



## ERIE COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC CONFERENCE

355 Harlem Road • Building C, • West Seneca, NY 14224  
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### ATHLETIC DIRECTOR MEETING

12/6/2021

10:30 AM Activity Board

11:30 AM Lunch

12:00 PM Meeting

Erie 1 BOCES

Room B2A

### Opening Remarks:

*Rich Gray*

- **Division Breakouts: Winter team size concerns:** Any necessity to go into division breakouts? Discussion regarding a couple of items. Winter team size concerns. Emails regarding teams without wrestlers. Wrestling team very small. Elaborate on any concerns relative to roster sizes.

Modified wrestling very small. Varsity wrestling not much bigger, modified really small. How are meets taking place? Scheduling issues with meets. Are all wrestling meets 4/5 schools one site? Concern was that if combining schools on modified level are there still enough athletes to play. More schools combined to give opportunity to play. If all schools low on numbers schedule may have to be reconfigured.

Hickson discussed numbers with Orchard Park (Dave Hack and Steve DeLucia). Numbers change day to day. Concern is having 15 athletes clear, but not 15 athletes daily at practice. Unsure if enough athletes for a meet at another school. Steve DeLucia to review numbers. Weigh-ins due this week. Discuss with modified coaches about getting weights into Steve an actual number of athletes eligible to wrestle. Need 10 athletes. Definitely a concern not enough athletes. Maryvale has 20 athletes on list, question regarding 20 showing up.

Last year, not much recruiting by physical education teachers of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Frontier had certain teams a little low, in the past. With return to school hopeful of more recruiting efforts. After weigh-ins can a decision be made to reconfigure the schedule. Add more schools to lower schools to complete meets.

Discussion regarding payment of officials based upon number of teams added to meet. Due to addition of extra teams, cost of officials became high (\$400). Jim Graczyk to review contract to make a schedule worthwhile to schools and athletes and to make the meet financially adequate. Suggestion to replace teams at various sites with more or less wrestlers.

- **BEDS #: How they are figured:** How are beds calculated? 9<sup>th</sup> grade class (total population; 10<sup>th</sup> grade class (total population); added together average out and add to total and that is your beds number for next year. Numbers from district office should match school numbers. Enrollment for this year makes beds for next year. Old formula is 9,10, and 11. Schools submit information to the state, then those numbers are supplied to NYSPHSAA. Todd Nelson responsible for beds numbers for any error in beds numbers. Section III or Section IV may suggest returning to calculating beds numbers with grades 9,10, and 11.

- **Spring Alignments any concerns:** Spring alignments accurate and ready to complete spring schedule. Goal is for 12/7/21 for 1<sup>st</sup> draft of spring schedules and available to Athletic Directors to be reviewed for changes and additions until after beginning of new year. Second drafts available two (2) weeks later. By mid-January spring schedules to be set and ready. Goal after is to commence fall alignment and schedules. Later in the year end of May, beginning of June tackle winter.

## **Athletic Council**

**Rich Gray**

- Next Meeting is Monday 1/10/2022 @ E1B Room A-3. At end of meeting athletic council vote for combining of schools for approval.

## **President's Report:**

**Rich Gray**

- **Approval of Minutes from November Meeting**

Motion for approval of minutes from November 1, 2021 meeting

1<sup>st</sup> Dave Hack

2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Iwanko

- **March Secretaries Luncheon:** Past practice lunch at Ilio DiPaolo's Restaurant to honor secretaries. Question to continue practice or change procedure. Suggestion regarding gift certificates. Information received by Jim is that secretaries appreciate the lunch, however, when away from the office for considerable length of time concerned about not being in the office. Catching up for the time lost becomes overwhelming. Suggestion is to consider the possibility of gift card in lieu of lunch. Return to office and discuss possibilities with secretaries for a suggestion. Luncheon vs. gift card. Pick a possible alternative date instead of March. Possibly June. Secretaries want a luncheon or an alternative.

- **Schedules: Winter, Spring 1<sup>st</sup> Drafts 12/7, Unified Bowling (Holland):** Holland returned to ECIC divisions for unified bowling. Holland still in the CCAA unified bowling league. Huge concern for Holland playing in CCAA league due to amount of travel time. Concern discussed with Jim Graczyk. Holland still playing in CCAA and advised nothing that could be accomplished to move Holland from CCAA to ECIC or to change schedule. Proposal suggestion for Holland to bowl virtually. Schools within CCAA athletic directors have agreed that Holland can bowl in league virtually. Section VI at state meeting and Section III or Section IV voted against virtual. Section against virtual matches. League must agree to Holland virtual and Section VI meeting must agree to virtual for Holland. If Section VI does not agree to virtual bowling for Holland, Holland's superintendent not allowing school to travel for unified bowling. Going virtual for unified does this "open the door" for other bowling teams to also have virtual bowling? Holland superintendent pushing back due to the fact that Holland is a member of ECIC and being forced to play unified bowling in the CCAA league. Holland playing with Gowanda, Pine Valley, Silver Creek. Unable to move to a different division. Six (6) different options available.

1. Stay as is and make switch next year. Another southern tier and Holland would switch.
2. Stay in the division and switch the Salamanca match to home, travel to Pine Valley instead.
3. Stay in the division when they play Salamanca or Pine Valley bowl the matches virtually with no travel to southern tier.
4. Find a division in ECIC B to switch with them.

Suggestion to switch and go independent. Is this a league or a federated sport? Unified bowling is a federated sport. Schedules agreed to by league. If bowling goes virtual it solves this problem, but opens the door for other problems. Concern that this is not a league issue so find a solution through Section VI. Why not just add Holland to ECIC schedule. There are no officials. Two (2) years ago, there was only Salamanca. Holland was with Orchard Park, Iroquois. Only had to make one trip.

- **NYSAAA: Membership, CAA Certification:** Everyone signed up online for membership. Those needing to complete please do so. Handout for CAA certification.

- **Scholar Athlete Due:** Due today, 12/2/21

- **Office Proposal: Budget Consideration 22-23 Option A or Option B:** Discussion regarding ECIC Executive Director Position;

**Option A:** Stay with part-time Executive Director of ECIC. 1 full-time secretary (currently have). Add a full time data processing control clerk. (2 secretaries).

**Option B:** Full time Executive Director. One secretary.

Go with Option A and if candidate not found, proceed with Option B in the summer. Can Jim be extended until June? How should office structure look. Part time director and 2 office individuals give opportunity to proceed forward. Long term strategic planning. Looking at two (2) part-time directors with distinct roles. Idea: Provide small stipend to divisions dealing with specific divisions. Need for 2 secretaries. Vote and add secretary for next. Spend more time reviewing different options. 2 part time; 1 full time executive director, etc. James Graczyk's position is committed until June 2022 and after that time reevaluate.

Vote of 24 to move forward with 2<sup>nd</sup> secretary and part-time executive director to be discussed at a later date on how to move forward for 2023-2024.

## **Executive Director's Report:**

*Jim Graczyk*

- **Office Communications/Procedure:** Any Concerns: No concerns at this time.

- **Combining of Schools/Spring/Fall '22:** Vote to take place at the end of meeting. Need to move into athletic council to be placed on the January 2022 section agenda.

- **Charter School Placement:** Still on section to include them in section schedule. Section has not made a decision of where they will be placed. Keep on ECIC agenda to discuss further placement. Meeting took place with Jeff Rabey, Jeff Wheaton and others of the Charter School placement committee. Survey circulated to Charter Schools due by December 10, 2021 regarding opinion on placement by Charter Schools based upon different factors, geographical location, sports offered, competition, availability of facilities, etc. Information of survey will be provided to committee on January 19, 2022 to provide recommendation as committee. Buffalo Public Schools was based on sports and location. Buffalo Public Schools did not attend meeting. Due to limited teams should this be a pilot or trial situation with teams currently established.

- **Boys Volleyball/BPS to ECIC 4 teams:** Buffalo Public Schools interested in sending 4 teams to ECIC. This could change depending upon placement of charter schools. Keeping on agenda, but waiting until January 19, 2022 for further direction. Start dates were voted upon in May or June of last year for the start dates for the whole year. No charter schools playing boys volleyball. Buffalo Public Schools would like to bring (4) teams into ECIC. Buffalo possibly has JV also. Currently allow partial membership for 7/8 girls lacrosse, 7/8 track. Communication between schools a problem. No one to contact. Membership not provided for other schools/sports for varsity only modified. Jamestown does pay full dues to be a member not partial.

- **Start Dates: JV/Varsity 3/14/22, Modified 3/21/22:** For ECIC purposes modified is always a week later. Dates as indicated. Reason behind delaying start dates. Gym space is issue. Try an open gym situation to give athletes who are new an opportunity to practice.

- **DOH/Masks:** Masks should be worn. An information meeting took place with all Section VI school superintendents who will not provide any information in writing. If direction is needed on mask, discuss with superintendent. Athletes can put mask below nose, coaches must wear a mask.

- **ECIC Winter Champs/Wrestling, Swim, Cheer:** Wrestling winter champs, @ Lackawanna. Cheer @ Sweet Home. Swim @ Maryvale. Lackawanna needs 3 mats. Depew, Hamburg, West Seneca, Cheektowaga can provide mat.

## **Activity Board:**

*Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty*

- **Spring Alignments:** Modified/Softball, baseball modified will remain as is. Not making just a division of 7/8/9. Cheektowaga, Pioneer and East Aurora 7/8/9 will play Maryvale, Lakeshore, Depew, and Springville 7/8. Keep in mind 9<sup>th</sup> graders should not pitch in game. Softball JV teams Alden for softball only team in Division IV with a JV team. Manually schedule Alden JV games in Division III. Do not include in Division III, but place in Division III to provide games. Baseball JV for Alden and Holland do not include in division alignment, but manually schedule those in division alignment as opposed to switching divisions for JV.

- **Golf/Boys Alignment:**

**North Large:** Clarence, Williamsville North, Sweet Home, Williamsville East, Starpoint, Williamsville South. No change (6) teams.

**North Small:** Amherst, Maryvale, Depew, Tonawanda, JFK replacing Iroquois, Alden. (6) teams

**South Large:** Lancaster, West Seneca East/West, Orchard Park, Frontier, Hamburg, Iroquois (6) teams.

**South Small:** Pioneer, Lakeshore Eden, Springville/West Valley, East Aurora, and Holland. (6) teams.

- **Girls Lacrosse:** Years ago, alignments are based on competitiveness because a federated sport like professional soccer. Determined on where finished in division. At the end of that year top (2) teams move up, bottom (2) teams move down a division. Changed this year are the power points. Power points no longer based on who plays who. A school gets 5 points for being a B school. It is on the line of ice hockey. Basically, if in Division 1, top team. No punishment for being in Division 1, if you finish with 500 records, but the person in division 2 who would be in your classification finished above you, you would still be seated above them because you played the higher competition. This is to be voted on this year at the section meeting.

A number of years ago girls' lacrosse put together their league based on competition. ECIC voted on this as a group. How do you base league on beds or level of competition? Level of competition is a difficult decision. Competition alignment not fully supported. Beds is a better option. All coaches not in favor of competitive alignment. Discuss as a topic which can be discussed at the section as a concern at January 2022 meeting. Discuss competition vs. beds with coaches for opinion. Vote to take place in January to bring discussion to section at January meeting. Spring 2022 will be based upon competition. Spring 2023 vote to bring up at January 2022 section meeting.

Conference 1: Lancaster, Clarence, Frontier, Hamburg, Williamsville East, West Seneca East, Eden, Gowanda

Conference 2: Orchard Park, Williamsville North, Niagara Wheatfield, Amherst, Grand Island, East Aurora, Iroquois.

Conference 3: Kenmore, Niagara Falls, West Seneca West, Lockport, Williamsville South, Lewiston Porter, Lakeshore, Salamanca.

Conference 4: Buffalo Public, North Tonawanda, Sweet Home, Starpoint, Springville, Newfane, Depew.

**Section VI/NYSPHSAA Report:** *M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, V. Dell'Oso, D. Hack*

- **Report from November 17<sup>th</sup> Section VI AC Mtg:** nothing
- **Committee Reports:**

**Sectional/Intersectional**  
No report

**Jason Przybysz**

**Modified**  
No report

**Daryl Besant**

**Safety**  
No report

**Eric Rupp**

**Chemical Awareness**  
No report

**Eric Rupp (not Eric)**

**Finance**  
No report, meeting in January

**Vinny Dell'Oso**

**Sportsmanship**  
No report

**Sandy Gauthier**

**Charter Schools**  
See above

**Jeff Wheaton**

**Combining of Schools**  
No report

**Daryl Besant**

**Recruitment of Officials**  
No report

**Brian Hickson**

**Old Business:**

- **Are we prepared for Section AC vote in January Classification Proposal:** Be ready to vote for classification proposals at January meeting so ECIC can be represented for (6) and/or more. Only for certain sports. Football not included.

**New Business:**

- **All ECIC teams: Needed, Procedure, Discussion:** Do we have ECIC teams? Do we need them or how do we determine them? Is there a voting process on teams for each sport or are the coaches (at liberty) able to make this decision? Coach provided names and was unsure as to how selected. Was there a voting process? Is there a set guideline? Girls' volleyball-no discussion regarding vote on how placement took place. Provided an email. Hour long process of picking division all stars. Going with a second person this should be included in the list of expectations for the chairperson. There should be a beginning of the season meeting and an end of the season meeting with regard to handling of selection of all stars. Section does not get involved in all star selection. Possible on-line voting for each division. League must make decision with regard to all ECIC teams. No need for all ECIC teams. Not required in Constitution. All ECIC team good as long as there is a consistency.

- **Girls Golf:** Section provides buses. Girls' golf chairs asked if a bus could be provided for the state tournament to take place in Saratoga. Do member schools who participate in girls' golf want a bus secured for the event? If yes, participating schools would be billed for the use of the bus. At present bus cost would be \$5,000 which includes the cost of the bus and a room for the drive for an overnight stay. The \$5,000 cost would be divided between 14 for the use of the bus. If voted yes and bus is not used, there will still be a charge for the bus. ECIC would like the bus provided and will pay their cost.

- **A Few Good Athletic Secretaries:** East Aurora school nurse wrote a passage for school secretary based on the movie A Few Good Men.

***Motion to conclude ECIC meeting***

- 1<sup>st</sup> Marisa Dougherty-Fallacaro (West Seneca)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vinny Dell'Oso (Starpoint)

***Motion to enter Athletic Council for vote on combining of schools***

1<sup>st</sup> Vinny Dell'Oso (Starpoint)

2<sup>nd</sup> Daryl Besant (Lakeshore)

- **Combine: EA & Holland – Gameday Cheer, Football (V/Mod), Field Hockey (mod), Boys Volleyball (V):**

East Aurora and Holland- Varsity Cheer

East Aurora and Holland – Football

East Aurora and Holland – Modified field hockey

East Aurora and Holland - Boys Varsity Volleyball

Pioneer and Holland-boys/girls cross country

Eden and North Collins- boys V/JV/Modified Volleyball

Holland and West Valley -girls V/Modified soccer

Holland and East Aurora- Varsity and JV field hockey

***Motion to approve combining of schools***

Motion passed

***Motion to adjourn athletic director meeting***

1<sup>st</sup> Vinny Dell'Oso (Starpoint)

2<sup>nd</sup> Daryl Besant (Lakeshore)

**Good of the Order:**

**Next Meeting Dates:**

***Athletic Directors Tuesday 1/4/22 @E1B Room A3***

***Athletic Council –1/10/2022 @ E1B Room B1***