

NEW JERSEY STATE INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

1161 Route 130 North

Robbinsville, NJ 08691

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 18, 2024

Roll Call - The meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at the NJSIAA Administration Building in Robbinsville, New Jersey, was called to order by the President, Russell Petrocelli, at 11:02 am.

The following members were present: Mohammed Abdelaziz, Michael Baldwin, Dr. Carol Birnbohm, Anthony Browning, Carl Buffalino, Mark Cantagallo, Kevin Carroll, Tony Cattani, Maria Crowley, Maureen Dzwil, Judy Finch-Johnson, Barry Fitzgerald, John Fraraccio, Michael Gallo, Natalie Gorman, Christopher Huber, Steven Jenkins, Kurt Karcich, Howard Krieger, Dr. Michael Kuchar, Greg Lasher, Brendan McGovern, Dr. Anne Mucci, Steve Shohfi, Sheryl Smith, Jeffrey Steele, Dr. Gregory Troxell, Joseph Ursino, Dennis Vinson, Paul Vizzuso, Tammy Wagner, Barry Walker, Cynthia Wilks, Dr. Clifford Williams, and Sjoquelyn Winstead. Also present: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director; Paul Popadiuk, Chief Compliance Officer; Tony Maselli, Chief Operating Officer; Al Stumpf, Derryk Sellers and Sandy Mamary, Assistant Directors; Steven P. Goodell, Esq., NJSIAA Counsel. The following sportswriters were in attendance: Jake Aferiat, *NJ Advance Media*; Darren Cooper, *NorthJersey.com*; and Mike McGarry, *Press of Atlantic City*. Also present: Steven D. Farsiou, Esq., Trinity & Farsiou.

Russell Petrocelli started the meeting welcoming new committee members and thanking former president Jason Corley for helping him transition. He then gave a brief summer legal recap and thanked everyone on the Transfer Committee and Paul Popadiuk for their work modifying the Transfer Rule which was challenged five times this summer.

Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Steve Shohfi, seconded by Mohammed Abdelaziz, to accept the minutes of the June 5, 2024 Executive Committee meeting and the minutes of the June 5, 2024 Reorganization meeting. Motion passed with four abstentions.

Legislative Update (Paul Anzano) - A listing of bills related to high school athletics being considered by the legislature was distributed. Mr. Anzano was unable to attend today's meeting but is available for questions.

Financial Audit Presentation – Mercadien CPA – Roll Call Vote – Kyle Neeld, Partner and RJ Carletti, Manager from Mercadien, P.C. reviewed the June 30, 2024 year-ending audit results with both the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee. Special thanks were given to Michele Perez, Accounting Manager, for her efforts in facilitating a seamless audit. The association received an unmodified opinion and there were no material adjustments necessary as a result of the audit. A motion was made by Barry Walker, seconded by Kurt Karcich, to approve the FYE 2024 financial audit statements. A roll call vote was taken. Final Vote: Yes-35; No-0; Abstain-0. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Director Update – Colleen Maguire

New Part-Time Assistant Director Update – The association has hired Sandy Mamary, longtime athletic trainer turned athletic director from Westfield HS to oversee the following sports: field hockey, boys/girls tennis, boys/girls swimming, and girls lacrosse. Sandy is a fantastic addition to NJSIAA's current staff.

NJSIAA September 2024 Newsletter – Ms. Maguire shared her seasonal newsletter with a welcome message from President Russell Petrocelli. The newsletter contains important updates and information – specifically highlighting new policies, initiatives, and programs or ones that have significantly changed.

Disqualification Report 2023 - 2024 – Ms. Maguire reviewed the summary of disqualifications from the 2023-2024 school year. The summary was broken down by sport and by leagues/conferences. Over 70% of DQs involve six sports. The association has asked leagues and conferences to prioritize these sports in their sportsmanship efforts. Approximately 90% of DQs involve student-athletes and of the 10% that were coach disqualifications, majority of them were from either baseball or boys soccer.

Sportsmanship Initiatives – League and Conference Grants – Promoting and fostering positive sportsmanship continues to be a priority of the association. Last year, the Executive Committee passed a bold Spectator Code of Conduct policy to address unsportsmanlike fan behavior. The Finance Committee also approved monies in the budget to assist leagues and conferences for sportsmanship-related events. Each conference can receive grant monies (\$3K to \$8K for a conference-wide implementation or \$180 per school) for a sportsmanship-related event or for branding/posters, signs, etc. Approximately half of our conferences have taken advantage of this grant.

Sports Participation Report 2023-2024 – Ms. Maguire was pleased to report that overall participation, both nationally and within NJ, has returned to pre-COVID pandemic levels. Some sports, such as boys and girls volleyball, have grown beyond pre-COVID pandemic levels and continue to be New Jersey's fastest growing sports. A proposal was approved last year to allow the best of 5-match format during regular season. The goal is to provide increased playing time. Matches will grow closer to the length of a basketball game. NFHS rules state best of 5-match format but allow states the flexibility to adopt a best of 3-match format. In the 2025-2026 school year, the state tournament will move to best of 5-match format. Further determinations will be made once feedback is solicited.

There is a concern for those sports that have a continued decreasing trend – such as field hockey, baseball, softball, cross country and lacrosse. Nationally, girls flag football is the fastest growing emerging sport among state associations. Approximately 43K girls participate nationally with over 3K girls from NJSIAA member schools. NJSIAA adopted a two-year pilot program to play girls flag football in December 2023. The NFHS Flag Rules Committee will meet in January 2025, publish a NFHS Flag Rule Book in May 2025, and hold a NFHS Flag Rules Interpretation meeting in June 2025. All leagues and conferences will be required to play under NFHS rules during the 2025-2026 season. With support of the leagues and conferences, Ms. Maguire anticipates legislation being proposed in December 2025 to adopt girls flag football as a sanctioned sport for the 2026 – 2027 school year. This allows for one season of play under NFHS rules and NJSIAA to form a sport committee to write tournament regulations. It also allows notice to all schools and student-athletes. If girls flag football becomes a sanctioned sport, that means girls can only participate in that sport in the spring since participation in only one strenuous sport per season is permitted.

Football Update – Week 2 is in the books, and all is going well. The first United Power Rank data has been posted and will be updated weekly moving forward. Ms. Maguire has spent an inordinate amount of time following up with schools to timely submit their final scores. Fines will be issued after the second warnings. The state championship games will be played at Met Life Stadium on Black Friday, November 29, and at Rutgers University on Sunday, December 1. Any games involving Thanksgiving Day teams will be played at Rutgers University on Wednesday, December 4.

Officials' Recruitment Initiative Summary – The association hosted a two-year recruitment initiative which provided a \$300 stipend to all new officials who successfully joined a chapter in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years. Approximately 1,000 new officials registered and over \$300K in stipends were distributed. Ms. Maguire hopes that the state's leagues and conferences start to see relief and have more officials available to meet their needs. Ms. Maguire feels it's important to advertise on social media to engage the younger generation. A summary was distributed, which was broken down by sport. A more

detailed breakdown by chapter was provided to the leagues and conferences to keep them updated on local recruiting efforts.

Officials' Implicit Bias Workshops – NJSIAA continues to provide implicit bias workshops to all registered officials. To date, the association has hosted 87 workshops for close to 6,000 officials. We will continue to host workshops during the year for winter and spring sport officials who previously have not participated

Name, Image, and Likeness Policy Update – First Reading – Voice Vote – In November 2021, NJSIAA adopted a policy permitting student-athletes the opportunity to profit off the use of their Name, Image and Likeness in certain activities. Since adoption, the activity surrounding the use of a student-athletes' Name, Image and Likeness continues to evolve so the association continually reviews its policy to ensure it is current in addressing the evolving landscape. In September 2023, NJSIAA updated its policy to prohibit the use of NIL collectives. An NIL collective is a group organized or existing for the purposes of compensating or benefitting an individual student-athlete or group of student-athletes at a member school. In June 2024, NJSIAA learned of an organization that was promoting NIL clubs to student-athletes at member schools. An NIL club is a group of student-athletes organized or existing for the purpose of soliciting funds or other benefits from individuals or groups and is based on a student-athlete's affiliation with a member school or member school's interscholastic team. Mr. Goodell and Ms. Smith reached out to the organization for more information and messaged the schools involved that this activity is not permitted by NJSIAA. Therefore, to clearly articulate that NIL clubs are not permissible, Ms. Maguire proposed adding the following underlined text to the current NJSIAA Name, Image and Likeness Bylaw.

Bylaws, Article V [Eligibility of Athletes] Section 2 [Amateur-Athlete]

D. Name, Image and Likeness.

“Student-athletes are prohibited from making any reference to a member school or the NJSIAA when engaging in any NIL activity. Student-athletes may not endorse or promote any third-party entities, goods or services during team activities. Student-athletes may not wear the apparel or display the logo, insignia, or identifying mark of an NIL partner during any team activities. Student-athletes are prohibited from participating in an NIL club that is based on their affiliation with a member school or a member school's interscholastic team, or an NIL club that references a member school or a member school's interscholastic team.”

A motion was made by Mo Abdelaziz, seconded by Joseph Ursino, to amend Bylaws, Article V [Eligibility of Athletes] Section 2 [Amateur-Athlete], D. Name, Image and Likeness, to clearly articulate that participating in NIL clubs based on affiliations with member schools is not permissible. Motion passed first reading unanimously. A second and final reading will take place in the October 2024 meeting.

Video Taping and Equipment/Disqualification Update – First Reading – Voice Vote – In recent years, there has been an increasing need for NJSIAA staff to review video when certain instances occur during interscholastic events, such as fights breaking out during the event or when players leave the bench area during the event. NJSIAA rules require an automatic disqualification for violations of its sportsmanship policy or when a player leaves the bench area. Oftentimes, the officials are able to issue a disqualification during or upon conclusion of the event; however, there are times that an official missed a violation of the Association's sportsmanship policy (such as striking or physically abusing an official, opposing coach, player or spectator) or is unable to determine the players that left the bench area – in these instances NJSIAA staff must review video and issue disqualifications.

In an effort to avoid confusion in future situations, Ms. Maguire proposed adding the following underlined updates to Program Regulations – Section 14, to clearly articulate NJSIAA staff’s use of video for three specific reasons:

1. Address violations of the Association’s sportsmanship policy;
2. Identify players leaving the bench area; and,
3. Ensure disqualifications are correctly identified.

NJSIAA is not changing the rule – just providing more detail so it’s clearly understood.

Rules and Regulations – Program Regulations

Section 14 Video Taping and Equipment

“Electronic Communication equipment, including but not limited to computer, film television and video tape is permissible according to the NFHS rules for the sport in question. Videotaping of scrimmages is a local option.

No video or audio recording may be used to review or challenge the decision of a sport official, except that NJSIAA may use video and audio recordings to (1) identify and determine violations of its sportsmanship policy, (2) identify and determine players who left the bench area, and (3) ensure that disqualifications are correctly identified.

Rules and Regulations – Specific Sport Regulations

4. Disqualification

CL 6: The Executive Director has the authority to (1) issue disqualifications for violations of the NJSIAA sportsmanship policy, (2) issue disqualifications to players who leave the bench area during an altercation, and (3) correct a reporting error in a previously submitted disqualification report. These actions may be taken after an event has been completed.

A motion was made by Dr. Carol Birnbohm, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to amend both the Rules and Regulations – Program Regulations, Section 14 Video Taping and Equipment rule AND the Rules and Regulations – Specific Sport Regulations, 4. Disqualification rule to clearly articulate NJSIAA staff’s use of video which is to 1- Address violations of the Association’s sportsmanship policy; 2-Identify players leaving the bench area; and 3-Ensure disqualifications are correctly identified. Motion passed first reading unanimously. A second and final reading will take place in the October 2024 meeting

Program Review

11 members of the Program Review committee met on Monday, 9/16, and unanimously endorsed the following proposal.

Classifications – NP G Volleyball – Golf - NP B&G Lacrosse – One Reading – Voice Vote – The 2023-2024 school year is the first in a new two-year classification cycle. Prior to each new classification cycle, NJSIAA staff reviews the number of schools competing in each sport to ensure the classifications used are consistent, where appropriate. Therefore, in an effort to continue to normalize its classifications, NJSIAA staff recommended the following classifications be used for non-public girls volleyball, golf, and non-public lacrosse. All recommendations are based on the total number of schools competing in each sport relative to other sports of like nature or based on recommendations from host facilities are outlined below.

1. Non-Public G Volleyball – due to the increase in number of non-public schools hosting girls volleyball, it is recommended that north and south sections be added to each non-public group. The total number of non-public schools hosting girls volleyball has grown to 53, which is consistent with

girls soccer and softball. The previous classifications included two non-public groups and no sections; therefore, this proposal will add two sections (north and south) per group and bring them in line with girls soccer and softball.

2. Golf (Girls) – due to the increased number of schools hosting girls golf, it is recommended that the non-public schools be separated from the public schools. The total number of public schools is 97 and the total number of non-public schools is 26. Previously, three sectional tournaments were hosted (North, Central, and South) with teams advancing to the state championships. This proposal will classify two public groups (Group A and Group B) each with two sections (north and south) and one non-public group, which will allow for an equitable number of teams in each public section and non-public group. NJSIAA staff confirmed with both the tournament staff and host facilities that all golf courses can accommodate these new classifications.

3. Golf (Boys) – based on feedback from host sites, the golf committee recommends using two sections per each public group (north and south) instead of four (NI, NII, Central, and South). In addition, the golf committee recommends one non-public group with two sections (north and south) instead of two non-public groups, each with two sections. This will ensure the best teams qualify based on the iWannamaker ranking system.

4. Non-Public Lacrosse – the total number of non-public schools hosting girls lacrosse is 42 and the total number hosting boys lacrosse is 39, which are consistent with swimming and tennis who both have one non-public group. The previous classifications included two non-public groups (no north and south sections) for both genders and the state tournament was a statewide bracket. This proposal will consolidate the two non-public groups into one non-public group but will maintain a statewide tournament bracket (no north and south sections). Due to competitive balance concerns, both lacrosse committees recommend staying with a statewide bracket and seeding the top 24 teams – this will allow teams seeded #1 - #8 to have a first round bye which will provide for more competitively balanced first round games.

A motion was made by Steven Jenkins, seconded by Brendan McGovern, to amend the non-public girl's volleyball, golf, and non-public lacrosse classifications, as outlined above. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Compliance Officer Update (Paul Popadiuk)

Transfers Update – The new Transfer Rule has been in effect for over a year now. In the last year of the old transfer rule, there were 3,000+ transfers with only 15% penalized, while this past year, under the new rule, there were 3,500 transfers with 30% penalized (1/3 of those penalized were seniors). This means the rule is working as it was intended and it is not the Wild West, as some predicted it would be.

Eligibility Update – A record number of age, credit, and semester waivers were submitted and heard by the Eligibility Committee and Eligibility Appeals Committee (EAC). Typically there's one day of hearings in August/September for the EAC. This year, there were three dates of hearings.

Cooperative Sports – Winter Season approvals – Voice Vote – The Cooperative Sports Committee met in June, 2024 to review cooperative sports applications for winter sports. The committee unanimously approved five applications and recommended them for Executive Committee approval. All applications are renewals of existing programs.

A motion was made by Barry Walker, seconded by Kurt Karcich to approve the following five cooperative sports programs to be in place for a four-year period starting with the 2024-2025 school year.

1. Jonathan Dayton-David Brearley Swimming (co-ed)
2. Marlboro-Holmdel Ice Hockey

3. Mount Olive-Hopatcong-Hackettstown Ice Hockey
4. Nutley-Columbia-Bloomfield Ice Hockey
5. Northern Valley Old Tappan-Northern Valley Demarest-New Milford Ice Hockey

Motion carried with three abstentions.

Bylaws – Transfer Rule update – First Reading – Voice Vote – In consultation with NJSIAA staff and counsel, Mr. Popadiuk recommended the following changes to the NJSIAA Bylaws, Article V Eligibility of Athletes/Requirements, Section 4K, Transfers, to define the word “Participation” and clarify when competition ends in relationship to the number of games and/or games a student must sit after transferring after the competition start date. This has become an issue, particularly in football when a student transfers after their last game or with a week left in the season to a school that has a Thanksgiving Day game. The students try to circumvent the rule by utilizing the time from late October to Thanksgiving (during NJSIAA postseason) as part of their penalty period. Mr. Popadiuk has consistently ruled that the penalty clock stops with the day of the last game of the regular season prior to the start of NJSIAA post season so it’s not a change – this is how the rule has been enforced – Mr. Popadiuk just wanted it in writing.

Bylaws, Article V, Section 4 K (Transfers)

[Additions are underlined, and deletions are ~~struck through~~.]

2. Definitions:

Transfer: A “transfer” occurs when a student who has previously enrolled in a secondary school leaves that school and enrolls in a new one. The date of transfer shall be the earlier of the first day of class or the first day of sports participation at the new school.

CL1: It is considered a transfer if a homeschooled student moves from homeschooling to a high school or from a high school to homeschooling. If the student’s home district has a Board of Education policy that permits homeschooled students to participate in sports, the student will be exempt from the penalty sit when transferring from homeschooling to the home district or from the home district to homeschooling.

CL 2: A transfer student is eligible to participate in sports at the new high school when (1) the student has enrolled at the new school and (2) the student has either withdrawn from the former school, or the school year has concluded at the former school. Acceptance or admission alone does not constitute enrollment. This clarification is applicable to the school year and summer recess period.

Participation: “Participation” means attending practice or playing in contests or scrimmages in a particular sport.

Senior Transfer: A “Senior Transfer” is a student-athlete whose first transfer occurs during or after their third season of eligibility in a particular sport in which they participated in during the 12 months preceding the transfer.

8. General application:

a. This Transfer Rule applies to all athletes at all levels of participation (not just varsity athletes) and is applicable to all NJSIAA-sanctioned sports in which the student participated during the 12 months preceding the transfer. Transferring students may participate in a new sport without penalty.

b. The period of ineligibility will begin on the Competition Start Date of each sport. For students who transfer after the Competition Start Date, the period of ineligibility will begin on the date of enrollment and will not include any days or games occurring after a school's last regular season game prior to the start of the playoffs.

A motion was made by Barry Fitzgerald, seconded by Steve Shohfi, to amend NJSIAA Bylaws, Article V Eligibility of Athletes/Requirements, Section 4K, Transfers, to - define the word "Participation" as "attending practice or playing in contests or scrimmages in a particular sport" and 2-clarify when competition ends in relationship to the number of games and/or games a student must sit after transferring after the competition start date so a student who transfers after the Competition Start Date, the period of ineligibility will begin on the date of enrollment and will not include any days or games occurring after a school's last regular season game prior to the start of the playoffs. Motion passed first reading unanimously. The second reading will take place at the October 2024 Executive Committee meeting.

Chief Operating Officer Update (Tony Maselli)

NJSIAA Workshops – The association held a summer workshop with Safe Sport Zone, which specializes in facility management and the latest information in securing facilities. It was well attended and has such valuable information that it will be an annual workshop. Then NJSIAA hosted two days of Arbiter Sports training for assignors. Going forward, there will be biweekly virtual training for specific topics and learning the system. Last, the association hosted its first Administrative Assistant workshop in August and September. They were very well attended and provided helpful information and website training. This will be an annual workshop every summer.

Steroid/Banned Substance Testing update – The matrix for fall tournament testing has just been completed. The association is currently in litigation from a positive test result last year. The family may be challenging the decision. It is difficult for the committee because a student-athlete sits one year if found guilty. Protein powders and protein shakes are becoming an epidemic. The ingredients in them are not regulated and have been the reason student-athletes have tested positive in the last few years. It is critical to get this messaging out, even before these students reach high school. Many times, parents buy their children these products, not knowing they contain illegal substances. It's becoming a big concern. There is a tool on NJSIAA's website to check whether ingredients are approved substances.

State Tournament Updates – All fall tournament regulations and modifications are posted on NJSIAA's website. The assignor policy has changed – all levels of the tournament beginning with the first round will be assigned by NJSIAA – there will be no more local assignors for any rounds of NJSIAA's state tournaments in any sports. After thorough vetting, a new power points formula was approved by the Executive Committee last year and is in effect this year. Mr. Maselli is looking forward to seeing how it affects seeding for the upcoming fall tournaments. Lastly, Mr. Maselli created a State Tournament Operating Procedures pamphlet, which was sent to all schools in the summer mailing, and is posted on NJSIAA's website. Mr. Maselli tried to incorporate any questions a person could possibly ask about being in the state tournament. It's a general operating procedures manual for all sports.

NJSOA Awards Luncheon – September 15th – Mr. Maselli honored this year's outstanding officials at the association's annual NJSOA awards program, held at the Pines Manor in Edison on 9/15.

Girls Tennis and Field Hockey Updates – The tennis tournament will be seeded next week. Field hockey had some minor issues in the beginning, but all have been worked out.

Al Stumpf

Cross Country Update – Cross countries entries open on MileSplit on 10/1. Sectionals will take place on 11/2, followed by the Group Meets at Holmdel Park on 11/9, culminating with the Meet of Champions on 11/16, also at Holmdel Park.

Girls Soccer Update – Some important tournament dates: Entry form will be open from 10/1 – 10/15, cutoff is 10/26, seeding will take place on 10/30, and the tournament begins on 11/4. All sites have been confirmed. If Kean University is available, the non-public state finals will be played there on 11/20 and 11/21. If Kean isn't available, Mr. Stumpf has secured Franklin HS to host on those same dates. The public finals will take place at Franklin HS on 11/23 and 11/24.

Unified Sports Update – This year, NJSIAA will offer Unified Basketball, Bowling, Swimming Relays and Spring Track. SONJ is continuing to grow its Unified Flag football program. The NJSIAA is going to watch that growth and may offer Unified Flag Football in the future if it shows growth.

NCAA Basketball Evaluation Period – This evaluation period is currently in effect. Mr. Stumpf is happy he has received many calls from Athletic Directors and coaches to ensure they are following the rules of this period correctly.

Derryk Sellers

Gymnastics Update – All tournament sites have been secured. Brick Memorial HS will host the individual and team championships.

Girls Volleyball Update – This year's state finals at Franklin HS have been broken up into two days of competition rather than one. Groups 1, 3 & Non-Public B will compete on 11/16, while Groups 2, 4 & Non-Public A will play on 11/17.

Boys Soccer Update – As Mr. Stumpf explained, Mr. Sellers and Mr. Stumpf are trying to secure Kean University for the non-public state finals. If Kean can't host, Franklin HS will. They are already hosting the public state finals.

NJSCA Clinics – Mr. Sellers is excited to announce that there are new clinics this year. The association will host a fencing clinic and has brought back the volleyball clinic. Below is a summary of upcoming NJSCA clinics:

1. Bowling Coaches Clinic – 10/1/24
 2. Golf Coaches Clinic – 10/18/24
 3. Fencing Coaches Clinic – 10/19/24
 4. Volleyball Clinic – In December 2024
 5. Tennis Coaches Clinic - January 10, 2025
 6. Swim Coaches Clinic - TBA
 7. Wrestling Coaches Clinic - TBA
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Finance Committee Update – Russell Petrocelli

Approval of Monthly Checks – The June 4, 2024 through September 12, 2024 checkbook was approved by the finance committee and all checks were approved per policy before they were disbursed.

Barry Walker made a motion, seconded by Kurt Karcich, to approve the June 4 through September 12, 2024 check registers. Motion carried unanimously.

Report of Counsel (Steven P. Goodell) - Mr. Goodell and Ms. Smith had a very busy summer. There were five lawsuits, all challenging the new Transfer Rule, all involving football players. Four cases involved senior transfer students, while the fifth was a student who transferred twice. Four cases were in Bergen County, while the last one was in Union County. Two of the cases were filed days before the season began so Mr. Goodell and Ms. Smith had a very short time to prepare briefs. Three plaintiffs asked the Appellate Division for permission to be heard but were denied, and two of those went to the NJ Supreme Court, which also denied relief.

The Association won all five cases. The judges consistently found that the transfer rule was rationally related to its purpose and the rulings by NJSIAA were reasonable and enforceable.

Mr. Goodell read a quote from Judge Mega in Union County, who said:

Defendant NJSIAA has a clear interest in enforcing the policies as thoroughly thought out [and] written based on its proffered purpose, which is to deter athletic school shopping and recruitment, maintain competitive balance among the schools, [and] avoid disruption of the student's education at the front and center. Students and the public at large have a similar interest in seeing that these procedures are properly enforced by the NJSIAA.

Ms. Maguire thanked Mr. Goodell and Ms. Smith for their efforts, demeanor, and how quickly and efficiently in which all these cases were handled.

Cooperative Sports Program Appeal – Ranney School – St. John Vianney Ice Hockey – The Cooperative Sports Appeal Committee denied the request of the Ranney School and St. John Vianney HS to participate in an ice hockey cooperative sports program together, so Ranney School appealed that decision to the Executive Committee. Special counsel, Casey Langel, Esq. served as the Hearing Officer. Oral arguments were given by Steven D. Farsiou, Esq., of Trinity & Farsiou, representing the Ranney School and Judy Finch Johnson, Chair of the Cooperative Sports Appeal Committee, who briefly explained why the committee issued the decision they did. After ten-minute oral arguments by each party, the committee was allowed to ask questions, before meeting in closed session to decide whether to affirm, deny or modify the decision of the Cooperative Sports Appeal Committee. No new evidence was presented, nor was new testimony allowed. The hearing was transcribed by a court reporter.

A motion was made by Dr. Troxell, seconded by Barry Walker, to move into closed session at 12:38 pm. A motion was made by Barry Walker, seconded by Dr. Troxell, to move into open session at 1:11 pm. In open session, a motion was made by Barry Walker, seconded by Steven Jenkins, to affirm the decision made by the Cooperative Sports Appeal Committee on 6/13/2024, which affirmed the decision of the Cooperative Sports Committee to deny the ice hockey cooperative sports program application between Ranney School and St. John Vianney. A roll call vote was taken. Yes-16; No-9; Abstain-7. Motion carried.

Old Business / New Business – none

Adjournment - There being no further business, a motion was made by Tammy Wagner seconded by Judy Finch-Johnson at 1:14 pm, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Maguire
Executive Director

CEM: In