

NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
1161 Route 130 Robbinsville, NJ 08691

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 14, 2020

In compliance with Executive Order 107, the Executive Committee meeting was held remotely via Cisco's WebEx Meetings platform.

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Steve Shohfi, at 11:05 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Greg Bailey, Jeff Baldino, Tom Berrios, Maureen Bilda, Joseph Bollendorf, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jr., Ed Chmiel, Jason Corley, Joanne Dzama, Derek England, Judy Finch-Johnson, James Gaffney, Edward Grande, Robert Grauso, Dr. G. Kennedy Greene, Dr. Kimberly Gruccio, Geoff Haines, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Kurt Karcich, Monsignor Michael Kelly, Raymond Kiem, Howard Krieger, Timothy McElhinney, Dominick Miletta, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Sean Olson, Leon Owen, Christopher Penna, Jeff Pierro, William Quirk, Scott Ridley, Senator Paul Sarlo, Daniel Sinclair, Frank Torcasio, Paul Vizzuso, Kathy Whalen, Denis Williams, Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly and Dr. Robert Zega. Also present: Colleen Maguire, Chief Operating Officer; Kim DeGraw-Cole, Jack DuBois, Bill Bruno, Al Stumpf and Tony Maselli, Assistant Directors; and Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Brian Deakyne, *nj.com*; Darren Cooper, *NorthJersey.com*, and Tom McGurk, *Courier Post*. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.; Kyle Neeld and RJ Carletti of Mercadien, P.C.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Greg Bailey, seconded by Mary Liz Ivins, to accept the minutes of the September 16, 2020 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Operating Officer Update – Colleen Maguire

Financial Audit Presentation – Mercadien CPA – Kyle Neeld and RJ Carletti of Mercadien, P.C. reviewed the June 30, 2020 year-ending audit results with both the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee. This is the first year Mercadien performed NJSIAA's audit, which took place virtually. After reviewing the association's financials, Mercadien issued an unmodified opinion. The financial position of the Association as of June 30, 2020, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. There was one audit adjustment in relation the classification of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan, the loan is recorded as a liability as forgiveness has not yet been approved. NJSIAA received a PPP loan of \$226,000 and expects the total amount to be forgiven during the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year.

The association finished the year with an operating loss of \$640,000 as compared to last year, where the association finished with a \$40,000 loss. This was no surprise due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which included the cancellation of winter and spring tournaments, loss of sponsorship money, and the association refunding officials' dues to spring officials since there was no spring season. It is still unknown how much this substantial loss will affect the association long-term. A motion was made by Mary Liz Ivins, seconded by Greg Bailey, to

approve the FYE 2020 financial audit statements and Form 990/CRI-300R. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried with one abstention (Whalen).

Winter Sports Update – A memo was distributed to schools on 10/13/20 summarizing the plans for Season 2, based on Executive Order 187 issued by Governor Murphy on 10/12/20, which permits indoor contact practice and indoor competition for all sports activities, regardless of risk level. The plans distributed to schools is a basic outline. Many logistics need to be figured out within the next month such as can track compete beyond dual meets?, can wrestling participate in quad meets ?, can basketball teams attend invitational tournaments, etc. Facility-based sports such as ice hockey, winter track, swimming and bowling are bound by the restrictions of the facilities they utilize. An indoor season is more complicated than an outdoor sports season. Everything is on the table and being considered so patience is needed as the association works to figure it all out.

Mr. Karcich asked if fans will be allowed at winter events. Ms. Maguire replied that as of now, no spectators are allowed, but the Department of Health is creating a policy, so those details could change. This is the first step forward to having a winter sports season and the situation is fluid. Ms. Dzama asked when schools can expect the answers to the logistical questions regarding the winter sports seasons. Ms. Maguire thinks it'll be a while, possibly mid-November, while the Department of Health monitors the results of opening up the state more, but there's time.

Program Review – 2019-2020 Annual Meeting Modifications - 1st Reading – The 2019 – 2020 NJSIAA Annual Meeting was scheduled to be held in May 2020 but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was postponed to the Fall of 2020. Due to the restrictions on indoor gatherings, it will not be possible to host a traditional in-person Annual Meeting so it is being recommended to hold the meeting virtually on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. There is one piece of legislation to be voted on therefore, NJSIAA proposes the following plan for a virtual Annual Meeting and requisite precursor meetings.

Sectional Meetings:

Article XII (Amendments) of the Constitution requires that at least two (2) sectional meetings be held for the purpose of explaining the pending legislation and to allow for thorough discussion. Again, due to in-person gathering limitations, these meetings will be held virtually. The meetings will be held on Tuesday, December 1 at 6 p.m., and Wednesday, December 2 at 1 p.m. The virtual sectional meetings will be available to all member schools.

Final Legislation:

Article XII (Amendments) of the Constitution requires that the Executive Committee approve the final form and substance of the legislation to be placed on the ballot. The Executive Committee will review and recommend the final legislation at its December 9, 2020 meeting.

Ballots:

If the proposal is endorsed by the Executive Committee, the final ballots will be mailed to all principals immediately. The final ballots will also be posted to the AD Forum. Article XII (Amendments) of the Constitution requires that proposed legislation be sent at least ten (10) days before the Annual Meeting.

Annual Business Meeting:

NJSIAA will host a virtual Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. Article XI (Annual Meeting) of the Bylaws, requires that a quorum must be present at the beginning of the meeting. Only those that attend the Annual Meeting will be allowed to cast ballots. In order to have its ballot count, the school must be a member in good standing. A member in good standing

means that the school's annual dues have been paid, or submitted under an approved purchase order, and the Board Resolution card has been submitted.

Voting:

Signed ballots can be submitted via email, fax or mail. Ballots must be post-marked by Friday, January 8, 2021. The final vote totals, and a schedule of the votes, by school, will be shared with the Executive Committee and posted to the AD Forum no later than Wednesday, January 13, 2021.

On behalf of the Program Review committee, a motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Todd Jorgenson, to approve NJSIAA's proposed modifications to the 2019-2020 NJSIAA Annual Meeting. A voice vote was taken. Motion passed first reading with one abstention (Whalen)

Program Review – 2020-2021 Annual Meeting Modifications - 1st Reading – The deadline for legislation to be submitted to NJSIAA for consideration at the NJSIAA 2020 – 2021 Annual Meeting is currently Tuesday, December 1, 2020. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and possibly the postponement of the 2019-2020 annual meeting to January 6, 2021, NJSIAA recommends that the dates for introduction of legislation and the date for the Annual Meeting be postponed. The association would like to complete one legislative cycle before beginning the next one.

NJSIAA proposes to make the following modifications to the 2020-2021 NJSIAA Constitution, Article XII (Amendments) and Bylaws, Article XI (Annual Meeting). Note that this proposal shall only be in effect as it pertains to the 2020-2021 proposed Constitution amendments and the Annual Meeting.

Article XII AMENDMENTS (Constitution) Section 1

Any member school of the Association, or the Executive Director, may initiate an addition, deletion or any other change in the Constitution, Bylaws or Rules and Regulations by submitting such proposal in writing prior to ~~December 4~~ January 15. All such proposals shall be considered by the Advisory Committee before ~~January 15~~ February 5, and those proposals which have been endorsed shall be forwarded immediately to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall endorse or reject each proposal submitted by the membership, and any proposals made by the Advisory or Executive Committee prior to ~~February 4~~ March 1. All such proposals endorsed by the Executive Committee shall be distributed to the membership prior to ~~May 4~~ May 15.

When a proposal by a member school has been rejected by the Advisory or Executive Committee, the school which submitted the proposal shall be notified on or before ~~February 4~~ March 1.

If the proposal is resubmitted with the endorsement of twenty (20) member schools prior to April 1, it shall be included among those proposals sent to the membership prior to ~~May 4~~ May 15.

Prior to ~~April 4~~ May 1, at least two (2) sectional meetings of the Association shall be held for the purpose of explaining the legislation pending before the membership. After thorough discussion, the Executive Committee shall recommend the form and substance of the legislation to be placed on the ballot at the Annual Meeting. Proposals which have been resubmitted with the endorsement of twenty (20) member schools shall be presented as written by the proposing school to the membership for a vote.

Article XI (Bylaws), ANNUAL MEETING, Section 1

The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held on the first Monday in ~~May~~June.

On behalf of the Program Review committee, a motion was made by Rob Haraka, seconded by Mohammed Abdelaziz, to approve NJSIAA's proposed modifications to the 2020-2021 NJSIAA Annual Meeting. A voice vote was taken. Motion passed first reading with one abstention (Whalen).

Legislative Update – Paul Anzano

Mr. Anzano thanked Senator Sarlo and Assemblyman Wimberly, who were instrumental in helping the association receive \$625,000 from the state to offset financial losses due to the pandemic. It has been quiet in the legislature. Mr. Anzano distributed a listing of current bills in the legislature that he is tracking and is available for questions.

Assistant Director Reports

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Eligibility Committee & Eligibility Appeals Committee Updates – The Eligibility Committee met on 9/30 and reviewed over 20 waiver requests for Age, Credit and Semesters. There were six denials and five appeals scheduled for October 21. Over 30 COVID-19 Credit Waiver Cases have been reviewed and letters sent to the schools.

Status Report on Transfers – As of 10/12, there were 1,355 transfers in the system. Of the 1,355, 204 transfers are pending former school response; 115 were immediately eligible due to a true bona fide change of residence, 520 were immediately eligible because they didn't play varsity at their former school. For 36, the ineligibility period applies and then 289 were immediately eligible because they were COVID-19 compliance transfers. 168 had Affidavit issues and 13 are under review (additional information requested – athletic advantage or missing key item). The biggest transfer trend is moving from a public school to a non-public one.

Field Hockey Update – The six Regions for post season play were posted to the AD Forum. There was a change to Page 81 of the NJSIAA Rules and Regulations-Field Hockey. It currently reads "Section 9 Halves Per Day: A field hockey player shall play in no more than three (3) halves during the same calendar day. This would include freshman, sophomore, junior varsity and varsity competition. NOTE: Overtime periods are a continuation of the second half." But should read "Section 9 Quarters Per Day: A field hockey player shall play in no more than 6 quarters during the same calendar day. This would include freshman, junior varsity and varsity competition. NOTE: Overtime periods are a continuation of the last quarter." The NFHS moved from halves to quarters this year. The field hockey committee reports that teams are not really wearing goggles. Some girls are; some aren't – there is no consistent practice. But what is apparent is that the girls are just happy to be out there. That feeling has been felt loud and clear.

Program Review – Wrestling Weight Descent Plan (Tournament Regulation – One Reading – Up until now, a wrestler's Descent Plan has not changed throughout the season. It is a computer driven calculation on weight loss that is no faster than 1.5% of body weight per week. It is proposed to recalculate the Descent Plan after each match. The Weigh-in form will list only

one eligible weight class for each wrestler, for each match, based on their descent plan as it relates to the date of the match. By NFHS Rules: The wrestler is still eligible to move up one weight class above their actual weight at the time of weigh in. After each competition, the coach will enter the actual weight and results into Trackwrestling: If the wrestler's actual weight from that competition is less than the Descent Plan Weight from the competition, the wrestler's descent plan will continue as normal. If the wrestler's actual weight from that competition is greater than the Descent Plan Weight from that competition, the wrestler's descent plan will recalculate from the actual weight recorded from the competition. (At 1.5% week of maximum weight loss-this would take longer to get the weight back down).

The health, safety and welfare of the wrestler are the primary concerns. The goal is to keep the wrestler's weight more consistent and to avoid the excessive weight reduction and or wide variations in weight that may be harmful to the wrestler. Our coaches, student-athletes, athletic trainers and parents have a responsibility to monitor the descent plan and ensure that the student's weight management is being properly followed. In the past, there were issues with regard to weight class availability and weigh-in forms. This change will make it crystal clear and protect our wrestlers. We intend to conduct educational seminars for all wrestling coaches and any athletic directors willing to attend. This will be conducted in concert with the NJ Wrestling Coaches Association.

Key Changes:

1. BodyMetrixWR (is the only method for conducting Body Fat Assessment.
2. Only One Weigh-In Form.
3. Coaches must record the weights before the next match to generate a weigh-in form. At that time, the match results must be recorded as well.
4. Only One eligible weight class will be listed on the weigh-in form.
5. The wrestler's descent plan will recalculate after every match (The descent plan will only change if the wrestler's actual weight is greater than the descent plan weight.)

Pennsylvania has been using this method for over fifteen years. It may reduce the flexibility the coaches will have to move kids around, but the safety and wellness of athletes is priority. On behalf of the Program Review committee, a motion was made by Mo Abdelaziz, seconded by Bill Quirk, to recalculate a wrestler's descent plan after each match weigh-in. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried with one abstention (Whalen).

Bill Bruno

Cross Country Update – Mr. Bruno echoed Ms. Cole's field hockey sentiments. The kids are just happy to be out there running.

Jack DuBois

Football – Week 2 has concluded. There have been numerous games postponed, but the conferences and schools have been fantastic in working together to find new games. The administrators have truly embraced the philosophy of student athlete participation over winning. There is a google document set up on the NJSIAA website to help schools find open dates/games. The NJSIAA Grouping Intent Card will be posted on October 26th and will be due November 2nd.

Al Stumpf

Girls Soccer Update – Members of the seeding committee was distributed. Mr. Stumpf will send out tournament date reminders. Mr. Stumpf shared that it's been nice seeing the officials, players and spectators following the rules at soccer games by distancing and wearing masks.

International Student Transfers – All requests have been processed and approved.

Tony Maselli

Girls Tennis Update – All is going well. The kids are happy to be out there playing, there have been no issues, and there's been fantastic weather. The tournament starts on 10/26. Seeding via the UTR system will take place next week. Four rounds will be played over five days.

Website Update – The new website will go semi-live tomorrow and will run simultaneously with the old website for a short time. The new site must be live to fix some of the bugs that can only be done through live testing. If you go to www.njsiaa.org, you will be brought to the new site, but there is a link on the site to access the old website, which should function like normal until 11/22. Beginning 11/23, the old website will be cut off.

Finance Committee Update – Steve Shohfi

Approval of Monthly Checks – The September 2020 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Mary Liz Ivins made a motion, seconded by Greg Bailey, to approve the September 2020 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Counsel (Steven Goodell, Esq.)

Currently there is no new litigation. Mr. Goodell congratulated Mr. Scott Miccio on becoming a dad and recognized his work in interpreting and applying the many executive orders.

Old Business / New Business

Dr. Ken Greene questioned what the world and association will look post CO-VID. For instance, is it appropriate to consider new alternative revenue streams or review the efficacy of virtual meetings? Ms. Maguire replied that may be one of the silver linings of the pandemic, from how the association operates its meetings to the approach to sports. She does expect changes as a result of this time period. As for revenue, the association has been diversifying its revenue sources so that it is not so dependent on variables such as tournament matches and attendance, etc. NJSIAA signed on with TPG last year, who has more national resources and will help grow corporate sponsorships. Ms. Maguire also expressed gratitude to Senator Sarlo and Governor Murphy for helping the association maintain its reserves. Last, there is a Calendar Committee that was formed last year that is looking to create consistency to all seasons and give incentive to athletes to play multi-sports. Ms. Maguire expects in April, there will be a proposal to reset the seasons, dates, etc.

Senator Sarlo followed up on Mr. DuBois's comments about the great cooperation between schools. The administrators are modeling true teamwork and that is a true testament to them.

Assemblyman Wimberly spoke of the minority Coaches Association that he is establishing. He also has a bill in the legislature that will address sensitivity training for administrators, like what was done for officials. The goal is to increase numbers of African American coaches and spread awareness/knowledge, and open doors.

Mr. Bailey commended the NFL intensive training done by the NFL and Al Riveron. It was like nothing he's seen before, and it has created positive dialogue and understanding.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Tom Mullahey, seconded by Judy Finch Johnson, to adjourn the meeting at 11:52 am. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Maguire, Chief Operating Officer

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