

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2007
Collette Building

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by DIAA Vice Chairperson Ted Williams.

B. Roll Call

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

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Williams commented that there was an addendum to the agenda which added Item III. F. Election of DIAA Officers. Ms. Samonisky made a motion to accept the agenda and the addendum to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hawtof and carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of the March 8, 2007 Board of Directors' Meeting

Ms. Marvel commented that the March minutes did not accurately reflect the motion made regarding the Consideration of Request for Waiver of 1009.2.6 for Tower Hill and N.D. Ms. Marvel provided the proper language. Ms. Marvel made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 8, 2007 as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hawtof and carried unanimously.

E. DIAA Financial Report

Mr. Charles reviewed the expenses and the income of the financial report through April 3, 2007. Mr. Charles commented that the interest income is not included in this financial report because we have not yet been able to meet with the department to receive training on how to enter that into the computer. Mr. Charles commented on the expenses and stated that it does not include the cost of the facilities for the basketball tournament at the University of Delaware and Delaware State University, basketball officials' fees, or March salaries. Mr. Charles commented that at this time the budget was at a net profit. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Samonisky and carried unanimously.

II. Public Comment

Fred Forte was in attendance to make public comment. Mr. Forte commented that he has a daughter that plays soccer. Mr. Forte commented on two recent federal circuit court decisions which conclude that scheduling girls soccer in the spring constitutes gender discrimination and conflicts with women by creating conflicts of Title XI. Mr. Forte stated that he would like this injustice corrected and see girls soccer changed from the spring to the fall.

III. Action Items

A. Request by DIAA Soccer Committee to Implement "Card Accumulation Policy"

Mr. Charles explained that this was a situation that has been being discussed in the soccer community for some time and deals with the number of yellow cards accumulated in soccer versus those accumulated in other sports. Mr. Charles commented that he had an analysis done of the types of yellow cards reported in soccer. Mr. Neubauer commented that there were 65 negative reports in boys soccer of which 43 involved dissent or verbal misconduct. Mr. Bussiere, chairman of the Boys' Soccer Committee and Sportsmanship Committee member, was in attendance to present a Card Accumulation Policy. Mr. Bussiere commented that he and Mr. Charles surveyed other states to find out if other states have card accumulation policies in effect. Mr. Bussiere stated that 26 other states have this policy in place. Some states reported that this had a very positive effect. Mr. Bussiere explained that he and his committee put together a policy that they feel might work in this state and help improve sportsmanship in soccer. Mr. Bussiere explained how the policy would work. Mr. Bussiere stated that if a player accumulates 4 yellow cards during the regular season will result in a one-game suspension. Mr. Bussiere commented that he hopes this will make the coaches hold the athletes to a higher standard. Mr. Bussiere commented that the Committee wants to be certain that this policy is consistent with existing DIAA regulations. After some discussion Mr. Williams recommended that this be tabled until after legal council has time to review the regulations, and to see if the athletic directors and the Sportsmanship Committee are in support of this policy. Mr. Reed made a motion to table this request and survey the athletic directors and the Sportsmanship Committee to see if they support this policy. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lyons and carried unanimously.

D. Request by Kevin Kelley to Eliminate DIAA regulation 1009.4.3.2.1

Kevin Kelley, Athletic Director at The Charter School of Wilmington and chairman of the Track and Field Committee was in attendance to present this request. Mr. Charles commented that this was an issue that has been brought up in the track and field community for quite some time. Mr. Charles explained that DIAA Regulation 1009.4.3.2.1 states that cross country and track may not split their teams and compete in two different events on the same day. Mr. Charles further explained that track and field does not have a JV program. Mr. Kelley commented that there are only so many sites to have indoor track events and that some events can not be done indoors. Mr.

Kelley explained that the number of students that participate in track and field and cross country are very high and that some students do not get a chance to participate in meets because of the limited meets and the limitations on participation at those meets. Mr. Kelley stated that some facilities have a strict limitation on entry numbers because of the size of the facility. Mr. Kelley commented that the elimination of one section of this rule would allow schools, coaches, and athletes to provide opportunities to those who participate in the sports of track and field and cross country a fair chance to participate. Ms. Cooke informed the Board that this would be a regulatory change and that the Executive Director would have to work with legal council and draft the proposed regulatory changes for the Board to review and then must go through the process of changing a regulation. Mr. Charles commented that this proposal still needs to be reviewed by the athletic directors. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to table this request and refer it to the Rules and Regulations Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner and carried unanimously.

C. Request by Tower Hill for 2007-08 Associate Member Status

Mr. Jack Holloway, athletic director at Tower Hill School, was in attendance to present this request. Mr. Charles explained that this is an annual request that we receive from the Delaware Independent Schools to justify and approve their associate member status. Mr. Holloway explained that he was submitting his letter for associate member status and that his school may periodically conflict with three of the DIAA Regulations. He asked that these requirements be waived for his school only when they are involved in competition with other associate or non-member schools. Mr. Holloway explained that the rules he was asking to be waived was Regulations 1009.2.4 Eligibility/Transfers, 1009.2.6.1 Eligibility/Passing Work, and 1009.2.7 Eligibility/Years of Participation. Mr. Holloway commented that his request is usually included in the request from the Delaware Independent School Conference but that his letter came early due to the request he brought to the Board in March. Mr. Charles commented that allowing Tower Hill's students to practice while ineligible may create an uneven playing field since public schools may not participate while ineligible. Mr. Charles commented that he contacted other states to see what their schools do. Mr. Charles explained that other states said that their schools would allow the students to practice while ineligible because it allowed for a safer return to competition. Mr. Holloway commented on his views of the importance of including students on after school sports teams. Ms. Marvel commented that waiving the passing work rule would create an un-level playing field between the private and the public schools. After some discussion Dr. Lyons made a motion to table this request until next month and include it with the annual request received from the Delaware Independent School Conference request. The motion was seconded by Ms. Wilbur and carried unanimously.

B. Travel By Executive Director to NFHS Summer Meeting

Mr. Charles explained that this was the annual NFHS Summer Meeting for Executive Directors and other state association employees. Mr. Charles commented that this is included in the budget. Ms. Wilbur made a motion to approve the travel request. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hawtof and carried unanimously.

E. Sanction of Tournaments

Mr. Charles commented that there are 11 total events. Mr. Charles explained that one of the events would include non-member schools which would compete only against other member schools. Mr. Charles stated that they all met his approval. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to approve the sanction events. The motion was seconded by Dr. Lyons and carried unanimously.

F. Election of Officers

Mr. Williams explained that the nominating committee did make a recommendation after several discussions but that this request would have to be tabled until the next meeting because the individual who has been recommended is currently not a member. Mr. Williams commented that Mr. Jerry Kobasa was nominated for chairperson and Mr. Mike Wagner was nominated for vice-chairperson. Mr. Williams explained that Mr. Kobasa was chosen due to his past experience as being chairperson and since both the chairperson and vice chairperson were leaving at the same time there should be someone nominated with experience. Dr. Hawtof made a motion to table the election until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Samonisky and carried unanimously.

IV. Executive Director Report

A. Winter Sport Financial Reports

Mr. Charles reviewed the winter sports financial report by reviewing each sports income and revenue.

B. Winter Sport Sportsmanship Report

Mr. Neubauer commented that the reporting from the officials is getting much better.

C. Self-Report by Concord High School

Mr. Charles commented that Concord High School's track coach failed to report five students on the eligibility report. Mr. Charles stated that there is a fine but was not

clear on whether this was a fine on each student or per incident. The opinion of the Board was that the fine was per incident.

D. Self-Report by A.I. DuPont High School

Mr. Charles stated that A.I. DuPont High School self-reported an athlete who was academically ineligible for indoor track due to misreading the report card and transcript. Mr. Charles explained that track is an individual event and the student did not score any points. A.I. would not be required to forfeit

E. Reaching High For Student Success

Mr. Charles explained that this was a Delaware Summit that the Department of Education was hosting. Mr. Charles stated that the extra activities that occur in schools that can contribute to a student's success was being recognized. Mr. Charles stated that he was asked to participate in this and he and a student that attended the student leadership conference last year would be working a table for DIAA and talking about the benefits of interscholastic as it contributes to student's success.

F. Miscellaneous Correspondence

Mr. Charles reviewed several items of information to the Board. Mr. Charles commented that he has received a retirement notice for Dr. Harry Roberts and was asking for a contribution for Harry's Foundation which helps the ALS research.

Mr. Charles reviewed a letter he received from the Michigan High School Athletic Association dealing with a sports season litigation.

Mr. Charles reviewed two letters he received regarding the coaches not having a vote in the selection of officials in the basketball state tournament. Mr. Charles stated that he has not evaluated yet where we need to go with this but he wanted to share this with board members. Mr. Charles stated that this was part of a change in our winter sports manual which was approved by this Board to change the selection process for officials and that the elimination of the coaches voting was part of that package. Mr. Charles commented that the coaches are asking to be put back in that process. Mr. Charles reviewed a letter from Shirley Bounds from St. Elizabeth High School that expressed their experience at the girls basketball tournament.

Mr. Charles reviewed an anonymous letter he received regarding a 5th year senior. The writer expressed concern the player may be ineligible. Mr. Charles explained this Board had granted this student a fifth-year of eligibility with conditions and that all conditions were being met by the student.

Mr. Charles reviewed an apology letter from the wrestling coach at A.I. DuPont High School.

Ms. Samonisky commented on an award that Mr. Charles received and stated that the DWOA had named the Official of the Year Award after Mr. Charles.

Ms. Cooke informed the Board that Ms. Fontello will be back for the next Board meeting.

VI. Other

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Allen made a motion to adjourn at 11:25 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner and carried unanimously.

Tina Hurley