EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 14, 2018

Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press
The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday February 14, 2018 at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by 1st Vice President, Vincent Smith, at 11:15 am.

The following members were present: Heather Andersen, Greg Bailey, Maureen Bilda, Joseph Bollendorf, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jr., Teri Connor, Suzanne Cooley, Joanne Dzama, Judy Finch Johnson, James Gaffney, Michael Gatley, Sharron Grady, Robert Grusso, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Elaine McGrath, Dominick Miletta, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Sue Petrone, Paul Popadiuk, Philip Schaffer, Steve Shohfi, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, Todd VanOrden, Denis Williams, and Scott Wohlrab. Also present: Larry White, Executive Director; Kim Cole, Jack DuBois, Bill Bruno, and Tony Maselli, 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; Mike McGarry, AC Press; and Matt Stanmyre, nj.com. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.; Jan Brody, Esq., of Carella, Byrne, Cecchi, Olstein, Brody & Agnello, P.C.; John A. Conte, Jr., Esq. of Rubenstein, Meyerson, Fox, Mancinelli, Conte & Bern, PA; Charles M. O’Connell, Esq. of O’Connell and Sussman, LLC; Sister Percylee Hart, Principal at Union Catholic HS and Ryan Miller, Athletic Director at Scotch Plains-Fanwood HS.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Maureen Bilda, seconded by Bill Vacca, to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2018 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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 – Larry L. White

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) – The new legislature and new governor have taken office. At the end of the 2017-2018 legislative session, there was legislation involving cooperative sports programs, which the NJSIAA opposed. The legislation passed the Senate and Assembly, but was pocket-vetoed by Governor Christie. Mr. Anzano expects the legislation to be reintroduced in the current legislative session. Mr. Anzano has met with both sponsors of the original cooperative sports bills and with Senator Sarlo. Next, it is expected that the steroids bills will be presented again. Mr. Anzano is hopeful that Governor Murphy will be receptive to it. Mr. White has been out in the field getting to know NJ’s legislators. Last, two legislators have expressed interest in serving on NJSIAA’s Executive Committee but it is up to the Senate President and Assembly Speaker to appoint their representatives.

Mr. White thanked all the constituents that contacted their Assembly/Senate representatives and contacted the Governor’s office to cast a no vote to the cooperative sports bills. A major platform of NJSIAA is participation, so Mr. White was pleased with everyone’s efforts.
Appeal to Controversies Committee 11/7/17 Decision (St. Joseph Regional HS - Recruiting) –
The Executive Committee acted as an appellate body to affirm, reverse or modify a decision from a Controversies Committee hearing that took place on 11/7/17. The Executive Committee was provided a copy of the appeal request, transcript from the hearing, briefs from all the schools involved, and the Controversies Committee decision. Jan Brady, Esq, representing St. Joseph Regional HS; John Conte, representing Don Bosco HS; and Ryan Miller, Scotch Plains-Fanwood Athletic Director and Controversies Committee member, spoke on behalf of their respective parties. No new testimony was permissible. The hearing was transcribed by a court reporter.

After a closed session for deliberation, a motion was made by Mary Liz Ivins, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to affirm the 11/7/17 Controversies Committee decision. A role call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-27, No-1 (Gatley) therefore the Controversies Committee decision from the 11/7/17 hearing was upheld. The Executive Committee decision is the final decision of the NJSIAA. Any appeal would be to the New Jersey Superior Court.

Appeal to Controversies Committee Decision – (St. Joseph Regional HS / Pope John XXIII - Semi Final Football Game) –

The Executive Committee acted as an appellate body to affirm, reverse or modify a decision from a Controversies Committee hearing that took place on 11/30/17 involving alleged unsportsmanlike conduct at a NJSIAA state semifinal football game. The Executive Committee was provided a copy of the appeal requests, transcript from the hearing, briefs from all the schools involved, and the Controversies Committee decision. Jan Brady, Esq, representing St. Joseph Regional HS; Charles M. O’Connell, Esq, representing Pope John XXIII HS; and Sister Percylee Hart, Union Catholic Principal and Controversies Committee Acting Chairperson, spoke on behalf of their respective parties. No new testimony was permissible. The hearing was transcribed by a court reporter.

After a closed session for deliberation, a motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Suzanne Cooley, to affirm the 11/30/17 Controversies Committee decision with a slight modification. The Executive Committee did not want to rely on the findings by the Controversies Committee that no parents/fans from St. Joseph Regional HS ran on the field but the Executive Committee did find that the decision and the differential penalties were justified because Pope John XXIII was the aggressor in the situation. A role call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-27, No-1 (Gatley) therefore the Controversies Committee decision from the 11/30/17 hearing was upheld. The Executive Committee decision is the final decision of the NJSIAA. Any appeal would be to the New Jersey Superior Court.

Advisory Committee Proposals – Mr. White reminded the committee that any/all legislative proposals for consideration by the Advisory Committee must be submitted to NJSIAA no later than March 15, 2018. The Advisory Committee will meet on April 11, 2018.

Winter Sites Update – All winter state tournament venues for all rounds are set. Please go to NJSIAA’s website for the locations, dates, times.

2018-2019 NJSIAA Banned Drugs/Substances and Steroids Consent Form – A motion was made by Michael Gatley, seconded by Maureen Bilda, to approve the 2018-2019 NJSIAA Banned Drugs/Substances List. The Steroids Consent Form has been revised and the new version will be sent to Athletic Directors.
Assistant Director Reports

Tony Maselli

Swimming Update – The tournament is underway. The boys, girls and non-public sectional championships take place over the next three days.

Girls Bowling – The tournament is winding down. The individual championships take place later in the day, while the girls team championships take place on 2/16. The boys team championships have already concluded.

Website – Changes are being made to the website, including the addition of an Athlete Wellness tab for parents and students. It is currently under construction but will continue to develop and be a great resource.

Opioids Update – The Department of Education issued an opioids fact sheet and sign-off. Then they realized there was an incorrect bullet of information so they pulled it and reissued a new version. If a school has already printed and distributed the incorrect version, it is ok and they do not need to reissue but they should make sure the correct version is posted on their website. The information can be distributed electronically, but the sign-off form cannot be combined with others. Instead it must be an individual sign-off for opioids information only. A Spanish version of the form has been developed and distributed as well. It was questioned why cheerleading is on the form when NJSIAA doesn’t oversee that activity but it was probably included because the NFHS includes cheerleading as one of their sanctioned activities.

Pitch Count Committee – The committee met and recommended minor changes, which will be posted and sent to Athletic Directors shortly. Going forward, the home school must provide an adult pitch counter. Students can no longer be utilized. The visiting team is not expected to provide their own counter, but if they choose to use one, between every ½ inning, the two counters should share their numbers. The home pitch counter has the final word. A head coach can be a counter, but it is discouraged since they are engrossed in the coaching aspect of the game. Official pitch counters are only needed at the varsity level.

Out-of-Season Coaching Committee – The committee looked at five topics/rules.

1. Coaches’ contact with players outside of the season.
2. Coaches’ contact with 8th graders.
3. Summer restrictions rules.
4. Allowing more than one organizational team meeting with athletes. Right now coaches are limited to one meeting of this nature.
5. 365-day Contact Rule which addresses a coach’s contact with players before coaching at a school.

The committee will meet two more times to discuss and make recommendations to modify these rules/topics before advancing legislation to the Advisory Committee.

Kim Cole

NAGWS Program – 206 female high school seniors were honored at this wonderful event along with Mary Coyle Klinger, Rutgers Prep Athletic Director/Girls Basketball Coach, who received the Honor award. Mr. Stumpf and Mr. White attended the event. This was the first time an Executive Director was present at the event.
Girls Basketball – Seeding is done but it was a tedious process to get the required tournament forms handed in. Forms were due 1/12 but staff had to make numerous phone calls to receive the necessary paperwork. No time change requests are being honored so whatever times were requested on the forms were the times given. All tournament sites are set.

Baseball/Softball/Volleyball Regional Interpretations Meetings – One make-up meeting for officials was scheduled for 3/26 at NJSIAA’s office at 7pm. If an official does not attend one of the regional interpretation meetings, they will not be considered for this year’s state tournaments.

Eligibility/Transfer Review – Transfer Forms have been steadily coming in.

Jack DuBois

Football Committee Report – The committee met 1/24/18. Minutes from the meeting are already posted on the website. Four key issues were discussed.

1. First Round Games. Next season, 1st round games will be the full responsibility of the host school. This includes all operation, financial and security costs. Profits are kept by the school.

2. Better Identification on Sidelines. Next year, schools will be requested to tighten up security on the sidelines. Officials do not know who the people are on the sideline so going forward they will need visible IDs to be easily identifiable for officials.

3. Video Replay. – New Jersey received permission from the NFHS to use video replay. It won’t be like the NFL and used often but it can be a resource if needed.

4. Power Rating System. The committee will meet on 2/15 to develop a power rating system that would comply with the new legislation passed at the annual meeting in December.

Fencing – Updated brackets were distributed. The top four Districts winners make it to the team championships, which take place at Morris Hills HS on 2/21. Mr. DuBois thanked all host schools including fellow Executive Committee members, Robert Grausos’s high school, Hackensack HS, and Robert Haraka’s school, Morris Hills HS. Other host schools include North Hunterdon HS, Livingston HS, Fair Lawn HS and Montclair HS.

Senior All-Star Basketball Game – The Selection Committee met on 2/1. North/South-Boys/Girls rosters were distributed. The games will be played at Rider University on 3/17. Boys play at 12pm while the girls play at 2:30pm.

Ice Hockey – Seeding took place on 2/13. The NJ Devils will host the four championship games on Monday, 3/5. Games will be played at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm and 7pm. The Public C semifinals will take place on 2/28 at Codey Arena, while Public A&B and the Non-public semifinals will take place on 2/28 and 3/1 at Mennen Arena.

NJSIAA Workshops – 35 people attended the Legal Liability and Athletics - Bullying and Athletics: Understanding the New HIB Regulations Workshop on 1/29/18. NJSIAA is offering a Legal Liability and Athletics - Athletics and School Finance: Avoiding Legal Pitfalls Workshop on 3/23/18, which will be moderated by former Executive Committee member Ken Kokoska and Dave Nash of Legal One.
Approval of Cooperative Sports Programs—A motion was made by Bev Torok, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to approve a cooperative sports program between Mater Dei Prep and Ranney School in boys lacrosse. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill Bruno

Winter Track Relays—State relay results were distributed. Over 8,164 athletes participated in the relays, which spanned over four days in five separate meets.

Winter Track Sectionals and Group Meets—The top four champions from each sectional meet was distributed. The only sectional not yet completed is the South Jersey, Group IV meet. The high jump event had to be postponed due to a slippery floor on event day. All group meets will take place at the Bennett Center in Toms River. The Meet of Champions will take place over two days since it’s too tight to run the entire event in one day. Boys and girls will compete on 2/24 and 2/25 respectively.

Wrestling Update / Weight Allowance—Mr. Bruno distributed a listing of sectional and group champions. There was tremendous competition at the group finals at the RWJ Barnabas Healthcare Arena. Districts will begin this upcoming weekend at 32 different sites followed by the regional tournament at 8 sites, culminating in the individual championships in Atlantic City. All the room blocks in Atlantic City are booked.

NJSCA Hall of Fame—The 2018 Class was selected and distributed.

NJSCA Clinics—68 people attended the tennis clinic on 1/12/18 at Princeton University which featured six different instructors. There will be a track and field clinic on 2/23 at Monmouth University. Last, the wrestling clinic will take place on 5/4 at Princeton University.

Al Stumpf

Mr. Bruno gave Al Stumpf’s update since Mr. Stumpf was at Bowlero Lanes for the Individual Girls and Boys Bowling State Tournament.

Unified Sports Update—

Unified Bowling - Four schools (Somerville HS, Warren Hills HS, Moorestown HS, and Pennsauken HS) took part in NJSIAA Unified Bowling at the Sectional level this year. The Skyland Conference included Unified Bowling in its conference championship match where Warren Hills HS, Somerville HS and Phillipsburg HS took part. Eleven high schools in NJ have competed interscholastically this year in Unified Bowling.

Basketball—Nine schools have indicated that they wish to participate in the first NJSIAA Unified Tournament this year and there are twelve that have not contacted Mr. Stumpf but may be interested. There will be a championship game at Sunbelt Arena prior to the start of the NJSIAA TOC games. The sport is growing.

Guidelines—These are almost completed. They continue to be a work in progress and will be added as an addendum to the 2018-2019 NJSIAA Handbook.
Boys Bowling – The TOC champions are as follows:

Group 1 – St. Rose HS
Group 2 – Sussex VoTech HS
Group 3 – Woodbridge HS
Group 4 – East Brunswick HS

St. Rose defeated East Brunswick while Woodbridge defeated Sussex Tech to reach the finals, where Woodbridge then emerged as the winner over St. Rose.

East Brunswick HS bowler, Daniel Lenk, achieved a season 244.6 bowling average, which is the highest average in the country this high school bowling season and is also the sixth highest confirmed average in the history of high school bowling in the United States.

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Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager

DAANJ Workshop on Compliance – There will be a Compliance Workshop at this year’s DAANJ Conference in Atlantic City. If you have a new Athletic Director or a Compliance Monitor at your school this year, this workshop is encouraged.

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Finance Update – Colleen Maguire

Final Fall Season Results – A schedule of net profit/revenue per fall sport was distributed. Cross country saw a decrease in revenue, primarily due to a decrease in participation in Non-Public B girls. The decrease is due to a change in entry fees from team based to individual based. Many Non-Public B schools entered 3-5 runners as opposed to a team of 7 this past season. Next year this trend will be captured in the budget. Net profits in football also decreased. The first round takes place during NJEA Convention, which hinders attendance. There was a decrease of $65,000 in gate receipts for the first two rounds ($40,000 in first round; $25,000 in second round). This was under budget but beyond NJSIAA control.

Winter Ticket Prices – NJSIAA’s request for winter tournament ticket prices were approved. There were no changes in ticket price requests or locations from last year.

Spring Classifications – Drafts were distributed and changes have been requested.

Cooperative Sports/Classification Committee Update – The committee, made up of 18 representatives throughout the state, are discussing resolutions to the problems with cooperative sports and planning to propose major changes to be considered by the Advisory Committee. It’s been a good, hard-working committee that will yield good solutions.

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Finance Committee Update – Colleen Maguire

January 2018 Check Approval - A motion was made by Todd Van Orden, seconded by Elaine McGrath, to accept the January check register, as approved by the finance committee, as well as our monthly approvals, according to policy. Motion carried unanimously.

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Program Review

Cross Country Meet of Champions Advancement Procedure – 2nd Reading – A motion was made by Kevin Carty, Jr., seconded by Steve Shofhi, to approve a two-year pilot program that would modify the way teams advance to the Cross Country Meet of Champions, by taking the top two teams from each group (12 teams) and then the next eight at-large teams (wildcards) from all groups using a merge system. Total amount of teams to advance would be 20 total teams. The current system takes 21 teams (the top three teams from each group totaling 18, and then the top three at-large teams from all groups.) Motion passed second reading unanimously.

Field Hockey Clock Operator – 1st Reading – This proposal is postponed for a future meeting.

International Student Eligibility Changes – 1st Reading – Two major changes to Article V, Section 4.K(2) of the Student Eligibility section of the Handbook were proposed. First, an international student is eligible for interscholastic athletic competition only if enrolled in a member school under 1-the sponsorship of a program that achieved full, conditional or provision approval from The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET), which is an organization that vets and approves agencies that broker international students based on a set of standards to be deemed an accepted program, or 2-that has gone through the CSIET review process and achieved full, conditional or provisional approval. A school or the agency a school uses must be CSIET-approved before international students can be deemed eligible for athletic competition. 33 of 50 states mandate CSIET involvement for international student eligibility.

Second, it is proposed that no member of athletic staff can house international students. These are significant changes from the current rules and apply to both J1 and F1 students. CSIET evaluates broker agencies annually including how students are treated, selected, etc. It was agreed, for now, to continue with the same limit of J1 students that can participate in interscholastic athletics and continue to not limit the amount of F1 students that can participate. A motion was made by Paul Popadiuk, seconded by Todd Van Orden, to revise Article V, Section 4.K(2) Student Eligibility section of the Handbook and accept the full proposal submitted by Michael Zapicchi. Motion passed first reading unanimously.

Report of Counsel – Steven P. Goodell, Esq. –

1. St. Rose HS Appeal to Protest Committee Decision – A Protest Committee determined that the St. Rose HS’s girls basketball coach was in violation of coaching a player out of season and as a result is not allowed to coach the 2017-2018 basketball season. St. Rose HS appealed this decision, but the courts upheld the decision rendered by the Protest Committee.

2. Paterson-Griles Appeal of Controversies Committee Decision – Mr. Griles’ appeal of the Controversies Committee decision is moving forward in the Appellate Division. The school, Paterson Eastside HS, has not appealed.

3. T-rrific Tees – NJSIAA is suing their previous apparel vendor, T-rrific Tees, but the company just recently filed for bankruptcy.
**Old Business/New Business** – none

**Closed Session/Adjournment** - At 1:20 pm, a motion was made by Bill Vacca, seconded by Scott Wohlrab, to enter closed session and adjourn once closed session is over. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. White  
Executive Director

LLW: In