

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE  
Principals' Committee on Athletics  
Monday, June 16, 2014  
1:30 pm  
RIIL Office  
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus  
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Abromitis, Crowley, Gribbin and Keegan; Messrs., Barr, DiMuccio, Goho, Kavanagh, Kelly, Kenworthy, McCarthy, Sollitto, Traficante, and Whaley

**Also Present:** Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Mike Lunney, Assistant Director, Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant; and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

**Absent:** Messrs. Littlefield and Warner

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

**PCOA MINUTES MARCH 24, 2014**

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the March 24, 2014 meeting was unanimously approved (14-0).

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**RIIL HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME BANQUET – FALL 2015**

Mr. Mezzanotte reported the RIIL High School Hall of Fame Banquet will now be held in the fall beginning with fall 2015. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the change to RIIL High School Hall of Fame Banquet to begin fall 2015.

**RIPCOA GRADES 6-8**

The Committee received a letter from RIPCOA grades 6-8 rejecting the RIIL proposal to include grades 6-8 as part of the RIIL.

**2014-2015 PCOA, WAIVER HEARING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING DATES**

**Principals' Committee on Athletics Meeting Dates (2014-2015):** August 18, November 17, January 26, March 16, June 15 and August 17.

**Waiver Hearing Committee Meeting Dates (2014-2015):** **Fall:** August 7 & 12 – **Winter:** October 15 & 29 – **Spring:** February 5 & 11.

**Finance Committee Meeting Dates (2014-2015):** August 18, March 16, June 15 and August 17.

**2013-2014 RIIL CHALLENGE CUP – WINNERS**

The 2013-2014 Challenge Cup winners are: The Large School Division LaSalle Academy; Medium School Division Classical High School and Small School Division Bishop Hendricken High School. Congratulations to all schools!

**2014 RIIL PRINCIPALS MEETINGS**

Mr. Mezzanotte summarized comments and suggestions presented by principals during these meetings which were informative and substantive.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

The Committee received a letter from Mr. Christopher Savastano, Principal of Tolman High School asking the Committee to reconsider the sanctions imposed on the Tolman High School football program based on additional information that he presented. The Committee took no action on this matter.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Sollitto, chairman of the Finance Committee submitted a report of their meeting held on June 16, 2014. The Committee reviewed a preliminary 2014-2015 budget.

#### **RIIL STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD**

Mr. Lunney presented highlights of the RIIL Student Advisory Board for the 2013-2014 school year.

#### **UNIFIED SPORTS REPORT**

After meeting with the Unified Sports Committee, Mr. Lunney explained the expansion of unified volleyball and basketball teams. In addition, he presented a review of funding for the 2014-2015 school year.

#### **MARKETING END OF YEAR REPORT – TRACY QUARELLA**

Mrs. Quarella, RIIL Director of Marketing, presented an end of year marketing report. In addition, the committee voted to approve the extension of Mrs. Quarella's contract for 2014-2015 for one year.

#### **RIIL WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE**

The Committee recognized the following principals who have agreed to serve on the RIIL Waiver Hearing Committee: Mike Podraza, E. Greenwich High School; Susan Chandler, Exeter/West Greenwich High School; Janet Sheehan, E. Providence High School, Tamara Sterling, Hope HS; Dan Richard, St. Raphael Academy and Jay Brennan, Bishop Hendricken High School.

#### **RIIL RULES VIOLATIONS**

Scituate High School self-reported a violation of Article 6, Section 6. (Use of an Ineligible Athlete-Fastpitch Softball). As a result, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to impose the following penalties:

- Scituate High School is fined \$100. The violation was due to a clerical error by the athletic office.

LaSalle Academy self-reported a violation of Article 6, Section 6. (Use of an Ineligible Athlete-Boys Tennis). As a result, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to impose the following penalties:

- LaSalle Academy is fined \$100. The violation was due to a clerical error by the athletic office.

St. Mary Academy-Bay View self-reported a violation of Article 13, Section 1 (Coaches Certification-Girls Hockey). As a result, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to impose the following penalties:

- St. Mary Academy-Bay View is fined \$100.

***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: Full and affiliate membership - Article 2, Section 1.; Outdoor track penalty; RIIL cheer proposal; Coop exception-Providence School Department and NFHS Board President meetings and responsibilities.

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

#### **RIIL RULE REVISIONS**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved the following RIIL rule revisions:

Article 2, Section 1 (Membership): As a result of these modifications, schools would be classified as full or affiliate members.

Article 1, Section 22 (Transgender participation)

Article 28 & 29 (Indoor & Outdoor Track) Section 5: Entries for the Class and State Meets must be submitted at a time and manner as designated by the Director(s) of Track. **Penalty for late entries: Schools who submit late (after the deadline) entries for the State Meet will be subject to the following: 1<sup>st</sup> offense - \$50.00 fine; 2<sup>nd</sup> offense - \$100.00**

Article 6, Section 7 (Penalties): Coaches Ejected: Any coach/school official who is uncooperative or exhibits unsportsmanlike behavior to the official representative of the RIIL during any RIIL playoff contest may be ejected from said contest.

Article 6, Section 5 (Penalties): Use of Ineligible Coach: All coaches (paid or volunteer) must be listed on the RIIL website ([www.riil.org](http://www.riil.org)).

**RIIL RULE REVISION – PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved the following rule revision to Article 3, Section 1-J. Cooperative Teams: Providence School Department exception: The following schools will be linked together to form three athletic coop programs in all sports: Mt. Pleasant HS & Alvarez HS; Hope HS & E3 HS and Central HS & PCTA.

**COOPERATIVE TEAM REQUESTS**

The RIIL received a request from Middletown and Rogers High School to form a co-op in Boys and Girls Cross Country. The request was denied.

The RIIL received a request from Providence Country Day, Wheeler School and Juanita Sanchez High School to continue co-op in football. It was approved for 2014 with a phase out period.

**REQUEST FROM PAUL CUFFEE SCHOOL TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS**

The Committee received a request from Paul Cuffee School to join the league in boys' basketball, baseball and fastpitch softball beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved their request.

**RIIAAA**

The Committee thanked Mr. Michael Traficante who served as the RIIAAA representative on the PCOA throughout the past four years. He has served with distinction and dedication.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved James Vetelino, athletic director at Westerly High School to serve as the RIIAAA representative on the PCOA for a two year term.

**FALL SPORTS - FOOTBALL**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved to rescind the contract extension for Mr. Jim Ashley (Football Officials Commissioner) to 2015. Under the present agreement, Mr. Ashley's contract ends at the conclusion of the 2014-2015 football season and a new bid process will begin.

**WINTER SPORT ALIGNMENT APPROVALS**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (14-0) the following RIIL sport winter alignments for 2014-2016: Boys' Basketball, Girl' Basketball, Boys' and Girls' Ice Hockey, Boys' and Girls' Swim, Boys' and Girls' Indoor Track, Wrestling and Gymnastics.

**WINTER SPORTS**

- **ICE HOCKEY** – George Egan and Terry Lynch, Co-Sport Directors – The Committee received a letter from St. Mary-Bay View Academy notifying the league they must withdraw from the League in Girls' Ice Hockey beginning with the 2014-2015 school year due to lack of players. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to not penalize St. Mary-Bay View Academy for withdrawing for the League in Girls' Ice Hockey.

**SPRING SPORTS**

- **FASTPITCH SOFTBALL** – Betty Marquis, Director – The Committee received a letter from Bishop Keough High School notifying the league they must withdraw from the League in fastpitch softball beginning with the 2013-2014 school year due to lack of players. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to not penalize Bishop Keough High School for withdrawing for the League in fastpitch softball.

**SPRING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (14-0) the following spring championships: Boys' and Girls' Outdoor Track, Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse, Boys' Tennis, Boys' Volleyball, Fastpitch Softball, Golf, Unified Basketball and Freshman Baseball.

**HEARING**

The Committee heard the testimony of the Barrington High School Boys' Basketball head coach regarding his actions during a playoff game held in March. As a result, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (11-1-2) to impose the following sanctions:

- A fine of \$100.00 to Barrington High School.
- A suspension of Boys' Basketball head coach for the first two (2) RIIL League games (and all games in between) for the 2014-15 Boys' Basketball season.
- To require Coach Sullivan to complete the NFHS online Sportsmanship Course prior to the 2014-15 season. This should be verified by the Barrington High School Administration.

**WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEAL**

**Erin St. Pierre** – *Lincoln High School*

Waiver of Article 30, Section 1.3., Unified Sports. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.

Motion to grant waiver: 12-1-1 (**approved**) – based on the strict adherence to specified guidelines and restrictions are adhered to)

*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 June meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 5:00 P.M.*

Signed:

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Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_