

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2005
Cabinet Room, Townsend Building

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by DIAA Chairperson Gerald Kobasa.

B. Roll Call

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

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Kobasa stated that Item III. A. was being taken off the agenda and that Item III. L a request for approval of the Senior All-Star Lacrosse Game was being added to the agenda Mr. Williams made a motion to accept the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hawtof and carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of the April 14, 2005 Board of Directors' Meeting

Dr. Hawtof made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2005 Board of Directors' Meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams and carried unanimously.

E. Financial Report

Mr. Holloway reviewed the financial report with the Board and informed them that the expenses for the boys' and girls' basketball tournament had not yet been included in the report but were much less than he had anticipated. Mr. Holloway also commented that this has been a good year and feels we will finish the year with a surplus.

II. Public Comment

Mr. Layne Drexel, Interpreter for Board 11, was present to offer public comment on Item III. C. and his comments were deferred until later in the meeting when the Board reached the action item on the agenda.

III. Action Items

D. Review of the State Board of Education Decision in G.S. vs DIAA

Ms. Cooke commented that she needed an official decision from the Board as to whether they want to appeal the decision by the State Board to the superior court. Mr. Holloway commented that after looking at some of the members emails most members of the Board were not interested in moving forward and commented that he recently met with some members of the State Board regarding the last two decisions that the State Board had overturned. Mr. Holloway stated that he explained to the State Board the number of requests that the DIAA Board hears. Mr. Holloway commented that he felt the meeting went well. Mr. Kee made a motion not to appeal the decision in the G.S. vs DIAA hearing. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hawtof and carried unanimously.

B. Request by Howard High School for a Waiver of 14. DE. Admin. Code 1009.2.7.1 for A. S.

Mr. Williams made a motion to table this request till the June meeting so that we could obtain full transcripts for the school years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, and 2004-05 to provide additional information as part of the Boards evaluation. He also asked that a transcript of this hearing be provided to those members not present so that they could read it prior to the June meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hawtof and carried unanimously.

C. Request for Recognition of the Northern Delaware Basketball Officials (NDBO)

Michael Wynn was in attendance to present this request. Mr. Wynn explained that this request is based on the need and the demand of basketball officials in Delaware. Mr. Wynn also commented that their organization would like to come under the National Federation and to do that must be recognized by DIAA. Mr. Wynn commented that their organization will comply with all sanctioning bodies and will strive to be a successful organization.

In a response to a question by a Board member Mr. Holloway explained that DIAA requires officials to submit a membership list to us, we require them to submit a training protocol and how they are going to conduct testing, we require them to attend an annual rules clinic, and that we also require them to abide by DIAA rules and regulations. Mr. Holloway stated that they also pay National Federation dues through our association.

Mr. Holloway also explained that we currently have two officials associations for basketball. Mr. Wynn commented that at this point his association has not solicited any high schools and are only looking to become certified to be able to train members. Mr. Holloway explained that this association presented their request to the Officials Committee back in December. Mr. Holloway further explained that the

Officials Committee was recommending that this Board deny recognition because we do not deal with non-interscholastic leagues and AAUs because it is out of our realm of authority; the New Castle County Athletic Directors reported that they were already receiving good service; and concern that competition for school contests may develop between the basketball officials associations, which historically has led to "homerism".

Mr. Layne Drexel, the Interpreter for Board 11, offered public comment on the application. He stated that he has offered to work out the differences with Mr. Wynn. Mr. Drexel also explained what their association offers. Mr. Drexel commented that he felt sanctioning another Board is not a direction that DIAA should take. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to go into deliberation at 12:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams and carried unanimously. Mr. Williams made a motion to come out of deliberation at 12:15 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spilecki and carried unanimously.

Mr. Williams made a motion to deny the application of NDBO on the basis that he does not believe it meets the needs or benefits student athletes in the State of Delaware and because he does not believe they have met the criteria stated in paragraph 8.1.2 for the desire to officiate high school and middle school sports in the State of Delaware. The motion was seconded by Ms. Spilecki and carried by a vote of 11 – yes (Williams, Hawtof, Kee, Allen, Wilbur, Holodick, Reed, Robinson, Lyons, Kobasa, and Spilecki), 0 – no, and 1 – abstention (Sister Ann Michele).

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:20 p.m. and reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

G. Request by DIAA Volleyball Tournament committee Recommendations for Regular Season and Tournament Play.

Ms. Debbie Corrado, chairperson of the DIAA Volleyball Committee, was in attendance to present this request. Ms. Corrado explained that she was proposing the use of a libero player in volleyball games. Ms. Corrado commented that the National Federation has declared this year as an experimental year for the use of a libero player and that it would be mandatory for the 2006 season. Ms. Corrado explained that a libero player is a defensive player that only plays the back row position with no serving or attacking. Ms. Corrado commented that the coaches have voted 31 -1 in favor of using the libero player for 2005. Ms. Corrado stated that the Committee was also proposing expanding regular season tournaments to one two-day event that would count as only one match toward their final schedule. Ms. Corrado explained that coaches are concerned over the length of the day as well as the exhaustion and or injuries that could occur due to the constant play and short recovery time between matches. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the two proposals. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holodick and carried unanimously.

K. Retirement Announcement of the Executive Director and the Suggested Position Posting and Timeline.

Dr. Atkinson informed the Board members that the Executive Director was going to be retiring on July 31. Dr. Atkinson reviewed the procedures of posting his position and suggested forming a sub-committee of two public members, the current chair and past chair, and two other members to screen applicants and to interview. Dr. Atkinson then reviewed a job description and asked the Board for their approval. Mr. Kee made a motion to approve the description of the position for Executive Director. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hawtof and carried unanimously.

J. Nominating Committees Recommendation for New DIAA Officers

Dr. Lyons commented that the Nominating Committee would like to present Mark Holodick for chairman and Ted Williams for vice chairman. Mr. Kee made a motion to accept the nominees. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbur and carried unanimously.

E. Delaware Independent School Conference Request for Associate Member Status

Mr. Holloway commented that this is an annual request for associate member status. Mr. Holloway explained that the request is based on two criteria of our rules that they cannot meet which is the transfers and fifth year student due to athletics being a mandatory part of their curriculum. Mr. Holloway stated that these types of students can only participate when competing against other associate member schools and when competing against full member schools they must abide by our regulations. Mr. Holloway commented that St. Andrew's school was also asking that they be allowed to play girls' soccer in the fall. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to approve this request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reed and carried unanimously.

F Milford High School Golf Team – Self Reported Eligibility Violation

Mr. Holloway explained that Milford High School reported a violation of using an ineligible player in a varsity golf match. Mr. Holloway stated that they have followed our rule book in the appropriate penalty of forfeiting that match. Mr. Holloway commented that Milford High School's athletic director has assured him that they are taking steps so that this doesn't happen again. Mr. Allen made a motion to accept. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kobasa and carried unanimously.

I. DIAA SMAC Proposals

Mr. Holloway explained that the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee was recommending that the wearing of protective mouth wear be mandatory for anyone participating in collision or contact sports that is wearing metal appliances and would like to change the word mouth guard to intra-oral tooth and mouth protector. Mr. Kee made a motion to accept this recommendation. The motion was seconded by Dr.

Hawtof and carried unanimously. Mr. Holloway also explained that the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee was also recommending the adoption of the Pre-Season Practice Program for the fall of 2005. Mr. Holloway commented that this was in place at the NCAA level and that this committee was only recommending it to our member schools not mandating its adoption. Mr. Holloway explained that this recommendation would enhance student-athlete well-being. Mr. Holloway commented that the primary focus of the pre-season period should be to provide an adjustment period to the intensity and duration of exercise and environmental conditions. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to approve as a recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kee and carried unanimously.

L. Request for Approval of the Delaware Senior All-Star Lacrosse Game

Mr. Holloway commented that this was an annual request and recommends approval. Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve this request. The motion was seconded by Sister Ann Michele and carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Director Report

B. Spring Tournaments

Mr. Holloway reviewed the upcoming spring tournaments and the sites at which they will be held.

A. DIAA Scholar Athlete Awards

Mr. Holloway commented on the Scholar Athlete Awards and stated that we will be reviewing the applications received. Mr. Holloway recommended that an additional scholarship be awarded this year because of our financial situation. Mr. Kobasa made a motion for one year that DIAA have a \$2,000.00, \$1,500.00, and \$1,000 for both male and female. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kee and carried unanimously.

V. Other

Mr. Williams recommended that Mr. Holloway contact the Appoquinimink School District.

VI. Public Comment

None

VII. Adjournment

Dr. Hawtof made a motion to adjourn at 1:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Allen and carried unanimously.

Tina Tyre