EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 11, 2015

Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press
The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday February 11, 2015 at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the 1st Vice President, Greg Bailey, at 11:07 am.

The following members were present: Robert Abatemarco, Earl Clymer, William DePonte, Bill Edelman, Dianne Furusawa, Michael Gatley, Richard Giglio, Abdul Hassan, Chuck Klaus, Joe Lennon, Elaine McGrath, Thomas Mullahey, Patrick Murphy, Frank Panucci, Jr., Dr. James Sarruda, Dr. Charles Shaddow, Rod Sharpless, Steve Shohfi, Thomas Stark, Beverly Torok, Todd VanOrden, Barbara Wallace, Bruce Watson, and Stephen Yesinko. Also present: Steven J. Timko, Executive Director; Kim Cole, Larry White, Don Danser and Jack DuBois, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Mike McGarry, A.C. Press; Matt Stanmyre, NJ Advance Media; Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; and Greg Schutta, The Record. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Earl Clymer, seconded by Abdul Hassan, to accept the minutes of the January 14, 2015 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried with one abstention (Robert Abatemarco).

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- Bill A2699 is still pending because there is concern regarding appropriating additional funds for testing.
2- The legislature is currently busy working on a very difficult budget.
3- A non-public school received five disqualifications in one basketball game, therefore according to NJSIAA rules is not eligible for participation in the state tournament. As a result, two legislators are proposing that the Department of Education have jurisdiction over NJSIAA decisions regarding non-public schools, like they do with public schools.
4- Senator Sacco in North Bergen sent correspondence to superintendents supporting the separation of public and non-public schools for safety concerns and competitive imbalance and may propose legislation. The public/non-public committee is currently tackling this issue.

Mr. Anzano was asked about several bills. Bill A3346 has passed. Steve Shohfi asked if the $10,000 is cumulative of all sports or $10,000 per sport. He also wanted to know if it applies to just coaching, or site management as well. Mr. Anzano thinks it is applicable only to coaches, but will confirm. Bill A3373, which designates cheerleading as an interscholastic sport, has not seen movement. Mr. Mullahey asked about legislation he read about regarding transferring from
one public school to another. Mr. Anzano thought that sounded like choice schools but will find out if any further legislation regarding transferring from one public school to another was introduced.

Executive Committee Voting Process – A letter was submitted to the Executive Committee from the Olympic Conference, with regard to waivers and its impact on all member schools. The conference is unhappy with the constant change of start of season dates. This is an issue NJSIAA was already planning to address. NJSIAA does not want to limit discussions/correspondence but going forward, if there are issues/waivers, a school must submit their request through their Executive Committee representative. Guidelines will be created for the next meeting.

Wrestling Update – The team tournament, which has expanded to five groups, has started. Seeding is based on power points earned by the cutoff but there was an issue that arose with the power point system. Last year the wrestling committee approved a new power point system but the system was never tested with data. Then this year, when power point rankings were posted, the old system was utilized for the first few weeks. Once the correct power point ranking system was utilized, it was apparent that teams were receiving a huge number of points for losing to a strong team, and as a result some weaker teams were ranking higher than strong teams. Mr. Timko surveyed wrestling coaches, who voted 2-1 in favor of returning to the old power points ranking system. The wrestling committee also unanimously endorsed returning to last year’s system. Seeding took place on 2/5, utilizing the old power points ranking system. Todd VanOrden, Wrestling Committee member, spoke on behalf of the committee and explained that Mr. Timko fixed an injustice and after the fact, many agreed it was the right thing to do. Mr. Timko explained that the Coaches Association developed the new power points system, and the Wrestling Committee approved it.

Mr. Timko looks forward to seeing how having five groups fares at the team group finals at the Sun Bank Arena on 2/15. 3,500 tickets to the individual championships in AC have been pre-sold, which is on target with past years. 168 of 175 rooms have already been booked from a room block secured by Colleen Maguire. The NJSIAA will receive a rebate for each room, for each night sold from this block.

Public/Non-Public Committee – Elaine McGrath and Michael Zapicchi have done an outstanding job chairing this very important committee. Mr. Timko is unsure if all topics being addressed will be tackled by March 15, which is the date Advisory Committee proposals are due, but whatever proposals are ready will be submitted, and the committee can continue to meet to propose further legislation not addressed in time for the 3/15 deadline. An article regarding Mater Dei allegations was distributed. NJSIAA will monitor the situation closely and will bring the issue to the Controversies Committee, if further evaluation warrants it. Mr. Timko would also like to reconvene the Controversies Committee for recommendations in handling recruiting issues that are reported in the papers.

Winter Sites Updates – All sites are secured. Mike Gatley questioned whether or not next year the basketball tournament first round games will be played at colleges instead of neutral sites. He knows if this happens, the tournament will begin a week earlier, therefore affecting when county tournaments can be played. This is the time Athletic Directors secure their sites for next year’s county tournaments so it’s imperative a decision is made soon. According to Mr. White, BCCC responded favorably. Stockton University and William Paterson University were unable to host, so Mr. White is looking at other community colleges but will notify ADs promptly.
Assistant Director Reports

Kim Cole
Swimming Update – Due to the creation of Division C, there is increased participation in the tournament and more sites. The team sectional final dates are 2/11 – 2/13, with the public team semi-finals on 2/17 & 2/18 and the finals on 2/21 (men) and 2/22 (women). Diving championships are at Montgomery HS on 2/24 and 2/25. Entries are coming in for the Individual Swim Finals, which will take place at GCIT on 2/28 and 3/1. Ms. Torok asked why boys and girls were divided this year. Public and non-public used to be the separating factor but it switched to gender because adding a Division C created too many meets per day, which TCNJ wouldn’t allow. Ms. Cole plans to poll the membership for their input on this change.

Basketball Non-Member/Out-of-State Opponent Form – Group equivalents were entered for non-member and out-of-state opponents in power points for girls and boys basketball seeding. This is a tedious process. There are still schools with missing information so the default entry of Group 1 will be completed on 2/11. NJSIAA has made every effort to secure the information from the schools involved.

NAGWS Program – This was a positive event and all in attendance loved it. Less than 150 schools were represented when over 400 schools could have honored a female from their school. Nancy Williams, retired women’s field hockey coach from Shore Regional HS, was also honored. Bill DePonte added that the representative from his school had only raving things to say about the event. One senior last year quoted this event as the highlight of her senior year.

Website – The ability to forward messages from the forum is days away! Ms. Cole is hopeful by next week, this feature will be functioning. Ms. Cole is also anticipating that by 3/6, schools will be able to refuse tournament participation by unchecking a box on the website instead of faxing over a Tournament Refusal Form.

Don Danser
Winter Track – The Group Relays went well, even if the bubble deflated for a bit. Sectionals also went well. Group meets are this weekend (2/13 & 2/14) and the T of C is the following weekend.

Spring Track – The following eight sites have been secured for the sectionals:

North 1 – Randolph HS (Groups 1 & 4)
River Dell Regional HS (Groups 2 & 3)
North II - Bernards HS (Groups 1 & 2)
Ridge HS (Groups 3 & 4)
Central – Northern Burlington HS (Groups 2 & 3)
Hillsborough HS (Groups 1 & 4)
South - Central Regional HS (Groups 2 & 3)
Egg Harbor Twp HS (Groups 1 & 4)

Larry White
Basketball – Seeding takes place on 2/12. Even if it snows, Mr. White has people in place to do the brackets. The cutoff was extended to 2/10 to give schools more time to get games in but now njschoolsports.com is officially closed. The non-public finals will be 3/14 and the public finals will be 3/15.
Bowling – On 2/7, the three women’s sectional bowling championships took place. There was a tie for second place so teams competed in a Baker Roll-Off, which Bergen Tech won. The women’s finals are set for 2/13 at Carolier Lanes. In the men’s tournament, the North II and North 1B sectionals took place. North 1B was rescheduled to 2/10 because of a power outage at the venue. Mr. White is still awaiting the results. North 1A, Central and South will bowl on 2/14. The men’s individual and team finals are scheduled for 2/18 and 2/20 respectively.

Baseball/Softball Interpretation Meetings – Weather has caused many cancellations/rescheduling of these meetings. To date, three of the four have taken place, and an additional fifth meeting was added on 2/22 in Ewing to help umpires who planned on making one of the meetings that was cancelled.

Disqualification Report – This report, usually distributed in January, was delayed due to glitches in a new system being used. There was a spike in player disqualification from 171 last year to 228 this year. There were 30 more soccer players and 22 more football players. Last time there were numbers like this was in 2010.

**Jack DuBois**

Football Committee Report – The committee met 1/29. The following were the four main proposals/suggestions/changes agreed upon.

1. The committee adopted the 90-minute contact restriction during regular season, which will go into effect Fall 2015. “Contact” will be defined and given to schools. There will be no time limit training with bags, but the 90-minute will apply to live people and will not be applicable to pre-season.
2. It was approved to change the non-public classification to combine groups 1 & 2 (13 schools) so there will be only three groups.
3. It was agreed to change the name of the Consolation Games to Regional Crossover Games.
4. The NJ State Football Coaches Association made a presentation to change the classification. They proposed that NJSIAA wait until the end of the season, seed the top 32 schools based on power points, then use northing numbers. Mr. DuBois felt this concept may have been good if NJSIAA had a state championship, but since it doesn’t, he felt it could misrepresent a section or sections in the state.

Fencing – The tournament is well underway. Brackets and results were distributed.

NJSCA Hall of Fame – The 2015 Class was selected and announced. Induction will take place on 3/29 at the Pines Manor in Edison. Fred Hill, Sr., retired Rutgers baseball coach, will also be honored at the event with the Distinguished Award.

Senior All-Star Basketball Game – The North/South Men’s and Women’s rosters were selected by the All-Star Committee and distributed.

Ice Hockey – Cutoff was 2/9 and seeding takes place on 2/17.

Corporate – A verbal renewal has been received from both Sports Authority and Home Team Marketing. Home Team Marketing will again offer the free ticket program.
Finance Update – Colleen Maguire

January 2015 Check Approval - A motion was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Joe Lennon, to accept the January check register, which was approved by the finance committee as well as our monthly approvals according to policy. Motion carried with one abstention (Abatemarco).

Fall and Winter Participation Numbers – 100 schools owe either a Fall or Winter Participation Form. Ms. Maguire will solicit help from League and Conference officers at the next L&C Officer’s meeting.

Outstanding A/R Balances – Significant progress has been made in collections. There is less than $700 outstanding from invoices past ninety days, from seven schools. All have been contacted and all have submitted POs so no schools will be ineligible for winter tournament play.


1. The Illinois HS Association is the first to be sued in a class action law suit regarding concussions. A motion was made by William DePonte, seconded by Robert Abatemarco, to enter in to an information sharing agreement with other state associations. Motion carried unanimously. NJ is advanced in regards to concussion protection since Mr. Timko is on the NFHS Medical Advisory Committee. NJ and PA have the highest percentage of trainers in schools compared to other states. (Texas and California also are high.) Also, NJ is ahead of curve with its Return-to-Play policy guidelines.

2. NJSIAA is still waiting on an appellate decision re: North Bergen HS.

3. An EAC case regarding a transfer issue is in the hands of the Commissioner. Two other transfer cases were recently decided by the EAC and Mr. Goodell is waiting to see whether there will be any appeal of the decisions made.

4. Mr. Goodell has been working with the Public/Non-Public Committee, Steve Timko, Paul Anzano, and NJSIAA’s public relations firm, dealing with arising issues.

Old Business – none

New Business – Mr. Lennon wanted to prepare the committee that there is a developing situation in North Jersey. Public schools will forfeit playing the non-public schools in football so sooner or later, this will be an issue in front of the Executive Committee. The non-public schools are losing games and will be forced to go out of state.

Also, Mr. Edelman was approached about requesting a waiver to begin spring track early. Mr. Edelman didn’t feel this proposal was good for the whole state of NJ, so he chose not to bring it forward.

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

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made for adjournment by Thomas Mullahey, seconded by Frank Pannucci, Jr. Meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

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