

**PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
DISTRICT II**

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**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2019 MEETING
@ WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER**

Meeting was convened at 4:15 p.m. by Chairman Majikes

ITEM 1 Chairman Majikes called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

Absent, but accounted for: Ron Collins, Jim Costello, John Coyle, Joseph Farrell, Bill King, and Ben Tolerico

ITEM 2 A motion was made by Fred Barletta, seconded by Hal Gabriel, to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2019 meeting. **All Ayes**

ITEM 3 **SPORTS REPORTS**

- **Competitive Spirit (Hal Gabriel):** Hal reported that all is set for the Competitive Spirit Championships scheduled for December 15, 2019 at Wallenpaupack Area High School at Noon. Information has been posted to the webpage.
- **Field Hockey (Hal Gabriel):** The Committee was given a handout reviewing the current power rating standings as well as the contests remaining to be played prior to the start of the District playoffs. There are a number of contests to be played and all schools are encouraged to continually check the power ratings page for updates in the standings.
- **Football (Mike Ognosky):** Football Chairperson Mike Ognosky updated the committee on the status of the regular season. It appears that the race for playoff spots will be very competitive as the season moves forward.
- **Soccer (Brian Durkin):** The Committee was given a handout reviewing the current power rating standings as well as the contests remaining to be played prior to the start of the District playoffs. There are a number of contests to be played and all schools are encouraged to continually check the power ratings page for updates in the standings.
- **Tennis (John Coyle):** In John's absence, Mike Ognosky updated the committee on the status of the District Tennis Playoffs. With the completion of the Doubles Competition today all District

Playoff tournaments are complete with the exception of the District II AAA Team Championship which is scheduled for next Monday.

- **Girls' Volleyball (Maureen Williams):** Maureen discussed the potential for a 9th team to qualify for the AAA Championships. If that occurs an additional contest will be scheduled in order to determine the final 8 teams that qualify. That contest would be at the 8th seed facility and they would host the 9th seed. The Committee was given a copy of the current playoff rankings as well as the scenarios in the different classifications.
- **Leagues/Conferences (Fred Barletta & Brian Durkin):** A discussion was held regarding the recent changes in Week 8 of the Wyoming Valley Conference Football Schedule. It was emphasized by both Athletic Director representatives that in moving forward that league schedules are to be followed and contractual held once they are in place. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Jay Starnes, seconded by Hal Gabriel, that the rescheduled Wyoming Area-Southern Columbia and Shamokin-Holy Redeemer Football games will not be included in the power ranking computations for District II. **All Ayes**
- **Sportsmanship (Chad Vinansky):** Chad reported that he is still awaiting 6-8 mandatory responses from District II member schools regarding the disqualification of students from athletic contests. All schools are reminded that an official response is required for all disqualifications of coaches and players from PIAA contests.

ITEM 4

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 Pat Patte, seconded by Maureen Williams, to approve the immediate eligibility of Hunter Lovelace, Daniel Jones to Mt. View. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made Jon Pollard, seconded by John Haas, to approve the immediate eligibility of Emma Brown, Delaware Valley to Abington Heights. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Brian Durkin, seconded by Tim Hopkins, to approve the immediate eligibility of Cody Sherwood, Abington Heights to Susquehanna. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Eric Emmerich, seconded by Dave Novrocki, to approve the immediate eligibility of Rigoberto Viveros-Ruiz, Carrolltown HS to Mt. View. **All Ayes**

- A motion was made by Bill Schoen, seconded by Jay Starnes, to approve the immediate eligibility of Keeton Yannone, Blue Ridge to Susquehanna. **All Ayes**

ITEM 5

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 Fred Barletta, seconded by Hal Gabriel, to approve the in season eligibility of Grant Berrios, Summerville (SC) to Wallenpaupack. Grant will not be eligible for post season competition in the sport of Basketball. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Maureen Williams, seconded by Brian Durkin, to approve the in season eligibility of Jacob Blevins-Gilmore, Texas to Abington Heights. Jacob will not be eligible for post season competition in the sport of Football. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Jon Pollard, seconded by Pat Patte, to approve the in season eligibility of Xavier Evans, Holy Redeemer to Dallas. Xavier will not be eligible for post season competition in the sports of Volleyball and Basketball. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Eric Emmerich, seconded by Chad Vinansky, to approve the in season eligibility of Tyler Faithful, Valley Stream to Honesdale. Tyler will not be eligible for post season competition in the sport of Football. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by John Haas, seconded by Mary Ruth Tanner, to approve the in season eligibility of Carlos Fernandez, Wilkes-Barre Area to Holy Redeemer. Carlos will not be eligible for post season competition in the sport of Basketball. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Tim Hopkins, seconded by Bill Schoen, to approve the in season eligibility of Phoenix Gavin, Florida to Wallenpaupack. Phoenix will not be eligible for post season competition in the sports of Soccer and Track. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Fred Barletta, seconded by Maureen Williams, to approve the in season eligibility of Owen Machadeo, Manchester (Virginia) to Montrose. Owen will not be eligible for post season competition in the sports of Cross Country and Track. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Brian Durkin, seconded by Hal Gabriel, to approve the in season eligibility of Arionna Merrick, Wyoming Valley West to Nanticoke. Arionna will not be eligible for post season competition in the sport of Soccer. **All Ayes**

- A motion was made by Eric Emmerich, seconded by Mary Ruth Tanner, to approve the in season eligibility of Corey Scochin, Lakeland to Holy Cross. Corey will not be eligible for post season competition in the sport of Cross Country
- A motion was made by John Haas, seconded by Chad Vinansky, to approve the in season eligibility of Prince Scurni, Easley HS to Old Forge, Prince will not be eligible for post season competition in the sport of Football. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Fred Barletta, seconded by Hal Gabriel, to approve the in season eligibility of Amber Tatro, Washingtonville (NY) to Wallenpaupack. Amber will not be eligible for post season competition in the sport of Track. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Pat Patte, seconded by Dave Novrocki, to approve the in season eligibility of Marausie Watts, West Scranton to Abington Heights. Maurasie will not be eligible for post season competition in the sport of Football. **All Ayes**

ITEM 6 The following Foreign Exchange eligibility requests were acted upon by the District II Committee:

- A motion was made by John Haas, seconded by Brian Durkin, to approve the immediate eligibility of Milo Demange, France to Mt. View, in accordance with Article VII, Foreign Exchange Students. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Fred Barletta, seconded by Dave Novrocki, to approve the immediate eligibility of Clara Dube, Belgium to Honesdale, in accordance with Article VII, Foreign Exchange Students. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Eric Emmerich, seconded by Pat Patte, to approve the immediate eligibility of Javier Garcia-Morales, Spain to Wyoming Area, in accordance with Article VII, Foreign Exchange Students. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Hal Gabriel, seconded by Jon Pollard, to approve the immediate eligibility of Alessandro Fiori, Italy to Lakeland, in accordance with Article VII, Foreign Exchange Students. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by John Haas, seconded by Bill Schoen, to approve the immediate eligibility of Adria Gomez, Spain to Lakeland, in accordance with Article VII, Foreign Exchange Students. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Tim Hopkins, seconded by Jay Starnes, to approve the immediate eligibility of Felipe Machado Hajar, Brazil to Wallenpaupack, in accordance with Article VII, Foreign Exchange Students. **All Ayes**

- A motion was made by Dave Novrocki, seconded by Mary Ruth Tanner, to approve the immediate eligibility of Sofya Khabiyeva, Kazakhstan to Dallas, in accordance with Article VII, Foreign Exchange Students. **All Ayes**
- A motion was made by Pat Patte, seconded by Chad Vinansky, to approve the immediate eligibility of Dalia Musesti, Italy to Lake-Lehman, in accordance with Article VII, Foreign Exchange Students. **All Ayes**

- ITEM 7 Chairman Majikes reviewed the minutes of the Wednesday, October 2, 2019 Board of Directors' Actions from that meeting. A copy of those minutes are available on the District II webpage.
- ITEM 8 Chairman Majikes updated the Committee on the status of the current state of legal fees based on recent proceedings involving the PIAA. The PIAA imposed a fee on each of the individual districts in assisting in the payment of those legal fees. District II's share of the total cost is \$7,200.
- ITEM 9 Chairman Majikes distributed a PIAA handout outlining "Member School Security Considerations for Sporting Events". The handout suggests steps schools should take in assisting in student safety at school sponsored sporting events. It can be found on the state webpage.
- ITEM 10 Chairman Majikes reviewed with committee members the new "PIAA Member School Request for Decision on Postseason Eligibility" document that was revised by the PIAA Board of Directors at their October 2, 2019 board meeting. It is to be utilized by member schools when requesting post season eligibility for students who have been denied post season eligibility. It requires schools to specifically site the reason for the request as it applies to the By-Laws as well as the supporting documents to support that claim.
- ITEM 11 Chairman Majikes shared with committee members a copy of the citation of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives recognizing the PIAA Officials' Convention on their 25th anniversary.
- ITEM 12 The committee discussed a request by National Running Center for this year's District II Cross Country Championships. They would like to be on site and have the opportunity to sell Cross Country spikes as well as to hand out some things for runners such as water, replacement spikes and socks if they forgot theirs. After discussion, a motion was made by Fred Barletta, seconded by Eric Emmerich, to assess a \$250 rights fee to National Running Center in order to provide them the opportunity to sell merchandise at the 2019 District II Cross Country Championships. **All Ayes**

- ITEM 13 Jay Starnes informed the Committee that there is discussion at the state level to reduce the number of classes in dual meet PIAA sanctioned events. The sharp reduction in the participation of student –athletes in wrestling has led to a number of forfeited bouts in the current structure. He asked committee members to discuss this with the wrestling coaches in their district and be prepared to hold further discussions at the November committee meeting in order to prepare a District II recommendation on the matter.
- ITEM 14 The Committee held a discussion regarding the current structure of the District playoffs in all sports. Specifically, the location for district competitions as we move from the first round to the quarterfinals to the semifinals to the finals.
- ITEM 15 There was also a discussion regarding our current practice of awarding district championships in those classifications and sports where we are involved in sub-regional competitions with other districts. Currently, in those brackets where a non-District II team wins the subregional championship we have been bringing together the two District II teams that lost to the eventual champion in the semifinals and finals and have them play for a District II Championship. That contest has had dwindling interest and enthusiasm in the past few instances and the District Committee will be entering discussions regarding an alternate method of selecting a district champion in those situations.
- ITEM 16 A motion was made by Hal Gabriel, seconded by Brian Durkin, to adjourn the meeting. **All Ayes**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH @ WBAC & TC – 4:15 P.M.

Submitted by

Mike Ognosky

District II Secretary