

CIAC BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING MINUTES
September 21, 2017

Present: Anthony Azzara, Beth Smith, William Thompson, Daniel Moleti, Joe Canzanella, Robert Cecchini, Marc Aceto, Matt Fischer, Joel Cookson, Paul Hoey, Mary Lee Weber, George Synnott, Joe Tonelli, Karissa Niehoff, Fran Kennedy, Damian Frassinelli, David Telesca, Uyi Osunde, Matt Ryan, Gregg Simon, Linda Iacobellis, Robert Lehr, Michael Fritch, S. Riffle.

The meeting began at 2:00 p.m. Chairperson Azzara welcomed everyone and asked the group to identify themselves as there are some new Board members.

1.0 ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 Review and approval of the Board of Control Minutes for August, 2017 – After review and discussion the Board voted to approve the minutes as presented with one correction- the student-athlete from Shelton who has won the NIAAA essay contest was Ethan Shuster.

Motion: To approve minutes with revision – M. Ryan / second – F. Kennedy / motion approved.

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

Motion: To approve Treasurer's Report – D. Telesca / second – F. Kennedy / motion approved

- 1.3 Vacancy – Chairperson CIAC Eligibility Committee – G. Simon reported that there will be vacancy in the chairperson position for the CIAC Eligibility Committee due to current chairperson Fran Kennedy assuming a new position with NEASC. CIAC staff recommended Linda Iacobellis Assistant Principal at Manchester High School and current at-large member of the Eligibility Committee be appointed as chairperson.

Motion: To appoint Linda Iacobellis chairperson of CIAC Eligibility Committee – B. Smith / second M. Ryan / motion approved

- 1.4 Letter of Self-Report – [] The Board considered a letter of self-report from [] for use of an ineligible player who played in one football game. The school discovered the home address provided by the parent when he enrolled at the school this year was not the residence of his parents or legal guardian. The violation was discovered after he had competed in one varsity football game against [] which [] won. The school informed the student-athlete he would be ineligible the remainder of the season.

Motion: To fine the school \$100 for the violation, forfeit the game in which the athlete participated and that athlete remains ineligible for remainder of the season or until The Board reinstates his eligibility – F. Kennedy / second M. Ryan / motion approved

- 1.5 Proposal – Boys Basketball Tournament Division Increase – The Board considered a proposal from the Boys Basketball Committee as presented by tournament director R. Cecchini to expand the CIAC Boys Basketball Tournament from four divisions to five and to change the criteria used to place teams in divisions beginning with the 2017-18 tournament for a one-year trial. The proposal had been reviewed and approved by the coaches and athletic directors through their membership organizations. The factors used to determine division assignment include enrollment, power points, conference rankings, conference championship play and success in CIAC tournament play. Discussion continued on the appeals process, should the trial be for a one or two year period, and if the schools will be provided the specific information (points) which led to their placement. After discussion the Board entertained the following proposal:

Motion: To approve the proposal from the Boys Basketball Committee to expand the CIAC Boys Basketball Tournament from four divisions to five and to change the criteria used to place teams in

divisions beginning with the 2017-18 tournament for a one-year trial – D. Telesca / second B. Smith / motion approved with two votes opposed.

2.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2.1 Participation of Transgender Athletes – Dr. Niehoff led a discussion regarding the current CIAC rules for participation of transgender athletes. She explained the genesis of the rule and that a circumstance last spring of a transgender athlete competing in track & field led to a request from some member schools that the Board have a discussion about the CIAC participation policy. Board members discussed the topic including questions on whether there were times when CIAC policies could be different than state statutes, how other state high school associations are handling this topic as well as how it's handled at the collegiate level. CIAC staff will continue to monitor this issue and seek feedback from Board members if there is a move towards a change in policy.
- 2.2 Income & Expense Report – Dr. Niehoff presented the Board members with a report summarizing CIAC championship income and expenses over the past few years. This was done to keep Board members informed and also to illustrate how the CIAC budget works within the overall CAS-CIAC budget. Dr. Niehoff noted that CIAC is going to work to continue to keep expenses down and have asked sport committees to work hard in that regard while also trying to continue to find ways to increase attendance and interest in CIAC championships. P. Hoey also noted that CIAC refunded over one hundred and six thousand dollars to member schools who hosted tournament basketball games this past year in addition to over fifty thousand dollars refunded for football quarter and semi-final games.

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 – No report
- 3.7 CAAD – No report
- 3.8 CHSCA – No report
- 3.9 Officials – No report

4.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 4.1 Eligibility – F. Kennedy, Chair of the Eligibility Committee reported on the Eligibility Committee. The Committee heard seven cases (three transfers, three eight semester rules, one outside team) and two were approved.
- 4.2 Eligibility Review Board – F. Kennedy reported on the Eligibility Review Board's meeting on 8/31/17. The Board heard seven cases and approved two (both eight-semester rules).

5.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 5.1 Schools of Choice enrollment process and reporting
- 5.2 Injury Surveillance RIO and new process for Connecticut

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 – Updated the Board on communication between the CIAC and officials regarding athletes wearing items for religious purposes that don't adhere to NFHS uniform regulations. He explained there is a process in place for schools to clear athletes for approval with these items.

- 6.5 Mary Lee Weber – Thanked Beth Smith for her efforts in supporting a fund raising effort with the Red Cross and WTNH News 8.

- 6.6 Gregg Simon – Updated the Board with a “Save the Date” for the 2017 CIAC Sportsmanship Conference on Thursday, November 16. He also pointed out that winter and spring sports committee meetings have begun taking place at the CIAC offices. The office has also been dealing with a large number of transfer requests.

- 6.7 Karissa Niehoff – Updated the Board members on a development with injury reporting. CIAC has developed an in-house injury reporting system to replace RIO which had features member schools did not like. There were some concerns about the security and anonymity of the data but Dr. Niehoff informed the group a communication will be going to schools shortly that the system is consistent with HIPPA/FERPA regulations. Dr. Niehoff also informed the Board that CASCIAC will be teaming with other educational leadership organizations in a partnership with the Brother's Brother Foundation to support schools impacted by hurricanes. Brother's Brother will match up to \$300,000 in donations and the groups have already reached out to and “adopted” several schools in need of assistance after the recent hurricanes.

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

Chair Azzara asked the Board members to review the above items and reminded them of the date and time of the next meeting (10/26/17 at 2 p.m.).