

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Principals' Committee on Athletics
Monday, August 21, 2023 @ 1:30 pm
RIIL Office
875 Centerville Road, Building #3
Warwick, RI 02886**

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Warner; Mmes., Caluori, Craven and Ward; Messrs., Barbieri, Barr, Cory, Costa, DiMuccio, Gibbons, Green, McCarthy, McGair, Richard and Sollitto.

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

Absent: Messers., Biah and DeCiccio

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

RECOGNITION

The Committee congratulated Burrillville Superintendent and Committee member Mr. Sollitto on being named 2024 RI Superintendent of the Year! Also, the Committee presented RIIL Administrative Assistant Susana Borges with a plaque recognizing and thanking her for her twenty years of dedicated service to the League.

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: Membership; Officials and Middle School Sports (Grades 6-8)

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

PCOA MINUTES JUNE 20, 2023

On a motion made and seconded, the PCOA minutes from the June 20, 2023 meeting were unanimously (15-0) approved.

RIIL FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on August 21, 2023. Items discussed was the 2022-2023 RIIL budget and insurance coverage update. Also, Mr. Stuart Peterson of Janney provided the Committee with an RIIL update on investments.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lunney reported on the following:

- NFHS Level 1 Honor Roll School update:
 - The RIIL is working with the NFHS to certify all schools have met the requirements.
- Officials Recruitment
 - RefReps Agreement – the RIIL is investing in a partnership with RefReps to address the shortage of officials by utilizing this online training program to help recruit new officials.
- NFHS Network Update:
 - Continue to encourage member schools to use the Pixellot cameras. One of the biggest benefits is the ability for schools to offer equitable streaming opportunities for boys and girls teams of all levels.
- Initiatives for 2023-2024:
 1. Student Health and Safety
 2. Eligibility
 3. Sportsmanship
 4. Event Security & Safety
 5. Regular Season Scheduling
 6. Realignment

- Brooks Running – Team Grants Program
- Important Dates for 2023-2024
- Meetings and Planning over the Summer
 1. NFHS Summer Meeting
 - a. Small States Meeting Update
 2. Officials Organizations
 3. RIPCOA – Middle Schools Meeting
 4. RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee
 - a. Team Up for Sports Safety (TUFFS) Update
 5. New Principal/AD Workshop
 6. Fall Coaches Interpretation Meeting
 7. Sport Committees
 8. Sponsorship Meetings
 9. RIIL Tournament Planning

RIIL RULES VIOLATIONS

Mt. Pleasant High School – Article 6, Section 13, Use of School Equipment During the Summer (Football)

The Committee reviewed the circumstances regarding Mt. Pleasant High School's violation of Article 6, Section 13, Use of School Equipment During the Summer. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) voted to NOT penalize Mt. Pleasant High School. However, Mt. Pleasant HS should review the information in Article 6, section 13 and take the necessary steps to protect the school and district from any liability that may result from this practice in the future.

RIIAAA REPORT – KEITH CORY

Mr. Cory, President of the RIIAAA, provided an update regarding the RIIAAA's support and endorsement of the RI Principals' Committee on Athletics (RIPCOA) request for the RIIL to begin offering middle school sports starting in the fall of 2024. Mr. Cory also updated the Committee on the RIIAAA progress in establishing a state-wide coaches association to standardize fees, all-division/all-state and awards criteria. RIIAAA is working with individual sport coaches' associations on this project.

RIPCOA REQUEST – MIDDLE SCHOOLS (GRADES 6-8)

On a motion made and seconded, the Committee unanimously (15-0) accepted the RI Principals' Committee on Athletics (RIPCOA) request for the RIIL to begin offering middle school sports beginning in the fall of 2024. The RIIL will be working with RIPCOA leadership during the 2023-2024 school year to develop a plan for the transition.

OFFICIALS

Mr. Lunney updated the Committee on a new agreement with RefReps in an effort to address the shortage of officials through Recruitment and Training. Also, he reported that the RIIL will be working with the officials' organizations during the 2023-2024 school year regarding the new agreements which will take effect beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

FALL SPORTS – MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2023

First day of practice for football begins Monday, August 14. All other fall sports begin on Monday, August 21. The fall tournament dates and facilities have been confirmed.

WINTER SPORTS – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023

The winter sports schedules have been sent to all member schools. The commit date for all winter sports schedules is September 5. Also, the 2nd Annual Jiggs Cecchini CT/RI Basketball Challenge is being held on December 14, 2023. The tournament will be played at Mohegan Sun Arena and feature four games, two boys games and two girls games. Boys: La Salle vs Northwest Catholic and Barrington vs Bloomfield. Girls: Moses Brown vs Sacred Heart and North Kingstown vs East Hampton.

SPRING SPORTS – MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024

The spring sport committee meetings have been ongoing.

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 3:16 P.M.

Signed:

Susana Borges, RIIL Board Secretary

Date: _____