

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 9, 2013 – 9:00 a.m.
John W. Collette Education Resource Center

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Terre Taylor.

B. Roll Call

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

C. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Marvel made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously.

D. Approval of Minutes of DIAA April 11, 2013 Board Meeting

Ms. Cale made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2013 Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bedford and carried unanimously.

Mr. Eliassen made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2013 Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cale and carried unanimously.

E. DIAA Financial Report

Mr. Charles provided updates on the reporting period of March 7, 2013 to May 2, 2013. Mr. Charles stated that the revenue to date was \$609,250.00 which was 83% of the projected revenue. Mr. Charles reported that income for the reporting period was \$207,500.00 which was primarily from tournament income and wrestling weight management. Mr. Charles explained that the expenditures to date are \$582,000.00 which was 79% of the projected expenditures. Mr. Charles reported that expenditures for this period were \$123,000.00. Mr. Charles reported that the expenditures were primarily from tournaments and salary and OEC's. Mr. Charles reported that DIAA is in the black at this time which is normal for this time of year. Dr. Holodick made a motion to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kobasa and carried unanimously.

II. Public Comment

None

III. B. Consideration of NFHS Network

Mr. Charles explained that the NFHS and State Associations will be partnering with PlayOn Sports to create a network called the “NFHS Network”. The network is being designed to broadcast State Championship games in all sports on the internet initially and later include cable television. The agreement calls for each state to receive an annual payment based on state population and in addition a variable payment based on number of events offered by the state to the Network and number of viewers watching the state’s events. The NFHS will make a decision as to whether they will go forward with this at the summer meeting. In order to proceed, the NFHS will require at least 26 states agreeing to participate. If the agreement is approved, Delaware’s annual payment for the first three years is anticipated to be \$35,000 plus the variable payment. The framework is designed with a holding company and is structured to provide States protection from liability. The Board asked several questions and one concern was raised regarding the states ability to hold an equity share in a for profit company. The Board members asked whether or not we should submit this to the membership for approval however; it was determined that since these are DIAA state championship events and not regular season events member school approval was not necessary but that information would be provided to the member schools. Mr. Kobasa made a motion to approve DIAA’s participation in the NFHS Network subject to legal review and notification of member schools and also to authorize the Executive Director to pursue any necessary legislative changes or authorizations. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fitzgerald and carried unanimously.

III. A. Approval of Tournament Sanctions

Mr. Charles reported that there are 15 events from over the last two months to be considered for sanction. Mr. Charles reported that 11 were approved and 4 were not approved because they were scheduled before our season or because Delaware schools were not invited. Mr. Thomson made a motion to approve the sanction events. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coffing and carried unanimously.

C. Consideration of Anyone Can Save a Life EAP

Mr. Charles reminded the Board that he shared with them in December proposed legislation by a parent of a post graduate student that had a sudden cardiac arrest(SCA) event and survived. Mr. Charles described a program called “Anyone Can Save a Life” from the Minnesota State High School League that can help us be prepared to respond to a SCA event. Mr. Charles further explained that this program is a response plan for high school and athletic teams which can be used on the practice field, during an event, during

a drama program or any activity. Mr. Charles stated that the program involves students and has minimal to no financial investment. Mr. Charles stated that his thought was not to make this mandatory for member schools but to make it available. Mr. Charles also stated that he would like to see a similar plan in place for state tournament events. Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to make this program a resource available to the member schools. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coffing and carried unanimously.

D. First Review of 2013-14 DIAA Budget

Mr. Charles reviewed the proposed budget and explained that security costs are increasing significantly. Mr. Charles stated that he feels we have reached our maximum efficiencies and does not think we will be able to operate in the black much longer. Mr. Charles stated that he is asking for some feedback from the Board regarding writing a marketing program into the budget. Mr. Charles explained what Rhode Island has done with a marketing program. Mr. Charles also stated that he would like to move forward with developing a coach's certification program and possibly an athletic director's certification program. Mr. Charles also commented on having someone help schools initiate unified sports programs. Mr. Charles stated that he was also interested in a compliance team that went into the schools to work with them on improving procedures and also assist in investigations. Mr. Charles also commented on increasing entry fees and possibly ticket prices for some sports. Mr. Charles suggested that ticket prices only increase in the sports that have a higher operational cost. Mr. Charles stated that for the past four years all of his travel expenses to NFHS meetings have been paid by the National Federation and at the end of June that will stop so the travel budget will increase. Some discussion ensued on ways to generate income and employing a marketing person.

The Board recessed at 11:20 a.m. and reconvened at 11:25 a.m.

E. Presentation of Harry Roberts Scholar Athlete Recipients

Mr. Charles reported that there were 21 applications received. Mr. Neubauer thanked Ms. Coffing, Ms. Cale, Ms. Taylor, and Mr. Charles for serving on the Committee with him. Mr. Neubauer reported that there was a tie for the boys' third place. Mr. Neubauer stated that the quality of top students was outstanding. Mr. Charles stated that the first place girls was Bethany Killmon from Sussex Tech; second place was Erin Quillen from Seaford; and Megan Yung from Sanford was the third place winner. On the boys side was Christian Thompson from Mt. Pleasant for first place; in second place was Joseph Casini from Salesianum; and the two third place winners were William Zwicharowski from Polytech and Maxwell Wilt from Caesar Rodney.

Mr. Kobasa made a motion to accept the scholar athlete recipients. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously.

F. Consideration of 2013-14 DIAA Board Officers

Mr. Kobasa made a motion to nominate Ms. Taylor as the chair and Mr. Bedford as vice chairman. Mr. Eby made a motion to close nominations.

IV. Executive Director Report

A. Legal Report

Ms. Fontello stated that she had nothing to report.

B. Misc.

Mr. Charles informed the Board that he had a meeting with Eric Ziady, the athletic director at the University of Delaware and Jerry Oravitz. Mr. Charles stated that the University of Delaware is interested in building a better partnership with high school athletics. Mr. Charles also stated that the University would like to hold more of our tournaments there. Mr. Charles stated that the main reason that they met was to discuss the future of the University of Delaware Fieldhouse. Mr. Charles explained that the DIAA State indoor track meet is held at the University of Delaware Fieldhouse. Mr. Charles further explained that the University is going to turf the entire facility. Mr. Charles stated that this means DIAA will no longer be able to hold our state meet at UD. Mr. Charles said there are options such as going outside of the state or discontinuing the state indoor track meet. Mr. Charles stated that he was looking for feedback from the Board. After some discussion Mr. Charles stated that he will meet with the Indoor Track Committee and also contact out-of-state venues to see how much they charge.

Mr. Charles reviewed a letter from the University of Delaware regarding a concussion awareness study of the impact of education on concussion prevention and treatment. The University wants to select twelve Delaware schools to assess the impact of education on concussions.

Mr. Charles reviewed the progress with Unified Sports Program and the involvement in the upcoming outdoor track meet.

Mr. Charles then reviewed the most recent update he has on the Board positions and named two new Board members.

Mr. Charles explained that the cost of UD swimming facility for the DIAA State Swim Meet has increased significantly in the past year.

Mr. Charles commented on the Appoquinimink Fitness Facility waiver request and stated that the waiver was no longer necessary upon further review and interpretation. It was concluded that based on the regulations, Middle school students can use the high school fitness facilities as long as the programs were separate and not managed by high school coaching staff.

Mr. Charles commented on students playing two sports in one season and stated that this subject has been raised several times. Mr. Charles stated that he is seeking input to the interpretation of the regulations for developing guidelines in the regulations regarding students that want to play in two sports in one season. After some discussion the Board suggested acceptable language to Mr. Charles who will bring back to the June meeting for Board consideration.

Mr. Charles stated that he met with a sub-committee of the Governor's Advisory Council and Exceptional Citizens. Mr. Charles stated that the sub-committee wanted to hear about the US Department of Education letter of interpretation regarding participation in interscholastic athletics by students with disabilities. Mr. Charles stated that he participated in a conference call on the subject this past January and stated that USDOE really promoted unified sports as an alternative for schools to provide the same of experience for students with disabilities. Mr. Charles stated that DIAA may want to review and consider if revisions are necessary to the regulations that would anticipate potential areas where the need could arise where DIAA could more readily accommodate students with physical disabilities.

V. Other

VI. Public Comment

None.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Coffing made a motion to adjourn at 12:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eliassen and carried unanimously.

Tina Hurley

May 9, 2013 DIAA Board of Directors Meeting