

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2004
Cabinet Room, Townsend Building

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by DIAA Chairperson Gerald Kobasa.

B. Roll Call

The following DIAA Board members were present: Gerald Kobasa, Mark Holodick, Kathleen Wilbur, Sue Spilecki, Joan Samonisky, Dr. Kevin Carson, William Passwaters, Ted Williams, Sister Ann Michele, Dr. Lewis Atkinson, Phyllis Kohel, Zane Robinson, Ed Kee, Dr. Robert Andrzejewski, Robert Reed, and Dr. Garrett Lyons. Jack Holloway, Executive Director, and Mary Cooke, Deputy Attorney General, were also in attendance. Gerald Allen was unable to attend.

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kee and carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meeting and November 10, 2004 Board of Directors' Meeting

Mr. Passwaters made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2004 Board of Directors' Meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reed and carried unanimously.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Action Items

A. Request for Waiver of 14 DE Admin. Code 1009.2.2 – Concord High School for Igor Banovic

Rev. Anastasios Bourantas, who provides a home for Igor, Greg Mitchell, guidance counselor at Concord High School, and Igor Banovic testified in support of this request. The hearing was held in open session and proceeded according to DIAA rules and regulations. Mr. Mitchell explained that Concord High School was requesting that Igor be treated as an 18 year old transfer student from the first day of school so that the 90 school day ineligibility period would start from September 1, 2004 and not November 23 which is Igor's birthday. Mr. Mitchell commented that Concord High School was not asking for a complete waiver of the Rule 1009.2.2 but

a waiver of when the 90 school day period of ineligibility would begin. Mr. Holloway explained the rule on international students and commented that the rule is to discourage high schools from recruiting international student athletes and the resulting displacement of local student athletes from high school teams.

Dr. Hawtof made a motion to go into deliberation at 9:45 a.m. The motion was seconded by Sister Ann Michele and carried unanimously. While in deliberation the request for waiver of 14 DE Admin. Code 1009.2.2 from Concord High School for Igor Banovic was discussed. Mr. Kee made a motion to come out of deliberation and back into open session at 10:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reed and carried unanimously. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to deny the request based on the fact that the student is an international student and that the student is 18 years of age and is currently not in his place of residency and is ineligible for 90 school days starting with the first official day of attendance at Concord High School which is October 11, 2004. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kee and carried by a vote of 13 – yes (Reed, Passwaters, Robinson, Andrzejewski, Carson, Lyons, Spilecki, Williams, Hawtof, Samonisky, Sister Ann Michele, Kee, Wilbur), 0 – no, and 1 – abstention (Holodick). Ms. Kohel was not in attendance for this hearing.

The Board recessed at 10:05 a.m. and reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

C. Approval of DIOC Pay Proposal for Officials

Kevin Charles, DIAA Coordinator of Officials, and Ruth LaJoie, chairperson for the DIAA Officials Council, were in attendance to present this proposal. Ms LaJoie explained that the proposal that she was going to be presenting to the Board has been approved by the Delaware Interscholastic Officials Council. Ms. LaJoie reviewed with the Board members the research that was done with state associations in other states and how other states officials are paid. Ms. LaJoie commented that this research will be done again in three years in order to keep in line with the other states so as not to loose officials to other states. Ms. LaJoie explained that the DIOC was proposing a 3 percent increase for all the officials groups for FY 06. This, and all future fee increases are to be based on percent pay raises granted to state employees by the General Assembly. Ms. LaJoie stated that if there is a state increase the officials would see the increase the following year so as to allow the school administration to prepare for the increase in their budget. Ms. LaJoie commented that the increase would begin in September 2005 when the new school year begins. In an answer to a question from a Board member, Ms. LaJoie stated that Delaware's officials fees are very close to other states being lower in some sports and higher in others. Mr. Holloway commended Ms. LaJoie for stepping up and becoming president of the DIOC. Dr. Carson also complimented the leadership of the committee. Mr. Williams made a motion to accept the proposal from the DIOC for the school year 2005-06. The motion was seconded by Dr. Carson and carried unanimously. Mr. Kobasa thanked Ms. LaJoie for all of her hard work over the past years.

V. B. Neil Tagle of Delaware Scholastic Hockey Association

Mr. Tagle, president of the Delaware Scholastic Hockey Association, was in attendance to present an update on the growth of ice hockey in Delaware. Mr. Tagle commented that there are eight club teams and three varsity teams this year and are looking to grow to twenty teams next year. Mr. Tagle explained that the Delaware teams are working from the same basic club sports rule. Mr. Tagle also explained that ice hockey is a winter sport and is 100% reliant on public facilities for practice and playing. In a response to a question from the Board, Mr. Tagle stated that the average cost for a high school student to participate in ice hockey is \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 for equipment and \$500.00 to be on a team which is spent for ice time. Mr. Tagle also commented that it would cost schools between \$20,000.00 - \$50,000.00 to sponsor an ice hockey team.

III. B. Review of New Pre-participation Physical Examination Form

Dr. Hawtof reviewed the new four page physical form with the Board. Dr. Hawtof commented that the form needed to be improved to the new levels of care, medical conditions, and medications and also needed to delete some items that were no longer necessary. Mr. Holloway expressed his concerns with some of the sensitive questions on the form and reviewed a page that he revised to eliminate the sensitive questions from the form. Mr. Holloway further explained that he was very impressed with the amount of work that went into this but that there were a lot of practical issues that needed to be discussed. Mr. Holloway commented that the exam form being presented would be very costly and commented that the form should be available via the internet so that there is easy access and no copying expenses. Mr. Holloway also expressed concerns regarding where this form would be kept and who would see the form after the student has completed it. After considerable discussion the consensus of the Board was for this form to go back to the Committee with the concerns and bring it back to the Board at a later date.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:50 a.m. and reconvened at 12:10 p.m.

D. Request for Sanction of Tournament Events

Mr. Holloway commented that there were 33 applications for sanction and recommends approval and all meet DIAA criteria. Dr. Carson made a motion to approve the sanctioned events. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kohel and carried unanimously.

E. Approval of the AFLAC All-American High School Baseball Classic 7/30/05 & 8/13/05

Mr. Holloway explained that he was being asked to sanction an All-American High School Baseball Classic which involves selected high schools students who have just completed their junior year and would still have their senior year of eligibility. Mr. Holloway explained that DIAA rules prohibit participation in any all-star type events unless there is an open tryout. Ms. Kohel made a motion to continue to follow DIAA rules and deny participation by Delaware students. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kee and carried by a vote of 13 – yes (Reed, Robinson, Carson, Kohel, Lyons, Spilecki, Andrzejewski, Williams, Hawtof, Sister Ann Michele, Wilbur, Samonisky, and Kee) and 1 – no (Passwaters). Mr. Holloway commented that he will communicate to the director of this event about open tryouts.

F. Approval of NCAA First Team Summer Camp

Mr. Holloway commented that he met with members of the NCAA First Team who explained that this camp involved Division I men's basketball and that it was a mentoring program. Mr. Holloway explained that this group identifies 9th grade students in the country who are projected to be superstars of the future. He further explained that these students would be brought in to a week long camp which would include academic setting, scholarships, recruiting process, and basketball. Mr. Holloway explained that these students would be hand selected by the NCAA and the NCAA would like Delaware students to participate. Mr. Holloway stated that this could not be done unless it was opened up for all students to tryout. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve this request on the basis that it is not an all-star game but is more of a camp situation and is not in violation of our rules. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kee and carried by a vote of 14 – yes (Kobasa, Holodick, Andrzejewski, Kohel, Wilbur, Spilecki, Samonisky, Carson, Williams, Lyons, Sister Ann Michele, Reed, Kee, and Hawtof) and 2 – no (Passwaters and Robinson).

G. Approval of Seaford High School's Request for Alumni Swim Meet

Mr. Holloway commented that this request would involve the alumni swim against the swim team. Mr. Holloway commented that it was during the season and did not see any violations. Ms. Wilbur made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Ms. Samonisky and carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Director Report

A. Results of DIAA Fall Tournaments

Mr. Holloway commented that the fall season went well with only one postponed event which was in soccer. Mr. Holloway complimented Wesley College and

stated that the quarterfinal, semifinal, and final rounds of boys' soccer were held there. Mr. Holloway commented that the volleyball tournament was a success with great attendance as well as the field hockey tournament. Mr. Holloway commented that the cross country tournament also went well with an increase in the number of participants. Mr. Holloway stated that the football finals were held at Delaware State University and that the facility was great.

I. E. DIAA Financial Report

Mr. Holloway commented that at this time there is a deficit for the fall sports income but that we are still receiving money for the fall tournaments.

Dr. Atkinson informed the Board that the Department of Education had budget hearings with the Budget Director and the department asked that they be allowed to fill a special fund position for DIAA.

IV. B. Sportsmanship Update for Fall 2004

Mr. Holloway commented on Sportsmanship by stating that this past fall there were no incidents where coaches pulled teams off the playing field. Mr. Charles reviewed the incidents report with the Board members and commented that there was a decrease in ejections and incident reports for this year. Mr. Charles also commented that the soccer officials do a good job in reporting incidents to DIAA.

V. Presentation and Discussion

A. Laura Dean Scholarship Recipient Request

Mr. Holloway reported that he received a letter from a university that one of our scholarship recipients had to return her scholarships. Mr. Holloway explained that he was informed by the university that they are a full scholarship institution and the university would be in violation if the student accepted the scholarship. The student did request that the money be held aside in case she would be able to use it in the future while attending this university. Mr. Williams made a motion to defer the money for this student as the DIAA Scholarship Committee selected this student and this money is obligated to her and should hold this money until the conclusion of her senior year which should be in the spring of 2009. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kee and carried unanimously. Dr. Carson suggested that the Committee consider an alternate for future situations.

VI. Other

Ms. Cooke updated the Board on the appeal from the Delaware Military Academy by stating that they are still waiting for a proposed order from the hearing officer

and on the Glasgow High School appeal she commented that the parents requested that the oral argument be scheduled after the first of January.

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Reed made a motion to adjourn at 1:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kee and carried unanimously.

Tina Tyre