ask schools if redshirting is an issue for them. So far, it appears that 3% of student athletes have repeated grades, but the reasons are unknown due to privacy rules.
3- Next week is the budget address, followed by a March/April break. The legislature will resume activity again in May.

4- Robert Haraka questioned if it'll be mandatory for home schooled students to be eligible for high school athletics since right now it's a local/BOE decision? Mr. Anzano is not seeing legislative movement on this so no change in the current procedure is expected.

Wrestling Update – The team tournament is underway. The quarterfinals were 2/8, the semifinals are later in day (2/10), and the sectional finals will be Friday, 2/12. The group finals will take place at the Pine Belt Arena in Toms River on 2/14. Mr. Timko has been meeting with Boardwalk Hall to prepare for the individual championships and Colleen Maguire has been doing a great job handling the vendors who will be around the concourse at the tournament. Over 3,000 tickets have been pre-sold. The room blocks at Ballys and Caesars have not only sold out, but were oversold so Mr. Timko is hoping the discounted price will be honored for all. Ms. Maguire is looking to secure additional rooms at the Claridge.

Winter Sites Updates – All sites are secured. Mr. Timko encouraged all Executive Committee members to attend a winter tournament event.

Assistant Director Reports

Kim Cole
Swimming Update – The tournament is underway with 209 schools participating. The team public sectional finals take place later in day while the non-publics are currently competing in the preliminary round. Ms. Cole distributed a chart that outlined sites and times (and teams playing when known) for each sectional, state semi-final and finals match. The times may change for the non-public state semi-finals. Entries for the individual tournament are due today, 2/10. The Individual Swim Finals, which will take place at GCIT, will be 2/27 and 2/28. Diving championships will be 2/23 and 2/24 at Montgomery HS.

NAGWS Program – 168 schools chose a female athlete to be honored at this wonderful event. Following the program, honorees were invited to the Seton Hall University -St. John’s University women’s basketball game, which was nationally televised.

Bill Bruno
Winter Track Relays – Mr. Bruno distributed a handout summarizing the results from the relays. He also included a chart that broke down statistics for each group and gender for total number of schools entered, total names submitted on rosters, number of individual field athletes, total number of running relays sectionals run, and total number of running relay athletes. Over 10,000 athletes participated in the relays.

Winter Track Sectionals and Group Meets – 16 state sectional champs have already been crowned and 16 more will earn a sectional title this weekend, beginning on 2/12. Remaining athletes will compete in the group meets, followed by the Meet of Champions.

Larry White
Basketball – Seeding takes place tomorrow, 2/11. Mr. White is pulling records based on power points. If there is a tie, the next ranking factor is winning percentage (15-1 team ranks higher than 14-2 team), head-to-head competition, common opponent, strength of schedule (the old format – 4 pts for beating Gr. 4 school, 3 points for beating Gr. 3 school, etc.), and lastly flip a coin. All state semifinals sites have been confirmed. The Tournament of Champions finals will be played on 3/21 at the Sun Bank Arena. The girls play at 6:30pm, followed by the boys at 8pm.
Bowling – The women’s sectional bowling championships took place on 2/6. The team and individual finals are set for 2/12 and 2/17 respectively, both at Carolier Lanes. For the men, the North II sectional was postponed to 2/11 due to snow. Three sectionals will compete on Saturday, 2/13 (North 1A at Bowler City, Hackensack; Central at Brunswick Zone/Carolier Lanes in North Brunswick; and South at Brunswick Zone Deptford.) The only men’s sectional that has been completed to date is North 1B.

Baseball/Softball/Volleyball Interpretation Meetings – All rules meetings have taken place. Mr. White thanked PCTI, Brick Memorial HS, East Brunswick HS, Bridgewater-Raritan HS, and Williamstown HS for hosting the meetings. These meetings were mandatory for officials interested in consideration for baseball, softball and lacrosse state tournament games.

Jack DuBois
Football Committee Report – Mr. DuBois represented New Jersey at the NFHS Rules Committee. The NFHS passed three new rules but Mr. DuBois can’t disclose the information until it is approved by the NFHS Executive Committee.

The NJSIAA Football Committee met on 1/27/16. The committee agreed to continue the practice of using the best 7 out of 8 games for power point seeding. The committee also agreed to be restructured so that there is at least one representative from each of the six football conferences on the committee. The committee also unanimously approved the two football proposals that were discussed later in the minutes, under Program Review.

Fencing – The tournament is well underway. All five districts took place last weekend because two had to be rescheduled due to snow the weekend prior. Mr. DuBois thanked the five sites – Fair Lawn HS, Hackettstown HS, Livingston HS, Montclair HS and North Hunterdon HS. Brackets were distributed. Mr. Timko added that we have some of best fencers in country so he encouraged committee members to stop by and see a meet.

NJSCA Hall of Fame – The 2016 Class was selected and announced. Mr. DuBois was pleased that the southern part of the state did submit nominations this year. As a result, there are several southern coaches being inducted in to the NJSCA Hall of Fame.

Senior All-Star Basketball Game – The North/South-Men’s/Women’s rosters were selected by the All-Star Selection Committee and distributed. The games will be played at Rider University on 3/20.

Ice Hockey – Seeding takes place on 2/16.

Corporate – Mr. DuBois is pleased to report that the NJ Devils renewed their contract for three more years to host the Ice Hockey championships at the Prudential Center. NJSIAA also signed an agreement with a new sponsor, Hometown Athlete, to co-sponsor lacrosse and provide scholarships at the Scholar Athlete program.
Finance Update – Colleen Maguire

Fall Sports Results – The financial position continues to be on an upward trend, compared to one year ago. There are only 12 schools with outstanding receivables 90+ days due (totaling approximately $1,200) but all schools have submitted a PO. Ms. Maguire distributed a net profit/loss summary from the fall 2015 sports season by sport as compared to the budget and last year’s numbers. Though the report is almost final (90% complete), Ms. Maguire was very pleased with the results as compared to the 2015-2016 budget. All numbers were in line with the exception of football which exceeded expectations because of the high turnout/perfect weather weekend.

Finance Committee Update – Greg Bailey

January 2016 Check Approval - A motion was made by Kathy Goldenberg, seconded by Dianne Furusawa, to accept the January check register, which was approved by the finance committee as well as our monthly approvals according to policy. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael Zapicchi Update

Public/Non-Public Committee – The committee continues to look at the transfer rule. A survey was distributed to member schools and to the Executive Committee in which Mr. Zapicchi encouraged all to participate. The survey closes 2/12 and then final data will be shared.

Program Review

NJSFC Football Power Points Incentive Proposal – 2nd Reading – A motion was made Denis Williams, seconded by Monsignor Kelly, to approve a football proposal that creates power point incentives for schools (public and non-public) to play the United A&B division teams by giving (1) power points to any school that wishes to play a United Division A School 2x the group size plus the wins accumulated by the United A Division School and (2) power points to any school that wishes to play a United Division B school 1.5x the group size plus the wins accumulated by the United B Division School.

Tony Mitchell expressed that this proposal automatically gives North schools an advantage over South schools, and shouldn’t apply to just the United A&B divisions since it creates an uneven playing field. Mr. Goodell explained that this is extra incentive for schools to play these select schools who are having problems scheduling games, which is not a problem in the southern part of the state. This proposal also recognizes these elite football schools as more powerful, and gives points to schools for competing against them. A role call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-22; No-7; Abstain-3. Motion carried.

United Division A&B Football Automatic Entry in to Playoffs Proposal – 2nd Reading – A motion was made by Rob Haraka, seconded by Todd VanOrden, to grant schools competing in the North Jersey Super Football Conference United A&B divisions automatic entry into the NJSIAA football playoffs (similar to the Gordon Division in ice hockey.) Mr. Mitchell asked for clarification. For the Group IV non-public sectional bracket, of the eight spots, this proposal would grant six automatic entries, so then four others schools would be vying for the two open spots. Mr. DuBois added that there is fluctuation each year so there could be fewer schools considered Group IV in future years, therefore fewer schools competing for the two spots. Since this was compared to the Gordon Division in ice hockey, Mr. Mitchell asked how the ice hockey brackets operate. The answer is there are 36 teams that qualify and the Gordon Division utilizes 12 of those 36 entries. Mr. Mitchell feels in football, since six out of eight schools automatically
make the tournament, there is a disparity in numbers as compared to ice hockey. Michael Nitti asked if traditionally the six teams that would receive automatic entry typically make the tournament. The answer is yes, but this past year Paramus Catholic HS did not make it because it played a national schedule, to which Mr. Nitti commented that in some respects, Paramus Catholic HS was penalized for playing a national schedule. The Football Committee supported this proposal. Monsignor Kelly expressed that his school, Seton Hall Prep, agreed to participate in the United B division, knowing that they move from a typical 6-3/5-4 season in the SEC, to possibly a 1-8 record next year. Their hope is that this proposal will offset their difficult schedule and give them a possible opportunity to compete in the playoffs. Tom Coleman asked if this proposal would satisfy the Commissioner’s request to try other things. Mr. Goodell explained this is one tool in the toolbox to fix the problem. Since the ten schools in the two divisions are not all equal and are of widely different abilities, this would not penalize a school like Paramus Catholic for playing a national schedule and frees up games for others schools. It would also help schools like Seton Hall that are not elite but have to play the elite schools. Mike Gatley expressed dissent to the fundamental concepts of this proposal and feels approving it would be a mistake. He felt approving the first proposal is more than enough incentive for schools to play the elite. Mr. DuBois added that the proposal is for a two-year cycle and can be revisited in two years. A role call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-20; No-8; Abstain-3. Motion carried.

Field Hockey Rule 7, Section 8, Maximum Games Proposal – 2nd Reading – A motion was made by Dr. William George, seconded by Tom Coleman, to change Rule 7 and give member schools the option of playing one of the following maximum game schedules in field hockey:

- Option 1 Sixteen (16) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2), plus two (2) tournaments, plus the State Tournament.
- Option 2 Eighteen (18) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2), plus one tournament, plus the State Tournament.
- Option 3 Twenty (20) games (including scrimmages as provided for in Rule 2, Section 7, Article 2), plus the State Tournament.

A tournament shall be of the single elimination type not to exceed thirty-two (32) teams, limited to a maximum of five (5) games.

A role call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-30; No-0. Motion carried unanimously.

Tri County Conference Early Spring Opening Date Proposal – One Reading Waiver – Program Review reviewed a proposal, submitted by the TCC, for a two-year pilot program that offers all spring sports teams the option of opening regular season play on the Monday prior to April 1st in 2016 and 2017. The committee unanimously voted 9-0 against the proposal since the schedules for spring are already set. The committee felt the proposal had merit and can still be voted on as legislation, but was not moved forward for consideration for this upcoming spring.


One appeal is currently being heard by the Commissioner of Education. Mr. Goodell and Mr. White are handling the case.

Old Business – none
**New Business** – Mr. Edelman reported that the Commissioner of Education has agreed to allow districts to pay for Athletic Administrators to attend the DAANJ Conference if their travel is more than 50 miles away.

Mr. Bailey encouraged all committee members to attend winter tournament events.

Mr. Timko reminded the committee that all pieces of new legislation for next year’s annual meeting are due 3/15.

**Adjournment** - There being no further business, a motion was made for adjournment by Tom Coleman, seconded by Dianne Furusawa. Meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko  
Executive Director

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