

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, August 18, 2014
1:30 pm
RIIL Office
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Gribbin and Keegan; Messrs., Barr, DiMuccio, Goho, Kelly, Kenworthy, McCarthy, Sollitto, Vetelino, Warner and Whaley

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Mike Lunney, Assistant Director, Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant; and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Mmes. Abromitis and Crowley; Messrs. Kavanagh and Littlefield

The August meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

WELCOME JAMEY VETELINO, RIIAAA

Chairman McNamara welcomed James Vetelino, athletic director at Westerly High School as the new member representing the RIIAAA on the Committee.

PCOA MINUTES JUNE 16, 2014

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the June 16, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved (13-0).

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move to Executive Session.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: Finance Committee report; 2013-2014 Revenue Share to RIIL schools and 2014-2015 Budget.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT, BUDGET 2014-2015 AND RIIL REVENUE SHARE

Mr. Sollitto, chairman of the Finance Committee reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on August 18, 2014 and submitted its report regarding the 2014-2015 RIIL budget and the 2013-2014 revenue share with RIIL schools. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics unanimously approved (13-0) the RIIL budget for the 2014-2015 school year and revenue share to RIIL schools.

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

The 2013-2014 Annual Report was reviewed and approved. Copies will be distributed to all schools.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported the following topics: PCOA Waiver Hearing Committee; 2014 NFHS Summer Conference; Principals Annual Breakfast (Sept 26); 2014-2015 Tentative Calendar; RIIL School Membership; RIIAAA – Issues for Consideration; NE Student Leadership Conference; RIIL Student Advisory Board & Goals; RIIL Hall of Fame (Oct. 2015); RI National Guard Partnership and NFHS Concussion Summit.

GUIDANCE FOR PCOA MEMBERS REGARDING MEETING MINUTES, NOTES AND EMAILS

Mr. Mezzanotte presented guidance for PCOA members regarding meeting minutes, notes and emails. The Committee discussed ramifications of board related meeting notes and emails.

RIIL GOALS 2014-2015

Mr. Mezzanotte presented the RIIL Goals for 2014-2015:

- Promote the August Coaches/AD Conference
- Continue to support the RIIL Student Advisory Board and their initiatives
- Organize the annual December 2014 Student Conference
- Continue dialogue with the RIIAAA Executive Board
- Promote the NFHS Network: School Broadcast Program
- RIIL Luncheon: April 2015
- Continue dialogue with the RI Middle Schools Sports Association

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move out of Executive Session.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee received a letter from Mr. Dennis DeJesus, CEO of Special Olympics Rhode Island requesting a seat on the Principals' Committee on Athletics. According to the RIIL bylaws and constitution, this appointment could not be permitted.

RIIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC). The SMAC endorsed the Pre-Participation Physical Examination Form and letter to all parents and medical community. This letter and form is intended to indicate the importance of a complete pre-participation physical examination. He also reported that the SMAC will be requesting that all present school athletic trainers provide injury information throughout the year as part of the RIO (Reporting Information Online) Injury Surveillance Survey.

NFHS NETWORK: SCHOOL BROADCAST PROGRAM

The RIIL supports the NFHS Network and encourages all schools to participate in the School Broadcast Program.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (13-0) to delete Article 6, Section 14.B - For School Equipment Used at (summer) Football Camps.

REQUEST FROM BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

The Committee received a letter from Mr. Joseph Hurley, Principal of Barrington High School asking the Committee to reconsider the sanctions imposed on the Barrington High School Boys' Basketball Coach. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously denied (0-13) the request.

COOPERATIVE TEAM REQUESTS

Reminder: All winter sports cooperative team requests are due to the RIIL by September 15, 2014.

SPRING SPORTS ALIGNMENTS

Reminder: All spring sports alignments are due to the RIIL by November 17, 2014.

WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEALS

Jake Lyman – Middletown High School

Waiver of Article 3, Section 4C., the Eight (8) Semester Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee. Motion to grant waiver: 11-1 (approved)

Anthony Rojas – Juanita Sanchez High School

Waiver of Article 3, Section 4C., the Eight (8) Semester Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee. Motion to grant waiver: 6-5-1 (denied)

The Committee then adopted the following closing motion: THAT ANY AND ALL MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.

The August meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, November 17, 2014
1:30 pm
RIIL Office
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Abromitis, Crowley, Gribbin and Keegan; Messrs., Barr, DiMuccio, Goho, Kavanagh, Kelly, Littlefield, McCarthy, Sollitto, Vetelino, Warner and Whaley

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Director, Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant; and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: None

The November meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

PCOA MINUTES AUGUST 18, 2014

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the August 18, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved (16-0).

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move to Executive Session.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: Resignation of Tom Kenworthy; PCOA Vacancy; NFHS Outstanding Service Award – Dr. Puerini; Cheer Proposal; Rule Changes and Waiver Hearing Appeals.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move out of Executive Session.

FINANCE REPORT

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (16-0) approved the finance report submitted by Ms. Donna Kane, Business Manager.

PCOA RESIGNATION

The Committee on Athletics received a letter of resignation from Mr. Thomas Kenworthy, Ed.D., as a member of the Principals' Committee on Athletics. On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously accepted (16-0), with regret, Mr. Kenworthy's resignation.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- NFHS Outstanding Service Award – Dr. Al Puerini
 - On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (16-0) approved the nomination of the NFHS Outstanding Service Award for Dr. Al Puerini.
- NFHS Heart of The Arts Award
 - Mr. Mezzanotte encouraged all schools to nominate someone for the NFHS Heart of The Arts Award. The recipient must be an individual from a high school that is a member of an NFHS-member athletic or activity association—the Rhode Island Interscholastic League.
- NFHS Concussion Summit Guidelines
 - On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved in principle the NFHS Concussion Summit Guidelines. Guidelines will be forwarded to the Football Sport Committee for discussion and recommendation.
- 2013-2014 High School Sports Related Injury Surveillance Study

PCOA NEW APPOINTMENT

The Committee on Athletics reviewed and discussed a number of applications of those administrators interested in serving on the PCOA. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (15-1) to approve the appointment of Jay Brennan, Principal of Bishop Hendricken High School.

SPRING SPORTS ALIGNMENT – 2014-2016

On a motion made and seconded, the following spring sports alignments were approved for two years (2014-2016): Fast Pitch Softball, Baseball, Boys' Lacrosse, Girls' Lacrosse, Boys' Volleyball, Boys' Tennis, Boys' and Girls' Track and Golf. Approved Alignments will be sent to all schools.

COOPERATIVE TEAM APPROVALS - WINTER

The following winter cooperative teams were approved for two (2014-15 & 2015-16) years in Boys Hockey: Johnston/North Providence, PCD/St. Rays/Wheeler and Rogers/Middletown/Rocky Hill. The following winter cooperative teams were approved for two (2014-15 & 2015-16) years in Girls Hockey: Barrington/Mt. Hope/Portsmouth, Cranston/East Greenwich, Warwick Schools, Lincoln/Cumberland, Narragansett/NK/SK and Smithfield/North Smithfield/Coventry. Tolman/Shea was approved for two (2014-15 & 2015-16) years in Boys Swimming. Also, the following were approved for one year only with a phase out period: Burrillville/Ponaganset - Girls Hockey, Cranston West/East - Boys Hockey and West Warwick/EWG Boys Hockey.

CHEER PROPOSAL

Mr. Mezzanotte reported the RIIL will recognize Cheer (as it presently exists) as an activity – not a sport. Courts have ruled that Cheer is an “activity” not a sport. Result: Cheer is not bound by RIIL Rules and Regulation. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (16-0) approved the new cheerleading structure and protocol to begin in the spring of 2015 which will include the addition of a “Game Day Competition” in addition to the annual competition championships held in the winter. More information to schools will follow.

RIIL RULES VIOLATION

The Lincoln School: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Field Hockey

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (16-0) to impose a fine of \$100 for violating Article 6, Section 6. The Committee also reminded The Lincoln School to be sure that all the athletes are added to the eligibility lists prior to them participating in any future competition.

Middletown High School: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Girls' Volleyball

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (16-0) to impose a fine of \$100 for violating Article 6, Section 6. The Committee also reminded Middletown High School to be sure that all the athletes are added to the eligibility lists prior to them participating in any future competition.

St. Patrick Academy: Article 3, Section 1 – Eligibility List – Boys' & Girls' Cross Country

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (14-2) to impose a fine of \$200 for violating Article 3, Section 1. The Committee also reminded St. Patrick Academy to be sure that all the athletes are added to the eligibility lists prior to them participating in any future competition.

RIIAAA REPORT

Mr. Vetelino recommended combining a number of sport committees and explained the benefits of doing so. The RIIAAA will present recommendations about combining sport committees.

RIIL STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. Lunney reported the Student Sport Leaders Conference presented by the Rhode Island Army National Guard will be held on December 12, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

RIIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. George Finn, Chair of the SMAC, presented several issues that were brought up at the last SMAC Meeting regarding the importance of Pre-Participation Physical Examinations and that a number of Rhode Island athletic trainers will be participating in the RIO (Reporting Information Online) survey.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS: DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on revision of rules which would allow athletes to play more than one sport during a season. In addition, he provided survey results regarding a rule revision which would allow member schools to participate in non-league games against non-member schools. Committees will be established to review these results and discuss possible RIIL rules revisions.

FALL SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (16-0) the following 2014 fall championships: Girls' Tennis, Girls' Volleyball, Boys' Soccer, Girls' Soccer, Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, Field Hockey, Unified Volleyball and Freshman Football.

SPRING SPORTS

BOYS' LACROSSE – George Finn, Director of Boys' Lacrosse – Mr. Finn submitted a proposal to allow up to (4) goalies to report one week prior to the start of the spring season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (0-16) denied the request.

WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEALS

Thomas Meyer – South Kingstown High School

Waiver of Article 3, Section 2, the Female Competition Rule, to participate in Field Hockey. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee.

Motion to grant waiver: 0-13 (*denied*)

The Committee then adopted the following closing motion: THAT ANY AND ALL MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.

The November meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Friday, February 6, 2015
1:30 pm
RIIL Office
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Abromitis, Crowley, Gribbin and Keegan; Messrs., Brennan, DiMuccio, Goho, Kavanagh, Kelly, Sollitto, Vetelino and Whaley

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Director, Susana Borges, Administrative Assistant; and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Messrs., Barr, Littlefield, McCarthy and Warner

The February meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

PCOA MINUTES NOVEMBER 17, 2014

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the November 17, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved (13-0).

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move to Executive Session.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: PCOA Vacancy – Recommend Ramon Torres, Director, PCTA; Resignation of Kathy Luther, RIIL Sport Director of Girls' Volleyball; Recommend approval of Ray DeAngelis, RIIL Sport Director of Girls' Volleyball and Co-Director of Boys' Volleyball; Illinois High School Association, Class Action Litigation - COMMON INTEREST, JOINT DEFENSE, AND INFORMATION SHARING AGREEMENT; RIIL Concussion Summit Guidelines and PCOA Finance & Waiver Hearing Meeting dates 2015-2016

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move out of Executive Session.

FINANCE REPORT

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics unanimously authorized (13-0) for the Executive Director to explore the creation of a new sports editor and director of multi-media person. This position will be funded using reserve funds.

PCOA APPOINTMENT

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics voted (13-0) to approve the appointment of Mr. Ramon Torres, Director, Providence Career and Technical Academy to the RIIL Waiver Hearing Committee.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Common Interest, Joint Defense Agreement
- RIIL Student Leadership Conference
- NFHS Concussion Summit - Guidelines
- PCOA, Finance & Waiver Hearing Meeting Dates – 2015-2016
- Spring Athletic Administrator's Meeting – March 11th at RIIL
- Awards Recognition Luncheon (*Student Athlete of the Month, Athletic Director and Coach of the Year and Spirit of Sport*) – April 7th at Quiddnessett Country Club
- Coaches & AD Conference – March 28th at TBD

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics voted to approve (13-0) the Common Interest, Joint Defense, and Information Sharing Agreement with the Illinois High School Association.

COOPERATIVE TEAM APPROVALS - SPRING

The following spring cooperative teams were approved for one year only with a phase out period: **Boys Lacrosse:** Burrillville/North Smithfield and Tiverton/Rogers (2014-2015). **Girls Lacrosse:** Burrillville/North Smithfield (2014-2015). **Fastpitch Softball:** Juanita Sanchez/Rocky Hill (2014-2015). **Boys Tennis:** Rogers/Middletown. The following spring cooperative team was approved for two years (2014-15 & 2015-16) in **Boys Lacrosse:** Providence Country Day/Saint Raphael Academy.

RIIL RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics unanimously (13-0) voted to approve the following change to Article 1, Section 4, Governing and Operations:

Each PCOA member casts a vote for a candidate. If there are more than two (2) candidates, the candidates who received more than 50% will be selected. If no candidate receives the necessary 50% the two (2) with the most votes will be selected, and run-off election will be held to select the candidate.

RIIL RULES VIOLATIONS

Cranston High School West: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Boys Basketball

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (13-0) to impose a fine of \$100 for violating Article 6, Section 6. The Committee also reminded Cranston High School West to be sure that all the athletes are added to the eligibility lists prior to them participating in any future competition.

Lincoln High School: Article 6, Section 6 – Use of an Ineligible Athlete – Boys Basketball

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted (12-0-1) to impose a fine of \$100 for violating Article 6, Section 6. The Committee also reminded Lincoln High School to be sure that all the athletes are added to the eligibility lists prior to them participating in any future competition.

Hope High School: Article 3., Section 6., Use of an Ineligible Athlete - Freshman Boys' Basketball

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously voted (13-0) to impose a fine of \$100 to Hope High School and wins on January 13th & January 20th must be forfeited. The Freshman Boys' Basketball standings were changed accordingly.

Mount Pleasant and Shea High School Football Incident

The Committee on Athletics reviewed and discussed several incidents that occurred on November 14, 2014, between the Shea High School and Mount Pleasant High School football teams.

The following incidents were reviewed:

- A pre-game argument between the head coaches of both teams
- Ejection of players from the Mount Pleasant High School football team
- Post-game supervision of the Mount Pleasant High School football players

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the following sanctions:

1. Both the Shea head coach and Mount Pleasant head coach be suspended from coaching the first non-league football game in the 2015 season for inappropriate, unprofessional conduct in the presence of their respective teams during the pre-game warm-ups.
2. Due to what was perceived as a lack of supervision by the Mount Pleasant coaching staff at the conclusion of the Shea football game and in instances that took place during the 2014 season:
 - a. The Mt. Pleasant High football program be placed on probation for a period of 3 years (2015-2017)
 - b. Mt. Pleasant High principal submit a plan designed to improve supervision/and sportsmanship at all football games.
 - c. Mt. Pleasant administrator be present on the sidelines at all home/away football games (2015 season).

Boys Ice Hockey: Burrillville and North Kingstown High School Incident

The Committee on Athletics reviewed and discussed a hockey incident that took place on December 6, 2014 between a player from Burrillville High and player from North Kingstown High.

RI INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION (RIIAAA) REPORT

Mr. Jamey Vetelino, President of the RIIAAA submitted a report on behalf of the RIIAAA. Topics discussed were as follows: RIIL/RIIAAA cooperative state conference on March 28th at TBD; RIIAAA's Annual Awards Ceremony on April 2nd at the Crown Plaza, Warwick; Re-alignment and RIPCOA 6-8.

RUIL STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. Lunney reported the next RUIL Student Advisory Board (SAB) Meeting will be held on February 11th. Upcoming initiatives for the SAB are the Peanut Butter Express and a Spring Captains Leadership Workshop. The RUIL will be looking for possible chaperons for the NE Summer Leadership Conference.

RUIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Mr. Mezzanotte reported the SMAC meet on January 14, 2015.

RUIL RULE REVISIONS: COMMITTEE REPORTS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) voted to approve the following to Article 7, Section 4 (Non-league games). Specifically, schools may now schedule any non-league game against teams that are not members of any NFHS State Association. As a result, schools may now choose to participate against a high school team that does not conform to the rules and regulations of the RUIL.

In another matter, Mr. Lunney reported the sub-committee has met twice regarding revisions of Article 3., Section 1., C.1 and Article 7., Section 1.A. (Allow athletes to play more than one sport during a season). The sub-committee's findings will be discussed with athletic directors and will be brought forward at the March meeting.

FALL SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS - FOOTBALL

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (13-0) the 2014 football championship report.

WINTER SPORTS

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (13-0) a 9:00 a.m. start time to the Division I Swim Meet on Sunday, February 15, 2015 at Roger Williams University.

SPRING SPORTS

BOYS' LACROSSE – George Finn, Director of Boys' Lacrosse – the RUIL received a request from Pilgrim High School requesting to participate in Boys' Lacrosse beginning with the 2014-15 season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the request.

FASTPITCH SOFTBALL – Betty Marquis, Director of Fastpitch Softball – the RUIL received a request from The Wheeler School requesting to participate in Fastpitch Softball beginning with the 2014-15 season. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (13-0) approved the request.

HEARING: CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL: BOYS' BASKETBALL HEAD COACH

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee approved (12-0-1) the following sanctions for several violations on the Central High School Boys' Basketball Head Coach: be suspended from coaching for the remainder of the 2014-15 regular season and playoffs.

The Committee then adopted the following closing motion: THAT ANY AND ALL MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.

The February meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RUIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, March 16, 2015
1:30 pm
RIIL Office
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Abromitis, Crowley, Gribbin and Keegan; Messrs., Brennan, DiMuccio, Goho, Kavanagh, Kelly, Littlefield, McCarthy, Solitto, Vetelino, Warner and Whaley

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director, Susana Costa, Administrative Assistant; Carolyn Thornton, Director Multimedia Content and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Messr., Barr

The March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

PCOA MINUTES FEBRUARY 6, 2015

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the February 6, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved (14-0).

INTRODUCE CAROLYN THORNTON, DIRECTOR OF MULTIMEDIA CONTENT

Mr. Mezzanotte welcomed award-winning sports writer Carolyn Thornton as its Director of Multimedia Content. In addition to providing media content for the RIIL.org web site and managing the league's social media presence, Thornton will mentor aspiring high school journalists, teaching them the craft of feature writing and game coverage.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move to Executive Session.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: ISAA Class Action Litigation; RIIL Litigation; CVS – AED Project; Annual coaches' on-line rules test; Report from the Simultaneous Play Committee and Financial Report.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move out of Executive Session.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the March 16, 2015 budget report. The fall sports total income \$108, 609 and total expenses \$48,097. Also, tournament income up from last year \$34,582 and facility expenses up from last year \$20,868.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- Annual Coaches On-Line Rules Test
- Coaches & AD Conference – March 28th at North Kingstown High School
- Awards Recognition Luncheon (*Student Athlete of the Month, Athletic Director and Coach of the Year and Spirit of Sport*) – April at Quidnessett Country Club
- Spring Season & Playoffs
- Florida Cheer Championships & NFHS Dance Championships

RIIAAA REPORT

Mr. Vetelino, President of the RIIAAA submitted a report on behalf of the RIIAAA. Topics discussed were as follows: RIIL/RIIAAA Cooperative State Conference on March 28th at North Kingstown HS; RIIAAA's Annual Awards Ceremony on April 2nd at the Crown Plaza, Warwick to recognize the following: **School of the Year:** Classical HS; **Administrator of the Year:** Ms. Michaela Keegan, Juanita Sanchez;

Media Award: Bob Marr, Westerly Sun; **Sister Charlene:** Darius Shirzadi, Project Goal; **Female Coach of the Year:** Renee Jarest, Lincoln HS; **Male Coach of the Year:** Neil Nachbar, Tolman HS; **NIAAA State Award of Merit:** George Finn, Barrington HS and **Athletic Director of the Year:** Greg Kortick, West Warwick HS and RIPCOSA 6-8, 24 surveys complete and sent to RIASP.

RIIL STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. Lunney reported the RIIL SAB will be meeting on March 25th to finalize plans for their state-wide community service project the "Peanut Butter Express" and promote the NE Summer Leadership Conference. In addition, choose two (2) RIIL SAB members to attend the NFHS Summer Leadership Conference in July.

MARKETING UPDATE

Mr. Mezzanotte reported the "High School Team of the Week" is now sponsored by *Showcase Cinemas*.

RIIL SPORTS MEDICINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SMAC)

Mr. Mezzanotte reported the next RIIL SMAC meeting is on March 19, 2015.

RIIL RULE REVISIONS: COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Chris Cobain and Mr. Tom Marcello, members of the Simultaneous Play Committee presented their findings on the matter to allow athletes to play more than one sport during a season. The PCOA continues to discuss issues relating to a rule change that would allow students to play more than one sport during the season. (Revision of Article 3., Section 1.C-1 and Article 7, Section 1A – allow athletes to play more than one sport during a season.) RIIL will exam rule.

FALL SPORTS

FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ASSIGNER: On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the recommendation from the Football Committee to extend the contract of Jim Ashley as the RIIL Football Official Commissioner.

FOOTBALL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the recommendation from the Football Committee to approve the following "**Mercy Rule**" in all regular season and playoff games:

- If there is a 35 point differential during the 4th quarter, the game clock will not be stopped unless there is an injury time out or a regular team time out.

In addition, the PCOA supports all recommendations made by the Football Committee regarding the **Fundamentals for Minimizing Head Impact Exposure and Concussion Risk in Football**. As a result, athletes may **not** participate in games played on consecutive or on the same day:

- Football coaches must consider the amount of time a player is allowed to complete I games (varsity, junior varsity and freshman) during a week.
- Football week is recognized as Tuesday – Tuesday.

BOYS' SOCCER COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the following rule changes from the Boys' Soccer Committee to Article 24 (Boys' Soccer):

- During the regular season, the field clock will be used but turned off at the 2:00 minute mark. The game official will then be responsible for maintaining the clock until the end of the game. If the school requests an official timer (supplied by the RI Boys Soccer Officials Association, and paid for by the school) he/she will maintain the field clock and it will be the official clock.
- During all playoff games (qtr, semi, final) the RIIL will supply a game official to run the Official Field Clock.
 - Note: In the event that a team is substituting players in blatant attempt to reduce the actual playing time the official may stop time during these substitutions.
- If a team/coach is issued five (5) yellow cards during the playoffs, the team will lose one player and play the remainder of the game short-handed. Additionally, if the same team is issued two (2) more yellow cards they will lose another player and play two short.
 - Note: the coach will no longer be ejected if his/her team accumulates five (5) cards.

- During all regular season games, the home team must provide a scorer table, a scorebook and a scorer. In addition in accordance with Art 24 Section 2 e: *The home team MUST have a scorer located at mid-field (table is not a requirement). If a scorer is not provided at mid-field, the home team coach will be issued a yellow card prior to the start of the game.*
- During all games – if a coach is assessed a yellow card, he/she must remain seated on the bench.

WINTER SPORTS & CHAMPIONSHIPS

GYMNASTICS – Melissa Gendreau, Director of Gymnastics – the RIIL received a request from the Gymnastics Committee to request changes to Article 3., Section 3., Individual Sport Participation Limits – Co-op Teams. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the following change: Gymnastics may now have an individual limit of 6 with a combination of 10.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (14-0) the following 2015 winter championship reports: Boys & Girls Indoor Track, Wrestling, Boys & Girls Swim, Gymnastics and Boys and Girls Basketball.

SPRING SPORTS

GOLF – Bob Duarte, Director of Golf – the RIIL received a request from the Golf Committee to revise Article 20 (Golf). On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved several rule changes from the Golf Committee to Article 20 (Golf). Rule changes will be sent to all schools.

HEARING: MOUNT PLEASANT HIGH SCHOOL: FOOTBALL - APPEAL

Mount Pleasant High School appeal of PCOA decision to suspend the head football coach and place the football program on probation. Motion to grant appeal: 0-14 denied

The Committee then adopted the following closing motion: THAT ANY AND ALL MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.

The March meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Costa, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, June 15, 2015 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
Bldg. #6 RI College Campus
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Providence, RI**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman McNamara; Mmes., Abromitis, Crowley, Gribbin and Keegan; Messrs., Barr, Brennan, DiMuccio, Goho, Kavanagh, Kelly, Littlefield, Sollitto, Vetelino, and Whaley

Also Present: Thomas Mezzanotte, Executive Director; Michael Lunney, Assistant Executive Director, Susana Costa, Administrative Assistant and Brendan McGair, *Pawtucket Times*

Absent: Mme., Abromitis; Messrs., McCarthy and Warner

The June meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

PCOA MINUTES MARCH 16, 2015

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the March 16, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved (14-0).

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move to Executive Session.

PCOA EXECUTIVE SESSION

The following items were discussed in Executive Session: Legal Issues; PCOA Vacancy; Arbiter Proposal; Media Rights Extension; Annual Coaches On-line Rules Test; Rules Revisions; Financial Report and Hearings.

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to move out of Executive Session.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Sollitto, chairman of the Finance Committee submitted a report of their meeting held on June 15, 2015. The Committee reviewed a preliminary 2015-2016 budget.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Mezzanotte reported on the following:

- PCOA Vacancy – Bob McCarthy
- 2015-2016 Sport Interpretation Meetings
- Mount Pleasant HS Supervision Plan for the 2015 Football Season - Approved
- 2014-2015 RIIL Accomplishments

PCOA RESIGNATION

The Committee on Athletics received a letter of resignation from Mr. Bob McCarthy, as a member of the Principals' Committee on Athletics. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously accepted (14-0), with regret, Mr. McCarthy's resignation.

CORRESPONDENCE

ANYONE CAN SAVE A LIFE PROGRAM

Schools have received from the NFHS the "Anyone Can Save a Life" program information.

ADAM MERCIER – NATIONAL HAZING PREVENTION WEEK ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

Adam Mercier of Mount Saint Charles Academy is the recipient 2015 National Hazing Prevention Week High School Essay Contest winner. Congratulations!

NFHS/RIIL MEDIA RIGHTS AGREEMENT EXTENSION

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously accepted (14-0) to approved the extension of the NFHS/RIIL Media Rights Agreement extension.

RULES VIOLATIONS

Burrillville High School self-reported a violation of Article 7, Section 6.D.1. (Coaching out of Season) (Girls Soccer). As a result, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to impose the following sanctions:

1. Suspend the Girls' Soccer asst. coach for the first two (2) League games of the 2015 Girls Soccer season.
2. Fine in the amount of \$200.00.
3. Place the Burrillville HS Girls' Soccer program on probation for a period of two (2) years (2015-16 & 2016-17).

Pilgrim High School self-reported a violation of Article 7, Section 6.D.1. (Coaching out of Season) (Football). As a result, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to impose the following sanctions:

1. Suspend the football head coach for the first two (2) League games of the 2015 football season.
2. Fine in the amount of \$200.00.
3. Place the Pilgrim HS football program on probation for a period of two (2) years (2015-16 & 2016-17).

Johnston High School self-reported a violation of Article 7, Section 6.D.1. (Coaching out of Season) (Fastpitch Softball). As a result, the Committee unanimously voted (14-0) to impose the following sanctions:

1. A suspension of the fastpitch softball head coach for two (2) League games which has already been served during the 2015 season.
2. Fine in the amount of \$200.00.
3. Place the Johnston HS fastpitch softball program on probation for a period of two (2) years (2015-2016 & 2016-2017).

RUIL RULE REVISIONS:

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (14-0) the following RUIL Rules Revisions.

1. Revision of Article 3., Section 1.C-1, and Article 7 Section 1 A – (Allow athletes to play more than one sport during a season). Upon approval from the school, the RUIL permits athletes to participate simultaneously in more than one sport during the same sport season.

2. Article 2., Section 1: Membership – All member schools must participate in the RUIL On-line Arbiter Ref-Pay Program. NEW Rule.

3. Article 13., Section 1. Coaches Certification: Starting August 2016 all RUIL coaches must annually complete the RUIL on-line rules test. (NFHS Learn.com).

4. Article 1., Section 13. Dues & Fees: All subsequent invoices must be paid within 30 days of the invoice date. Failure to pay within 30 days will result in a late fee of \$100 and/or a "show cause" hearing before the Principals' Committee on Athletics as to why the school failing to pay should not be suspended from further completion in the RUIL in accordance with Article 6., Section 3.

Article 6., Section 14., Use of Football Equipment During the Summer: The Committee reviewed and discussed a request to revise Article 6., Section 14., to allow use of football equipment during the summer. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee voted to deny (2-12) the request.

Article 3., Section 2. Alternative Education Athletic Participation: The Committee reviewed and discussed a rule revision to Article 3., Section 2. Alternative Education Athletic Participation. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (14-0) to table the matter until the August meeting.

Article 7., Section 6: Coaching during the Academic year: The Committee reviewed and discussed a rule revision to Article 7., Section 6. Coaching during the Academic year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously approved (14-0) to table the matter until the August meeting.

ALTERNATIVE/COOPERATIVE SPORTS PLAN

The Committee received a letter from Andre Thibeault, Providence School Department, requesting to approve the District's Alternative/Cooperative Sports Plan to for the 2015-2016 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the request.

MIDDLEBRIDGE SCHOOL – NEW SCHOOL REQUEST

The Committee received a letter from Middlebridge School in Narragansett requesting to join the League and participate in Boys' and Girls' Cross Country beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the request.

RIIAAA REPORT

Mr. Vetelino, President of the RIIAAA, provided updates as to issues, concerns and recommendations on behalf of the RIIAAA.

FALL SPORTS: BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY, Keith Lawton, Sport Director – The RIIL received a request from Rogers High School requesting to participate in RIIL Boys' & Girls' Cross Country beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the request.

BOYS' SOCCER COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: HEAT ACCLIMATIZATION RULE – HEAT TIME OUT

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the following rule change from the Boys' Soccer Committee to Article 24 (Boys' Soccer) Heat Acclimatization Rule – Heat Time Out:

- A mandatory hydration time out be implemented at the 20 minute mark of each half when the temperature is 80 degrees or greater and the relative humidity is 40% or greater.

WINTER SPORTS: BOYS & GIRLS ICE HOCKEY, George Egan and Terry Lynch, Co-Directors – The RIIL received a letter from Lincoln High School requesting to move down a division to Division II in Boys' Ice Hockey and requesting relief from the July 3 coop deadline for Girls' and Boys Ice Hockey to August 1. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved relief from the July 3 coop deadline for hockey to August 1.

HOCKEY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: The RIIL Hockey Sport Committee reviewed a number of hockey rules changes to begin in the winter of 2015. Beginning December 2015, the Hockey Sport Committee is recommending establishing a system that would penalize/suspend players who exceed a maximum number of penalty minutes during the season/playoffs. More information will be provided. In addition, the Hockey Committee is reviewing realignment for 2015-2016. The Hockey Committee is also discussing the possibility of allowing schools to schedule their own home games.

SPRING SPORTS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS: BOYS & GIRLS LACROSSE, George Finn, Sport Director – The RIIL received a request from Ponaganset High School requesting to participate in RIIL Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the request. The RIIL received a request from Rogers High School requesting to participate in RIIL Girls' Lacrosse beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the request. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (14-0) approved the following 2015 spring championship reports: Boys' & Girls' Outdoor Track, Boys' & Girls' Lacrosse, Boys' Tennis, Golf, Boys' Volleyball and Unified Basketball.

SHEA HIGH SCHOOL: FOOTBALL APPEAL

Shea High School appeal of PCOA decision to suspend the head football coach from the first non-league game of the 2015 fall season. Motion to grant appeal: 0-14 (denied)

WAIVER HEARING COMMITTEE APPEAL

Joseph Sekator – Coventry High School

Waiver of Article 3, Section 4C., the Eight (8) Semester Rule. Appealing a decision of Waiver Hearing Committee. Motion to grant waiver: 0-14 (denied)

HEARING: EAST PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL: ASSISTANT TRACK COACH

The Committee on Athletics met to discuss and hear testimony from an assistant track coach at East Providence High School regarding an incident that took place on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at Conley Stadium in Providence. After reviewing and discussing all information, the Committee has imposed the following sanctions on the coach:

1. Probation as assistant track coach in both indoor & outdoor track for a period of two (2) years (2015-2017)
2. The coach is required to take the NFHS Sportsmanship Course online prior to September 2015.
3. The coach is suspended for the first two (2) dual outdoor track meets in 2016 and all meets before and during these dual meets.

The Committee then adopted the following closing motion: THAT ANY AND ALL MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.

The June meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Costa, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____