

1 NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2 IN RE: :

3 :
4 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING :

5 ----- :
6

7 Monday, June 7, 2021
8 (Via video)

9
10
11
12 A P P E A R A N C E S:

13
14 PARKER McCAY, P.A.
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1 MS. MAGUIRE: I'm going to call the
2 meeting to order. Good morning, everyone.
3 Welcome to the second virtual Annual Meeting.
4 I'm optimistic that this will be our last
5 virtual meeting, Annual Meeting. I'm hopeful
6 next year we're in person.

7 This reflects, you know, the first cycle
8 now under kind of our new legislative cycle for
9 the greater good of it. For instance, you know,
10 we -- the new legislative cycle starts next
11 year. December 1st is the deadline, and it will
12 culminate with the Annual Meeting on the first
13 Monday in May, and as I mentioned I am
14 optimistic that meeting will be in person.

15 I want to just reflect for a second on the
16 past year and congratulate you all on all that
17 has been accomplished. I think it's been, you
18 know, it's been a very long, challenging year,
19 but I know it's one that none of us will ever
20 forget, and I hope at some point you all take a
21 moment to just, you know, reflect and, you know,
22 really pat yourself, your colleagues, your
23 administrators on the back for all that we're
24 able to do for our student-athletes this past
25 year, but today's about looking ahead, and I'm

1 super excited for the opportunities that we
2 could be affording to our high school football
3 players. So, without any further ado, we're
4 going to go through the agenda items and get
5 this meeting underway.

6 I have a motion from Jason Corley and a
7 second from Rob Haraka to omit the formal roll
8 call. We will check attendance based on the
9 registrations via the Webex to insure that
10 people that are in attendance and registered for
11 the meeting are those that are casting the
12 ballots for this proposal.

13 Lastly, without objection, the minutes
14 from our January 6th meeting will be noted as
15 approved. They are available for review and
16 they are available on our website.

17 So, without further ado, I would like to
18 introduce our NJSIAA General Counsel, Steve
19 Goodell, and turn the meeting over to him.
20 Thank you all.

21 MR. GOODELL: Thank you, Colleen. Welcome
22 everybody.

23 My job is to lay out the procedures for
24 the meeting, and then Dave Frazier will lead you
25 through the substance of the meeting. That is

1 the description of the proposal and the vote.

2 So, we're here today to vote on a
3 referendum that would endorse or not a -- the
4 substance and procedures arriving at a football
5 championship, football group championship. In
6 order to do that, there's a proposal that is
7 before you. You've all had a chance to see it.
8 Now is your chance to comment on it if necessary
9 and vote.

10 So, here's what the rules are going to be
11 today. First, approval of the referendum or
12 endorsement of the referendum will require a
13 majority vote of the total number of ballots
14 verified by receipt at the main office and
15 attendance at this virtual meeting. The quorum
16 for that vote will be designated by those
17 registered and attending the meeting. That's
18 where it's important that you be here today.
19 The proposal will be moved and seconded.

20 At that point the sponsor of the proposal
21 will describe it briefly. You then will have
22 the opportunity to clear up any questions or
23 doubts that you may have. So, first thing we'll
24 do after it's been moved and seconded is call
25 for purposes of clarification. Anybody who has

1 questions about it may ask those questions at
2 that time. It's not a time to debate. It's
3 time to clarify any questions.

4 Once it's been clarified, I think that's
5 needed, then we'll move into the section where
6 people who wish to speak against the proposal
7 may do so, take any kinds of comments against
8 the proposal. When all of the comments against
9 the proposal have been heard, we'll take
10 comments in favor of the proposal.

11 Now, we would ask for anybody choosing to
12 make a comment whether it's for or against the
13 proposal that you clearly identify yourself,
14 tell us what your position is and what school
15 you represent. You can speak for up to three
16 minutes. Please do not make repetitious
17 speeches. If somebody had already made your
18 point, it does not necessarily need to be made
19 again.

20 Once everybody's had a chance to speak
21 either in favor or against the proposal, then
22 Mr. Frazier, the Chair, will call the question.
23 If we were in person that would be the time to
24 vote. However, as you know, the voting is
25 (inaudible word) now, but it's important that

1 you get your ballots in as Kim mentioned
2 earlier.

3 You have until Wednesday, June 9th to
4 submit your ballots. You got different ways you
5 can do that. You can email them, scan it and
6 email it. If you do that, it has to be received
7 in the office by four P.M. You can fax it.
8 Again, has to be received in the office by four
9 P.M. or you can send it the old fashioned way
10 through the mail. If so, it has to be
11 postmarked by Wednesday, the 9th.

12 We will give an opportunity for all of
13 those ballots to be received and once we know
14 that we have a result, we will post that result
15 and tell you exactly when that will be because
16 there will be some coming in by mail, but
17 certainly by Friday I think if we will -- if we
18 have enough, we can post it. When we post the
19 result, we will do so by giving the complete
20 list of the votes by school and we will also
21 post a transcript.

22 This meeting is being recorded not only on
23 Webex, Karen Ahern our court reporter is here
24 transcribing everything because this is our
25 formal Annual Meeting. Those are the

1 procedures.

2 Now, the actual substance of the meeting,
3 Dave Frazier, the Chairman of the Advisory
4 Committee, that's the committee that handles all
5 major proposals and changes, is here to lead us.
6 Dave.

7 MR. FRAZIER: Thank you, Steve. Good
8 morning to my colleagues and to our Executive
9 Director of the NJSIAA, Colleen.

10 To my fellow ADs, as Colleen said, this
11 has been a challenging year. So, thank you
12 everyone for all your efforts, your hard work,
13 your dedication to the student-athletes of New
14 Jersey and making this year what we consider to
15 be a success, and I know summer's right around
16 the corner so we're almost there. Hang in
17 there, everybody.

18 Today as Committee Chair of the Advisory
19 Committee, I will be outlining one referendum
20 proposal on the potential Football State Playoff
21 format. I'll outline how we got there. We'll
22 ask our authors of the proposal to speak to
23 clarify. You'll have the opportunity, as Mr.
24 Goodell said, procedurally to speak for or
25 against and then we call the question.

1 I'm briefly describing our referendum
2 proposal. On January 6th at the Annual Meeting,
3 the NJSIAA membership voted to approve an
4 amendment to Article IX of the NJSIAA
5 Constitution to permit State Group Championships
6 in football. To logistically allow for Group
7 Championships, the Football Leagues and
8 Conferences working group comprised of
9 representatives from the state's football
10 conferences and the New Jersey Football Coaches
11 Association formulated the below, regular and
12 postseason tournament structure. On January
13 28th of 2021, the NJSIAA Advisory Committee
14 endorsed the proposal. February 10th, 2021, the
15 NJSIAA Executive Committee unanimously agreed to
16 allow for the proposal to be reviewed and
17 commented on at the NJSIAA Sectional Meeting.
18 Thereafter, the proposal was reviewed at NJSIAA
19 Sectional Meetings with no changes proposed.

20 On May 12th, 2021, the Executive Committee
21 unanimously approved for the proposal to be
22 voted on by the full NJSIAA membership at this
23 Annual Meeting. The widespread interest in the
24 issue, the number of stakeholders involved and
25 significant exchange to the traditional football

1 playoff structure that this represents, the
2 Executive Committee has asked that the matter be
3 put to the general membership at the Annual
4 Meeting as a referendum to insure support for
5 the proposal.

6 As Mr. Goodell said, the endorsement of
7 this proposal requires a majority vote of the
8 membership at this Annual Meeting based on the
9 total number of ballots cast at the meeting.

10 At this time, I would like to ask for a
11 motion for the proposal, and I'll call on Dan
12 Vivino, Athletic Director at Westwood Regional
13 High School, who made the motion for the
14 legislation and we have his prior approval.

15 MR. VIVINO: Yes. Dan Vivino, Westwood
16 Regional High School. I'd like to make a motion
17 to approve the Football Group Championship
18 proposal as presented, Referendum Item Number 1.

19 MR. FRAZIER: Thank you very much, Dan.

20 Second on that proposal, Tom Mullahey,
21 Athletic Director of Clifton High School will
22 second the motion.

23 MR. MULLAHEY: Second.

24 MR. FRAZIER: Thank you, Tom.

25 MR. MULLAHEY: Thank you.

1 MR. FRAZIER: The proposal has been
2 properly motioned and seconded.

3 The sponsor will have a brief statement
4 about the proposal, and I will turn it over to
5 Dan Vivino and Dave Ryden to describe their
6 football outline briefly.

7 MR. VIVINO: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Frazier,
8 for everything. We'll be very, very brief.
9 I'll pass it to Dave Ryden in a second.

10 Obviously, this has been a long process,
11 deeply vetted and shared many times, but I'm
12 going to highlight a couple of the points that
13 obviously the goal was to have a group champion
14 in football, but without negatively impacting
15 the other 98 percent of the schools each year,
16 and we believe we've accomplished that.

17 We wanted to preserve Thanksgiving which
18 we done. We wanted to keep our calendar and
19 start dates the same, not going backwards at all
20 which we've done or adding on it again. We
21 through some creative ways have preserved the
22 total numbers of games by potential for ten
23 games by using and creating multiple avenues for
24 teams to continue to play into the postseason
25 even if they're eliminated from the postseason

1 or if they don't make the conventional
2 postseason, and finally before I pass it to
3 Dave, you know, we're still going to be
4 finishing earlier than other years which --
5 three years ago we had 40 teams playing the week
6 after Thanksgiving, just playing (inaudible).
7 So, we've really come a long way with shortening
8 the season yet, you know, also increasing what's
9 going on during the season and not taking games
10 away from our student-athletes.

11 I'm going to pass it to Dave at this
12 point. Thank you.

13 MR. RYDEN: Thank you, Dan, and thank you,
14 Dave, for everything that you've done.

15 Like Dan said in the beginning, this has
16 been a very long -- long and tedious process
17 that we've gone through. The -- the best thing
18 about this plan so far is that it has really
19 united the State of New Jersey in football. All
20 five leagues have come together along with the
21 Football Coaches Association to come up with
22 this plan that we think is going to benefit this
23 state in high school football in New Jersey.

24 Again, I want to thank everyone that
25 worked on this plan with us and, you know, it's

1 been a -- it's been a great time working with
2 everybody.

3 MR. FRAZIER: Thank you, Dan and Dave, and
4 thank you for your efforts in putting this
5 together along with the committee responsible
6 for this.

7 At this time, is there any questions of
8 clarification for our sponsors? If you have a
9 question that needs clarifying about the
10 referendum proposal, please put your name in the
11 chat and then we will call on you, and you can
12 be recognized by your name, your school
13 affiliation and your responsibility there. So,
14 if there's anyone that has any clarification or
15 needs clarification on the proposal, please type
16 your name in the chat and then we will get to
17 you in order.

18 Okay. Seeing that there are no questions
19 for clarification, we are to the part where if
20 there is someone who wishes to speak against the
21 motion. As Mr. Goodell stated previously, up to
22 three minutes and please no -- try to reduce the
23 redundant conversation. If one person says
24 something, please try not to say the same, exact
25 thing for three minutes. If you wish to speak

1 against the motion, type your name in the chat
2 now and we will recognize you to speak against
3 the proposal.

4 Okay. Seeing that there are none, same
5 thing goes for those wishing to speak for it.
6 If you would like to speak in favor of the
7 proposal, please type your name in the chat,
8 we'll recognize you, and then you can identify
9 yourself and speak up to three minutes, and
10 again redundant work is -- excuse me. Speeches
11 are discouraged.

12 Okay. Seeing that there are none speaking
13 against or for, we will now call the question.
14 Normally, this would be a paper ballot that we
15 would take and count immediately. As Mr.
16 Goodell stated earlier, you have the ballot or
17 your principal should have it and should come to
18 the NJSIAA on that specific paperwork only,
19 signed and stamped by the building designee or
20 administrator. Please note that a vote in favor
21 or yes moves us towards the proposal that is on
22 our screen right now. Voting no is the status
23 quo and what we've done in the prior years.

24 As Mr. Goodell and both Miss Cole said, is
25 each member has to get their ballot to the

1 NJSIAA by June 9th, various methods. It's one
2 again, scan an email. Number 2 is fax, and both
3 of those are by four P.M., July 9th, and last
4 but not least the snail mail in which you will
5 need it postmarked by June 9th.

6 The NJSIAA will collect all the ballots,
7 count and get you the count as soon as possible.
8 I won't say an exact date, time because I'm not
9 counting them for them. So, we'll say before
10 the end of the week to be safe.

11 At this point prior to adjournment of the
12 meeting, once again I would like to thank all of
13 my colleagues, the NJSIAA for most of a
14 fulfilling year and wish everyone a great
15 summer. I will turn the meeting back over to
16 Kim Cole who will close out the final meeting
17 with a motion to adjourn.

18 MS. DEGRAW-COLE: Thank you, Dave, and
19 thanks, Steve Goodell and Colleen.

20 I just want to note that we have call-in
21 users in -- participating in the meeting. If
22 you are a voting member school, I would need you
23 to email me so that I can identify you. If
24 you're in with your name, we have no problem,
25 but those call-in users, please email

1 kcole@NJSIAA.org, identify that you were at the
2 Annual Meeting so your vote may count. So, I
3 think that's -- that's a -- very important.
4 Also your ballots there were instructions sent
5 and they should be sent to Liz Nodeland. So,
6 all that information is contained within.

7 I thank you for your attendance today, and
8 as everyone has said I know you've been out at
9 games and you've seen these young people, and if
10 you don't pat yourself on the back and recognize
11 what we've been through, the kind of teamwork
12 that I witnessed from the athletic directors
13 this year and what you've all put together,
14 that's really the true essence of sportsmanship.
15 So, I know we're all here on behalf of NJSIAA
16 very pleased. We wish you all well. We wish
17 your teams well as you close out this spring
18 season. Thank you for your hard work, your
19 perseverance, your commitment, and I think
20 together we made this year happen the best it
21 could. Hopefully we never have to repeat this
22 again.

23 So, with that, I'm asking for a motion to
24 adjourn the meeting. Dave Ryden?

25 MR. RYDEN: Motion. Motion to adjourn.

1 MS. DEGRAW-COLE: A motion, and a second
2 by Leon Owen from Willingboro.

3 With that, thank you everyone. Stay well,
4 stay safe and try to stay cool. This ends our
5 meeting.

6 (Whereupon the Annual Meeting
7 was concluded.)

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1 IN RE: :
 2 : CERTIFICATE
 3 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING :
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6 I, KAREN M. AHERN, the officer before whom the
 7 foregoing meeting was taken, do hereby certify that the
 8 witnesses whose testimony appears in the foregoing
 9 meeting was duly sworn by me, and that said meeting is
 10 a true record of the testimony given by said witnesses;
 11 that I am neither attorney nor counsel for nor related
 12 to or employed by any of the parties to the action in
 13 which the meeting was taken; and further that I am not
 14 a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel
 15 employed by the parties hereto or financially
 16 interested in the action.
 17

18 - - *Karen M. Ahern*

19 - - - - -
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