

DIAA Board of Directors' Meeting  
Thursday, January 7, 2021 – 9:00 A.M.

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

Minutes

I. Opening

A. Call to Order

Dr. Bradley Layfield called the meeting to order.

B. Roll Call

Please see above.

C. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Cilento made a motion to approve the agenda, the motion was seconded by Mr. Mike Hart.. The motion carried with a vote 14 Yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Hart, Jeanne, Laws, Layfield, Little, Thompson, Waterman] and 0 No.

II. Ratification of Executive Director’s Decision to Grant Interim Waivers\*

- A. Request to Waive Regulation 1009.2.4 by Salesianum School—2021.1.1-- Mr. Ted Laws made a motion to approve the waiver 2021.1.1, the motion was seconded by Mr. Bob Cilento. The motion carried with a vote 10 Yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Harris, Laws, Layfield, Little,], 1 No [Thompson] and 3 Abstain [Hart, Jeanne, Waterman].
- B. Request to Waive Regulation 1009 2.4 and 2.7 by Caravel Academy- 2021.1.2\*-- -- Mr. Mike Hart made a motion to approve the waiver 2021.1.3, the motion was seconded by Mr. Bob Cilento. The motion carried with a vote 10 Yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Hart, Harris, Laws, Layfield, Little,], 1 No [Thompson] and 3 Abstain [Jeanne, Waterman, Laws].
- C. Request to Waive Regulation 1009 2.4 by Lake Forest High School—2021.1.3\*-- Dr. Matt Donovan made a motion to approve the waiver 2021.1.3, the motion was seconded by Mr. Mike Hart. The motion carried with a vote 11 Yes [Bley, Breeding, Cilento, Donovan, Evans-Gunther, Fitzgerald, Hart, Harris, Laws, Layfield, Little,], 1 No [Thompson] and 2 Abstain [Jeanne, Waterman].

### III. Coronavirus COVID-19 Impact

A. Division of Public Health Update- Jamie Mack from DPH presented. DPH is working with the Governor's Office to update current restrictions. Competition ban is currently scheduled to end on January 11th. Competition may resume January 11. One restriction being put in place is limiting spectators of one spectator per student athlete. There is an allowance for media to reasonably be included in the events. Tournaments are not yet approved right now. DPH will work with DIAA going into February and March regarding Winter DIAA tournament.

#### B. Sports Seasons Consideration during the Academic Year 2020-21

i. DIAA Sports Medicine Advisory Report- Dr. Bley states the biggest thing going on right now is issues in the Fall, the COVID Coordinator was very easily overwhelmed. Difficult keeping parents away from field who tailgate in the parking lot to watch the game remotely and enforce that they wear face coverings and social distance. The DSMAC committee is developing a position called the COVID Event Coordinator. This is someone to be able to assist the athletic director and oversee COVID compliance especially at athletic events. Dr. Layfield thought this was a good idea. More administrators should be assisting the athletic director. DPH will be watching live stream games for compliance. There should not be an extra burden on officials to enforce mask compliance. There is already an investigation about a COVID spread on teams for not complying with the risk mitigation strategies. DIAA member schools need to stay ahead of the game. Donna should prepare a memo to have an additional COVID event coordinator. DPH will be watching at live events. Cases of spread and exposure have been seen at practice.

ii. COVID-19 Positive Cases Update- 11 cases from 6 different schools. There are a few investigations through DPH to see if the cases are spread from team to team. Investigations showing most cases are community or household spread.

iii. 2020-2021 Championship Sport Seasons Operations Update\*- As we are closing out the Fall and going into Winter sports, the estimate for the cost of swimming championships is \$20,000-\$30,000 which includes no spectators for any possible revenue. Fall expenses were at \$43,000. DIAA will have to go into cash balance for this year. Dr. Bley asked about sponsorships. Statute doesn't include sponsorships in general in the regulation. This will be addressed in the Sunset process. Ted Laws asked if DIAA can use any CARE Funds to help with our expenditures. Mike Rodriguez states that department funds have probably already been allocated but he will look into it. Laura Makransky, DAG states that there is a distinction and the regulation indicates that DIAA can accept sponsorships for tournament revenue. There is a concern that some sponsors will ask for agreements that would force DIAA to violate Delaware Law and our regulations.

Dr. Bley makes a motion to direct DIAA to seek sponsorship for Winter tournaments, the motion was seconded by Jeremy Jeanne. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

#### iv. Winter Sports 2020-2021

1. Winter Sports Sport Specific Guidance.- Donna has been working with sports committees. Merging NFHS considerations and Regulation 1011 modifications for each sport. Basketball considerations- notable considerations that came out of this would be no tip off to start game, no jump ball to start game, jump ball will start at opposite side of the bench. Officials to bounce ball to player taking free throws. Jeremy Jeanne made a motion to approve the sports guidelines, the motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Fitzgerald. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

a. Indoor Track- DIAA Regulation 1011 and NFHS. Looking for the throws. Retrieve own implements. For jumping events, individuals to jump into tarp. Each athlete should bring their own tarps. Indoor track

are making masks required for all events. Gloves are permitted. Kevin Fitzgerald made a motion to approve the sports guidelines for indoor track, the motion was seconded by Mr. Jeremy Jeanne. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

- b. Swimming- DIAA Regulation 1011, NFHS and DPH guidance. DPH guidance states 4 athletes in a pool lane at a time. Bob Cilento made a motion to approve the sports guidelines for swimming, the motion was seconded by Mr. Mike Hart. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.
- c. Wrestling guidance still being developed. Committee meets next week.
2. Winter Sports Committee Proposed Changes to Tournament Format or Criteria and Procedure for Selecting and Seeding Teams\*
  - a. For basketball, committees have the guidance of 14 teams max. Open tournament. Teams must play a minimum of 6 games. DIAA will try to secure a neutral site for Championship which is an increased expense.
  - b. Indoor Track and Field- If an indoor committee becomes available by February 6, Charlie Pollard, Track Committee Chair suggests a meet for February 20<sup>th</sup>. If that is not available, would like a 2 day outdoor meet which would operating under cold weather guidelines. Would like to promote more student athlete participation. This year it is up to the schools to get together to schedule meets. If schools can come up with plans and meets that it could be scheduled. Need 16 teams to conduct state championship.
  - c. Swimming and Diving- Committee has met 4 times. Suggesting a state tournament at Sussex Academy. Will be live streamed. Only individuals in the pool will be the athletes swimming in that specific event. All swimmers to qualify must have swam in at least one dual meet during the regular season. The state championships swim meet will make an effort to live stream the event.
  - d. Wrestling state championship will abide by the Return to Wrestling guidelines and protocol. Motion to accept the wrestling championship plan was made by Bob Cilento and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt Donovan. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.
3. Determination for Winter Sports Tournament –
  - a. Requirements for hosting any DIAA tournament games are as follows: any facility that will host an individual game in the tournament will have an approved DPH facility plan, the host site would allow two spectators from each team to attend and will be in compliance with the State’s Order for capacity for DPH, the host facility will have live streaming capability, proper staffing for the event, and comply with all additional requirements listed in the tournament manual.
  - b. By live streaming games with NFHS, there are revenue streams available for member schools by getting a Pixellot camera and putting it on the NFHS Network. Motion to approve this Championship game Host criteria made by Jeremy Jeanne. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chuck Little. Approved unanimously.
  - c. The winter sports tournament summary that was presented to the Board was approved with the following typo being corrected that the last day of competition will be 2/25 for winter sports to clarify. Motion by Dr. Layfield to approve the winter sports championship. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Cilento. Motion passes unanimously.
- C. Determine Stage for the DIAA Return to Play Plan –Dr. Layfield motions to continue to stay in Stage Four of the Return to Play Plan in accordance with Regulation 1011. 2<sup>nd</sup> from Jeremy Jeanne. Motion passes unanimously.

#### IV. Football Realignment

DIAA Board Member Jeremy Jeanne presented the DAAD realignment proposal at the weekly Superintendents meeting. DIFCA would like to have input into the proposal as well. John Wilson, a member of DIFCA was included on the proposal. Some of the proposal's main points include player safety and creating a level playing field for all teams. Roster size which is sometimes dictated by school enrollment is sometimes a competitive advantage. Travel is also something stake holder groups are concerned about. The calculation process for the realignment includes data points about enrollment numbers, and the team's record over the last three (3) and five (5) years. The groupings allowed for teams to have open weeks to continue to play traditional rivalries. The realignment would change the Delaware State Football Championship as it would crown a third (3) state champion in addition to the two Delaware football has always crowned. Is this fair for other sports that have only one state champion was brought up. Over 50% of the games played last year were won or lost by 24 points or more. It was discussed that this is why reclassification needs to take place. It's going to fall on the responsibility on the athletic directors to go out and get the extra games for their teams. Feedback about this proposal was solicited from the schools and school chiefs and minimal feedback was received. Superintendents have weighed in on the realignment process and it's important that private school heads and charter school heads have that same opportunity. The committee has been working to come up with a plan to develop an even playing field.

#### V. Standing Committees and Their Roles

Board member Thompson received the committee rosters and can now see who sits on what committees.

#### VI. Tournament Manuals Publish Dates

Board member Thompson would like this item addressed at the next Board of Director's meeting and that no changes are made to the manual after it's been published. Laura Makransky will schedule a refresher on the duties, powers and role of the board and authorities of committees for our new board members at our next meeting or the February meeting.

#### VII. Standing Committee Members Rosters

Agenda item withdrawn.

Dr. Layfield called for a 15-minute recess at 11:45am.

Vetra Evans-Gunther left the meeting at 12:02pm.

Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald left the meeting at 12:02pm.

Chuck Little left the meeting at 12:02pm.

#### VIII. Fall Sports Tournament Committee Reports.

All fall sport committee reports were sent to the board of directors except for football.

Dr. Evelyn Edney arrived to the meeting at 12:05pm.

The committees did a great job in putting together the tournaments and the tournaments would not have happened without their work and time. DIAA is grateful for our

committees and all their work. The opportunity for our student athletes to be able to participate was really rewarding to see the student athletes in action.

The football committee meeting report will be sent in and will be presented at the next board meeting.

#### IX. Executive Director's Report

A. Fall 2020 Sportsmanship Report – The number of fouls from last year to this year were the same although the number of games in some sports decreased by 30-40%.

#### B. DIAA Responsibility Chart

Officials registrations from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020 were down by about 30% and DIAA is using a new online platform for officials registrations this year. Donna Polk stated that this is one of our initiatives to see what else the Committee can provide to our student athletes and it will be included in our long term strategic plan.

Jeremy Jeanne asked if the scope of the Sportsmanship Committee could be expanded to educate DIAA student athletes and coaches as it's more than just reporting incidents. DIAA will continue to report out on what is going on with the sport meetings during the year; Donna Polk stated that DIAA had 99 meetings in 2020. DIAA continues to post the committee minutes and keep the board up to date with all the meetings that go on.

DIAA lost our administrative secretary at the end of 2020 and the job posting closes today so it will try to be filled as soon as possible.

Coordinator Mark presented on the duties in which she works in to report to her scope of work.

In sad news, one of our football officials, Mac Truxon passed away last month in December which is extremely sad. If there are another members of the DIAA family that passes away please let DIAA know so they can be recognized and honored by DIAA.

#### X. Update on Tabled Items from December 10, 2020 Board Meeting

These items will be taken off the table at some point for further discussion but there is more pressing items for this meeting, so they will not be forgotten.

#### XI. Other Items for Discussion Only

A. Annual Meeting – Reminder that DIAA's 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is Thursday, 1/21/21 and Athletic Directors and Administrators are encouraged to attend. This will raise awareness to the athletic administrators as to what athletic directors do and how to better support them. If there is anything a Board member wishes to add to the Annual Meeting or any meeting, email the DIAA office or Dr. Layfield so their requests can be accommodated and added to the agenda.

#### XII. Public Comment

Trina Laclerc – Great job getting sports on track for the winter, although your hands were tied for having to wait for everything that was coming from Governor [Carney]. She was pleased with the hosting situation regarding the spectators and the parents as we talked before it's a very special time for parents and maybe only one opportunity that they may get in a lifetime for their kids and probably something that they will cherish their entire life to be able to watch their kids participate in that environment which is an incredible experience. She is looking forward to the Rules and Regulations meeting next week and what the final decisions will be around out of season coaching. It's great that a pandemic is able to change those rules easily. However, if those rules were not able to be followed pre-COVID, they should be enforced if there are violations which should be addressed. She has an outstanding email that was

sent on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and then emailed again on January 6<sup>th</sup>. She hopes that someone can respond to her email. She is experiencing the heavy lift herself, tracking COVID cases and figuring out where the exposure was. The spread of COVID is happening outside of the sports environment and she is happy to report she is able to contain it very well within her environment. I know these athletic directors, our coaches, are working hard to keep the kids safe, as well as their families that they interact with. For those of you who are administrators and Athletic Directors, 100% this is probably one of the hardest things you will ever have to deal with because she is right there with it all too – changing environments and the rules. She appreciates all the work the board did to look back on the fall and figure out how to make winter better for everyone who loves high school sports because it's a once in a lifetime experience.

Bonnie Barrily – Thank you to the board and her daughter is a high school athlete. With discussion of the winter sports, has tournament play for unified basketball been scheduled for them?

Dr. Layfield asked that Unified basketball will have an open tournament along with the basketball and Donna said yes.

Motion to adjourn, Dr. Layfield and Matt Donovan 2<sup>nd</sup> it.

Meeting was adjourned at 12.38pm