



SECTION IX ATHLETICS

Robert Thabet, Executive Director

Section IX Athletic Council Meeting
Minutes of Meeting
Wallkill High School – April 12, 2011

1. Call to order – Bob Thabet
All Athletic Council Members were present except:
Don Andrews, John Landro, Fred Ahart, Al Wojtaszek and Ray Castellani
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Bob Thabet

Bob Thabet asked for a moment of silence for Carmen Congelli and Ray Castellani's mother.
3. Financial Report – Jim Osborne
Motion to approve by Dennis Burkett, 2nd by Toni Woody. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Review of Meeting Materials – Jim Osborne
 - A. April 2011 NYSPHSAA Office Report
 - B. Cost Saving Suggestions for Interscholastic Athletic Programs.
 - C. SED – Hot Topics
 - D. Questions To Ask Recruiters
 - E. Application for NYSPHSAA Friend and Neighbor Status – Harmony Christian School
 - F. Championship Philosophy Committee Report
 - G. Cheerleading AD Hoc Committee Report
 - H. Section IX Exceptional Senior Game Information
 - I. Merger of Ellenville Central School District and Wawarsing Christian Academy
 - J. Volunteer Application – 2011 Boys Soccer State Championship
 - K. Executive Director January & February Calendar for 2011
5. Approval of March 1, 2011 Minutes
Motion to approve by Bob Siracuse 2nd by Tim Bult. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. NYSPHSAA Report – Executive Committee Meeting
May 6-7, 2011
7. Section IX NYSPHSAA Representatives – Roberta Greene and Jim Wolfe
Reported on action items that will be voted by the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee.
8. Harmony Christian School – Friend and Neighbor Application
Mr. Gary Falk reviewed the sports and levels that the school is interested in participating in Section IX. Bob Thabet asked how the student body enrollment found out about the school. Mr. Falk stated that the usual ways that parents and students become aware of

Harmony Christian was through advertising and word of mouth. Mr. Falk also stated that the school district athletic program was evolving. Bob Thabet explained the process of becoming a Friend and Neighbor member.

9. Strategic Planning Committee – John Landro

It was reported that the committee has reviewed the categories of the Strategic Plan. The committee's next meeting is May 12, 2011 where the plan could be finalized and sent to the Sections by the middle of May. The final plan could be reviewed by the NYSPHSAA Central Committee in August 2011.

10. Resignation of Ken Rubino as Section IX Girls Basketball Chairperson.

Motion to accept Mr. Rubino's resignation made by Doug Murphy, second by Tim Bult. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Thabet thanked Mr. Rubino for his service.

Motion by Dennis Burkett, 2nd by Toni Woody, to approve Jason Semo and Brian Devincenzi as Co-Chairs of Girls Basketball. All in favor. Motion carried.

11. Championship Philosophy Committee Report – Dave Bernsley

Bob Thabet reported on the Executive Director conference call that discussed the committee's report. Jim Glover reviewed four and five classes for Cross Country. Motion made by Doug Murphy, 2nd by Dave Franskevicz, to accept the Championship Philosophy Report. All in favor. Motion carried.

12. Cheerleading – Cherie Ramsey

The Executive Director Conference Call also discussed this topic. The areas that were covered were making it safe, competitive vs. spirit and the cost of implementing a program. The Leagues have discussed this issue with the OCIAA approving moving forward. The OCIAA believes that NYSPHSAA should look at Cheerleading as a sport. The MHAL also discussed the issue with a concern of the cost involved. Keeping costs down, with programs being eliminated should be a concern for all school districts. Motion by Doug Murphy, 2nd by Tim Bult, to have NYSPHSAA move forward with Cheerleading as a sport. The vote was 5 for the motion and 5 against. The motion was not approved. Ms. Greene noted that so many things have to happen for Cheerleading to become a sport that Section IX should keep discussing the issue. Bob Thabet asked the Leagues to keep discussing Cheerleading as a sport for the future.

13. Exceptional Senior Football Contest – Pat D'Aliso

Pat D'Aliso and Dave Coates presented to the Athletic Council how the plan was developed. The coaches met to explore the concept and a presentation was made to the Football Committee, both groups approved the concept with Pat D'Aliso and the coaches developing an Exceptional Senior Game. The belief that football needs exposure with marketing the players for the Division II and III level. Dennis Burkett asked how will this contest enhance Section IX Football. What is the cost to school districts and what are the liabilities for school districts. Pat D'Aliso was asked about a time line for next year with a response that Section IX would need to approve the game by June 2011 if the game was going to be played in November of 2011. Glen Maisch talked about the positive aspects if this game was approved. Toni Woody stated that if approved the other Section IX sports would want Exceptional Senior contests. Dave Coates explained that

football doesn't have the AAU, Wishe or club programs and therefore recognition is limited to the season. Bob Thabet asked Pat and Dave to look into the MHAL concerns. Bob Thabet will look into the liabilities and Jim Osborne will look into the costs involved. Ms. Green discussed the issues that the committee should review such as liability, equipment and the coaches being Board approved. Ms. Robbie Greene also stated Mrs. Renee James, NYSPHSAA Counsel, should be asked her opinion.

14. Section IX Contract Negotiations – Dennis Burkett

All items and conditions outlined in the Agreement, Section IX Contract, shall remain in full force and effect, unchanged from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Motion to approve by Doug Murphy, 2nd by Tim Bult. All in favor. Motion carried. Bob Thabet thanked Dennis for his hard work in getting this accomplished.

15. Winter Chair Reports:

a. & b. Boys and Girls Basketball reports were given by Jason Semo who thanked SUNY New Paltz and Mt. St. Mary College.

c. Ice Hockey – Paul Bacsardi - No report.

d. Girls & Boys Indoor Track – Mike White - No report.

e. Boys Swimming – Scott Warner

Mr. Warner congratulated Lawrence Virgilio, Pine Bush senior, who was named co-swimmer of the meet at the Boys NYSPHSAA Swimming and Diving Championship.

f. Wrestling – Jeff Culty

Mike Kroemer reported that Mr. Culty had sent out a detailed email regarding Section IX Wrestling Division I and II.

Bob Thabet in review of the report stated Mr. Culty was resigning as the Section IX Wrestling Chairperson. Mr. Thabet asked for a motion to approve. Motion by Tim Bult, 2nd by Doug Murphy. All in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Thabet asked that Wrestling Chairperson position go back to the Leagues for discussion.

g. Gymnastics – Lee Ann Digsby - No report.

h. Nordic Skiing – Jon Stern - No report.

i. Alpine Skiing – Janet Carey - Report submitted.

j. Girls Bowling – Erena O'Brien

k. Boys Bowling – Theresa Eckert

Report given and submitted. The Chairperson would like the following concerns and recommendations to be reviewed by the Leagues.

1. Should Bowling be charging admission to the Sectional Tournament to use at States for expenses.

2. Season – High Series, High Game and High Average – Top 3 places.

3. Sectional Awards – Same as above plus Triple Crown – Top 2 places.

16. Spring Chair Reports:
- a. Softball – Bruce Guyette
Mike Larsen reported that rosters need to be submitted to NYSPHSAA as soon as possible. Bruce had given Mr. Larsen helmet stickers in memory of Carmen Congelli. If school districts are interested in receiving stickers please see Mr. Larsen after the meeting.

Report given at the last meeting for the following Spring Chair Reports.

- b. Baseball – Dave Onusko
 - c. Boys Golf – Dick O’Neill
 - d. Girls Golf – Bill Earl
 - e. Girls Lacrosse – Wendy Crandall
 - f. Boys Lacrosse – Bob Slate
 - g. Boys Tennis – Urvashi Gupta and Luann McCarthy
 - h. Track & Field – Joe Iatauro and Eric McLaud
17. Chair Reports:
- a. Girls & Boys Modified Sports – Brian Devincenzi & Helenanne Gillinder
Modified Committee:
 - 1. With Section/League approval students will be able to serve from a service line a maximum of two meters onto the court. Effective Fall 2011.
 - 2. In program 1 for the sport of wrestling the maximum weight class will be increased from 158 to 165 and a wrestler must weight a minimum of 67 pounds to compete at the lowest weight class of 74 pounds. Effective Fall 2011.
 - 3. To add field hockey to the sports of boys’ and girls’ lacrosse that allow teams that only have one goal keeper to play that goal keeper for all 4 quarters of an extended play game or all 5 quarters of a 5 quarter contest. Effective Fall 2011.
 - 4. With section/league approval the pitching distance for modified softball will be 40 feet or 43 feet. Effective immediately.
 - 5. To eliminate the mandate that all soccer goalies at the modified level wear an “all purpose type foam helmet”.
 - b. Safety – Janet Carey
The Safety Committee meets Wednesday, April 13, 2011. Motion by Toni Woody, 2nd by Dennis Burkett, to support approval for a sport specific field hockey mask be allowed without the use of goggles, as per NYS FHC discussion. All in favor.
Motion carried.
 - c. Chemical Health – Marco Lanzoni
A meeting was held March 17, 2011 in Saratoga, New York. At that time John Underwood presented information that could be distributed to school districts. Marco will contact the school districts to see if they are interested in receiving the report.
 - d. Officials Coordinator – Dennis Burkett
No report at this time.

- e. Eligibility – Fred Ahart
The committee will have a meeting after the meeting.
 - f. Sportsmanship – Glen Maisch
The spring sports promotion regarding Sportsmanship Recognition deadline is April 15, 2011. Please contact Glen Maisch for details.
18. New Business
- a. If any school districts have females on male teams please contact the Section IX Secretary. Please refer to page 98 in the NYSPHSAA 2010-2012 Handbook letter (d).
 - b. Doug Murphy motioned to approve the January and February 2011 calendar of the Executive Director Bob Thabet, 2nd by Tim Bult. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - c. Jason Semo – Spring Fling April 30, 2011 to benefit Rachel’s Challenge, please refer to hand out.
 - d. Kelly Doherty, Awards Chairperson, nominating Frank Carrozza as the 2011 Dr. William Moran Award winner. Motion by Tim Bult, 2nd by Dennis Burkett. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - e. Soccer States Volunteer Application for 2011 will be on the website soon.
19. Old Business:
None was reported.
20. Motion to adjourn made by Dennis Burkett, 2nd by Toni Woody. All in favor.
Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at Mount St. Mary College at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Osborne

James M. Osborne, Secretary
Section IX Athletics

JMO/al