

CIAC BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2018

Present: William Thompson, Janice Saam, Linda Iacobellis, Anthony Azzarra, Daniel Moleti, Uyi Osunde, Erin Clark, Anna Mahon, Mike Fritch, Michele Cordeau, Trish Witkin, Jiggs Cecchini, Joseph Canzanella, Robert Lehr, Matt Fischer, George Synnott, Joe Tonelli, Stephanie Ford, Fred Balsamo, Gregg Simon, Karissa Niehoff

The meeting began at 2:30 pm with Chair Anthony Azzarra presiding.

1.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 Review and approval of the Board of Control Minutes for January 11, 2018 – After review and discussion the Board voted to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion: To approve minutes – J. Saam / second – E. Clark / motion approved.

- 1.2 Treasurer's Report – Anthony Azzarra presented the financial report as of January 31, 2018. Almost all of the fall data is reflected in the report indicating a successful fall championship season.

Motion: To approve Treasurer's Report – E. Clark / second – D. Moleti / motion approved.

- 1.3 Letter of Self-Report – Use of Ineligible Student-Athlete – [ ] – The Board considered a letter of self-report from [ ] regarding use of an ineligible student-athlete who participated on the wrestling team. The student transferred from New Britain to East Hartford over the summer. The student had not yet registered as a transfer student with the CIAC as East Hartford was awaiting court documentation regarding guardian status. The student competed in two exhibition wrestling matches on January 6 and January 10, 2018.

Motion: To fine the school \$200 for violation of CIAC Eligibility Rules – L. Iacobellis / second – A. Mahon / motion approved.

- 1.4 Letter of Self-Report – Out-of-Season Coaching Violation – [ ] – The Board considered a letter of self-report from [ ] for a violation of the out-of-season coaching rules by its baseball program. The school's Junior Varsity Baseball coach coached a travel baseball team during the summer of 2017. The team included six players who had just completed their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year at [ ] Middle School and were planning to enroll at [ ]. Gregg Simon confirmed that the coach had been hired to coach during the Spring of 2018.

Motion: To fine the school \$250 for violation of the out-of-season coaching rule and require the coach to complete Module 5 of the Connecticut Coaching Education Program – L. Iacobellis / second – D. Moleti / motion approved.

- 1.5 Letter of Self-Report – Use of Ineligible Player – [ ] – The Board considered a letter of self-report from [ ] for use of an ineligible player in the sport of boys basketball. It was discovered that a participant on the [ ] boys basketball team was also a member of a parks and recreational team during the basketball season in violation of the in-season rules. The league began play January 6, 2018. The student played in high school games on January 27, February 3 and February 10, 2018. The school vacated all wins on the JV boys team from January 27 to February 12. The student in question did not participate in any Varsity contests. The Board acknowledged that [ ] staff responded quickly and had already taken steps to prevent the situation from recurring. [ ] explained in greater detail

actions taken by [ ] staff and stated that a penalty was important. Karissa Niehoff reminded the board that they have the flexibility to assign fiscal penalties as they deem appropriate; the maximum is not required.

Motion: To fine the school \$200, require that the school review the student-athlete handbook, require that the student-athlete remain ineligible for the remainder of the season – Erin Clark / second – Jan Saam / motion approved with [ ] abstaining.

- 1.6 School Start Time – Approval of Revision of School Start Time Language – Gregg Simon reviewed the Board discussion from the previous meeting and presented revised language for approval.

Motion: To approve revised language – J. Saam / second – E. Clark / motion approved.

## 2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2.1 F-1 Visa – Karissa Niehoff updated the Board on CIAC concerns regarding increasing numbers of students on F-1 Visas attending CIAC member schools. Many of these students are coming to the US through non-CSIET programs. The number of agents and agencies that place these students in US schools has increased. Current CIAC by-laws allow F-1 students to be eligible if they have not participated in athletics at the Varsity level equivalent or higher; this can be difficult to ascertain.
- 2.2 Woodstock Academy – Karissa Niehoff updated the Board on recent discussions with Woodstock Academy regarding their desire to remain members of the CIAC while also compete in the Evergreen League (NEPSAC) in the sport of football. There has been recent media coverage of the situation. According to CIAC By-laws and the CIAC membership agreement this situation is not allowed. Woodstock Academy will need to decide if they wish to remain as members of the CIAC and compete in all CIAC sponsored sports within the CIAC member league (ECC).
- 2.3 Update on Opt-out Option for Co-ops – Karissa Niehoff reported that four co-op teams that completed the Phase-out process have chosen to opt-out of CIAC tournament play in order that they compete one additional year as a team.
- 2.4 League Meetings – Gregg Simon provided the Board with brief updates on visits to league meetings. Gregg and Karissa have visited seven leagues so far and have shared informative discussions with each; many similarities in conversations; some concerns unique to each league. Some feedback from leagues has already been implemented- ex. School start time revisions.
- 2.5 Girls and Boys Golf Committee – Gregg shared that there is strong support from the committee and coaches to allow golf student-athletes to participate in eight (8) outside events during the season. CAAD will be reporting on their vetting process very soon.

## 3.0 CONSULTANT REPORTS

- 3.1 CAS – No report
- 3.2 CAPSS – No report
- 3.3 CABE – No report
- 3.4 Sports Medicine – No report
- 3.5 CATA – No report
- 3.6 Unified Sports – George Synnott reported that the Unified Sports basketball season will include 27 tournaments. Seven leagues offer their own tournaments. Unified Sport teams will again play during half-time at Mohegan Sun.
- 3.7 CAAD – Trish Witkin reported that the CAAD Conference will be March 22, 23. There is great professional development planned and they anticipate excellent attendance. Two LTC courses will be offered the day prior to the conference. The Awards Banquet will

feature student scholarship winners and Joe Tonelli will be inducted into the CAAD Hall-of-Fame.

- 3.8 CHSCA – Mike Fritch reported that the January meeting was cancelled; they will be meeting next week. All –State procedures will be reviewed; five dinners will take place in March.
- 3.9 Officials – Joe Tonelli reported that information about pre-season meetings for coaches and interpreters has been posted online and sent to ADs. All 54 groups were recently surveyed relative to recruitment and retention of officials.
  
- 4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS
  - 4.1 Eligibility – Linda Iacobellis reported that the Eligibility Committee heard five cases; four were denied; one was approved.
  - 4.2 Eligibility Review Board – Linda Iacobellis reported that the Review Board did not meet last month as there were no cases.
  
- 5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
  - 5.1 Schools of Choice enrollment process and reporting
  - 5.2 Review of CIAC Sunday Play By-laws
  
- 6.0 STAFF REPORTS
  - 6.1 Robert Lehr reported that the Bowling Tournament is scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - 6.2 Karissa Niehoff provided information about the J. Robert Ford Athletic Grant that will be announced soon. The grant will be based on athletic need and available on a rolling basis throughout the school year. The grant honors the work of J. Robert Ford who was a founder of the CIAC Foundation. Karissa updated the Board on the progress made regarding the 15 schools receiving Pixellot cameras. Karissa provided an update on esports and the recent partnership between PlayVS and the NFHS Network. Karissa recently attended a symposium in Atlanta during which PlayVS offered a detailed presentation. Participants then toured an esports production studio. Finally, Karissa provided a brief update on the Legislative session and anticipated issues.
  
- 7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS
  - 7.1 NFHS Executive Directors update January, 2018
  - 7.2 NFHS Executive Directors update February, 2018

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 5, 2018