Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Henneman, Keegan, Ponte and Wallace; Messrs., Barbieri, Cobain, Goho, Habershaw, Kavanagh, 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: Mmes., Gribbin; Messrs., Barr, Warner.

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

Welcome New Director of Marketing
The Committee welcomed RIIL’s new Marketing GM and Director, Will Shapiro of TPG.

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: RIIL Rules Revisions; Requests from Member Schools and Rule Violations.

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

PCOA Minutes March 25, 2019
On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the March 25, 2019 meeting was unanimously approved (13-0).

PCOA Resignation
The Committee received a letter of resignation from Mr. Joseph Goho, as a member of the Committee. However, he will continue to serve as Sport Co-Director of Boys’ Basketball. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously accepted (13-0), with regret, Mr. Goho’s resignation and wished him continued success in his new position as Superintendent of North Providence schools.

RIIL Finance Committee Report
Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on June 17. Items discussed were review of the 2018-2019 RIIL budget; Summaries and recommendations for the 2019-2020 RIIL budget; Review of the 2018 audit, and review of the RIIL investments. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the following:

1. The Finance Committee’s recommendation of the RIIL Budget for the 2019-2020 school year.
2. A three-year contract for the Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director of the RIIL.
3. Agreement between the RIIL and TPG.

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

• Approval of Championship Award Guys beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.
• Letter to La Salle Academy parent regarding an incident that took place at the conclusion of the La Salle versus Moses Brown Boys’ Lacrosse Championship game on June 2, 2019 at Cranston Stadium. As a result, the RIIL has prohibited this parent from attending any RIIL sanctioned activities. La Salle will monitor spectator attendance at all future La Salle and RIIL events.

La Salle versus Moses Brown Boys’ Lacrosse Championship game on June 2, 2019 at Cranston Stadium. As a result, the RIIL has prohibited this parent from attending any RIIL sanctioned activities. La Salle will monitor spectator attendance at all future La Salle and RIIL events.
Sportsmanship Committee – **Ways to enforce good sportsmanship:**

- The Superintendent, Principal/Administration are essential to promoting and enforcing good sportsmanship. They set the tone for prioritizing good sportsmanship with students, parents, coaches and players.
- Create a Code of Conduct to be reviewed and signed by all parents, coaches, and athletes.
- Principals should present and discuss this at all seasonal sport meetings (if possible, include the Superintendent).
- Principal and AD meet with all coaches prior to each season to reinforce the need to exhibit good sportsmanship – to players, officials, and fans.
- Prior to games make in-school and at each game an announcement regarding good sportsmanship and hold all accountable.
- Game Management is critical:
  - The school AD must select those responsible for supervising games:
    - Announcer, Security, ticket personnel, etc and assign duties and responsibilities
    - Prior to each season the AD and or Administration meet with all those who will be working at the games. Taylor responsibilities to the types of events (indoor/outdoor)
    - The RIIL will organize a workshop for any school staff assigned to work at games.
      - How to seat fans, what to look for before, during, and after games, what to do with a uncooperative fan, etc...
  - Assigning school administration to games is very important!!! Administration will support game supervisors, and be able to witness those exhibiting inappropriate behavior (fan, coach, player)
- Additional suggestions:
  - As a result of unsportsmanlike behavior - schedule games at 4:00pm. And explain why the school this is necessary
  - Eliminate fans from a game
  - Penalize - suspend players, and or coaches for inappropriate unsportsmanlike behavior during a game as determined by the AD or Administration.
  - Organize groups of students(fans) and coach them on appropriate behavior.
  - Make all aware that sportsmanship is a priority of their school.
- Officials
  - Encourage all participants (players, coaches, and fans) to respect game officials. Disrespectful behavior towards game officials will not be tolerated.
  - At the end of each game have players and coaches thank officials.

**RIIL Rule Revisions**

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the following RIIL rule changes:

- **Article 6 – Penalties – Section 11 – School Withdrawal**
  “In the event that a school withdraws from any sport, the Committee may exclude said school for a period of two years or multiple thereof from that sport. Upon return to the RIIL in that sport, the team will be ineligible for post season play in the first season that they return.
  
  A. In the event that a school withdraws from the RIIL in any sport to participate in another league, the Committee shall exclude said school from participation in all RIIL sports. An appeal of this suspension shall be governed by Article 1, Section 16.

- **Article 12 – Sportsmanship – Section 2.C. – The Coach**
  “The coach plays a critical role in supporting and enhancing good sportsmanship. The coach must accept primary responsibility for the behavior and actions of his/her players and assistant coaches before, during and after all games. The coach serves as a role model for his/her players, their parents and the spectators. The coach must always be in control, practice sound values and ethics and always pursue victory with honor.”

In addition, the Committee discussed Article 6, Section 12., Non-School Athletic Programs and Transgender Rule. The matters were tabled to the August 19th meeting.
SCHOOL REQUESTS
The Committee received requests from Barrington, East Providence and Ponaganset High School and Prout School to move divisions in the current alignment. According to the RIIL alignment guidelines, the PCOA will not consider any appeals between realignment years. However, the requests have been tabled until the August meeting since the RIIAAA’s realignment committee will attempt to address similar alignment concerns. Also, the Committee received a request from La Salle Academy to move from the Eastern Division to the Central Division in Outdoor Track and Field. This request was referred to the Outdoor Track and Field Sport Committee.

In another matter, the Committee received a request from the Juanita Sanchez/Wheeler/PCD Co-op football team to move down in the alignment. Based on the information they provided (safety concerns) for their football team playing in the RIIL Division II, on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved their team’s reassignment from Division II to Division III for the 2019 season only. As a result, their games against Division III opponents and against any other team will not count in the standings. In addition, the Juanita Sanchez/Wheeler/PCD co-op football team will not be eligible for post-season play for the 2019 season.

RIIIAAA REPORT – CHRIS COBAIN
Mr. Cobain, President of the RIIAAA, provided updates as to issues, concerns and recommendations on behalf of the RIIAAA including reviewing the current alignment guidelines.

WINTER SPORTS
Mr. Lunney reported Cheer Game Day is on October 27, 2018. In addition, it’s recommended that cheer and gymnastics coaches and athletic directors take the NFHS Understanding Copyright and Compliance online course

SPRING SPORTS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS
On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the 2019 Boys’ and Girls’ Outdoor Track, Boys’ and Girls’ Lacrosse, Boys’ Tennis, Golf, Baseball, Freshman Baseball, Softball and Boys’ Volleyball Spring Championships.

PCOA HEARING COMMITTEE APPEAL
Rocky Hill School – Article 2, Section 1, Membership
The Committee met with Diane Rich, Principal and Megan Williams, Athletic Director of Rocky Hill School to discuss the League’s revision of Article 2, Section 1, Membership. The Committee listened and discussed concerns and the implications this revision may cause the Rocky Hill School athletic department. On a motion made and seconded, the Principals’ Committee on Athletics unanimously (13-0) denied their appeal of Article 2, Section 1. The revision of this rule does not take place until August 1, 2020.

PCOA HEARING
The Hope High School hearing was tabled until the August meeting due to Hope not being able to attend.

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 4:30 P.M.

Signed: ____________________________ Date: _______________________
Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary