

# PIAA DISTRICT IX COMMITTEE MEETING

**June 9, 2025**

The District IX Committee met on June 9, 2025, at Fox's Restaurant in Ridgway, PA. Chairman Aaron Straub called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m. The following members were present: Kevin Doverspike, Aaron Straub, Bill Howard, Dr. Bill Jordan, Peter Grecco, Anita Orton, John Sherry, Mike Erickson, Bud Brennen, Dr. Tom Lesniewski, and Bonnie Wolbert. Excused from the meeting were Scott Daum, Dave Osborne, Ed Baumcraz, Randy Reitz, Misty Hartle, Roddy Hartle, and Dr. Josh Williams.

## **MINUTES:**

Bill Howard made a motion, seconded by Dr. Tom Lesniewski, to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2025, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**The District IX Committee meeting entered into Executive Session at 9:17 a.m. and returned to Open Session at 9:56 a.m.**

## **FINANCE:**

A motion was made by Bill Howard motion and seconded by Mike Erickson to approve the May 15, 2025, treasurer's report including the May 30 S&T Bank report and the May 31 report from Edward Jones regarding savings. Motion passed unanimously.

An update was given by Dr. Bill Jordan concerning the Robert Tonkin Athletics for Life Scholarship.

Kevin Doverspike moved to accept the Spring Sports Financial Reports. Motion was seconded by Pete Grecco. Motion passed unanimously.

## **COMMUNICATION AND COMMITTEE ACTION**

Lori Sabatose from Brockway School District was announced as the appointed PSBA Representative for a two-year term (2025-2026/2026-2027) on the District IX Committee.

Nate Jones from Northern Potter School District was announced as the appointed Superintendents' Representative for a two-year term (2025-2026/2026-2027) on the District IX Committee.

A review of a motion, previously made by Dr. Bill Jordan and seconded by Misty Hartle at the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to **limit** the time allotted to any non-agenda guest(s) wishing to speak at a regular District IX Committee meeting to five (5) minutes, was held. The motion had been passed unanimously. A discussion was held for clarification purposes.

Chairman Aaron Straub delivered an in-depth report from the PIAA Board of Directors regarding member school inquiries on male-female sport participation. Section 4 of the PIAA By-Laws addresses all the questions and answers surrounding “mixed gender” participation. Also addressed was the topic of if an individual wishes to participate as a transgender athlete. Then Section 4 (E) in the By-Laws would apply.

“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 14201 entitled “Keeping Men Out of Women’s Sports”, dated February 5, 2025, schools are required to consult with their school solicitor relative to compliance with the Order.”

The PIAA Board of Directors approved a varsity football co-op between Brookville (host) and Abraxas to begin in the fall of 2025 with the modification to allow for post-season participation in said sport. These actions were the results of the closure of Sheffield Jr./Sr. High School.

The annual Committee Audit Meeting for 2025 has been scheduled for Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at DuBois Central High School.

### **Chairman Update**

PIAA has utilized electronic ticketing for district and inter-district events since 2020. Auditors and business managers encourage the use of electronic ticketing because it ensures accountability and eliminates the prospect of theft and provides safety for staff. **For district and inter-district competition**, PIAA will assist customers who may have challenges with electronic ticketing by offering a support person and alternative forms of entry which may include the use of credit and debit cards, Apple Pay, Google Pay, and cash. If cash is used, it must be paid for by exact payment. Regular season contests hosted at local schools are not impacted by this policy.

Chairman Straub gave an update citing the PIAA By-Law approval on a third and final reading basis, to amend Article VI Section 11., Recruiting of students, B. Out-of-Season Activities, amend #12 and add new #14, regarding participation in out-of-season teams and competition

### **Administrative – Eligibility & Co-op Requests**

#### **Co-op Applications**

- John Sherry made a motion, seconded by Bill Howard, to approve a co-op with Clearfield School District as the host school and Clearfield St. Francis and Curwensville as the sending schools for Jr. High Boys’ Soccer. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mike Erickson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Bill Jordan, to approve a co-op with Kane (host) and East Forest for varsity football beginning 2025-2026. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Co-ops Terminated**

Dr. Bill Jordan made a motion, seconded by Dr. Tom Lesniewski, to terminate the following **varsity** sport Co-ops. Motion passed unanimously.

- Sheffield (Host) – Abraxas in Boys' and Girls' Track and Field
- Warren (Host) – Sheffield in Baseball, Girls' Basketball, Boys' & Girls' Soccer and Softball
- Warren (Host) – Sheffield & Youngsville in Boys' & Girls' Cross Country
- Warren (Host) – Sheffield & Youngsville in Boys' and Girls' Golf and Swimming & Diving

### **Co-ops approved at May 15, 2025, District Committee Meeting – Coudersport must first enter the requests in the portal**

- Port Allegany (Host) – with Coudersport for Jr. High and Varsity Wrestling
- Coudersport (Host) – with Northern Potter for Jr. High Football

### **PIAA Application for Membership**

Depending on the location of St. Stephen Junior High School, Mike Erickson made a motion to approve St. Stephen's request to join District IX sports if the school is located in District IX. Bill Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. If St. Stephen Jr. High School is found to exist in District X, Mr. Erickson's motion is VOID. Chairman Straub is to investigate. UPDATE: St. Stephen School IS located in District X; therefore, is expected to pursue membership in PIAA sports in District X.

### **Administrative Committees**

Golf Chairman Kevin Doverspike presented the 2025 Golf Important Dates.

#### **Boys @ Punxsutawney CC**

Monday, September 29  
Saturday, October 4

#### **Girls @ Pinecrest CC**

Monday, October 6

#### **PIAA Team West Sub-Regional @ Treasure Lake Silver**

Wednesday, October 8

#### **PIAA Championships @ Penn State Blue and White Courses**

**“Individual”**

Monday and Tuesday, October 20 and October 21

**“Team”**

Wednesday, October 22

Bill Howard moved to adjourn at 12:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Pete Grecco. Motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting – July 10, 2025 (Audit)**

**Location – DuBois Central Catholic H.S.**

**Time – 9:00 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Bonnie S. Wolbert**

Bonnie S. Wolbert, District IX Secretary