

PIAA DISTRICT IX COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 5, 2024

The District IX Committee met on June 5, 2024. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Aaron Straub at 9:10 am. The following members were present: Bud Brennen, Scott Daum, Kevin Doverspike, Mike Erickson, Pete Grecco, Bill Howard, Dr. Bill Jordan, Anita Orton, Dave Osborne, Randy Reitz, John Sherry, Aaron Straub, Dr. Josh Williams, and Bonnie Wolbert. Absent from the meeting were Shawn Deemer, Dr. Tom Lesniewski, and Misty Hartle. Guest: Ed Baumcraz

The meeting began with a moment of reflection on the passing of Mr. Bob Tonkin, long time committee member and secretary/treasurer of District 9. Bob passed away on May 22, 2024.

CORRESPONDENCE from Ms. Jami Mathis, a guest. Ms. Mathis addressed the committee on behalf of a group of parents of female athletes. General discussion was held with Ms. Mathis regarding the group's concerns over transgender participation in high school sports. The committee thanked Ms. Mathis for her presentation.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mike Erickson and seconded by Bill Howard to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2024, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE:

Scott Daum made a motion, seconded by Terry Straub, to approve the balance sheet dated May 31, 2024, as the given financial report. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer, Anita Orton, and Assistant treasurer, Dr. Josh Williams, will be meeting with members of the PIAA staff in July to begin the process of engaging in the SAGE program as the District IX/PIAA accounting system.

Electronic game reports have been created to assist with making the submission of all district game reports user-friendly.

A decision was made to gather additional information regarding the D-IX merchandising contract regarding sales for postseason clothing.

A discussion was held concerning compensation to be paid to event workers, officials, and game management when games are postponed due to unfavorable weather conditions. This matter was referred to the financial committee for discussion at their June 25th meeting.

CHANGE OF DATE FOR AUDIT MEETING!! The Annual Audit Meeting previously scheduled for July 16th has been moved to JULY 10th in DuBois, PA.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMITTEE ACTION:

***D-9 Rules' Interpreters** were identified with Roddy Hartle being appointed the new basketball rules' interpreter as of July 1, 2024.

***Female and Male Parents' Representatives**

A motion was made by Terry Straub, seconded by Scott Daum, to reappoint Anita Orton as the Female Parents' Representative and Kevin Doverspike as the Male Parents' Representative for a two-year term (2024-2025 / 2025-2026). Motion passed unanimously with Orton and Doverspike abstaining.

***New Position Approvals**

After receiving assistance with the treasurer's and secretary's duties, the Committee held the following elections:

Scott Daum made a motion to elect Anita Orton as the new treasurer (effective immediately). Dr. Bill Jordan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Orton abstaining.

Scott Daum moved to elect Dr. Josh Williams as the assistant treasurer (effective immediately). Dr. Bill Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with Williams abstaining.

Scott Daum moved to elect Bonnie Wolbert as the new secretary. Dr. Bill Jordan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with Wolbert abstaining.

It was suggested to create a subcommittee to review the current fee structures for ALL paid positions on the committee, especially in the case of the Secretary/Treasurer position formerly held by one individual and now being divided into three (3) positions, one secretary, one treasurer, and one assistant treasurer. That subcommittee will meet June 25, 2024, by ZOOM at 9:00 am.

The following items were approved by a motion made by Scott Daum and seconded by Pete Grecco.

- Continue using S & T Bank for District IX accounts
- Remove Mr. Robert Tonkin's name as an authorized signer of checks.
- Add Aaron Straub, Kevin Doverspike, Anita Orton, and Dr. Josh Williams as signers.
- Have Bonnie Wolbert, secretary, sign the Corporation Resolution at S & T Bank.
- Require one signature to sign a check UNDER \$5000.00.
- Require two signatures to sign all checks written for OVER \$5000.00.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES:

A summary report with the approved minutes from the Wednesday, May 15, 2024, PIAA Board of Directors' meeting was distributed for review.

A copy of the Standard Right-to-Know Law (RTK) Request Form was distributed to the committee members. Also distributed was a copy of a response letter that was written by Dr. Robert Lombardi, the Executive Director of PIAA, and sent to an individual who had made such a request.

The next PIAA Board of Directors' meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at the Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center in State College, PA.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

COOPERATIVE SPORTS AGREEMENTS:

A motion was made by Dave Osborne and seconded by Bill Howard to approve a cooperative sports agreement between Clarion-Limestone (host school) and Clarion Area (sending school) regarding girls' and boys' Jr. High Cross Country beginning at the start of the 2024-2025 season. Motion passed unanimously.

HEARING(S):

An appeal hearing was held on June 5, 2024, at Fox's Pizza Den in Ridgway, PA. St. Marys High School appealed a decision by the District IX Committee concerning the eligibility ruling by the D-9 Committee in which one of their students was ruled ineligible in the sport of soccer for the 2024-2025 fall season. After testimony was presented by both schools, the hearing committee entered executive session. Following the executive session, the public session was reconvened. A motion was made by Terry Straub and seconded by Dr. Josh Williams to grant eligibility to the student-athlete. The motion carried by a 7 to 4 vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES:

SPORTSMANSHIP:

To date, District IX has had 16 disqualifications this 2023-2024 school year. A total of 22 schools will be eligible for the Sportsmanship Award(s) for the 2023-2024 school year.

SPORT SPECIFIC COMMITTEES:

Softball / Baseball

District playoffs were successfully completed. Those teams advancing are currently participating in the 2nd round of the PIAA Championship Tournament.

Tennis

District championships were successfully completed for spring tennis.

Track & Field

“AA” and “AAA” boys’ and girls’ district championships were held at Brookville High School on Friday, May 17, 2024. Athletes participated in the PIAA State Championships on May 24 and 25 at Shippensburg University.

OLD BUSINESS:

Assistant chairpersons were appointed to assist the sports’ chairpersons with their duties related to running D-9 Championship events.

An evaluation addressing the newly-developed D9 website will be given at the August meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The family of the late Bob Tonkin would like to institute an annual scholarship to be awarded to a deserving D-9 athlete. Additional information will be forthcoming.

A motion to adjourn was made by Terry Straub and seconded by John Sherry. The motion carried unanimously at 12:27 PM.

The next District Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at Fox’s Restaurant in Ridgway at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie S. Wolbert

Bonnie S. Wolbert
D-9 Secretary
Female Officials’ Representative