

NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1161 Route 130, P O Box 487

Robbinsville, NJ 08691

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 13, 2021

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, January 13, 2021, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Steve Shohfi, at 11:03 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Greg Bailey, Jeff Baldino, Tom Berrios, Dr. Brian Brotschul, Kevin Carty, Jr., Ed Chmiel, Jason Corley, Joanne Dzama, Derek England, Judy Finch-Johnson, James Gaffney, Edward Grande, Robert Grauso, Dr. Kimberly Gruccio, Geoff Haines, Robert Haraka, Mary Liz Ivins, Todd Jorgenson, Kurt Karcich, Raymond Kiem, Howard Krieger, Timothy McElhinney, Tony Mitchell, Thomas Mullahey, Christopher Penna, Jeff Pierro, Scott Ridley, Senator Paul Sarlo, Daniel Sinclair, Frank Torcasio, Beverly Torok, Bill Vacca, Paul Vizzuso, Kathy Whalen, Denis Williams, Assemblyman Benjie Wimberly, Dr. Robert Zega, and Dr. Brian Zychowski. 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. and Scott Miccio, NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Darren Cooper, *Bergen Record*; Mike McGarry, *Press of Atlantic City*; Mike Pavlichko, *Central Jersey Sports Radio*; Kevin Williams, *Shore Sports Network*; and Greg Tufaro, *Home News Tribune*. Also present: Paul Anzano of Pringle, Quinn, Anzano, P.C.; Zack Rosenberg, Teall Properties Group.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mary Liz Ivins, seconded by Tom Mullahey, to accept the minutes of the December 9, 2020 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The 2020 Annual Meeting

One proposal, which requested to remove the language in the Constitution that prohibits state champions in football, was voted on by the membership at the 2020 annual meeting. Voting Results: Yes-318; No -12; and Abstentions-6. Of the total votes counted, 96.3% of schools were in favor of having statewide champions in football and removing the language that prohibits it. Next up will be a proposal that restructures the football state tournament to allow for statewide champions.

Chief Operating Officer Update – Colleen Maguire

NFHS Virtual Winter Meeting Update – Ms. Maguire attended the NFHS virtual Winter Meeting last week. Five states (CA, OR, WA, NV and NM) have not yet played any sports at all. Four of the five states plan to begin some type play by February 1st but California and it's 825,000 student-athletes may not have an opportunity for any interscholastic sports this entire year.

There was a presentation from NFHS SMAC member Dr. Tim McGuine, leading researcher at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. His study, along with other prominent researchers, analyzed the societal benefits of high school athletics and the effects of these benefits as it relates to the COVID pandemic. The objective was to measure how COVID-

19 related school closures and sport cancellations in the US have impacted the health of adolescent athletes and assess whether the health and well-being differed by sex, grade, type of sports played and poverty level. To collect data, a short seven-minute survey was filled out by 13,000 participants across the country. The survey measured mental health, physical activity and health-related quality of life and tracked poverty levels based on zip codes, individual sport participation v. team sport participation, and gender of survey participants.

The study found that when the pandemic hit, physical activity scores plummeted which is concerning because of the high correlation between physical activity levels and mental health. Other measures indicated a decrease in health-related quality of life and mental health scores. Some conclusions from the study were as follows: 1- COVID-19 impact was magnified for those in areas from moderate to high poverty levels which is most likely due to reduced access to alternatives to HS sports. 2-Overall females performed worst in all measures. They reported higher levels of anxiety and depression, and lower physical activity and quality of life; and 3- Team sports participants performed worst in all measures compared to individual sport participants

Another survey was done months later, in October 2020. Fall sport participants reported scores in line with historical scores compared to non-fall sport participants, who scored increased symptoms of anxiety. These same trends were noted for depression, physical activity and health related quality of life.

Dr. McGuire summarized that schools play an important role in providing access to mental health services for disadvantaged students...mental health issues in adults are often traced back to events of their youth/adolescence.

Mid-year Financial Update – Since the association can't raise capital at the present time, the association is controlling its expenses very carefully. Comparing to average monthly operating costs, the FY 2019 – 2020 decreased these levels by 22% but the association is managing cash flows inflows to help offset cash outflows. This year, the net cash reserve levels have leveled and remained stable because cash inflows (annual dues, accounts receivables, officials' registration fees, fall entry fees) have been able to offset cash outflows. Though the association had approximately \$100,000 of net cash inflows from the fall season, Ms. Maguire expects a decrease during the winter seasons since there are no post-season tournaments in Seasons 2 and 2A. Ms. Maguire is hopeful that Season 3 and Season 4 will bring cash inflows from tournament entry fees and possibly gate receipts. The association has saved money through staff attrition and related benefits, reduced legal fees by being proactive to minimize challenges of our rules (last month's interpretation regarding four seasons of eligibility), increased use of technology (virtual meetings, minimal mailing, printing, etc.) Ms. Maguire expects that the FY 2020 – 2021 will decrease the association's net cash reserves, though is hopeful it'll be minimal.

Mid-year Corporate Sponsor Update (Zack Rosenberg) – Zack Rosenberg, General Manager of Teall Properties Group (TPG), updated the Executive Committee on the status of the association's corporate sponsorships. He updates the Finance Committee monthly. It's been a challenging year, but the group has been able to bring on new sponsors including PSE&G, Dick Sporting Goods and Hometown Ticketing. Mr. Rosenberg is excited for next year. There are partnerships taking shape and sponsors that are interested in this market. There will be communications this week which will show how the association has pivoted and made new types of opportunities during difficult times.

Legislative Update - Paul Anzano

Mr. Anzano's tracking report of current legislative bills was distributed. The Department of Education is working on a guidance for schools regarding the Bridge Year plan – it is anticipated information will be released very soon. Also, the governor increased the number of residents who can get the coronavirus vaccine, expanding the eligibility beyond a few high-risk professions. The hope is that teachers can return to schools for in-person teaching sooner than later. This year is an election year for the Governor and all 120 seats in the Legislature. Only one Republican candidate has announced that he will challenge the governor but there should be more. Mr. Anzano is expecting little to change. Currently, the Governor is expected to be re-elected and the Senate and Assembly will be controlled by Democrats with healthy majorities in both houses. Mr. Anzano thinks besides the pandemic and the budget, this should be a quiet year. No questions were asked.

Assistant Director Reports

Kim DeGraw-Cole

Eligibility Committee & Eligibility Appeals Committee Updates – The Eligibility Appeals Committee will meet on 1/20 to consider two age waiver cases. The next Eligibility Committee Meeting is slated for 2/16.

Status Report on Eligibility and Transfers – The transfer portal was relatively quiet in December but became more active in January. There were 1,706 transfers in the system. Of the 1,706 transfers, 280 are pending former school response; 136 were immediately eligible due to a true bona fide change of residence, and 779 were immediately eligible because they didn't play varsity at their former school. For 66, the ineligibility period applies and 329 were immediately eligible because they were COVID-19 compliance transfers. Of this 329, 70 were Non-Public to Non-Public transfers, 65 were Non-Public to Public transfers, 74 were Public to Public transfers and 111 were Public to Non-Public transfers and 9 are out of state / unknown determination of school status: 81 had affidavit issues and 21 were denied due to affidavit and no participation. 12 other requests are under review because more information is needed. Below is transfer trend data:

Sports Specific Transfers:

- Basketball Boys - 111 with 60 Immediately Eligible
- Basketball Girls - 44 with 25 Immediately Eligible
- Ice Hockey - 15 with 12 Immediately Eligible
- Swimming - 17 with 7 Immediately Eligible
- Wrestling - 53 with 23 Immediately Eligible
- Winter Track - 41 with 16 Immediately Eligible

Total Transfers (Varsity and non-Varsity)

- Transfers from Public to Non-Public: 425
- Transfers from Public to Public: 835
- Transfers from Non-Public to Non-Public: 181
- Transfers from Non-Public to Public: 326

FY 2020 – 2021 Legislative Cycle Update – The 2020 Annual Meeting has taken place so now Ms. Cole looking to begin the process for the 2021 Annual Meeting. Timeline is outlined below.

1. Legislative Proposals are due in proper format on January 15, 2021.
2. NJSIAA Advisory Committee Meeting on January 28, 2021 at 10 am- Cisco Webex
3. Executive Committee Meeting February 10, 2021, the committee will vote to endorse or reject the proposals approved by the Advisory Committee.

4. Legislative Proposals Rejected by either the Advisory Committee or the Executive Committee must be notified by March 1, 2021.
5. If a Proposal is rejected, the sponsor may secure 20 Principals signatures by April 1, 2021 and provide to the NJSIAA. Any proposals submitted in through the 20 Principal signature route, shall be sent to the membership prior to May 15 and will appear on the ballot as written (submitted with the 20 signatures).
6. Prior to May 1, the NJSIAA will conduct two Sectional Meetings for the purpose of explaining the legislation pending before the membership. During the sectional meetings, the legislation is open for discussion, clarification and input. The sponsors of the legislation may make any revisions to the legislation and submit the final proposal to the Executive Committee for ballot approval at the May 12th Executive Committee Meeting.
7. All proposals must be provided to the member schools by May 15, 2021.
8. The NJSIAA Annual Meeting: June 7, 2021-Ballots cast and voting (format TBD-Cisco Webex at the present time).

Wrestling, Girls Lacrosse and Softball – Ms. Cole has been meeting weekly with her core teams for each sport. She has also had meetings with the full committees.

Bill Bruno

NJSCA Hall of Fame – The NJSCA Hall of Fame virtual ceremony took place on 1/10/21. 31 coaches and 1 Athletic Trainer were inducted. About 200 people watched the awards ceremony and Mr. Bruno received a lot of positive feedback about the event.

Bowling Update – Regulations and Modifications are posted on the NJSIAA website. There is a Webex meeting scheduled for the bowling committee on 1/15 to prepare for the season. Everyone is excited.

Winter Track and Field Update – Regulations and Modifications will be posted to the NJSIAA website tomorrow. A Webex meeting with the track committee is scheduled for 1/15 to focus on the start of the winter track season next month.

Gymnastics Update – A WebEx meeting with the Gymnastics Committee is scheduled for 1/22. The focus of this meeting will be to plot the format of a NJSIAA Level of Competition with the indoor capacity limit.

Jack DuBois

NFHS Football Rules Committee Meeting Update – Mr. DuBois attended the virtual NFHS Football Rules Committee Meeting on 1/11 & 1/12. Out of the eight rule changes proposed, only one was moved forward. In a normal year, there are approximately 50 rule changes considered. NJSIAA submitted a state adoption regular season video replay proposal but it missed being endorsed by one vote, though New Jersey was granted an additional year to experiment with video replay during the 2021 regular football season.

Ice Hockey Update – The season started Friday, 1/15 and will end on 3/6, with a 15-game maximum number of games allowed. The NJSIAA Regulations and Considerations are posted on the association ice hockey sport webpage. 14 schools are already quarantining.

Fencing Update – Practice began on Monday 1/11. Regular season (dual matches only) start 1/26, ending on March 6th with a 15-match maximum. NJSIAA Regulations and Considerations are posted on the fencing sport page on the association website.

Al Stumpf

Basketball Update – The 2021 basketball season Regulations for play and the NFHS/NJSIAA Covid Rule Modifications have been posted on the basketball website. Mr. Stumpf has received a lot of questions regarding social distancing in the gym. With the help of Assignor, Jack Baum, Mr. Stumpf created recommendations. This info is on the NJSIAA website, under basketball. In order to identify the best high school basketball officials, the NJSIAA will continue to use an electronic method of rating officials by the NJSIAA Basketball Observers. The NJSIAA, along with the NJ Basketball Coaches Association, will also pilot a program to introduce the NJ Basketball coaches to this process. State basketball tournament assignors along with the NJSIAA Basketball Staff will be able to review these ratings and use this information for future tournament assigning.

Important season info below:

- Practice begins January 11, 2021.
- Games begin January 26, 2021 and the season concludes March 6, 2021. Teams may play 3 games per week and a total of 15 games for the season. County and/or Conference Tournaments are allowed within that 15- game schedule.
- No games with out of state opponents are allowed.
- The NJSIAA will not be sponsoring any post season state tournament in 2021.

Unified Bowling and Basketball Update – Unified Bowling will begin with practices on 1/11 and matches on 1/26. The season will end on 3/6 and there will be no post season tournament. Unified Basketball will be held in Season 3. More details will be available by 2/15 but Mr. Stumpf is looking to use the six-region model used in the fall and limit the number of games.

NAGWS – The event will take place on 2/3 at 7pm. It is usually held at Seton Hall University, but this year will be virtual. Nominations are due 1/15. Numerous requests for honorees have been sent. As of this meeting, only 138 schools have submitted an honoree.

Girls Volleyball - The preliminary tournament regulations and Covid guidelines are posted on the girls' volleyball website. More specific tournament regulations will be posted by 2/1 which will include the tournament entry process and the dates. There has been some concern about the overlap of the winter season/Season 3/ Spring Season. Mr. Stumpf has worked out a modification of the post season tournament to reduce that overlap. It is detailed in the preliminary tournament regulations that are posted on the website. The season will be 15 regular season matches maximum with no competition with out of state opponents. Important dates are listed below:

- o February 1, 2021 – coaches can begin virtual workouts with the players. (coaches may not be present with the players)
- o March 1, 2021- in person practices begin.
- o March 8, 2021 – scrimmages can begin
- o March 16, 2021- games begin
- o NJSIAA Post Season Tournament begins- April 12, 2021 -Sectional Championship Games – April 19 or 20, 2021 depending on you group size.
- o April 24, 2021 – season ends

Golf Update – Regulations will be posted on NJSIAA's website in February. The NJSIAA is in the process of securing golf courses for the Sectional matches for both the boys and girls. There are commitments from most of the courses. The Boys TOC will be held at Hawk Ponte Golf Course in Washington, NJ on 5/17 or 5/19, 2021 based on the courses schedule. The Girls TOC will be held at the North Jersey County Club in Wayne, NJ on 5/18. Schools will be able to play matches until 6/20.

Boys Volleyball - Tournament Regulations and COVID guidelines are being worked on and will be posted on the boys' volleyball website by 2/15. Important dates are below:

- o March 1, 2021 – coaches can begin virtual workouts with the players. (coaches may not be present with players)
- o April 1, 2021 – in person practices begin.
- o April 8, 2021 – scrimmage can begin.
- o April 19, 2021 – games begin
- o June 1, 2021 – June 20, 2021- Tournament dates to be announced.
- o June 20, 2021 – season ends

The NJSIAA is attempting to secure a site for the Semi Finals and Championship matches, if that cannot be done, Mr. Stumpf will work with the Tournament Director to develop an equitable method of determining which teams will host the Semi and Final Championship games.

Tony Maselli

Swimming/Diving Update – The season begins on 2/1. Conferences are scrambling to make schedules and some pool facilities are not opening. To combat this program, NJSIAA is allowing virtual swim meets. Hopefully this will help facilities open and give kids the chance to participate in the sport.

AD Forum Update – Some of the membership has requested that we return to the old forum system, that when a person posts, everyone receives an email notification of the message. Mr. Maselli is working to make that feature available on the new website.

Officials Protocols – Officials have received NJSIAA's COVID-19 protocols. The protocols were vetted through NJSIAA's counsel and the Medical Advisory Committee prior to distribution. They are also available on NJSIAA's website.

Winter Protocols – NJSIAA created its own protocols but they were very different from the protocols issued by the Department of Health (DOH), so the association is using the DOH version. The key change for winter is that NJSIAA will be less involved when there is a COVID case in a school. Instead, the association will refer schools to contact their local DOH for guidance when there's a positive case.

Finance Committee Update – Steve Shohfi

Approval of Monthly Checks – The checkbook from December 8, 2020 through January 11, 2021 was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed. Kurt Karcich made a motion, seconded by Mary Liz Ivins, to approve the December 8, 2020 through January 11, 2021 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Counsel (Steven Goodell, Esq.)

Mr. Goodell did not have anything new to report this month.

Program Review

Two proposals were considered by the Program Review Committee. One was not endorsed so it didn't move forward. The other was tabled for the February meeting.

Old Business – None.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Jason Corley, seconded by Dr. Brian Zychowski, to adjourn the meeting at 11:43 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Chief Operating Officer

CEM: In