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

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR RICHARD FOSSA, AD, NORTH KINGSTOWN HS
A moment of silence was held in honor of Richard Fossa, Athletic Director of North Kingstown High School.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION
The following items were discussed in Executive Session: Finance update; Annual audit; RIIL budget 2019-2020 and 2020-2021; 2019-2020 spring dues and fees and spring officials’ payments; 2020-2021 winter alignments and Mount St. Charles Academy compliance letter.

In addition, African American representatives from the football coaches association presented to the Committee a number of issues that they have observed in the past. The coaches listed several recommendations for the Committee to consider.

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

PCOA MINUTES APRIL 6, 2020 AND SPECIAL MEETINGS APRIL 13 AND 23, 2020
On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the April 6, 2020 and special meetings on April 13 and April 23, 2020 were unanimously (16-0) approved.

RIIL FINANCE REPORT
Mr. Stuart Peterson of Janney, Montgomery, Scott, provided the PCOA with an investment update. The Committee reviewed the 2019-2020 budget and reviewed budget projections for 2020-2021. The 2020-2021 budget was tabled until the August 17th meeting.

PCOA RESIGNATIONS
The Committee received a letter of resignation from Mrs. Gail Ponte, as a member of the Committee and Sport Co-Director of Girls’ Soccer. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously +accepted (16-0), with regret, Mrs. Ponte’s resignation and wished her success in her retirement. The Committee also received a letter of resignation from Ms. Michaela Keegan, as a member of the Committee and Sport Co-Director of Boys’ Tennis. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously accepted (16-0), with regret, Ms. Keegan’s resignation and wished her success in her future endeavors.

PCOA NEW APPOINTMENTS
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 (16-0) to approve the following appointments: Mr. Nathan Biah, Alvarez High School and Mr. Craig MacKenzie, Chariho High School.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- **Summer Sports Guidelines** – The Committee reviewed and discussed summer sports guidelines as recommended by the RIIL. Mr. Mezzanotte recommended that athletic directors and principals review these with their district superintendents to consider for implementation during June 15 – August 15, 2020. Dr. Sollitto provided a report to the Committee outlining communication that has been submitted to RISSA.

- **RIIL Sport Task Force** – A fall sport task force has been assembled to review and discuss potential options for the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with the Rhode Island Governor’s guidelines and RISSA.

- **TPG Report** – TPG provided their quarterly report for the 2019-2020 school year. In addition, Mr. Steven Silva has been hired by the TPG as the new Marketing General Manager and Director for the RIIL. Mr. Silva is a former East Providence HS student-athlete.

- **High School Sports, Activities: Opportunity for Everyone to be Included and Accepted**

- **Letter from PCOA Regarding: Equity** – The Committee reviewed a letter submitted by the NFHS that discussed the importance of high school spots for everybody to be included and accepted.

- **Letter from PCOA Regarding: Equality** – The Committee approved a letter to member schools addressing the national issues that have taken place in our country. In the letter, the RIIL renewed its commitment regarding equity, fairness, and justice.

- **RIIL Assistant Director Position** – On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved the posting of the RIIL Assistant Director position. Completed resume and supporting materials must be submitted to the RIIL no later than July 1, 2020. All information will be reviewed, and interviews scheduled as necessary at the discretion of the RIIL Search Committee.

REQUESTS FROM SCHOOLS
The RIIL received a request from Diane Rich, Principal of Rocky Hill Country Day School to continue as an affiliate member and approval of five student waivers (8-semester rule). On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved Rocky Hill Country Day’s request to continue as an affiliate member for the 2020-2021 school year and waiver of Article 3, Section 5., Length of Eligibility (8 semester rule) for the following students: Parker Mason ’21, BJ Jenkins ’21, Ameir Gomes ’22, Denzel Correia ’22 and Emmanuel Beldon ’23.

2020-2021 AFFILIATE MEMBER SCHOOL REQUESTS
The RIIL received requests from the following schools to continue as an affiliate member for the 2020-2021 school year: Block Island HS, Middlebridge School, and Providence Country Day School. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved their requests to continue as affiliate members for the 2020-2021 school year. Also, the RIIL received a request from Highlander Charter School to join the League as an affiliate member school for the 2020-2021 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved Highlander Charter School’s request to join the League as an affiliate member for the 2020-2021 school year.

RIIL RULE CHANGES

- **Emergency Action Plans: Article 2 Section 2**
  - An Emergency Action Plan with clearly defined written and practice protocols should be developed and in place at every high school. When possible, an athletic trainer should be present at all practices and games.
  - Rationale: An effective emergency action plan (EAP) should be in place as a prompt and appropriate response to any emergency situation that can save a life. The EAP should be resigned and practiced to address all teams (freshman, junior varsity, and varsity) and all practice and game sites. An athletic trainer is a key component in any strategy to minimize injury risk and optimize safety for all participants.

- **Preparticipation Physicals: Article 2 Section 1, and Article 3 Section 1**
  - Athletes in your district should have a preparticipation athletic physical within your school district stated guidelines.
RIIL RULE CHANGES – CONTINUED

• Coaching during the summer: Article 7 Section 8

• Coaching during the summer:
  o Coaches are permitted to coach perspective athletes during the period June 15 – August 15 in accordance with the Governor’s COVID-19 guidelines. In addition, we recommend school approval for any contact with perspective students over the summer.

• Eligibility (Article 1):
  o Waiver Process

  ▪ Article 1 Section 16
    • B. The RIIL Executive Director (or designee) shall upon the basis of the completion of the waiver request and documentation provided determines whether the waiver shall be granted or not granted.
    • C. Waiver requests are addressed by the Waiver Request Hearing Committee. This committee consists of members (high school administrators) selected by the Principals’ Committee on Athletics and the Chairperson of the Principals’ Committee on Athletics. A majority vote of the members present is required for a decision. Hearings are held in August, October, and February, or at special meetings called in order to accommodate all waiver requests.

  ▪ Article 8 Section 4
    WAIVER REQUEST HEARING PROCEDURE

    The procedure outlined speaks to and violations of the bylaws of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.

    A. Matters dealing with individual sports, i.e. protests, schedule concerns, league alignments, official’s complaints, etc. will be handled by the Executive Committee of the sport (Article 8, Sections 1 and 5). The committee(s) will be chaired by the Director/designee of the sport.
    B. Student eligibility matters (See Article 1 Section 16)

RIIIAA REPORT AND NEW RIIAAA APPOINTMENT – MRS. KAREN MASSARO, MIDDLETOWN HS

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

In addition, The Committee thanked Mr. Cobain who served as the RIIAAA representative on the PCOA throughout the past two years. He has served with distinction and dedication. As a result, and on a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved the nomination of Mrs. Karen Massaro, athletic director at Middletown High School to serve as the RIIAAA representative on the PCOA for a two-year term.

FALL SPORTS

None.

2020-2021 WINTER SPORTS ALIGNMENTS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved the following 2020-21 winter sports alignments as presented for one year only: Girls’ Basketball, Boys’ and Girls’ Hockey, Boys’ and Girls’ Indoor Track, Boys’ and Girls’ Swimming, Wrestling and Gymnastics. The Boys’ Basketball alignment was tabled until the August 17th meeting for the Boys’ Basketball Sport Committee to review.

2020-2021 SPRING SPORTS ALIGNMENTS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) approved that the spring sport committees be allowed to convene and provide recommendation for the 2020-2021 alignments. These alignments would be for the 2020-21 school year only.
THOMAS A. MEZZANOTTE – RIIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
The Committee recognized and thanked Mr. Thomas Mezzanotte for his years of dedicated service as the RIIL Executive Director for the past 16 years and as a member of the League for over 30 years. The Committee wishes him well in his retirement!

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