

DIAA Board of Directors' Special Meeting
 Thursday, August 6, 2020 – 9:00 A.M.
 Video Conference Call*

Minutes

Names		Names	
Dr. Bradley Layfield - Chairperson	P	Jeremy Jeanne	P
Dr. Kathleen Andrus	L	Ted Laws	P
Dr. Bradley Bley	P	Chuck Little	A
Mike Breeding	P	Douglas Thompson	P
Robert Cilento	L	Stan Waterman	P
Dr. Matthew Donovan	P	Robert Watson	A
Dr. Evelyn Edney	P	Michael Rodriguez –DOE Associate Secretary	A
Vetra Evans-Gunther	P	Donna Polk – DIAA Executive Director	P
Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald	L	Laura Makransky – Deputy Attorney General	P
Bruce Harris	P	Stephanie Mark-DIAA Coordinator	P
Mike Hart	L	Amoscita Rodriguez-DIAA Secretary	P
P= Present A = Absent L= Late arrival			

I. Opening

- A. Call to Order – Dr. Layfield called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
- B. Roll Call –Please see above
- C. Approval of Agenda

Dr. Donovan made a motion to approve the agenda; the motion was seconded by Mr. Laws and carried with a unanimous vote 13 Yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Hart, Harris, Jeanne, Layfield, Laws, Thompson, and Waterman] and 0 No.

II. Action Items

- A. Request to Use 8th Graders for High School Athletics 1009 2.7.5 – Mount Sophia Academy

Mr. Jeanne made a motion to approve Mt. Sophia’s request to use 8th grade students for high school athletics; the motion was seconded by Dr. Edney and carried with a unanimous vote of 13 Yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Hart, Harris, Jeanne, Layfield, Laws, Thompson, and Waterman] and 0 No.

- B. Request for Full Membership from Aspira Academy

This agenda item was withdrawn and will be presented at the September meeting.

- C. Approval and Appointment of Committee Members

Mr. Laws made a motion to approve the committee member appointments; the motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento and carried with a unanimous vote of 13 Yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Hart, Harris, Jeanne, Layfield, Laws, Thompson, and Waterman] and 0 No.

The following appointment was approved:
Matthew Lindell appointed to Cross Country Committee for a 3 year term.

III. Coronavirus COVID-19 Impact

A. Sports Seasons Consideration during the Academic Year 2020-21

i. DAAD Proposal for Sports 2020-21

Mr. Hart and Mr. Jeanne presented a proposal from DAAD regarding Return to Play. Mr. Hart stated that the Athletic Directors met (virtually) on Monday 8/3/20 and voted on the proposal with an outcome of 58 (Yes) and 3 (no). The proposal states that

9/21 – First Practice Date for Fall Sports

10/5 – First Competition Date for Fall Sports

11/14 – Last Competition Date

- With this proposed schedule, DAAD looks to offer 10-12 games for Field Hockey, Boys' Soccer and Volleyball while offering 6-8 Cross Country meets and 6 games for football.
- DAAD is not suggesting to have any DIAA State Tournaments this Fall season, however, if tournament sports committees make the decision to offer State Tournaments, qualifying member schools will participate.
- DAAD is supporting Conference to create conference schedules to give member schools the opportunity to compete for Conference Championships. DAAD encourages non-conference schools to play each other and fill the rest of their schedules with the member schools with open dates.
- DAAD supports out of state travel per DPH guidelines.
- DAAD is asking to waive regulation 4.2.1.3 Member schools shall conduct practice sessions regularly during the 21 calendar days prior to the first scheduled contest.

Dr. Fitzgerald joined the meeting at 9:40 am

Public Health Liaison, Dana Carr, from Division of Public Health informed the Board that middle school and high school students are at a higher risk than younger student in regards to participating in athletic activities. Ms. Carr also informed the Board that football and wrestling are sports that are not approved for return to play. Indoor basketball and indoor volleyball is conditional based on plans (such as ventilation plan) that has to be submitted by the schools to DPH. Ms. Carr emphasized that condensing seasons is solely a DIAA decision not DPH.

- ii. Member Schools Equity Issues Related to Returning to School Scenario 2 (Yellow) Guidance

After review and discussion of Return to Play Scenarios Mr. Laws made a motion to accept Return to Play Recommendation #2 which would start with winter season, fall season and then spring season with final dates of each being finalized at the September Board of Directors meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cilento and carried with a vote of 13 yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Hart, Harris, Jeanne, Layfield, Laws, and Waterman], 0 no and one abstention (Thompson)

Dr. Andrus joined the meeting at 10:12 am

- iii. Determine 2020 Fall Sports Dates for Season, Practices and Competition

This will be determined at the September Board of Directors meeting.

- iv. Sanctioning Events for 2020-21 Sport Seasons

Ms. Polk asked the Board for guidance on how to respond to sanction event respect due to the fact that we are currently under Regulations 1010 that does not permit tournaments. Dr. Layfield suggested that this be addressed at the next Board meeting.

B. Determine Stage for DIAA Return to Play Plan

Dr. Layfield made a motion to determine that the state is currently in stage 2 of return to play and governed under regulation 7.6.2 (activities permitted during the Summer) and this is also subject to state board approval of regulations 1010 that was voted on previously. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hart and carried with a vote of 14 yes [Andrus, Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Hart, Harris, Jeanne, Layfield, Laws, and Waterman], 0 no and one abstention (Thompson)

C. Previously Approved 2020 Football Waivers for Week 0 for Member Schools

Ms. Polk reminded the Board that the following schools were approved by the Board to waive the season start date for 2020-21: Indian River HS, Seaford HS, St. Mark's HS, Smyrna HS, Sussex Tech, and Delmar HS. DIAA fall sport season is scheduled to start 8/17/20. Based on DPH guidance that football is not an approved return to play sport these schools must be notified that they cannot begin football season.

Dr. Layfield issued a 10 minute break at 11:01. The meeting reconvened at 11:15 am

D. Amendments to Emergency Regulation 1010 Interscholastic Athletics During COVID-19 Pandemic

Dr. Layfield reviewed items to be amended in regulations 1010 such as:

- 4.4. moved to 4.3 It talks about when students are permitted to be in the building they will not be excluded from sports participation.
- 4.5 strike “whose school buildings ae open”
- 4.5.5.4 –strike “outdoor” (before basketball)
- 4.5.6.4 – strike “wrestling”

Dr. Layfield made a motion to approve the emergency regulations with amendments that were discussed with the effective date being when the state Board of Education approves the regulations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Laws and carried with a vote of 14 yes, 14 yes [Andrus, Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Edney, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Hart, Harris, Jeanne, Layfield, Laws, and Waterman], 0 no and one abstention (Thompson)

IV. Executive Director Report

Ms. Polk informed the Board that the Executive Directors Report was provided on Simbli for review and she would address any questions or comments that they had. Dr. Layfield commended Ms. Polk for providing the report ahead of time for review on Simbli. There was no discussion.

V. Other Items for Discussion Only

There were no items discussed.

VI. Public Comment

Trina LeLerc – Thanked Mr. Jeanne and DAAD for the proposal to try to get students to return to play in September.

Mike Donahue – parent wanted to know what is the status of 8/17/20 start date for sports? Has there been any consideration of requiring student athletes to get tested (Covid-19)?

Coach Strickland – Questions about football, specifically regarding out of season coaching

LeAnn Holly-Making multi-sport athletes choose between high school teams and travel teams; also causing issues with coaching complex between winter and fall sports. DIAA vote was completed prior to hearing public comment, so please re-vote

Pat Hall – disagreed with comments made to DPH representative regarding guidance makes game “unplayable” and he thinks fall sports was sold out solely on the basis of football. Asked that the Board reconsider having fall sports after winter sports.

Mark Robinson –data considered is not solely from state of Delaware.

Jennifer Mayer (AD Christiana HS) – what does the extended summer regulations include. Are DIAA coaches permitted to coach in outside leagues? Please provide clarification about practices. She was in favor of recommendation/scenario #1.

VII. Adjournment

Dr. Edney made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Mr. Hart and carried with a unanimous vote 15 yes and 0 no.