

**PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
DISTRICT II**

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**MINUTES OF JUNE 30, 2020 MEETING
@ WILKES=BARRE AREA CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

Meeting was convened at 2:30 p.m. by Chairman Majikes

- ITEM 1 Chairman Majikes called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
- ITEM 2 Absent but accounted for: Jim Costello, Joseph Farrell, and Tim Hopkins.
- ITEM 3 A motion was made by Jay Starnes, seconded by Ben Tolerico, to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2020 meeting. That was the last committee meeting held prior to the pandemic. **All Ayes.**
- ITEM 4 Pat Patte, District II Treasurer, presented the monthly Treasurer's Reports for March 2020, April 2020, and May 2020. The March Report showed a total fund balance of \$277,298.07; the April Report showed a total fund balance of \$256,616.75; and, the May Report showed a total fund balance of \$258,539.36. A motion was made by Ron Collins, seconded by Brian Durkin, to accept the report as presented. **All Ayes**
- ITEM 5 Pat Patte also presented for approval the report detailing the PIAA District II Income & Expenses for the year ending June 30, 2019. The report contained a detailed explanation of revenues and expenditures for the 2018-2019 school year on a sport by sport basis. This report is provided annually at the April District II Business Meeting. That meeting has yet to be held for this year due to the pandemic. The report showed a total expenses of \$344,232.42 and a total expenditures of \$319,031.06. A motion was made by Hal Gabriel, seconded by Eric Emmerich, to approve the report as submitted. **All Ayes**
- ITEM 6 Sports Reports:
- **Baseball (Frank Majikes):** Chairman Majikes explained recent information regarding the requirement to utilize NOCSAE standard baseballs. In a recently received interpretation, the game may be played as long as the NFHS Authenticating Mark is on the ball even if the NOCSAE/SEI certification is missing. The home plate umpire is required to file a report to the PIAA when this occurs. Games are intended to be played with baseballs that meet

the NFHS Rules requirement and baseballs with the NOCSAE/SEI certification should be utilized in baseball in 2021.

- **Basketball (Frank Majikes):** Frank Majikes informed the group that the mercy rule has been adjusted from the current number to 30 points. At any point following halftime when the 30 point differential has been reached the clock will continue to run. There is a concern from the District II Committee regarding the number of individuals accessing the hospitality room and courtside seating during the PIAA District II Basketball Playoffs. Limitations will be developed regarding these items for future District II Basketball Championship events.
- **Competitive Spirit (Hal Gabriel):** Hal Gabriel explained to the group that the PIAA has made an adjustment in the Competitive Spirit competitions. Squads within classifications will be divided into Small Varsity and Large Varsity divisions. A Small Varsity squad will have 15 or less; a Large Varsity squad 16 or more.
- **Cross Country (Bill King):** The District II Championships will be held at Lakeland High School in October. More information will be provided as the Fall championships approach.
- **Field Hockey (Hal Gabriel):** Hal Gabriel informed the group of a change in the timing of Field Hockey matches beginning with the 2020 season. High School Field Hockey will be played in quarters rather than halves beginning with this coming season. There will now be four 15 minute quarters as opposed to two 30 minute halves.
- **Football (Mike Ognosky):** Mike Ognosky informed the group that the PIAA has adopted a modification for sub-varsity level contests. The modifications permit contests to be played with kicking modifications or plays from scrimmage (10 and 10), Schools may mutually agree to play sub-varsity contests in one of the three following manners: (1) play the event in accordance with current NFHS Rules; (2) play the event pursuant to NFHS Football Rules and agree to utilize the kicking game modifications; (3) play the contest as a scrimmage utilizing the scrimmage modifications. Those modifications will be placed on the District II website as soon as they are finalized by the PIAA State Board of Directors.
- **Tennis (Mike Ognosky):** Mike Ognosky reported that there may be a change in venue for the District II Tennis Championships. The Championships currently utilize both the courts at Kirby Park and the courts at Wilkes University. There is the potential that restrictions as a result of the current pandemic may limit access to facilities. More information will be provided as the Fall Championships approach.
- **Track and Field (John Coyle):** John Coyle discussed the proposed change in format to the District II Track and Field Championships modeling the current format in District XI. That

format provided two days of competition with heats and selected Field Events on the first day and finals and selected Field events on the second day. That is the current format utilized in many District Championships as well as at the PIAA State Championships. The Wyoming Valley Conference has already supported that change. The LIAA has not yet finalized their approval of the change due to a lack of meetings as a result of the pandemic. The LIAA is meeting on Thursday, July 2nd and this item will be discussed by member schools. A motion was made by John Coyle, seconded by Mary Ruth Tanner, to approve the change in the District II Track and Field Championships Format pending final approval of the LIAA at their Thursday, July 2nd meeting. **All Ayes**

- **Volleyball (Maureen Williams):** Maureen Williams reported that District II will no longer compete in a 4A sub regional with District XI. District II now has 4 AAAA schools and will hold our own District II AAAA Championship in Girls Volleyball.
- **Leagues Conferences (Brian Durkin & Fred Barletta):** Both Conferences will be meeting on Thursday, July 2nd to discuss a number of items. The LIAA will be meeting at North Pocono High School and the WVC will be conducting a Zoom meeting.
- **Awards (Bill Schoen):** Bill Schoen informed the committee that Honor Awards will again be providing District plaques and medals in 2020-2021 with no rate increase for the new academic year. Frank Majikes informed the committee that as a result of the 2020 cancellation of the District II Spring Championships, Honor Awards has agreed to provide those medals for next Spring's Championships.
- **Officials (Maureen Williams & Bill Schoen):** The PIAA is discussing a method of delivering the Fall Rules Interpretations in various sports to the officials in compliance with current pandemic guidelines. More information will become available as the date for those meetings approaches. Mrs. Williams and Mr. Schoen also advised committee members that PIAA, in collaboration with NFHS and local chapters, is seeking to develop methods to deliver on-line rules' meetings throughout the state; and is developing safety protocols for officials when officiating at all interscholastic events.
- **Sportsmanship (Chad Vinansky):** Chad Vinansky reported that the PIAA has increased the one game suspension for a disqualification that is a result of inappropriate language/behavior toward a game official on the part of a player or coach. That suspension will now be a two game suspension.

ITEM 7

The following motions were made granting the following students **IMMEDIATE ELIGIBILITY IN BOTH THE REGULAR SEASON AND POST-SEASON** in accordance with Article VI, Transfers,

Residence, and Recruiting, Section VI of the PIAA By-Laws, Principal to Principal Sign off:

- A motion was made by Fred Barletta, seconded by Jay Starnes, to approve the immediate eligibility of Logan Baker, Mid Valley to Lakeland, in accordance with Article VI, Transfers, Residence, and Recruiting, Section 4, Principal to Principal sign off, of the PIAA by-laws. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Ben Tolerico, seconded by Hal Gabriel, to approve the immediate eligibility of Adrian Davalas, Pocono Mountain East to Wallenpaupack, in accordance with Article VI, Transfers, Residence, and Recruiting, Section 4, Principal to Principal sign off, of the PIAA by-laws. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Ron Collins, seconded by John Haas, to approve the immediate eligibility of Michael Murphy, Abington Heights to Scranton, in accordance with Article VI, Transfers, Residence, and Recruiting, Section 4, Principal to Principal sign off, of the PIAA by-laws. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Maureen Williams, seconded by Dave Novrocki, to approve the immediate eligibility of Isabella Pisano, Pittston Area to Wyoming Seminary, in accordance with Article VI, Transfers, Residence, and Recruiting, Section 4, Principal to Principal sign off, of the PIAA by-laws. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by John Coyle, seconded by Eric Emmerich, to approve the immediate eligibility of Alyda Sands, Pittston Area to North Pocono, in accordance with Article VI, Transfers, Residence, and Recruiting, Section 4, Principal to Principal sign off, of the PIAA by-laws. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Jon Pollard, seconded by Hal Gabriel, to approve the immediate eligibility of Andrew Skutack, Holy Redeemer to Holy Cross, in accordance with Article VI, Transfers, Residence, and Recruiting, Section 4, Principal to Principal sign off, of the PIAA by-laws. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Bill King, seconded by Bill Schoen, to approve the immediate eligibility of Anna Uher, Holy Cross to Scranton, in accordance with Article VI, Transfers, Residence, and Recruiting, Section 4, Principal to Principal sign off, of the PIAA by-laws. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Dave Novrocki, seconded by Maureen Williams, to approve the immediate eligibility of Noah Ziegler, Standley Lake International School to Western Wayne, in accordance with Article VI, Transfers, Residence, and Recruiting, Section 4, Principal to Principal sign off, of the PIAA by-laws. **All Ayes**

- ITEM 8 The following motions were made granting the following students **ELIGIBLE IN THE REGULAR SEASON BUT NOT IN THE POST-SEASON** in accordance with Article VI, Transfers, Residence, and Recruiting, Section VI, Subsection C, In Season Transfers, Section 2, Eligibility for Post Season Championship Tournaments, of the PIAA By-Laws, Principal to Principal Sign off:
- A motion was made by Chad Vinansky, seconded by Eric Emmerich, to approve the in season eligibility of Giancarlo Escobar, Holy Cross to Dunmore. Giancarlo will not be eligible for post season competition in the sport of Cross Country. **All Ayes**
 - A motion was made by Fred Barletta, seconded by Maureen Williams, to approve the in season eligibility of John Greenfield, Riverside to Old Forge. John will not be eligible for post season competition in the sport of Football. **All Ayes**
 - A motion was made by Ron Collins, seconded by Ben Tolerico, to approve the in season eligibility of Nicole Leo, Lake-Lehman to Wyoming Seminary. Nicole will not be eligible for post season competition in the sport of Field Hockey. **All Ayes**
 - A motion was made by John Coyle, seconded by Mary Ruth Tanner, to approve the in season eligibility of Joseph Monahan, Scranton Prep to Wilkes-Barre Area. Joseph will not be eligible for post season competition in the sports of Football and Wrestling. **All Ayes**
 - A motion was made by Brian Durkin, seconded by Jay Starnes, to approve the in season eligibility of Kyle Stephens, Scranton to Mid Valley. Kyle will not be eligible for post season competition in the sport of Football. **All Ayes**
 - A motion was made by Eric Emmerich, seconded by Jon Pollard, to approve the in season eligibility of Jake Yanoski, Scranton Prep to Mid Valley. Jake will not be Football. **All Ayes**
- ITEM 9 A motion was made by Jon Pollard, seconded by Bill King, to deny the request of a member school on the behalf of a student-athlete seeking an additional year of eligibility. **All Ayes**
- ITEM 10 A motion was made by Chad Vinansky, seconded by Brian Durkin, to approve the immediate eligibility of Irene Sayaso, Spain to Wallenpaupack, in accordance with Article VII, Foreign Exchange Students. **All Ayes**
- ITEM 11 Chairman Majikes reviewed the actions taken at the June 15, 2020, PIAA State Board Meeting. The minutes of that meeting can be found on the District II Webpage by clicking on “District II News” and then “PIAA State Information”.

ITEM 12 Chairman Majikes provided the committee with the “Classifications by Sports” reports for the next two year cycle. He noted that 3 District II Schools asked for, and received, voluntary upgrades for the next cycle –

Berwick – Field Hockey (2A) and Boys Tennis (3A)
Tunkhannock – Girls Swimming/Diving (3A)
Honesdale – Field Hockey (3A)

Chairman Majikes also noted that the final classifications for Boys & Girls Basketball have not yet been released as there is a pending legal matter regarding those classifications.

ITEM 13 Chairman Majikes informed the Committee that Benton (District IV) and Northwest Area (District II) have ended their cooperative agreement in the sport of Girls Soccer. As provided by the by-laws, students from Northwest Area that have remaining eligibility may request eligibility from the District Committee to continue to play until graduation. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mary Ruth Tanner, seconded by Hal Gabriel, to allow Emily Blasick, Northwest Area, to continue as a member of the Benton Girls’ Soccer team. **All Ayes**

ITEM 14 The PIAA has asked all District Committees to hold their Annual Business Meeting for 2019-2020 as required by the PIAA By-Laws. Chairman Majikes has asked all PIAA District II Committee members to provide their availability on Monday, July 13th or Thursday, July 16th. The 2020 District II Annual Business Meeting will hopefully be held via Zoom on one of those two dates.

ITEM 15 Chairman Majikes provided the Committee members with the 2020-2021 District II Committee Meeting Schedule. Meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month at a site and time to be determined.

ITEM 16 Chairman Majikes reminded Committee members that the first practice day for winter sports in 2020-2021 is Friday, November 20th. The first scrimmage date for winter sports is Saturday, November 28th – the Saturday following Thanksgiving.

ITEM 17 Chairman Majikes reviewed a request for an appeal hearing from a member school regarding the approved Football League schedule for the next two year cycle. Following discussion, a motion was made by Fred Barletta, seconded by Jay Starnes, to approve the request for a hearing. **11 Ayes, 5 Abstentions**

Chairman Majikes will schedule a hearing for this item in the near future.

ITEM 18 A discussion was held regarding the current criteria for establishing brackets for District II Team Championships. Currently, if a bracket contains 8 or less teams, all are eligible for the post season tournament. If there are more than 8 teams, the top 8 automatically qualify and others may qualify if they have a .500 record or better. The issue will be discussed at this week's scheduled league meetings and feedback will be provided to the committee prior to establishing the tournament formats for the next two years.

ITEM 19 The Committee had a discussion regarding the status of attendance at Athletic Events given the current "green" status. The current guidelines are as follows:

Work & Congregate Settings Restrictions –

- Continued telework strongly recommended
- Businesses with in-person operations must follow updated Business and Building Safety Requirements
- All businesses operating at 50 % occupancy in the yellow phase may increase to 75 % occupancy in the green phase
- Child car may open complying with guidance
- Congregate care restrictions in place
- Prison and Hospital restrictions determined by individual facilities
- School subject to CDC and Commonwealth guidance

Social Restrictions –

- Large gatherings of more than 250 prohibited
- Masks are required in businesses
- Restaurants and Bars open at 50 % occupancy
- Personal Care Services (including hair salons and barbershops) open at 50 % occupancy and by appointment only
- Indoor Recreation, Health and Wellness Facilities, and Personal Care Services (such as gyms and spas) open at 50 % occupancy with appointments strongly encouraged
- All Entertainment (casinos, theaters, and shopping malls) open at 50 % occupancy
- Construction activity may return to full capacity with continued implementation of protocols.

ITEM 20 Congratulations to the following District II Committee members –

- Dave Novrocki who is now the Director of Pupil Services for the Wyoming Valley School District
- Dr. John Haas who is now the Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the Pittston Area School District

- Frank Majikes who was elected as the President of the PIAA Board of Directors

ITEM 21 A motion was made by John Haas, seconded by Ben Tolerico, to adjourn the meeting. **All Ayes**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Ognosky

Mike Ognosky
District II Secretary