RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, March 21, 2016 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Abromitis, Crowley, and Keegan; Messrs., Barr, Brennan, DiMuccio, Goho, , Kelly, Littlefield, Sollitto, Vetelino, and Warner

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director; Susana Costa, Administrative Assistant; Carolyn Thornton, Director of Multimedia Content, and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Mme., Gribbin; Messr., Henderson, Kavanagh and Whaley

The March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

PCOA MINUTES JANUARY 25, 2016
On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the January 25, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved (15-0).

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move to Executive Session.
PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION
The following items were discussed in Executive Session: Rules Revisions and RIIL Fall Sports Re-Alignment 2016-2018.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move out of Executive Session.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
Dr. Sollitto, chairman of the Finance Committee submitted a report outlying the results of the Finance Committee Meeting held on March 21, 2016.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- RIIL Technology Committee - Update
- RIIL Spring Awards Luncheon – April 14th at the Crowne Plaza
    - Administrator of the Year: Kevin McNamara, Chair PCOA & Lincoln HS
    - Athletic director of the Year: George Finn, Barrington HS
    - Male coach of the year: Andrew Tuetken (Baseball), Cumberland HS
    - Female coach of the year: Julie Maguire (Field Hockey), North Kingstown HS
    - Team of the year: Smithfield HS – Girls Outdoor Track (2015)
    - NFHS Coaches Association 2015 Sectional Coach of the year in RI – Ken Skelly, LaSalle
    - RIIL Spirit of Sport: Alyssa Raye Raposo, Mt. Hope HS
    - RIIL Spirit of Sport Honorable Mention: Jade Annaldo, Scituate HS, Leeann Phillips, Ponaganset HS, Kayla Kanakry, Mt. Saint Charles and Bert Reid, Olympic Physical Therapy
    - Heart of the Arts: Virginia Ann Cafferky, Cumberland HS
    - Student-Athlete of the Month winners (male & female)
    - Student-Athlete of the Year winners (male & female)
- AD Spring Mtg: Update
- PCOA dates for 2016-2017
- Waiver Hearing Committee dates for 2016-2017
- RI General Assembly Bill H 7639 – Athletic Trainers
- Heads Up Football – USA Football Conference
- RIIL IT Support Agreement (Brave River) – Approved
- RIIL "Night of Champions" at McCoy – May 7th

CORRESPONDENCE
Mrs. Crowley, RISSA, informed the Committee of the Commissioner of Educations "School Empowerment Proposal."

FALL SPORTS RE-ALIGNMENT 2016-2018
Principal, Jeff Goss of Rogers High School and Principal, Chris Savastano of Tolman High School requested to meet with the PCOA to discuss their proposed placement in the Football alignment for 2016-2018. Both principals expressed their concerns about their schools placement in the proposed football alignment.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the following fall alignments for 2016-2018: Field Hockey, Girls Volleyball, Boys and Girls Soccer, Boys and Girls Cross Country, and Girls Tennis.

On a separate motion made and seconded, the Committee discussed and approved (12-1) the football alignment for 2016-2018.

RULES VIOLATIONS
Paul Cuffee School: Article 3, Section 4: (Use of Ineligible Athlete)
On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (13-0) voted to sanction the Paul Coffee School for a violation of Article 3, Section 4 (Use of Ineligible Athlete) of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, the Boys' Basketball team had to forfeit its playoff game versus Warwick Veterans High School on February 19, 2016. In addition, the Paul Cuffee School is assessed a $100 fine.

Smithfield High School: Article 3, Section 5.G. (No Student Below Grade 9 will be allowed to practice or play with any school freshman, junior varsity or varsity team
On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (13-0) voted to sanction Smithfield High School for violating Article 3, Section 5.G. As a result, the Smithfield Boys' Basketball team is placed on probation for the 2016-2017 school year. Also, the school is assessed a $100 fine, and the boys freshman, junior varsity and varsity coaches are suspended one additional league game at the beginning of the 2016-2017 season.

Toll Gate High School: Article 3, Section 4 (Use of Ineligible Athlete)
On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (13-0) voted to sanction Toll Gate High School for a violation of Article 3, Section 4. As a result, the Warwick Girls Ice Hockey Co-op team will forfeit all regular season and playoff games from February 4, 2016. Also, the school will be assessed a $100 fine, and the Girls Ice Hockey coach will be suspended the first two league games and any non-league games in between at the beginning of the 2016-2017 Girls Ice Hockey Season.

RIIAAA REPORT
Mr. Vetelino, President of the RIIAAA, provided updates as to issues, concerns and recommendations on behalf of the RIIAAA.

FALL SPORTS - FOOTBALL
On behalf of the Football Committee, the Football Committee recommended the following: "Mandate that RIIL Member schools that play teams from Massachusetts (home/away) must play by NFHS Football Rules."
On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved (12-1) the above recommendation from the Football Committee beginning with the 2016 football season.

WINTER SPORTS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS
- **Boys & Girls Swim –** *Cindy Bowden, Director*: The Committee received a letter from Shea High School notifying the League they must withdraw from Girls Swim because they can no longer field a team. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved their request without sanctions.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved the following winter sports championships for 2016: Boys and Girls Indoor Track, Gymnastics, Boys and Girls Swim, Cheerleading, Boys and Girls Basketball and Wrestling.

BLACKSTONE VALLEY PREP REQUEST TO JOIN RIIL

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved (12-1) a request from the Blackstone Valley Prep to join the League (as an affiliate member) in Girls and Boys Soccer and Girls Basketball beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

The Committee then adopted the following closing motion: *THAT ANY AND ALL MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.*

The March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Signed:

_____ Date: _____

Susana Costa, RIIL Board Secretary