Flag Salute

Roll Call / Introduction of Press
The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Greg Bailey, at 11:06 am.

The following members were present: Maureen Bilda, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Tom Coleman, Bill Edelman, Judy Finch Johnson, Dianne Furusawa, Michael Gatley, Dr. William George, Richard Giglio, Gerald Glisson, Kathy Goldenberg, Sharron Grady, Robert Grauso, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Monsignor Kelly, Chuck Klaus, Howard Krieger, Jack Lally, Dr. James Lavender, Scott Lodgek, Matthew McFarland, Elaine McGrath, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Sue Petrone, Philip Schaffer, Steve Shohfi, Vincent Smith, John Stanczak, Beverly Torok, Bruce Watson, Kathy Whalen, and Denis Williams. Also present: Steven J. Timko, Executive Director; Larry White, Jack DuBois, and Kim Cole, Assistant Directors; Colleen Maguire, Director of Finance; Michael Zapicchi, Project Manager; Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Steve Falk, Asbury Park Press; Phil Anastasia, Philadelphia Inquirer; Keith Idec, Record; Matt Stanmyre, NJ Advance Media and Mike McGarry, Press of AC. Also present: Bill Deponte, Heather Andersen, and Susan Colacello of Special Olympics NJ.

Approval of Minutes
A motion was made by Mike Gatley, seconded by Bill Edelman, to accept the minutes of the February 10, 2016 Executive Committee meeting. Motion passed 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 – Steven J. Timko
The winter tournament season was a success. Mr. Timko commended Karen Manista, Athletic Trainer at Summit HS, and member of the NJSIAA Medical Advisory Committee. She saved the life of a lacrosse official by reviving him with a defibrillator. The emergency action plans in place are working.

Legislative Update (Steve Goodell) – In Paul Anzano’s absence, Mr. Goodell gave the legislative report. The legislature is currently on its annual budget break. Nothing has changed regarding bills impacting NJSIAA. Atlantic City talks are the main focus of the legislature at this time.

Wrestling Update – Wrestling has two major tournaments. At the team tournament, the group finals were moved from six mats at the Sun Bank Center in Trenton to four mats in Toms River but another session was added. The crowds were electric and Chuck Klaus attested that the competition was one of most competitive he’s seen. Many matches came down to the final bout. Kudos were given to Emerson HS, who earned their 704th career win and first state championship title.
For the individual tournament, wrestlers first competed at one of the 32 district sites, then advanced to regions (at 4 different sites), and then to the championships at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. There was lighter attendance on Friday night because it snowed, but almost 40,000 tickets were sold for the four sessions held in Atlantic City. Tom Coleman complimented the event for being well organized and seamless from match to match. Compliments were given to Howie O’Neill and his staff for being so efficient and running a flawless tournament. Mr. Bailey attended for the first time and was impressed.

New Members to Advisory Committee – A motion was made by Tom Coleman, seconded by Kathy Goldenberg, to approve four new Advisory Committee members (Rod Sharpless, Athletic Director at Cumberland Regional HS; Bob Abatemarco, Principal at Red Bank Catholic School; Jen Fleury, Athletic Director at Villa Walsh Academy and Ryan Miller, Athletic Director at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.) Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Legislation – The following seven pieces of legislation will be considered by the Advisory Committee later in the afternoon:

a. Arthur L. Johnson HS proposed to amend the summer competition period and allow 7v7 in the summer. The proposal would also allow booster clubs to pay for clinics in the summer and the out of season period.

b. The West Jersey Football League proposed to divide the non-public football schools into NP North A&B and South A&B.

c. The West Jersey Alliance / Tri County Conference proposed a two-year pilot program to offer all spring sports the option of starting regular season on March 25th instead of April 1st.

d. Holy Spirit HS wishes to create an additional section/group to the non-public classification which will eliminate unnecessary travel.

e. NJSIAA recommended that classifications be configured every two years instead of annually, to help with scheduling and be on same cycle as schools’ two year scheduling cycles. If this passes, it will be enacted in 2019.

f. Kinnelon HS proposed to require both public and non-public schools to follow the Anti-bullying Bill of Rights Act. Currently only the public schools are required to have a policy while non-public schools are just encouraged.

g. The Tri Country Conference wishes to add five additional Athletic Directors to each specific sports rules committee. Currently there is only one AD on each committee (along with coaches, Tournament Director, Rules Interpreter, etc.). The request is to have one AD from each of the following regions: N1, N2, Central, South, and non-public North/South rep.

Medical Advisory Committee Meeting – The committee met last month. Dr. Jack Kripsak is the new chair of the committee since the passing of Dr. Tim Hosea. The committee is focusing its attention on position papers for distribution to students. A current paper is being drafted now that addresses opioids and students’ addictions to painkillers. Mr. Timko will serve on a panel to discuss this topic in May. The Department of Education has also been addressing this topic so the Department of Education and NJSIAA have been exchanging information.

Spring Sports Sites/Dates – All sites are set with the exception of the North I, Group IV site for golf, which is close to being secured.
Spring Sports Regulations – All regulations are done and posted on NJSIAA’s website.

DAANJ Conference – The conference took place last week, which saw good attendance and great workshops. It was one of the best Mr. Timko has attended. Mr. Edelman expressed it was the best attended conference to date and there were a lot of new faces, which he feels was directly related to the Commissioner’s decision to approve districts paying for overnight stays to attend the conference.

Assistant Director Reports

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Swimming – Championship results were distributed. The following schools won the girls team championship: Bridgewater Raritan HS; Ocean City HS; Mountain Lakes, Immaculate Heart Academy and Trinity Hall who won their first championship without a senior class. The following schools won the boys team championship: Westfield HS, Mainland Regional HS, NV Demarest HS, Christian Brothers Academy and Pingry School. At the boys and girls individual championship at GCIT, four meet records were broken: the 200-yard medley relay by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood girls team; the girls 500-yard freestyle record, broken by Amanda Nunan of Ocean City HS; the boys 200-yard freestyle record, broken by Jason Arthur of Teaneck HS and the 400-yard freestyle relay broken by the Mainland HS boys team. A male diver, Griffin Brooks of Governor Livingston HS won the boys diving championship while Sophia Peifer of Haddonfield HS earned the girls diving championship title. The swim committee met and it was agreed that schools will be required to power point two meets, regardless if they enter the tournament.

Spring Tournaments – All regulations are posted.

Tournament Refusal – NJSIAA is entering its fourth season using an interactive refusal process. It’s easy to use - Athletic Directors just have to log in to the NJSIAA website and check off no participation. Also, Ms. Cole encouraged all to check out the new look of NJSIAA’s home page.

Bill Bruno Report

(Report given by Ms. Maguire since Mr. Bruno was unable to be present at the meeting.)

ShopRite Cup – Winter standings were distributed. There will be changes to the criteria. A committee (made up of Lefteris Banos, Ron Becker, Michael Fanizzi, Jen Fleury, and Scott Rosenberg) reviewed the criteria in the fall and met again in February. Several ideas were proposed and great discussion took place among committee members. It was recommended to award points for more than just group championships so next year, Tournament of Champion (TOC) winners will receive 10 points and TOC runners-up will receive five points. Another recommended change, in order to enhance sportsmanship, is to deduct three-points if a coach receives a disqualification at the varsity level. The committee will meet again next year.

Cooperative Sports Programs – A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Tom Coleman, to approve the following cooperative sports agreements:

A. WWP South HS / WWP North – Ice Hockey
B. Marlboro HS / Holmdel HS – Ice Hockey
C. Lenape Valley HS / Newton HS – Boys and Girls Swimming
D. Newton HS / Lenape Valley HS – Ice Hockey
E. Belvidere HS / North Warren HS – Swimming
F. High Point Regional HS / Wallkill Valley Regional HS – Swimming, Ice
Hockey  
G. Parsippany Hills HS / Parsippany HS - Ice Hockey

Motion carried unanimously.

Larry White

NJIC Bowling Waiver for Mary Help of Christians Academy – For the fourth consecutive year, Mary Help of Christians Academy has asked if their all-girls bowling team (that has no female teams in their conference) can stay in their conference and compete against their male counterparts. A motion was made by Tony Mitchell, seconded by Judy Finch Johnson, to allow Mary Help of Christians Academy’s girls bowling team to continue in their current conference and compete against the boys teams in the conference. Motion carried unanimously.

Bowling – A listing of group championships was distributed, along with the results of the Baker Roll-off. In the girls Baker Roll-off, Brick Twp defeated Manchester Twp while Brick Memorial defeated Manasquan. In a battle of the Bricks for the title, Brick Twp defeated Brick Memorial to be crowned the girls state champion. On the boys side, Brick Memorial was named the state team champion when they defeated Sayreville. Brick Memorial beat Sussex County while Sayreville defeated Roselle Park to meet in the championships. The individual leaders were Lanasia Neal from South Plainfield for the girls and Justin Malley from Jackson Liberty for the boys. Mr. White made note that the individuals competing were phenomenal athletes. Justin Malley finished with a 278, just beating Kyle Bilawsky from Woodbridge with a 269 score.

Basketball Tournament – The Tournament of Champions games culminated on 3/21/16 at the Sun Bank Arena. In a two-time overtime game, St. John Vianney HS beat Manasquan HS in the girls finals, while St. Anthony HS defeated Linden HS in the boys finals. A listing of group and sectional champions were distributed. Mr. White is still trying to plan for games at colleges instead of high schools, which he knows affects games for county tournaments. Five years ago, Mr. White had close to forty schools volunteering to host games but now it’s become harder to secure host schools, mainly because visiting teams don’t respect host sites. Mr. Gatley said the other problem was the ticket percentage rule and the short time frame. Mr. White agreed.

Winter Disqualification Report – There was a decrease of nine disqualifications from last year. Six schools would have been impacted by the new ShopRite Cup rules.

Jack DuBois

NJSCA Coaches Hall of Fame – This event takes place on Sunday, 4/10/16. Over 30 coaches and one trainer are being inducted in to the NJSCA Hall of Fame. Mr. Tim Flannery, former Director of Coach Education for the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), will also be honored at the event. Executive Committee member, Beverly Torok, will preside over the event as the NJSCA chairperson.

Clinics/Workshops – The wrestling clinic will take place on 5/6 at Princeton University with the following clinicians: Lehigh University coach, Pat Santoro; Bergen Catholic’s Asst. Coach, Mario Mason; and Princeton University’s head coach, Chris Ayers. On 5/9, in conjunction with Legal One, there will be a Unified Sports Initiative workshop. Registration forms are on our website.

Ice Hockey – Congratulations to the following schools for winning the 2016 ice hockey championships: Morristown HS (Public A), Ramsey HS (Public B) and Delbarton HS (Non-Public). Mr. DuBois thanked Executive Committee, Jack Lally, for doing a great job as the state assignor.
Fencing – Championship results were distributed. Mr. DuBois thanked the following schools for hosting the tournament: Morris Hills HS (team tournament), Livingston HS (boys individual tournament), Montgomery HS (girls individual tournament) and North Hunterdon HS (squad state championships). Ridge HS won the boys team championships while Montgomery HS won the girls team championships.

Scholar Athlete Program - The event will take place on 5/15/16. Mr. DuBois is hoping to eclipse the $140,000 given out last year in scholarships.

NJSCA Senior All-Star Game – This game, which is made up of the top 40 best seniors in NJ, was held at Rider University on 3/20/16. Mr. DuBois made note that many former players of this game went on to play basketball in college.

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Finance Update (Colleen Maguire)

Preliminary Winter Sports Financial Results – Preliminary Financial Results for the Winter sports season, with the exception of B/G Basketball, were distributed. Compared to the budget, the net profit for all sports, excluding B/G Basketball, was approximately $16K over budget. Wrestling had the largest increase over the budget, which was primarily due to a $10K incentive contribution from the Atlantic City Sports Commission that was not included in the budget. Compared to the prior year, the net profit for all sports, excluding B/G Basketball, was approximately $53K higher than the Winter 2015 season. Again, wrestling had the largest increase due to the previously identified incentive contribution as well as expense savings from moving the Wrestling Group Championships back to Pine Belt Arena (Toms River) from the Sun Bank National Center (Trenton). Winter Track also had a substantial increase over prior year due to increases in both entry fees and gate receipts as well as expense savings related to the medal awards. Ms. Maguire reminded the Executive Committee members that the Association switched its trophy/awards provider for the current fiscal year which will result in significant savings on medal awards.

Ms. Maguire also let the Committee members know that they will be receiving a hard copy of the proposed budget at the May 6th meeting for their review. She asked that Committee members contact her with any questions as there will be a roll call vote at the June 1st meeting to approve the budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Finance Committee Update – Greg Bailey

February/March 2016 Checkbook – A motion was made by Kathy Goldenberg, seconded by Dianne Furusawa, to accept the February and March check registers, which was approved by the finance committee as well as our monthly approvals according to policy. Motion carried unanimously.

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Michael Zapicchi Update

Public/Non-Public Committee – The committee continues to meet. Mr. Zapicchi shared the results from the transfer survey he sent out. 72% of respondents feel transfers are still an area of concern while 75% of respondents feel recruiting is still an issue. Mr. Zapicchi also shared some interesting findings nationwide. Ohio enacted a rule that all transfers must sit 45 days or half a season with no appeals, while Texas changed their rule to make everyone eligible if they transfer. Since Texas changed their rule, they have since seen 10,000 transfers. Florida plans to replicate Texas’s new transfer rule policy.
Compliance Monitors Update – Monitors have almost completed their visits for this first year. Approximately 50 new Athletic Directors were seen. Reviews from the DAANJ Conference regarding this new system were positive. There will be a panel discussion with site monitors at the new AD workshop in August. Kentucky is interested in what NJ has been doing and plans to learn more so they can utilize site monitors in their state.

NJ DOE Committee Reviewing HS Start Times – Mr. Zapicchi is the NJSIAA representative on the Department of Education’s committee that is currently reviewing the best start time for high schools in NJ. Mr. Zapicchi plans to distribute questions to gather input for the May meeting.

Program Review

Unified Sports Proposal – The program review committee met and unanimously approved entering in to a memorandum of agreement with the Special Olympics of NJ (SONJ.) A presentation about Unified Sports was made by Bill Deponte, Heather Andersen, and Susan Colacello of Special Olympics NJ. The goal of the program is to start with a sport each season (5 v 5 soccer, basketball and track) and pair athletes without disabilities with those with intellectual disabilities.

45 states currently participate in Unified Sports. The hope is that students who otherwise may not have made a varsity team play on these unified teams. SONJ will fund a NJSIAA staff person for three years to oversee the program, and provide $75,000 in grants to schools to develop a Unified program ($25,000 each year for three years.) The yearly $25,000 grant to schools will help fund transportation, bowling/swimming site rentals, uniforms, stipend for coaches, etc. SONJ will also provide training for staff. NJSIAA will host championship events that will take place the same day as NJSIAA’s usual soccer, basketball and track championships. In this spring’s Meet of Champions, there will be two Unified relays (4 x 100 for both girls and boys). The makeup of the relay team will be two athletes with disabilities and two without. The hope is that besides state championships, schools will have county tournaments with unified teams as well.

Mike Gatley asked if there can be a cooperative sports program among all Atlantic County schools to create a team. Mr. DePonte responded that bylaws, rules and regulations for the Unified Sports program has not yet been created but it does exist in Maryland so that can be used as a reference. It was asked if those participating in the Field of Dreams program in Galloway will be eligible to participate in Unified Sports. The answer is yes, they can participate in both programs.

NJ is one of two states in the country that has legislation requiring districts to provide extracurricular options for students with disabilities. There is a Legal One workshop on 5/9 to break down this law that was signed in 2014 and a workshop at PSA to explain Unified Sports better. Attendance at these workshops is encouraged.

A motion was made by Steven Shohfi, seconded by Dr. James Lavender, to allow NJSIAA to enter in to an agreement with Special Olympics. Motion carried unanimously.
Report of Counsel – Steven Goodell –

1. Mr. Goodell, along with Mr. Timko, plan to attend and do a presentation at the NFHS’s legal conference in April.

2. Mr. Goodell was asked to do a Harassment and Bullying presentation at the State Bar.

3. Mr. Goodell gave a presentation at the DAANJ Conference in March, along with NJSIAA staff.

Old Business/New Business - none

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made for adjournment by Robert Grauso, seconded by Bill Edelman. Meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven J. Timko
Executive Director

SJT: In