



# **SECTION IX ATHLETICS**

**Robert Thabet, Executive Director**

Section IX Athletic Council Meeting  
Minutes of Meeting  
Orange-Ulster BOCES, Carl P. Onken Conference Center, Room B/C  
November 26, 2013

1. Call to order – Bob Thabet  
Bob Thabet asked for a moment of silence for Don Andrews, MHAL Chairperson and Section IX Athletic Council Member. Section IX made a contribution to the Don Andrews Scholarship Fund.  
  
Bob introduced guests to the Section IX Athletic Council Meeting, Mr. William Hecht, District Superintendent of Orange-Ulster BOCES and Mr. Robert Zayas, Executive Director of NYSPHSAA.  
  
All Athletic Council Members were present except Dave Bernsley.
2. Pledge of Allegiance – Bob Thabet
3. Financial Report – Jim Osborne  
Motion to approve by Doug Murphy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Cassata. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. Review of Meeting Materials – Jim Osborne
  - A. Proposed Resolution by the Section IX Athletic Council
  - B. Constitution Amendment – Doug Murphy
  - C. NYSPHSAA Executive Committee – October 24, 2013 Highlights
  - D. NYSED Physical Education, Health Education and Athletics Update
  - E. 2014-2015 NYSPHSAA Dues
  - F. November NYSPHSAA News
  - G. Section IX Athletics Reserve Fund/Investment Policy
  - H. Section IX BEDS Numbers for 2014-2015 – “DRAFT”
  - I. Dave Onusko, Baseball Chairperson, resignation letter
  - J. Release from Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement – West Point Indoor Track
5. Approval of September 24, 2013 Minutes  
Motion to approve was made by Dennis Burkett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Castellani. All in favor. Motion carried.
6. Mr. William Hecht  
Mr. Hecht reviewed the establishment of a Regional Office to be housed at the Orange-Ulster BOCES. The office would handle the “clerical work” of the MHAL which the Athletic Coordinator’s Office currently does for the OCIAA. Mr. Hecht has met and

talked to the Superintendents of Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan and Orange Counties. He discussed fee structure and answered questions. Mr. Hecht stated this move would be a good thing. Bob Thabet stated this is not a merger. The MHAL would keep their championships and schedules with the clerical work moving to the Athletic Coordinator's Office.

Ray Castellani asked about the MHAL maintaining their own league and that change is difficult. The savings to the school districts would be a plus. Doug Murphy asked about the time line to move forward.

7. Proposed Resolution – Bob Thabet

After Bob Thabet reviewed the Resolution he made the motion to approve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Castellani. All in favor. Motion carried.

8. Amendment to the Constitution – Doug Murphy

As presented by Doug Murphy it would be a positive move in regard to governance and representation by adding a Superintendent Representative from each of the counties. Back to the Leagues.

If approved the amendment would be effective at the same time that the clerical work of the MHAL and OCIAA would be handled by the Athletic Coordinator's Office. Bob Thabet will ask for a review of the Section IX Constitution after July 1, 2014.

9. Section IX NYSPHSAA Representatives – Roberta Greene and Jim Wolfe

Robert Zayas, Executive Director, NYSPHSAA reported on:

- A. State Championships
- B. SED Meetings to discuss Mixed Competition, Coaching Certification and Selection Classification.
- C. Branding – NYSPHSAA logo
- D. Sportsmanship

Ms. Greene and Mr. Wolfe discussed and reviewed:

- A. Scholar Athlete Team Award
- B. Future Ball Adoption
- C. Concussion Management
- D. Ad-hoc Committee to review Sport Classification.
- E. Review and Consider NYSPHSAA Sports to use NFHS Rules. Back to the Leagues.

Discussion took place regarding Section IX being incorporated. Dave Coates asked about sponsorships and Section IX. Roberta Greene stated a policy needs to be in place. Bob Thabet will review the NYSPHSAA policy.

10. Rondout Valley Participation Request – Dennis Burkett

Special Education student Brandon Copland lives in New Paltz but is a Rondout Valley student. Motion made by Dennis Burkett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Cassata, to approve his participation. All in favor. Motion carried.

11. Rondout Valley Gymnastics – Alan Baker  
Rondout Valley will follow Kingston team/schedule.
12. Fees for Sectional Contests – Bob Thabet  
Bob asked if any of the school districts or Sport Coordinators wanted to review what is charged by the different sports. At this time, the Athletic Council does not think this issue needs to be reviewed.
13. Reserve Fund/Investment Policy – Bob Thabet  
Motion to approve by Dennis Burkett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Toni Woody. All in favor. Motion carried.
14. Mergers 2013-2014 – Jim Osborne  
Motion to approve the following mergers made by Dennis Burkett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Toni Woody. All in favor. Motion carried.
  - Highland and Marlboro School Districts for Boys and Girls Bowling.
  - Liberty, Fallsburg and Eldred School Districts for Wrestling.
  - Family School with Hancock School District for Girls Basketball.

Motion by Toni Woody, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Cassata, to approve the merger of Wawarsing Christian School with the Ellenville School District for **2014-2015**. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Doug Murphy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Bult, to approve the merger of Ellenville and Rondout Valley for Modified Wrestling pending Board of Education approval. All in favor. Motion carried.

15. New York State Selection Classification – Bob Thabet  
Robert Zayas, Executive Director, NYSPHSAA, discussed the granting of permission to selectively classify student-athletes in K-8 school districts. In 1989 the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee approved the following:  
“Students may only be selectively classified between member schools. Furthermore, to be eligible to be selectively classified into a member schools’ athletic program, a student must be registered in that school district.”

Discussion took place regarding if this rule was waived it would disrupt the balance. Ray Castellani asked if this was a discrimination issue since schools that have grades 7-12 are allowed to selectively classify. NYSPHSAA is holding firm to this rule but since NYSPHSAA is a member led organization they would review this Rule/Regulation if the membership wanted to review the situation

16. BEDS Report – Jim Osborne  
Report is NOT Final and NOT Approved. Athletic Directors are asked to review their classification numbers and sport classification. Please call the Athletic Coordinator’s Office immediately if you have a question or concern.
17. Dutchess County Applications into Section IX – Robert Thabet

Motion to approve Poughkeepsie application effective July 1, 2014 to be placed in the MHAL. Motion was made by Tom Cassata, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Castellani. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Doug Murphy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dennis Burkett, to extend the Section IX application deadline from November 30, 2013 to December 31, 2013. All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Dennis Burkett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Murphy, to table Our Lady of Lourdes application for Section IX. All in favor. Motion carried. Back to the Leagues.

18. Dave Onusko Resignation – Baseball Chairman

Motion by Dennis Burkett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Castellani, to accept with regret. All in favor. Motion carried.

Back to the Leagues – Need to discuss Chairperson position.

19. Fall Chair Reports

a. Cross Country Jim Glover and Joe Cahill

Section IX had a great year. The results will be available online. The 2014 NYSPHSAA Meet will be held in Canton, New York. In 2015 Section IX will host the NYSPHSAA Meet.

b. Football Dave Coates and Glen Maisch

Thank you to the Committee and Athletic Coordinator's Office. Class winners: AA – Monroe-Woodbury A – Cornwall B – Marlboro C – Burke D – Chester Good luck to our NYSPHSAA finalists. Class AA – Monroe-Woodbury Class D – Chester

The Exceptional Senior Game was held at NFA and special thank you to the NFA staff and coaches involved.

c. Boys Soccer Pete Ferguson

Report will be online. Class AA Monroe-Woodbury and Class A Goshen represented Section IX in the NYSPHSAA Championship.

Ideas and/or suggestions for the Committee please contact a Committee member or the Chairperson. The MHAL requests more involvement with the Soccer Committee regarding the seeding meeting. Section IX has put a bid in for 2015-2016-2017 NYSPHSAA Tournament.

d. Girls Soccer Diane Wanser

Report online. The 2014 Seed Meeting will be Wednesday, October 22, 2014.

e. Field Hockey C.J. Bull-Knuth

Report online.

f. Girls Swimming Pat Ryan

Results online. Congratulations to the Division, Sectional and NYSPHSAA Finalist.

g. Girls Tennis                      Selina DeCicco  
Report online.

h. Volleyball                      Toni Woody  
Thank you to SUNY New Paltz for hosting the Championship. Class A Cornwall and Class C Millbrook represented NYSPHSAA in the Championship.

20. Chair Reports

a. Girls & Boys Modified Sports – Jeremy Weber & Michelle Henn  
Discussion item: Student Transfer. Information will be sent to the Leagues to be discussed. [Back to the Leagues.](#)

b. Safety – Janet Carey  
No report.

c. Chemical Health – Marco Lanzoni  
Check NYSPHSAA website for updates. Chemical Health page will be set-up for Life of an Athlete.

d. Officials Coordinator – Dennis Burkett  
Nothing to report at this time.

e. Eligibility – Fred Ahart  
There will be a meeting after the meeting.

f. Sportsmanship – Glen Maisch  
Spoke at the OCIAA Winter Rules Interpretations Meeting.

g. Classification Committee – Tom Cassata  
The Committee will meet after the meeting.

21. Winter Chair Reports

a. Girls Basketball – Steve Boucher  
Handbook online. Discussion is taking place regarding NFHS rules.  
[Back to the Leagues.](#)

b. Boys Basketball – Fred Ahart  
Handbook online. February 20, 2014 Seed Meeting. Athletic Directors are reminded to post rosters online.

c. Ice Hockey – Frank Alessandrino  
No report.

d. Girls and Boys Indoor Track – Mike White  
Dates and information are online.

e. Boys Swimming – Scott Warner  
Handbook online.

f. Wrestling – Jeff Culty

Mike Kroemer reported that the weight certifications have been completed with the Section IX Duals the first week of December.

g. Gymnastics – Lee Ann Pazoga

The Handbook with changes is online. The coaches have been notified. The Sectionals are February 12, 2014 at F.D.R. with the NYSPHSAA Championship at the College of Brockport on March 1, 2014.

h. Nordic Ski – Jon Stern – No report.

Alpine Ski – Janet Carey – No report.

i. Bowling – Boys and Girls – Erena O’Brien & Theresa Eckert

The coaches have met and reviewed the schedule with the Section IX Championship on February 11, 2014 and the NYSPHSAA Championship on March 1-2, 2014 on Long Island.

## 22. New Business

Doug Murphy reported that Fred Ahart will be honored Sunday, January 4, 2014 by the Roscoe Central School District. The school district will name the gymnasium after Mr. Ahart.

Steve Boucher requested the Fall Sport Committee review game times. The student-athlete is missing too much class time. [Back to the Leagues.](#)

Female Wrestlers on Male Teams:

The following school districts have reported to Section IX Athletics that they will have a female on their wrestling team: Rondout Valley, Pine Bush, Monticello, Kingston, Highland, New Paltz, Port Jervis and Onteora.

Online Coaching Courses

Jim Osborne is meeting with Orange-Ulster BOCES personnel regarding set-up of the blended Philosophy and Principles Course.

Jolene Porter reported to the Section IX Athletic Council the following 2013-2014 Awards. Certificate of Merit:

Robert Esposito, Dover (10)	Antonia Woody, New Paltz (15)
Don Kiernan, John Coleman Catholic (10)	Robert Gravelle, S.S. Seward (15)
Amy McArdle-Rausenberger, F.D.R. (10)	Tim Bult, Liberty, Fallsburg, Minisink (15)
Fred Ahart, Roscoe (45)	

Secretary Award – Roxanne Phillips, Wallkill

Distinguished Service – Roberta Greene, Washingtonville

Community Service – SUNY New Paltz

Athletic Administrator Award – Jim Osborne

23. Old Business  
None at this time.

24. Motion to adjourn by Doug Murphy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Bult. All in favor. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at Marlboro High School at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*James M. Osborne*

James M. Osborne, Secretary  
Section IX Athletics

JMO/al