Meetings Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Gribbin, Keegan and Poneti; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Goho, Habershaw, Kavanagh, Kelly, Sollitto, Solomon, Warner and Whaley.

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

Absent: Messrs: Henderson and Marcello

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

PCOA Minutes January 22, 2018
On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the January 22, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved (14-0).

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: Special Legislative Study Commission regarding high school start time; ESports - PlayVS; 2018-2020 Fall Sports Alignments and PCOA Hearing.

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

RIIL Finance Committee Report
Mr. Sean Kelly, Chairman of the RIIL Finance Committee summarized topics from its March 19th meeting. Key points discussed were investment review presented by Janney Montgomery Scott, LLC; review of the 2017-2018 budget and review of the new building expenses.

Executive Director’s Report
Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- NFHS Heart of the Arts Winner - Cecelia Egan, St. Mary Academy Bay View: “The National High School Heart of the Arts Award was created by the NFHS to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the positive heart of the arts that represent the core mission of education-based activities.”
- 2018 RIIL Awards Luncheon, April 5th at Crowne Plaza, Warwick
  - Administrator of the Year: Joseph Goho, Principal, North Providence HS and PCOA Member
  - Athletic Director of the Year: Michael Traficante, The Prout School
  - Male Coach of the Year: Joseph Gilmartin, Football, North Kingstown HS
  - Female Coach of the Year: Meaghan McGonagle, Boys & Girls Volleyball, Cranston East HS
  - Team of the Year: 2017 Central High School Boys Outdoor Track
  - RIIL Spirit of Sport: Maddie Potts, Chariho HS and Gianna Cirella, Toll Gate HS
  - NFHS Heart of the Arts: Cecelia Egan, St. Mary Academy Bay View
  - Student-Athlete of the Month winners (male & female)
  - Student-Athlete of the Year winner (male & female)
  - RIIL Student Advisory Board – Senior Members
  - RI Army National Guard Adjutant General Award

- Special Legislative Study Commission regarding high school start time
- NFHS Coach of the Year Awards
- NFHS Section I meeting in RI – October 2018
- NFHS Provides more than 400 AEDs to High Schools (15 in RI)
- RIIL High School Hall of Fame – induction on a biennial basis
- RIIL Ball Contract
- RIIL Merchandise Contract
**E-Sports – Play- VS**
On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved E-Sports – PlayVS as a sanctioned activity and state championship in the RIIL.

**RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee**
The RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Meeting which was scheduled on March 15th was rescheduled due to inclement weather to May 9.

**2018-2020 Fall Alignments**
On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the following fall alignments (as approved by the RIIAAA) for 2018-2020: Football, Girls Volleyball, Boys and Girls Soccer and Girls Tennis.

On a separate motion made and seconded, the Committee discussed and approved (13-1) the 2018-2020 Field Hockey alignment.

**RIIL Rule Revisions**
On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved a rule revision of Article 3, Section 9.

- **Boarding Students:**

  - Article 3, Section 9, A. (Boarding Students) –
    "Students boarding in member schools whose parental residence is outside the State of Rhode Island must have their athletic eligibility determined on an individual basis. Until such students are ruled eligible by the Committee, they may not participate in any contest of a member school."

**RIIL Rule Violations**
**Moses Brown School: Article 3, Section 11, (Recruiting) – Use of an 8th Grade Student – Boys Hockey**
The Committee reviewed the circumstances involving the inadvertent use of an 8th grade student during a Boys Hockey practice on January 29, 2018. On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (14-0) voted to sanction Moses Brown School for a violation of Article 3, Section 11, Recruiting (use of an 8th grade student) of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, Moses Brown School is assessed a $200 fine.

**Hope High School: Article 3, Section 4, (Academic Eligibility) – Girls Basketball**
The Committee reviewed the circumstances involving the inadvertent use of an academically ineligible athlete at Hope High School during the Girls’ Basketball season. On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA unanimously (14-0) voted to sanction Hope High School for a violation of Article 3, Section 4 (Use of Ineligible Athlete) of the RIIL Rules and Regulations. As a result, Hope High School is assessed a $200 fine. Since Hope did not win any of its games, the Girls’ Basketball team will not need to forfeit any games.

**Fall Sports**
**NFHS Soccer Rule Change – Uniforms:** High school soccer teams will be reversing their home and visiting uniforms next season. Effective with the 2018-19 season, the HOME team will wear dark jerseys and socks, and the visiting team will wear solid white jerseys and solid white socks.

**Winter Sports and Championships**
Mr. Mezzanotte and Mr. Lunney discussed on the recommendation from the RIIAAA Executive Board that the RIIL discontinue sponsoring a Competition Cheer State Championship in favor of the sanction of a Game Day Cheer State Competition. This matter was tabled until the June 18, 2018 Committee Meeting.

Following the winter championships, Mr. Mezzanotte met with the Indoor Track and Wrestling Committees to plan overall improvements to the set-up and administration of the Wrestling and Indoor Track Tournaments.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the 2018 Boys and Girls Indoor Track, Boys and Girls Swim, Gymnastics, Wrestling, Boys and Girls Basketball and Girls Hockey Winter Championships.
PCOA HEARING
Norman Bouthillier – Toll Gate High School
The Committee met with Mr. Norman Bouthillier, Mr. Robert Littlefield, Ms. Candace Caluori and Mr. Ken Rix to discuss an incident that took place at the RIIL State Indoor Track Meet on February 17, 2018. During this meeting, Mr. Bouthillier responded to a series of allegations regarding his actions and behaviors toward the Prout Indoor Track Coach and team and in the presence of both the Prout and Toll Gate track athletes. Based on his reflections of this incident and the conclusions raised by the Warwick School Department, the Committee voted unanimously to impose the following sanctions:

• Mr. Bouthillier will have no contact with athletics during the 2018-2019 school year.

Furthermore, before resuming any coaching duties, Mr. Bouthillier must appear before the PCOA to be reinstated.

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 4:15 P.M.

Signed:

______________________________ Date: ___________________

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary