

CIAC BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING MINUTES

August 24, 2017

Present: Anthony Azzara, Fred Balsamo, Robert Cecchini, Matt Fischer, Joe Canzanella, Stephanie Ford, Damian Frassinelli, Linda Iacobellis, Francis Kennedy, Robert Lehr, Anna Mahon, Karissa Niehoff, Carl Nissen, Sheila Riffle, Janice Saam, Gregg Simon, Beth Smith, George Synnott, Dave Tanner, Joe Tonelli, Dave Leete, Paul Hoey.

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m. Dr. Niehoff welcomed everyone and introduced the members of the Board.

Board Chair Azzara reviewed the dates and times of meetings for the 2017-18 year and the voting process for the Board of Control.

1.0 ACTION ITEMS

1.1 Review and approval of the Board of Control Minutes for May 4, 2017 – After review and discussion the Board voted to approve the minutes as presented. Motion to approve – F. Kennedy / second – B. Smith – motion approved.

1.2 Treasurer's Report – B. Smith, CIAC Board Treasurer, presented the financial report as of July 2017.

Dr. Niehoff explained, for the benefit of new members of the Board, that the report reflects both CAS and CIAC. Motion to approve – B. Smith / second – F. Kennedy – motion approved

1.3 Application for Membership – J.M. Wright Tech. High School, Stamford – Associate Executive Director Simon reported that J.M. Wright, a former member of CIAC, has reapplied for full membership. The school had closed for several years and was recently renovated and reopened. The school's application was very comprehensive and indicated the school will have a sub-varsity program in several boys and girls sports for two years. The school anticipates starting a varsity program in all sports offered in year three. The school will be a member of the Connecticut Technical Conference. Further, the school will be assessed 50% of the normal CAS-CIAC dues during the phase-in period.

Additionally, the agreement with the school allows any student-athlete who has been participating in sports at their "home" high school may continue to do so for the next three years if they so desire. However, if they opt to play any sport at Wright Tech. they can no longer play at their "home" school. Further, any incoming student and those presently in attendance who were not playing at their "home" school can only play sports at J.M. Wright.

"Home" school – The school to which they would have otherwise attended.

Motion: Approve the membership application submitted by J.M. Wright Tech. High School – D. Tanner / second B. Smith / Approved

1.4 Request to Approve Changes in the Annual Reporting Form – G. Simon reported that a member school had questioned if it was necessary to report students who attend a public school of choice without any athletic program who return to their "home" school to play. CIAC staff determined that all students who attend such programs are potential athletes and must be included in the school's annual enrollment report. Consequently, the annual enrollment reporting form has been revised and clarified directing schools to report any students who attend a choice program without an athletic program and are allowed to return to the school to which they would have otherwise attended to be reported as potential athletes. The total will then be added to their school enrollment for tournament placement purposes.

After review and discussion, the Board voted to approve the changes in the annual enrollment reporting form. Motion to approve the changes in the annual reporting form as submitted – F. Kennedy / second S. Riffle / motion approved

- 1.5 Vacancy – CIAC Eligibility Committee – G. Simon reported that there will be a vacancy on the Eligibility Committee due to Fran Kennedy, the Chair/Class M rep on the committee accepting a new position with NEASC. Staff is recommending that Neil Rinaldi, Principal of Ellington High School and former member of the Eligibility Committee be appointed to fill the Class M vacancy.

Motion to appoint N. Rinaldi as the Class M rep on the Eligibility Committee – B. Smith / second F. Kennedy – motion approved

- 1.6 Approve the Addition of an “At-large” Position to the Eligibility Review Board (ERB) – G. Simon reported CIAC staff is recommending the addition of an “at-large” member to the ERB to assure ample qualified members are in attendance at hearings. Staff is recommending that Glenn Lungarini, Principal of Pomperaug High School and former member of the CIAC Board of Control be appointed. After discussion, the Board voted to approve the appointment of Glenn Lungarini to the ERB as an “at-large” member.

Motion – To approve the appointment of Glenn Lungarini as an “at-large” member of the ERB – B. Smith / second S. Riffle / approved

2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2.1 CIAC Relationship with Arbiter Sports – Matt Fischer reported on two agreements between CIAC and Arbiter Sports. The first is a program that works with Arbiter’s scheduling program for officials that is linked to their payment program – Arbiter Pay that some school systems may want to use. Information will be rolled out to schools / athletic directors / business managers soon. Secondly, efforts are underway to integrate the CIAC scheduling system with Arbiter to make it seamless for schools. Work will continue on this for the 2017-18 year.
- 2.2 Legislative Task Force in High School Sports – Dr. Niehoff reported on legislation that calls for a task force on high school sports, the topics to be addressed by the task force and who will be appointed to serve on the task force. Dr. Niehoff will represent CIAC on the task force. There has been no action to date due most likely to more pressing issues such as the budget. She will keep the Board informed. Further, Dr. Niehoff discussed issues surrounding transgender athletes and their participation in league and CIAC championships.
- 2.3 NFHS Update – Dr. Niehoff provided an overview of the NFHS, its function and the role state associations play in the NFHS. Also reviewed were national and state athletic participation numbers and the importance of educational based athletics. Dr. Niehoff also reviewed other incentives of the NFHS to increase participation in athletics and student activities, the voices of athletes and the NFHS network to name a few.
- 2.4 E-Sports – Non-Athletic Student Activity – Dr. Niehoff provided an update on a new program that engage students in a non-athletic online competition e-sports. The program is growing across the country at the college and high school level. CAS-CIAC will be sponsoring a workshop for interested schools on September 27 at the CIAC office. This is an opportunity to engage those students who are not already involved in athletics or other school activities.
- 2.5 Kory Stringer Institute – Study and Rankings – Dr. Niehoff commented on the recent rankings that were released by the Kory String Institute showing that Connecticut ranked 38 out of 51 for safety and heat acclimation. The report/research was conducted by reviewing the website for state associations. At no point was CIAC contacted and asked for information. CIAC, as well as NFHS, were critical of the research which resulted in inaccurate rankings. Much of CIAC information is included in tournament packets and coaching education courses which were never checked by the researchers.
- 2.6 Update – Boys Basketball Proposal – Robert (Jiggs) Cecchini, Boys Basketball Tournament Director reviewed the proposed changes in boys basketball and provided documents to the board on how schools

would be placed in divisions. The proposal is presently being reviewed by various leagues, coaches and CAAD. He will have a formal proposal for the CIAC Board of Control at the September 21 meeting.

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 92% of Connecticut high schools now have a Unified Sports program. The staff is continuing to work with schools without a program who have students who would benefit. Limited funds are available for start-up costs for those schools. Efforts are underway to expand offerings and events for member schools.

- 3.7 CAAD – Damian Frassinelli thanked CIAC for nominating him for a position on a NFHS committee. He reported that a Shelton student has been selected as the national winner in the Ethan Shuster NIAAA essay contest. Also, Trish Witkin will receive an NIAAA Distinguished Service Award at the NIAAA Conference in December.

- 3.8 CHSCA – Joe Canzanella reported that Mike Fritch, the incoming president of CHSCA, was unable to attend today’s meeting due to medical issues and that he will be representing John Fontana at future Board meetings.

- 3.9 Officials – Dave Leete – Lacrosse official and member of the Advisory Board reports on rules meetings and changes in lacrosse field markings.

4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 4.1 Eligibility – Fran Kennedy, Chair of the Eligibility Committee, reported they reviewed ten requests for waiver of CIAC eligibility rules. Two cases were granted and eight were denied.

- 4.2 Eligibility Review Board – No report as the ERB does not meet until August 31.

5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 5.1 Schools of Choice enrollment process and reporting

- 5.2 Injury Surveillance RIO and new process for Connecticut

- 5.3 Transgender Athletes

6.0 STAFF REPORTS

- 6.1 Matt Fischer – No report
- 6.2 Joel Cookson – No report
- 6.3 Robert Lehr – No report

- 6.4 Joe Tonelli – No report
- 6.5 Stephanie Ford – Reported on the partnership with the Connecticut Open Tennis Championship and that Herff Jones has signed on with us as a sponsor for the Sportsmanship Conference.
- 6.6 Gregg Simon – Reported on the recently held summer rules and regulations workshop held for new AD's and others
- 6.7 Karissa Niehoff – Reported earlier in the meeting during discussion items

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

- 7.1 NFHS Executive Director's Update – June through August 2017
- 7.2 NFHS Position Statements – April 2017
- 7.3 High School Today – May 2017

Chair Azzara asked the Board members to review the above items and reminded them of the date and time of the next meeting.