

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 10, 2018– 9:00 a.m.
John W. Collette Education Resource Center

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a. m. by Chairperson Dr. Bradley Layfield.

B. Roll Call

The following DIAA Board members were present: Stan Waterman, Dr. Matthew Donovan, Dr. Evelyn Edney, Ted Laws, Bruce Harris, Dr. Bradley Layfield, Robert Cilento, Robert Watson, Mike Hart, Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Mike Breeding, Dr. Mervin Daugherty, Vetra Evans-Gunter, Leroy Mann, Dr. Bradley Bley, and Jeremy Jeanne. Thomas Neubauer, Executive Director, Laura Makransky, Deputy Attorney General, Michael Rodriguez, Associate Secretary of Education and DIAA staff Terre Taylor and Tina Bates were also in attendance. Dr. Kathleen Andrus, Gary Cimaglia, and Douglas Thompson were unable to attend.

C. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Breeding and carried unanimously, 14 – yes (Waterman, Donovan, Edney, Laws, Harris, Layfield, Cilento, Watson, Hart, Fitzgerald, Breeding, Daugherty, Evans-Gunter, and Bley) and 0 – no.

D. Approval of Minutes of DIAA April 12, 2018 Board Meetings

Mr. Cilento made a motion to approve the April 12, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded by Dr. Donovan and carried by a vote of 12 – yes (Waterman, Donovan, Edney, Laws, Harris, Layfield, Cilento, Watson, Hart, Breeding, Evans-Gunter, and Bley) and 0 – no and 2 – abstentions (Daugherty and Fitzgerald).

E. DIAA Financial Report

Mr. Neubauer reported on the DIAA budget and stated that the income to date is \$653,598 with the expenses to date being \$655,704. Mr. Neubauer reported that he received the invoice from the University of Delaware for hosting the basketball tournament but that there were mathematical errors in it and he is waiting for the corrected invoice. Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart and carried unanimously, 14 – yes (Waterman, Donovan, Edney, Laws, Harris, Layfield, Cilento, Watson, Hart, Fitzgerald, Breeding, Daugherty, Evans-Gunter, and Bley) and 0 – no.

II. Public Comment

None.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of Tournament Sanctions

Mr. Neubauer reported that there are 4 sanctioned events before the Board for approval – Outdoor Track: Art Madric Hall of Fame (4/21/18), Golf: All Girls Golf Tournament (5/17/18), Wrestling: Delmar Invitational (12/7-8/18), and Basketball: Diamond State Classic (12/27-30/18). Mr. Neubauer stated that to the best of his knowledge the 4 approved were in compliance with DIAA and NFHS regulations. Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the sanctioned events as recommended by the Executive Director. The motion was seconded by Dr. Donovan and carried unanimously, 14 – yes (Waterman, Donovan, Edney, Laws, Harris, Layfield, Cilento, Watson, Hart, Fitzgerald, Breeding, Daugherty, Evans-Gunter, and Bley) and 0 – no.

B. Request by DIFCA for Heads Up Football Training

John Wilson; president of DIFCA and Mike Ryan; Athletic Director at Delaware Military Academy were in attendance to present this request. Mr. Wilson explained that he was submitting their proposal for DIAA to enact a policy that will require all football coaches, paid or volunteer, to complete the USA Football Heads Up Football Certification prior to assuming coaching duties and to recertify annually prior to the beginning of each Association year. Mr. Wilson further explained that he met with the coaches to give them the opportunity to comment on the proposal and all coaches were in agreement. Mr. Wilson commented that they want Delaware to be at the forefront of safety in football. Mr. Wilson also explained that if the state mandates the onsite training it will be offered for free.

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the request for mandating Heads Up Football certification for all member schools for 2018-19 school year and to task the Executive Director to draft language to put in the DIAA Regulations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Laws and carried by a vote of 15 – yes (Waterman, Donovan, Edney, Laws, Harris, Layfield, Cilento, Watson, Hart, Fitzgerald, Breeding, Daugherty, Evans-Gunter, Jeanne, and Bley) and 0 – no.

C. Election of DIAA Board Officers for the 2018-19 School Year

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to nominate Gary Cimaglia to serve as the DIAA Vice-Chairman for the 2018-2019 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Breeding and carried by a vote of 15 – yes (Waterman,

Donovan, Edney, Laws, Harris, Layfield, Cilento, Watson, Hart, Fitzgerald, Breeding, Daugherty, Evans-Gunter, Jeanne, and Bley) and 0 – no.

Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to nominate Dr. Layfield to serve as the DIAA Chairman for the 2018-2019 school year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson and carried by a vote of 15 – yes (Waterman, Donovan, Edney, Laws, Harris, Layfield, Cilento, Watson, Hart, Fitzgerald, Breeding, Daugherty, Evans-Gunter, Jeanne, and Bley) and 0 – no.

D. Approval of DIAA Board Meeting Calendar for 2018-19 School Year

Dr. Donovan made a motion to approve the 2018-2019 DIAA Board meeting calendar. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart and carried by a vote of 15 – yes (Waterman, Donovan, Edney, Laws, Harris, Layfield, Cilento, Watson, Hart, Fitzgerald, Breeding, Daugherty, Evans-Gunter, Jeanne, and Bley) and 0 – no.

E. DIAA/Harry Roberts Senior-Scholar Award Nominees for Approval

Dr. Layfield reported on the applicants for this award and stated that the decision was difficult as this was one of the strongest groups of students. The students recommended are first place winners Thomas Pomatto, Isabelle Pilson, and Michael Chen; Second Place winners are Nyra Giles and Nikhil Mehta; and Third Place winners are Stephanie Horne, Christina Bourantas, Miles Petersen, and Paul Thompson. Dr. Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Harry Roberts Senior-Scholar Awards Committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento and carried by a vote of 15 – yes (Waterman, Donovan, Edney, Laws, Harris, Layfield, Cilento, Watson, Hart, Fitzgerald, Breeding, Daugherty, Evans-Gunter, Jeanne, and Bley) and 0 – no. Ms. Taylor commented that it was discussed at the committee meeting that some of the essays were so good that they were going to ask the students for permission to pull some of their comments out and use on our social media. Dr. Fitzgerald suggested that as part of getting the scholarship we should invite some of the kids to come in and have the students present their essay.

F. DESMAC Proposals for Adopted Policies

Mr. Neubauer reported that the committee recently met and there are a lot of updates. Mr. Neubauer stated that Dr. Bley reported on the cold weather guidelines, the heat acclimatization, Mr. Neubauer reported that he just attended the NFHS Legal and Medical Summit and stated that Delaware is doing things the right way. Mr. Neubauer commented on a subject that was discussed at the summit meeting on Student Athlete Mental Health. Ms. Taylor commented that it was suggested that mental health be added to the PPE Form. Dr. Bley reported that DESMAC has requested clarification from the state on the administration of glucagon, epipens, and inhalers by ATCs. He also reported that this was passed on to the pharmacy board. The NATA

consensus was that ATCs should be able to administer but only if each prescription was specific to an athlete. The Committee also strongly recommends athletes take their own blood sugar before every practice and event.

IV. Board Discussion

A. DIAA Hall of Fame Update

Dr. Fitzgerald explained that it would be great to implement a DIAA Hall of Fame. Dr. Fitzgerald suggested forming a standing committee to review applicants and make the decision but also suggested the initial decision should be made by the DIAA Board. Dr. Fitzgerald suggested requesting from each conference a member of that committee to review applications. Mr. Neubauer commented that he has models from the NFHS and The Delaware Sports Hall of Fame. Dr. Fitzgerald suggested having the Executive Director solicit from the conferences for the initial names of the inductees that should go in. Dr. Fitzgerald also suggested nominating an official to be chosen as well. Mr. Neubauer commented on the NFHS guideline formula of 40 percent athletes, 40 percent coaches, at least one official and one administrator.

Dr. Fitzgerald also commented that next year would be the 100th anniversary of athletics in Delaware.

Mr. Neubauer explained that the first thing to do would be to create a criteria.

After much discussion it was suggested to put this item on the June agenda as an action item.

B. Review of Requirement for a Two-Year Obligation to a School of Choice

Mr. Neubauer explained due to changes in Delaware Code Title 14 Chapter 4 the obligation to a school of choice needs to be reviewed to be in compliance with state code. The Board discussed this at length.

C. St. Thomas More recruiting

Dr. Layfield reminded the Board that back in December the Board asked the Executive Director to meet with St. Thomas More. Mr. Neubauer reported that he drafted a letter and then met with the head of school Ms. Casey and the athletic director, and their director of admissions, Judi Cofield to share concerns of DIAA with recruiting. Mr. Neubauer reported that they have had

no signs of recruiting and felt the meeting was effective.

Mr. Breeding reported that he was approached by a parent and was told that three students were being recruited and that Mr. Neubauer may need another meeting with St. Thomas More. Mr. Neubauer commented that he would meet with St. Thomas More again. Dr. Fitzgerald commented that there have been several situations regarding this school and asked at what point do we sanction the school. Ms. Makransky explained that under regulation 1006.8.0 the Board can investigate and issue a complaint. Mr. Watson made a motion to issue a complaint and to have St. Thomas More come before the Board based on Regulation 1006. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fitzgerald and carried by a vote of 15 – yes (Waterman, Donovan, Edney, Laws, Harris, Layfield, Cilento, Watson, Hart, Fitzgerald, Breeding, Daugherty, Evans-Gunter, Jeanne, and Bley) and 0 – no.

D. Rules and Regulations Committee Update

Mr. Neubauer explained that the Rules and Regulations Committee is focusing on the FAQ's for 1009.10 undue influence. Mr. Neubauer questioned what is allowed for an approved campus visit. Mr. Neubauer commented that this would be on the agenda for next month as an action item and wanted the Board members to review.

Mr. Waterman asked the executive director about the Rules and Regulations considering coaching out of season. Mr. Neubauer reported that there was an inquiry put forth by the volleyball coaches. Mr. Neubauer explained that the current summer period for out-of-season coaching regulations are restricted by a Public Integrity Commission ruling regarding the compensation coaches in public schools are allowed to receive out of their designated season. That document will be posted on Simbli for the Board to use as a reference. The current DIAA Regulation 1009.7.5.2 allows coaches to do as much as is permitted by the Public Integrity Commission ruling. The Regulation could only be changed if the Public Integrity Commission issued a new ruling.

E. Realignment Committee Update

Ms. Taylor reported on the updates from the realignment committee. Ms. Taylor again reviewed the realignment goals and how scheduling is impacted by the number of conference and tournament seeding. Ms. Taylor also

reported that the survey was sent out to athletic directors who did not previously respond as directed by the Board and she reviewed new comments that she received. Ms. Taylor stated that the responses went up by approximately 20 percent.

Dr. Fitzgerald commented that he received a letter from the Henlopen Conference which states they are not in favor of the realignment.

Ms. Taylor explained she was able to recently discuss the proposal with the girls' basketball committee but not the boys'.

Ms. Taylor explained that the realignment committee met again reviewed the comments and came up with three options, 1. 3 tier, 2. 2 tier, and 3. future studies. Ms. Taylor reviewed the options with the Board. Ms. Taylor explained a two tier proposal based on the feedback. Ms. Taylor explained that there are enough people expressing concerns and a change should not be ignored.

Ms. Taylor reviewed the two tier proposal which included a percentage change that impacted the rankings very little. Ms. Taylor also commented that travel and conference concerns were included.

Ms. Taylor commented that as part of the third option, DIAA needs to understand what the conferences are doing in the scheduling process and how they are addressing the growing size of the conferences.

Ms. Taylor commented that the two tier has only been presented to the Board.

Mr. Waterman reported that last week the Independent conference was unanimously opposed to the realignment proposal.

Mr. Cilento reported that the Henlopen Conference is also opposed to the realignment proposal.

After much discussion it was the consensus of the Board further research the revised two tier presentation with the superintendents, heads of the independent schools, athletic directors, committees, and the coaches.

Mr. Jeanne made a motion to reject the three tier proposal for realignment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Breeding and carried by a vote of 13 – yes (Waterman, Donovan, Edney, Laws, Harris, Layfield, Cilento, Watson, Hart, Breeding, Evans-Gunter, Mann, Bley, and Jeanne) and 0 – no.

Mr. Jeanne made a motion for the realignment committee to present to all groups the new two tier proposal. Mr. Hart asked that before this goes out the two basketball committees should be consulted and involved. Mr. Jeanne

amended his motion to forward the revised proposal for the two tier to the boys' and girls' basketball committees and have the committees report back to the Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Breeding and carried by a vote of 13 – yes (Waterman, Donovan, Edney, Laws, Harris, Layfield, Cilento, Watson, Hart, Breeding, Evans-Gunter, Mann, Bley, and Jeanne) and 0 – no.

V. Legal

Ms. Makransky updated the Board on 1007.2.3 penalties and reported that the changes were published in the register of regulations on May 1 and the comment period would be open until June 4, 2018. Ms. Makransky reported that the changes to regulation 1006.3 Committees that would be published in the register on June 1 and would become final on June 11, 2018.

Ms. Makransky also reported on the NFHS Legal Meeting that she recently attended.

VI. Executive Director Report

Mr. Neubauer reported on the NFHS Legal meeting. Mr. Neubauer reported that the new Executive Director for the NFHS is Dr. Karissa Niehoff from Connecticut.

Mr. Neubauer reported that Tri-State Christian School is being absorbed into the REACH Academy and questioned if Tri-State Christian School is closed and would those students be able to exercise a transfer option under the closing school regulation.

Mr. Neubauer reported on the six student athletes that will be attending the NFHS Student Leadership Conference who are Grace Sekscinski from Milford, Jane Lyons from Ursuline, Amelia Christensen from Concord, Caden Dickerson from Seaford, Ronald Faust from Sussex Academy, and Dylan Nitsche from Tower Hill. Ms. Taylor and Jeff Ransom will accompany them July 23, 24, and 25, 2018.

VIII. Other Items for Discussion

Dr. Fitzgerald asked for consideration of the DIAA Lifetime Achievement Award being presented to Dr. Dave Robinson. Dr. Fitzgerald commented that Dr. Robinson served eight years on the DSSAA Board as Chairman and was a longtime member of the football committee and was also a football coach. Mr.

Neubauer stated that awards of this type could be given upon request.

Mr. Hart made a motion to award Dr. Dave Robinson the DIAA Lifetime Achievement Award at the June DIAA Board meeting. The motion was seconded By Mr. Cilento and carried by a vote of 13 – yes (Waterman, Donovan, Edney, Laws, Harris, Layfield, Cilento, Watson, Hart, Breeding, Evans-Gunter, Mann, Bley, and Jeanne) and 0 – no.

Mr. Hart asked where the issue stands with the Officials contracts. Mr. Neubauer replied that now that the minutes from the last meeting have been approved he will send what the charge is by this Board to the Officials Committees.

IX. Public Comment

None

X. Adjournment

Mr. Breeding made a motion to adjourn at 12:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Laws and carried unanimously, 13 – yes (Donovan, Laws, Harris, Cimaglia, Layfield, Cilento, Hart, Fitzgerald, Breeding, Evans-Gunter, Mann, and Jeanne) and 0 no.

Tina Bates