

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 19, 2012 – 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 Gerald Kobasa, DIAA Chairperson.

B. Roll Call

The following DIAA Board members were present: Gerald Kobasa, Terre Taylor, Curtis Bedford, Joe Thomson, Dr. Mark Holodick, Craig Eliassen, Edna Cale, Catherine Marvel, Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Susan Coffing, Pam Love, Woody Long, and Ron Eby. Kevin Charles; Executive Director, and Paula Fontello, Deputy Attorney General, were also in attendance. Dr. Amelia Hodges, Laura Leone, Harvey Hyland, Dave Thomas, and Dr. Rene Knight-Peguero were unable to attend the meeting.

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Kobasa commented that there was an amendment to the agenda and that Item III. I. Self-Report by Dover HS was being added to the agenda. Ms. Cale made a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fitzgerald and carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of December 8, 2011 Board of Directors' Meeting

Ms. Marvel made a motion to approve the minutes of December 8, 2011 Board of Directors' meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Long and carried by a vote of yes (Kobasa, Taylor, Bedford, Thomson, Eliassen, Marvel, Love, Long, Holodick, Eby) and 1 abstentions – (Cale and Fitzgerald).

E. Financial Report

Mr. Charles presented the financial report for the period of December 1, 2011 through January 12, 2012. Mr. Charles advised that the income for the reporting period was \$125,565.00 and the overall income is \$373,850.92. Mr. Charles stated that the income was primarily from tournament revenue. Other sources included officials' dues, member dues, and weight management. Mr. Charles stated that the expenses to date \$350,790.76 and for the reporting period are \$74,313.59. Mr. Charles stated that the expenses are from tournament expenses, officials' dues, Board expenses, weight management, salary and OEC's and travel. Mr. Charles reported that the balance for the year is \$23,060.16 and the contingency is \$576, 500.00. Mr. Eby made a motion to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cale and carried unanimously.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of Tournament Sanctions

Mr. Charles presented the 25 tournament sanction requests' which include 5 basketball, the Kappa Klassic and Capital Classic, 11 indoor track, 6 wrestling, and 3 outdoor track. Mr. Charles reviewed the requests and advised that to the best of his knowledge the sanction requests were in compliance with DIAA and the NFHS requirements. Mr. Thomson made a motion to approve the sanctions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Long and carried unanimously.

B. Report by RLCA Administration

Ken Howard; athletic director at Red Lion Christian Academy, Dr. Chuck L. Betters; Associate Pastor at Glasgow Reformed Presbyterian Church (GRPC) and part of the management team that is in the process of acquiring Red Lion Christian Academy, Lee Geisler; also part of the management team, were in attendance to present this report.

Mr. Howard addressed the Board by reading a prepared apology statement. Mr. Howard reported that Red Lion Christian Academy has new leadership and administration and was requesting transition from an Associate Member back to a Full Member with DIAA. Mr. Howard reported that GRPC is in the process of acquiring Red Lion Christian Academy. Mr. Howard introduced Dr. Chuck L. Better who is the Senior Minister of GRPC and heads up the new leadership team. Mr. Howard reported that the entire football staff was let go and that FLASH training has been asked to leave. Mr. Howard also reported that there have been changes at the school and the entire athletic program has been completely restructured and they have hired David Needs as their new head football coach. Mr. Howard stated that he was seeking DIAA's acceptance of their apology.

Dr. Betters commented that GRPC was approached by the Red Lion leadership back in November to come in and acquire the school. Dr. Betters he stated that he first set some guidelines and being a full member of DIAA was one of them. Dr. Betters stated that his biggest concern is that there are only a few Christian schools and Red Lion Christian Academy is in the center of controversy. Dr. Betters stated that they are in a fight to save the school and that it would help if they could come back to DIAA as a full member school.

Mr. Geissler echoed the apology. Mr. Geissler asked the Board for their help in

saving the athletic program.

Dr. Betters commented that the school has no relationship with the organization FOCAS. After much discussion and many questions the consensus of the Board was to form an Ad Hoc Committee to review this request and bring back recommendations to the February meeting. Ms. Taylor agreed to chair the Committee and Mr. Thomson, Mr. Bedford, Ms. Love, Mr. Holloway, Mr. Hart, Mr. Kobasa, Mr. Howard, Mr. Neubauer, and Mr. Charles agreed to serve on this Committee.

Mr. Kobasa excused himself from the meeting for a medical emergency and Ms. Taylor took over as chair.

C. Delmarva Christian HS – Membership Request – Operation Changes

Scott Kemerling, principal of Delmarva Christian High School, was in attendance to present this request.

Mr. Charles explained that this was a request from Delmarva Christian to consider how they can incorporate their homeschooled students into their athletic teams. Mr. Charles reminded the Board that there had been a request somewhat similar to this in the past from Mt. Sophia Academy. Mr. Charles stated that a subcommittee was appointed to address concerns with regulation compliance and a plan was developed by Mt. Sophia that was presented to the Board. Mount Sophia's policies have worked well thus far and there have been no compliance issues. Mr. Charles stated that the two schools are somewhat different in that Mt. Sophia is a group of home school and student body consists of homeschooled students whereas Delmarva Christian has both full time students and homeschooled students.

Mr. Kemerling was requesting that his school be able to allow homeschooled students the opportunity to participate on their athletic programs. Mr. Kemerling advised that the school reviewed the regulations of concern and the past solutions. He explained the policy changes that were put in place and the new requirements. Mr. Kemerling elaborated on the school's requirements of their homeschooled students and the enrollment process. Mr. Kemerling explained that in order for students to obtain a home school diploma the students will have to meet the same criteria as on-campus students. Mr. Kemerling also stated that the curriculum for home school students will be reviewed and approved by the school. Mr. Kemerling also stated that the school's requirements are stricter than that of DIAA. A Board member expressed his concerns as to whether this was a marketing tool to attract more students to their school. Some Board members expressed concerns about how this may affect the public schools. Mr. Kemerling clarified some areas and confirmed that Delmarva Christian High School will be responsible for all students and their instructors and will supervise all instructors and programs. He also confirmed that the school understood that they be responsible for ensuring compliance with the DIAA regulations.

Mr. Holodick made a motion to accept the request. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eliassen and carried by a vote of 10 – yes (Taylor, Bedford, Thomson, Cale, Eliassen,

Marvel, Coffing, Love, Long, Holodick) and 2 – no (Fitzgerald and Eby).

IV. C. Board Terms to Expire in 2012

Mr. Charles reported that he is assisting the Governor's office review of 2012 Board terms. Mr. Charles reviewed with the Board who is eligible for reappointment and who is not. Mr. Charles also reported that Dr. Robert Walter has been confirmed as the new medical member.

A. NFHS Winter Meeting

Mr. Charles reviewed the NFHS annual winter meeting that he attended. Mr. Charles also stated that because he is a member of the NFHS Board of Directors the NFHS pays for all his expenses. Mr. Charles commented on a concept he learned about while there called Unified Sports. Mr. Charles explained that Unified Sports are athletic teams that represent your school in athletic competition but the teams are comprised of special needs students and regular students. Mr. Charles stated that there are four states involved in this. Mr. Charles commented that it is a great way to bring the special needs students into school activities and is a good way for students to connect with special needs students. Mr. Charles commented that there will be a cost involved such as travel, equipment and uniforms. Mr. Charles stated that they will be looking at this project and possible sponsors. Mr. Charles stated that the states that have done this reported that Unified Sports had a positive impact on students and very well received by member schools.

III. G. Member School Request to Waive 1009.4.1.2 for 2012-13

Mr. Charles stated that this request came to him in a joint letter from the Henlopen Conference and the Blue Hen Athletic Conference. A representative of the Conference did not appear. The Board considered the matter on the written request and the information Mr. Charles presented. Mr. Charles pointed out that while the Henlopen Conference was unanimously in support of this waiver the New Castle County athletic directors were very split on the issue. Mr. Charles stated that the issue is a request for the 2012-13 school year to change the traditional first date of competition from the first Friday in December to November 30. Mr. Charles reported that the reason is because the first of December is a Saturday so the first Friday is the latest it can be. Mr. Charles stated that the net effect is a loss of one weekend and a week in the winter season during the years where the first of December is on a Saturday. Mr. Charles stated that the Board approved an identical proposal about four years ago. Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to accept the request and approve the waiver of 1009.4.1.2 for the 2012-2013 winter season to allow for a November 30, 2012 competition start date. The motion was seconded by Mr. Long. Mr.

Holloway, athletic director at Tower Hill, stated that the winter season is already the longest season. He commented that this proposal would add an additional week. Mr. Charles stated that the winter sports season is normally 13 weeks. In 2012-13 it will only be 12 weeks. This proposal merely restores the week lost due to December 1 being a Saturday. Mr. Thomson commented that the vote downstate was unanimous to keep the schedule as consistent as possible. It was also clarified that the move in the start date would also move the practice date as well. The vote carried by a vote of 9 – yes (Fitzgerald, Long, Holodick, Eby, Taylor, Bedford, Thomson, Cale, Marvel), 3 – no (Love, Coffing, and Eliassen).

D. Approval of Annual Report to General Assembly

Mr. Charles explained that the Delaware law requires that DIAA submit an annual report to the General Assembly and provided a copy of that report to all Board members. Mr. Charles stated that it includes regulation revisions, membership of DIAA, male and female student participation, composition of the Board, standing committees, funding, appeals, and new initiatives and significant events. Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the report to the General Assembly. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cale and carried unanimously.

E. Self-Report by Dickinson High School

Mr. Charles reviewed a self-report that he received from Dickinson High School on the use of an ineligible player on their football team. The student was a fifth year student. Mr. Charles commented that the school did forfeit the three games and have a plan in place to correct the problem. Mr. Eby made a motion to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fitzgerald and carried unanimously.

I. Self-Report by Dover High School

Mr. Charles reported that he received a self-report from Dover High School. Mr. Charles reminded the Board of a waiver at the last Board meeting for a student that had transferred and during the testimony it was mentioned that a sibling was currently participating at Dover High School. Mr. Charles stated that he contacted Dover High School to question this and found out that the school thought that the student had moved. Mr. Charles stated that Dover High School forfeited their first girls basketball game of the season. Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to accept the self-report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Long and carried unanimously.

F. DIAA Sportsmanship Committee Actions

Mr. Charles stated that he wanted to share with the Board the final action of the Sportsmanship Committee on the incidents that occurred last March in the Hodgson Vo-Tech vs. Ursuline girls' basketball game. The period of appeal has

past in this matter and the action is final. Mr. Charles reviewed the report with the Board as well as the reactions of the schools. Mr. Charles stated that the athlete in question was suspended for five games and the school took additional action. Additionally, both head coaches were suspended for two games and placed on probation. Finally, the Committee directed Mr. Neubauer to work with the officials associations regarding this game to facilitate any possible improvement or changes. Mr. Charles stated that all actions are complete in this case. Ms. Marvel made a motion to accept the committee report. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coffing and carried unanimously.

H. Open Forum for Board Members

Mr. Charles commented that this is the meeting where there is usually time for the Board members to discuss any issues they would like to discuss. Mr. Thomson commented on the Relative Care Giver regulation process. The Board discussed the matter and no actions were taken.

IV. Executive Director Report

A. NFHS Winter Meeting

Mr. Charles continued his report on the NFHS Winter Meeting and stated that the NFHS Board of Directors has established a goal of developing mechanisms of getting the word out about the value of participation. Mr. Charles stated that the NFHS worked with the NIAAA, both contributing \$50,000.00, and developed PSA's that were given out to the state associations to mail to all the radio stations in the state. Mr. Charles played the PSA's for the Board members to hear.

E. Misc.

Mr. Charles reviewed the final attendance figures and stated that the attendance was good for the fall sports.

Mr. Thomson reported that the officials committee has been meeting and working on the official's contracts and getting them up-to-date. Mr. Charles stated that he wanted the Board to be aware of what the Officials Committee was working on.

D. Legal Issues

Ms. Fontello reported that there is a new appeal pending before the State Board of Education which makes three pending appeal.

V. Other

VI. Public Comment

None.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Bedford made a motion to adjourn at 3:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Dr. Holodick and carried unanimously.

Tina Hurley