

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2007 – 9:00 a.m.  
Collette Building

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

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

B. Roll Call

The following DIAA Board members were present: Mark Holodick, Ted Williams, Gerald Allen, Kathleen Wilbur, Debbie Corrado, Phyllis Kohel, Dr. Michael Owens, Michael Wagner, Sister Ann Michele, Dr. Dianne Sole, John Oliver, Joan Samonisky, Dr. Jeffery Hawtof, and Robert Reed. Kevin Charles; Executive Director, and Mary Cooke; Deputy Attorney General, were also in attendance. Dr. Garrett Lyons and Kate Marvel were unable to attend.

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Holodick commented that Item III. F. Consideration of the Purchase of a Score Clock and Item IV. H. Investigation of Ineligible Player 2005 Dickinson Football was being added to the agenda. Ms. Samonisky made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Oliver and carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of the December 14, 2006 Board of Directors' Meeting

Ms. Kohel made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2006 Board of Directors' Meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbur and carried unanimously.

E. DIAA Financial Report

Mr. Charles reviewed the financial report and reviewed both the income and expenses for the month of December. Mr. Charles commented that the income received in December was largely due to the income still coming in from the fall tournaments. Mr. Charles stated that the budget was very comparable to last years expenses. Mr. Williams suggested that someone look into investing the money that is in the Department of Education account. Dr. Owens commented that he will look into this and report back to the Board. Ms. Samonisky made a motion to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reed and carried unanimously.

II. Public Comment

John McDonald stated that he was present to talk on three issues. Mr. McDonald commented that he would like to see the financial budget, he would also like to comment on the site change of the wrestling tournament, and the sanctions used for non-eligible athletes. Mr. McDonald shared his concerns about the sanctions placed on the student-athletes when an ineligible player is used. But he felt it more

appropriate to punish the school's administrators who determine eligibility. Mr. McDonald stated DIAA should look at this regulation to see if there is a better way to handle these types of sanctions. Mr. McDonald stated that he wanted to comment on the change of venue for the individual wrestling tournament but wants to review the budget before commenting. Mr. McDonald commented that he reviewed the minutes posted on the DIAA website and has not seen anything regarding the change in the site of the wrestling tournament. Mr. McDonald was concerned that the wrestling tournament was being held at a high school and not at an off site facility. Mr. Holodick explained the scheduling conflict with regards to the wrestling tournament. Mr. Charles also explained the process for scheduling college venues and that the colleges events always take priority over DIAA events.

### III. Action Items

#### A. Approval of Tournament Sanctions

Mr. Charles commented that there are 11 sanction requests that all have gone through the normal sanction review process. Ms. Kohel made a motion to accept the tournament sanctions. The motion was seconded by Ms. Corrado and carried unanimously.

#### B. Approval Of Annual Report

Mr. Charles explained that State law requires that this Board submit an annual report to the General Assembly at the end of January each year. Mr. Charles then reviewed the report with the Board and asked for comments or suggestions. Mr. Charles stated that he was going to add some information on DIAA's Annual Sportsmanship Award. Mr. Williams commented that adding information on the sportsmanship award is a good idea. Mr. Williams made a motion to accept the report with the addition of the sportsmanship information. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reed and carried unanimously.

#### C. Approval of 2007-08 DIAA Board Meeting Dates and Sites

Mr. Charles stated that this will be tabled till the February meeting. Mr. Williams made a motion to table this item. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbur and carried unanimously.

#### D. NFHS 2007 National Student Leadership Conference

Mr. Charles commented that as a result of the agreement between the NFHS and T-Mobile the National Federation has been able to fund a national student leadership conference. Mr. Charles reminded the Board that before DIAA had their own student leadership conference the National Federation hosted a conference where all states

could send student delegates and adult delegates but that the funding for this diminished and the NFHS Student Leadership Conference was discontinued. Mr. Charles explained that the T-Mobile/NFHS contract provides funding to renew the conference held this year and each state will have the opportunity to send six student delegates with two adult delegates or four student delegates and one adult delegate. Mr. Charles further explained that the NFHS and T-Mobile will fund the expenses of the students but that the state must fund the expenses for the adults. Mr. Williams made a motion to allow a maximum of six students and two adults if travel expenses are under \$2,000.00. Students will be asked to do a presentation to this Board and at the DIAA Student Leadership Conference. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbur and carried unanimously.

E. Consideration of Earlier Start Date for 2007 Winter Sports Season

Mr. Charles explained that the winter sports season begins on the first Friday in December and practice begins 21 days prior to that. Mr. Charles commented that this year the winter season started on Friday, December 1 and in 2007 commented that it will start Friday, December 7 which is the latest it could start. Mr. Charles explained that in 2007 the winter sports season will be compressed by a week and will be hard to get all the games scheduled in this short amount of time. Mr. Charles stated that this comes up every few years and the last time this came up the decision was made to start the season on November 30 which will result in the same number of weeks in the winter season. Mr. Charles did have conversations with some of the athletic directors and they were in favor of moving the start date for 2007 to November 30 rather than Friday December 7 so that we could have the same number of weeks in the winter season. Mr. Williams made a motion to accept an earlier start date for the 2007 winter sports season contingent on the response from the athletic directors. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kohel and carried unanimously.

F. Consideration of Purchase of a Wrestling Score Clock

Mr. Charles explained that DIAA currently owns two wrestling score clocks. Because our tournament use four mats we have had to borrow a three sided clock from the Delaware Wrestling Alliance and use a wall scoreboard. Mr. Charles commented on some of the advantages of having portable clocks. Mr. Charles stated that by not having the wrestling tournament at the Delaware State University this year will save us some money that we can put towards the clock. Mr. Neubauer commented on the clock that we would like to purchase and stated that the cost would be \$6,495.00. Mr. Neubauer commented that these clocks are much more spectator friendly and they do have a component which will display the team score. Mr. Charles commented that with this clock we will have the ability to operate four mats by using of the Delaware Wrestling Alliance's clock and DIAA's 3 clocks. Some discussion by the Board ensued regarding purchasing two clocks because the prices would keep going up and the need for the clocks is so great. Mr. Charles commented that we do rent the clocks out to other schools. Dr. Owens asked what the total savings would be by not holding the wrestling tournament at Delaware State University. Mr. Charles estimated that the

savings would be around \$5,000.00 for not going to the Delaware State University. Dr. Owens commented that he feels it is important to look at the savings we will have because the legislature and the budget office do scrutinize our budget very carefully. He cautioned the Board we should make sure that since this is an unbudgeted item that if we are making a budget adjustment we should have the funds to cover the expenses. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to purchase two score clocks with a cap of \$15,000.00 because wall clocks are hindering the quality of our tournaments for the student-athletes and feels it is worth it to go over the budget to purchase these clocks because it makes the tournament better for the student-athlete. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbur and carried unanimously.

#### IV. Executive Director Report

##### A. 2006 Fall Tournament Reports

Mr. Charles reported on the fall state tournaments and reported on the attendance by saying that attendance for the fall sports has increased by 7,200. Mr. Charles stated that the increase was largely due to football. Mr. Charles stated that the weather was good during the football tournaments and that the match-ups were good.

##### B. Fall Sportsmanship Committee Report

Mr. Charles commented that the main item on the agenda of the last Sportsmanship Committee was the Glasgow/Delcastle football game. Mr. Charles stated that the committee reviewed the video of that game and spoke with several coaches and athletes to discuss their participation in this event. Mr. Charles commented that one of the issues that came out of this meeting was that the wording of the regulation regarding players leaving the field of play to participate in an altercation needs to be reviewed. Mr. Charles stated that the fighting rule and the ejection rule was discussed at all rules clinics. Mr. Charles commented that the committee met with both coaching staffs and the committee voted to uphold the suspensions that have already been given by DIAA and also had some additional suspension to one of the coaches. Mr. Charles explained that there was a discussion on implementing a rule for sports that have yellow cards which would require a penalty when a player accumulates three yellow cards for dissent or unsportsmanlike conduct, Mr. Bussiere, Boys' Soccer Committee Chair, will write a proposal for this.

##### E. 2007 State Wrestling Tournament

Already covered this issue earlier.

##### F. NDBO Request to Join Boys & Girls Basketball Committee

Mr. Charles commented that NDBO has requested to have representation on the boys and girls basketball committees. Mr. Charles explained that they are a recognized officials organization and for that reason warrant representation.

G. Update on E.D. Appeal

Ms. Cooke commented that the Chancery Court dismissed the request for a temporary restraining order and the student has since filed an appeal to the State Board of Education. The hearing is scheduled today and will be on the State Board of Education's agenda for next week.

The Board recessed at 10:35 a.m. and reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

H. Investigation – Use of Ineligible Player 2005 Dickinson Football

Mr. Charles commented that Dickinson used an ineligible player in a 2005 football game. Mr. Charles explained that the school decided to do their own investigation and the school did determine that they did use an ineligible player. Mr. Charles commented that the school did send a letter of forfeiture and the school developed a new school policy for determining athletic eligibility so that this does not happen again. Mr. Charles commented that the action taken by the school was consistent with our regulations and that there was not a need for further penalty.

Mr. Holodick made a motion to go into executive session to discuss items IV. C and IV. D because the Board may be discussing documents that are excluded from the definition of public record that being any personnel or pupil file. In addition, the Board could be discussing some records pertaining to investigatory records compiled for civil law enforcements purposes is also not a public record. Also the exception related to potential pending legal litigation may also apply. The motion was seconded by Mr. Allen and carried unanimously.

I. Investigation – Coaching out-of-season – A.I. Wrestling

J. Investigation – Recruiting Cape Henlopen Basketball

Dr. Hawtof made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams and carried unanimously.

Mr. Charles commented on the T-Mobile tournament. He stated that at the NFHS Winter Meeting Bob Kanaby, Executive Director of the NFHS and Bob Gardner, Chief Operating Officer of NFHS both commented on how well St. Elizabeth students conducted themselves at the tournament. Mr. Williams recommended sending St. Elizabeth a letter thanking them on behalf of DIAA.

Mr. Charles reminded the Board that the February meeting is the Annual meeting and it will be held at the Collette Building.

V. Public Comment

None.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Reed made a motion to adjourn at 11:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Allen and carried unanimously.

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Tina Hurley