

62nd DIAA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
February 8, 2007  
JOHN W. COLLETTE EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER

I. Call to Order

The 62nd DIAA Annual Membership meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by DIAA Executive Director Kevin Charles.

II. Roll Call

The following member schools were represented: Middletown High School, Archmere Academy, Brandywine High School, Concord High School, Mt. Pleasant High School, Caesar Rodney High School, Cape Henlopen High School, Beacon Middle School, Mariner Middle School, Dover High School, Glasgow High School, Christiana High School, Newark High School, William Penn High School, Gunning Bedford Middle School, Sussex Central High School, Sussex Central Middle School, Polytech High School, Lake Forest High School, Laurel High School, Laurel Middle School, Milford High School, Milford Middle School, Delcastle Technical High School, Hodgson Vo-Tech High School, Howard High School, Padua Academy, A. I. DuPont High School, John Dickinson High School, Thomas McKean High School, St. Elizabeth High School, St. Mark's High School, St. Thomas More Academy, Salesianum School, Seaford High School, Seaford Middle School, Smyrna High School, Smyrna Middle School, Sussex Technical High School, Tower Hill School, Woodbridge Jr./Sr. High School, Ursuline Academy, Sanford School, Ferris School, Red Lion Christian Academy, Wilmington Friends School, Layton Preparatory School, Delmarva Christian High School, Delaware Military Academy, and Wilmington Christian School.

Dr. Michael Owens, Department of Education Associate Secretary opened the meeting by welcoming attendees.

Mr. Charles commented on issues and accomplishments by DIAA during 2006; made a presentation on the DIAA budget; discussed the NFHS Student Leadership Conference; reviewed issues to be addressed by DIAA and member schools during 2007; and received approval from the Athletic Directors for a November 30, 2007 start date for the 2007-08 winter sports season.

Mr. Tim Flannery from the Assistant Director for the National Federation of High Schools was in attendance and discussed the NFHS Coaches Education Program.

Mel Gardner, the guidance counselor and coach at William Penn High school and Bill Legge, the athletic director at William Penn High School made a presentation on Eligibility.

Mr. Jack Holloway, the athletic director at Tower Hill School made a presentation on the History of DIAA.

Mary Cooke, DIAA Attorney, explained the DIAA Waiver Process.

February 8, 2007 DIAA Board of Directors Meeting

IV. Other Business

None.

The 62<sup>nd</sup> DIAA Annual Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

---

Tina Hurley

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 8, 2007 – 1:00 p.m.  
John W. Collette Education Resource Center

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Mark Holodick, DIAA Chairperson.

B. Roll Call

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

C. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Hawtof made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kohel and carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2007 Board of Directors' Meeting

Ms. Wilbur made a motion to approve the minutes of January 11, 2007 Board of Directors' meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hawtof and carried unanimously.

E. Financial Report

Dr. Owens commented that he checked with the DOE financial department to find out if one of the DIAA accounts was an interest bearing account. Dr. Owens stated that the account is in an interest bearing account and has been accruing interest for some time. Mr. Charles explained that he will need a little more time to check with the financial department to get the exact amount of interest that was accrued on this account.

Mr. Charles reviewed the income and expenses for the last month. Mr. Charles commented that we did have a good fall season and the income was over the proposed revenue budget.

Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Samonisky and carried unanimously.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of Tournament Sanctions

Mr. Charles commented on the nine events requesting sanction and stated that they all met the normal approval process. Ms. Samonisky made a motion to approve the requests for sanction. The motion was seconded by Ms. Corrado and carried unanimously.

B. Consideration of Earlier State Date for 2007 Winter Sports Season

Mr. Charles explained that this request was approved at the January meeting pending the input by the athletic directors at the annual meeting in February. Mr. Charles commented that since the Board's tentative approval in January he had received some additional information regarding the 2008 dates for the 2008 CAA Tournament provided by the University of Delaware. The CAA Tournament is a week later than originally reported by the University of Delaware. Mr. Charles stated that he still supports the November 30 start date because it will give the winter tournament the same number of weeks with an additional couple of days and will allow the basketball tournament to go back to the similar format that we had before the CAA tournament came to Delaware. This gives us more time to hold the basketball tournament.

Mr. Neubauer explained the winter schedule and why it would be beneficial to start the season earlier. Mr. Charles stated that the athletic directors were unanimously in favor of this change as well as the different conferences. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to approve this request. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kohel and carried unanimously.

C. Request by Layton Prep and Sanford for Joint Girls Lacrosse

Barton Reese, Director of Layton Preparatory School, was in attendance to present this request. Mr. Charles explained that Layton Prep was trying to encourage a girls lacrosse program but at this time they only had three players. Mr. Charles stated that Layton Prep was asking if their girls could go to Sanford School and practice with their team. They were also asking if the Layton Prep coach could coach Sanford's team until Sanford found a coach. Mr. Reese explained that his school has just hired a new employee who also is the girls lacrosse coach at Sanford. Mr. Reese was asking that she be allowed to continue to coach Sanford with the girls from Layton Prep practicing with the team. Ms. Samonisky commented on how hard it has been to find a girls' lacrosse coach. Ms. Samonisky commented that each school would have their own equipment. Some discussion ensued regarding students transferring to Sanford from Layton Prep. Mr. Charles expressed his concerns with athletes participating in athletics at a school the student does not attend. Some Board members also questioned the liability and what insurance would cover these students. Mr. Williams made a motion for the Executive Director to work with the Head of Layton Prep and Sanford School to come up with an actual waiver request that would outline that a student could not participate in the sport for one year and bring the request back to the Board. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hawtof and carried unanimously. Ms. Samonisky recused herself.

D. Request by DBCA's to Sanction All-Star Baseball Game

Mr. Charles explained that this is an all-star event that occurs after the conclusion of school and involves seniors only. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to approve if this occurs before graduation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Corrado and carried unanimously.

E. Consideration of Action by AI DuPont – Coaching Out-of-Season - Wrestling

Mr. Charles reviewed a situation regarding a letter he received from a parent who attended a wrestling tournament before the winter sports season began where he watched a coach who was sitting on the mat where a returning student was competing. Mr. Charles commented that the parent presented video of the match. Mr. Charles stated that he worked closely with the school to investigate this situation. Mr. Charles stated that he feels a message needs to be sent to the wrestling coaches to not stand on or be near the mat when a returning student is participating. Mr. Charles commented that the school sent the coach a letter of reprimand and felt that he should send a letter as well. Dr. Sole made a motion that the Executive Director

send a letter of reprimand to the coach. The motion was seconded by Mr. Oliver and carried unanimously.

F. Request by Girls' Lacrosse For Alternate site for Finals

Mr. Charles explained that the finals for girls' lacrosse is on the Friday before Memorial Day weekend and that it is a bad travel weekend. Mr. Charles commented that the Committee was asking to be able to assess the situation during the tournament and if there is an upstate and downstate team in the tournament finals the game will be played at Wesley. Mr. Charles stated that if there are two upstate teams can the Committee consider an alternate site for the championship. Some members of the Board felt that the game should be kept at the original site. Ms. Kohel made a motion to accept the girls' lacrosse recommendation to change the manual to read that the Committee may determine the site and time of the final. The motion was seconded by Mr. Williams. The motion failed on a vote of 6 – yes (Holodick, Williams, Kohel, Wilbur, Corrado, Samonisky), 6 – no (Marvel, Oliver, Wagner, Sister Ann Michele, Reed, Hawtof), Dr. Sole recused herself.

G. Request by Girls' Soccer Committee for Alternate Tournament Schedule

Mr. Charles requested that this request be tabled. Mr. Williams made a motion to table this request. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbur and carried unanimously.

H. NFHS Coaches Education Program.

Mr. Charles commented that Tim Flannery's presentation on the NFHS Coaches Program. Mr. Charles stated that the presentation was a very good education based program. Mr. Charles explained that the NFHS is seeking states to support their coaches education program. Mr. Charles commented that if we agree to support the NFHS Coaches Education Program we could still use other coaches education programs. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to accept this program. The motion was seconded by Ms. Samonisky and carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Director Report

A. Annual Report to the General Assembly – Final Draft

Mr. Charles stated that the final report was edited according to the Board's suggestions and sent to the General Assembly. A copy of the final copy was provided for the Board's review and records.

B. Eligibility Committee Report

Mr. Charles stated that this committee met and recommended a best practices document to the athletic directors at the annual meeting. Mr. Charles commented that the document was well received and this document will also be included in the new athletic director workshop curriculum.

C. Update on E.D. Appeal

Ms. Cooke commented that the State Board of Education upheld the DIAA's decision to deny this request was upheld.

D. Summary of Impact of Waivers Granted in School Year 2005-06

Mr. Charles commented on a survey that Ms. Hurley did on the schools that had students who requested a 5<sup>th</sup> Year Waiver. The survey included information on how each student was impacted on the Board's decision.

E. DSLOA Failure to Sign Officials Contract

Mr. Charles explained that this was put on the agenda because the DSLOA failed to sign their contract. Mr. Charles stated that the group did sign the contract but that they added a handwritten clause that read an administrative fee of 7% of game fees will be billed. Mr. Charles was concerned because he signed the contract before sending it out and now his signature was on this document that the DSLOA wrote the clause on. Mr. Charles stated that he did notify the president of the association that DIAA does not have authority over this and can not negotiate this to member school and that he also sent an email to all the member schools. Mr. Williams commented that the contract is not valid unless the Executive Director initials their comments.

F. Update on Appointment of Board Members

Mr. Charles commented that several positions expire in May, two of which are the position of the chair and vice chair, and has been trying to get some of the positions filled. Mr. Charles explained that he is working with the Governors office to have the appointments approved by the Senate in May 2007.

G. Discussion on Coaching Out-of-Season Rule

This item was not discussed.

H. Correspondence Regarding St. Elizabeth & NFHS/T-Mobile Tournament

Mr. Charles shared with the Board the letter he sent to St. Elizabeth. Mr. Charles commented that Ursuline Academy has been invited to participate in the tournament next year.

V. Presentations

A. DATA – Proposal for Legislation to Mandate Certified Trainers in Schools

Kristen Whiteman and Joan Couch were in attendance to make this presentation. Mr. Charles explained that at the last SMAC Committee meeting there was much discussion about the need to mandate trainers in schools. Mr. Charles explained that the DATA was requesting that the legislation mandate that certified trainers be in all public high schools. Mr. Charles stated that this group is trying to get legislation to require and fund half of an athletic trainer position in high schools. Ms. Whiteman commented that she was in attendance on behalf of the Delaware Athletic Trainers Association to speak about appropriate medical care for secondary school-age student-athletes. Ms. Whiteman commented that several medical groups have been asking for the presence of athletic trainers in secondary schools to help reduce injuries. Ms. Whiteman stated that the DATA is seeking legislative support to change the Delaware Code, Title 14, subsection 1321 which discusses various specialists found within the Department of Education who are not teachers. Ms. Whiteman explained that adding this to the Delaware Code will allow for matching of local funds by state funds which will help enable schools to hire an Athletic Trainer full time. Ms. Whiteman commented that the DATA was seeking the support of DIAA to help send a message to the legislature that

Delaware needs to be proactive in the protection of our children's health and safety during the school day and during after-school athletics. Dr. Owens commented that he had a conversation with the Secretary of Education regarding this proposal and it will not be a part of the Department of Education's legislative packet. Dr. Owens stated that DIAA could make it part of its legislative priorities. Mr. Charles stated that right now this proposal is in the preliminary stages and sometime in the future there may be a draft piece of legislation that the DIAA Board could look at and take a position on.

VI. Other

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Adjournment

Ms. Wilbur made a motion for the Board to adjourn at 3:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kohel and carried unanimously.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tina Hurley