

PIAA DISTRICT IX COMMITTEE MEETING

March 5, 2025

The District IX Committee met on March 5, 2025. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Kevin Doverspike at 10:07 a.m. at Fox's Restaurant in Ridgway, PA. The following members were present: Bill Howard, Dr. Bill Jordan, Bud Brennen, Mike Erickson, Peter Grecco, Misty Hartle, Roddy Hartle, Anita Orton, Dave Osborne, Scott Daum, Randy Reitz, John Sherry, Kevin Doverspike, and Bonnie Wolbert.

Excused from the meeting were Dr. Tom Lesniewski, Dr. Josh Williams, Ed Baumcraz, and Aaron Straub.

The meeting began with two guest speakers, Mr. Ray Kelly, Principal of Johnsonburg Area High School, and Mr. Cole Peterson, the Head Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach for Johnsonburg, addressing concerns to the committee. The concerns focused around Johnsonburg's dismay pertaining to comments made by broadcasters at a Johnsonburg vs. DuBois Central Catholic boys' basketball game held on February 14, 2025. The two guests questioned the ideals of sportsmanship connected to the broadcasters' comments.

The Committee thanked Principal Kelly and Coach Peterson for sharing their concerns.

MINUTES:

Peter Grecco made a motion, seconded by Bill Howard, to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2025, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

* Vice Chairman Doverspike called an Executive Session of the District IX Committee. After ending the Executive Session, Vice Chairman Doverspike returned the meeting to Regular Session.

FINANCE:

Mike Erickson made a motion, seconded by John Serry, to approve the February 13, 2025, treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Peter Grecco and seconded by Dr. Bill Jordan to accept an update to the Competitive Spirit financial report given at last month's committee meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Bill Jordan gave an update on the Robert Tonkin Athletics for Life Scholarship. Applications are now being accepted until March 15, 2025. One senior girl student-athlete and one senior boy student-athlete will be chosen as recipients of a \$1000.00 scholarship each. The winners will be announced at the April Banquet/Meeting. A thank you note is being sent to Mrs. Patty Tonkin and her family for their contributions.

Dr. Jordan shared a positive report on the use of the TRG card readers. Their use was very helpful and well-received by the general public at the wrestling championships. Special thanks were given to those ticket scanners who adjusted to the use of the new devices.

COMMUNICATION AND COMMITTEE ACTION:

NONE

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATES:

Vice Chairman Kevin Doverspike distributed copies of the PIAA Board of Directors' Meeting of February 19, 2025. A few points of interest were specifically noted.

- A. On suspended protocol, the state board voted to revise the Competition Formula. The revised formula is available on the PIAA website or by contacting your district chairman.
- B. The Board held discussion of the Executive Order of February 5, 2025, regarding student participation in athletics, taking the following actions.
 - The Board approved to remove the Transgender Policy in accordance with the Executive Order, from the PIAA Policy and Procedures Manual, effective immediately.
 - The Board approved, effective immediately, an amendment to Article XVI, Season and Out-of-Season Rules and Regulations, Section 4. Mixed Gender Participation.
 - Where a student's sex is questioned or uncertain, the decision of the school as to the student's sex will be accepted by PIAA. In accordance with the Presidential Executive Order entitled "Keeping Men Out of Women's Sports", dated February 5, 2025, schools are required to consult with their school solicitors relative to compliance with the Order.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Bill Howard made a motion to approve a co-op in junior high golf between North Clarion, West Forest (host) and East Forest High Schools. Mike Erikson seconded the motion; it passed unanimously.

Dr. Bill Jordan made a motion to approve a co-op in varsity baseball between North Clarion (host), West Forest and East Forest High Schools. Bill Howard seconded it; the motion passed unanimously.

Peter Grecco moved to approve the co-op termination in baseball between West Forest, East Forest, and Abraxis. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES:

50 Years of Officiating Award – At the KSAC basketball championships in February, Colin Gaiser was presented a plaque from the District IX Committee recognizing his 50 years of service as a PIAA basketball official. Mr. Bill Howard had the honor of presenting Mr. Gaiser with his plaque.

TRANSFER REQUESTS: (For 2024-2025 School Year)

<u>Student #</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Motion/Second</u>	<u>Approve/Deny</u>
T-23	Taipei Municipal XiSong Sr.H.S.	ECC	P.Grecco/S.Daum	Approved - Reg/Post
FE-8	Sweden	Bradford	D.Osborne/B.Jordan	Approved - Reg/Post
FE-9	Austria	Bradford	D.Osborne/B.Jordan	Approved - Reg/Post

OLD BUSINESS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Peter Grecco made a motion, seconded by Kevin Doverspike, to reimburse John Burnett, an athletic trainer at the 2-day wrestling championships, for his hotel room expenses for Friday night. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER:

A motion was made by Bill Howard, seconded by Scott Daum, to adjourn at 1:14 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting – April 15, 2025

Location – Red Fern Banquet Facility – Kersey, PA

Time – AD’s 9:00; Principals 10:00; Reorganizational Meeting 11:30; Banquet Noon

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie S. Wolbert

Bonnie S. Wolbert, District IX Secretary