RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals’ Committee on Athletics
Monday, January 14, 2019 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Keegan, Gribbin, Ponte and Wallace; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Cobain, Goho, Habershaw, Kelly, Sollitto, Solomon and Whaley.

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

Absent: Messrs: Kavanagh and Warner

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

PCOA MINUTES NOVEMBER 5 & 26, 2018
On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the November 5th and 26th, 2018 meetings 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: PCOA vacancy; RIIL Rules Revisions; Requests from Member Schools; Rule Violations and Article 2, Section 1., Membership.

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

RIIL BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT
The Committee reviewed the August - January RIIL Profit and Loss Budget Report.

PCOA NEW APPOINTMENT
The Committee on Athletics reviewed and discussed several applications of those administrators interested in serving on the PCOA. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to approve the appointment of Neeltje Henneman, Principal of Wheeler School.

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

- “E” Sports – Play VS – RIIL Championships – January 27th at Providence College
- 2019 NFHS State Award for Outstanding Service – Betty Marquis
- NFHS Participation Report
- Rice Commission – Basketball
- Eligibility Checklist

2019 NFHS STATE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the nomination of Mrs. Betty Marquis for the 2019 NFHS State Award for Outstanding Service Award.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS
On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved a rule revision of Article 3, Section 1, Determination of Eligibility (Athletes) and Article 3, Section 7, Foreign Exchange Students:

- Article 3, Section 1, Determination of Eligibility (Athletes) – Student-athletes must be enrolled in the school for which they participate.
  1. Student-athletes enrolled at a RIIL Member School are prohibited from participating in any practice, try-out, or competition for any school that they are not enrolled in.
2. Exceptions:
   a. Students who attend a state certified career and technical facility and/or a state certified career pathways program, except for Davies Career and Technical High School are eligible for athletic participation under the following guidelines.

   - **Article 3, Section 7, (Foreign Exchange Students)** – Foreign Exchange Students (J-1 Visa and F-1 Visa) entering any secondary member school must have their eligibility status reviewed by the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. Principals who have Foreign Exchange Students that desire to participate in interscholastic athletics are required to communicate with the Executive Director to seek eligibility for such students, and they must provide the following information on a form provided by the Rhode Island Interscholastic League which can be found on the Rhode Island Interscholastic League website.

   - **J-1 Visa and F-1 Visa** students from an approved CSIET Program (www.csiet.org) are eligible immediately for a duration of up to one year. If they are NOT from an approved CSIET Program, they must sit out 50% of the League in each sport in which they participated on a varsity level and are eligible for a duration of up to one year.

   - **F-1 Visa** students from a non-public school who are from an approved CSIET Program are eligible for a duration of up to four years.

   - . If they are NOT from an approved CSIET Program, they must sit out 50% of the League in each sport in which they participated on a varsity level and are eligible for a duration of up to four years.

   *Note: The Foreign Exchange Student will be ineligible to participate in any Rhode Island Interscholastic League or League-sanctioned games, matches, meets, etc. until an eligibility ruling is rendered by the League.*

**SCHOOL REQUESTS**

The Committee received a request from Davies Career & Technical High School to join the league in Football and Girls’ Volleyball beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved their request.

**RIIL RULE VIOLATIONS**

**Blackstone Valley Prep – Article 6, Section 10, Cancellation/Forfeits of a Game (Girls Indoor Track)**

The Committee received a letter from Blackstone Valley Prep detailing a violation of Article 6, Section 10 - Cancellation/Forfeits of Game. After reviewing the circumstances of this matter, and due to the fact that Blackstone Valley Prep is new to the RIIL Indoor Track League, the Committee recommends that the school review with all coaches the Rules and Regulations governing participation in all League events.

**Hope High School – Article 6, Section 10, Cancellation/Forfeits of a Game (Football)**

The Committee received a letter from Hope High School reporting the cancellation of a non-league Thanksgiving Day football game against Central High School on Thursday, November 22, 2018. Hope High School has had numerous issues (cancellations) with Central High School on Thanksgiving Day in previous years. Due to the fact that this is a non-league game and therefore NOT governed by Article 3, Section 10, the Committee urges Hope High School to discuss with Central High School the necessity of continuing this traditional game.

**RIIAAA REPORT – CHRIS COBAIN**

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

**PCOA HEARING COMMITTEE APPEAL**

**Coach David Nyblom Hope High School – Article 3, Section 4, Academic Eligibility (Boys Basketball)**

The Committee heard an appeal by Hope High School Head Basketball Coach David Nyblom. After due consideration, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) voted to deny the appeal and upheld the suspension of two RIIL League Boys’ Basketball games and any non-league games in between effective immediately.

*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 January meeting of the Principals’ Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:15 P.M.*

Signed: ______________ Date: ______________

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary