



Athletic Council Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2021 – 11:30am
Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Rd., W. Seneca Room B2a & B-2b
Lunch served at 11:00am

ATHLETIC COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

- 3.1 **CARRIED:** September 15, 2021 Athletic Council meeting minutes
- 5.1 **WITHDRAWN:** Combining of Schools for winter Girls Ice Hockey, Add Lockport to the Previously approved West Seneca East and West, Eden, Hamburg.
- 5.1.2 **CARRIED:** Demerge Boys Swimming Dunkirk/Westfield/Forestville
- 5.2 **CARRIED:** Eden Boys Lacrosse as Independent Status
- 5.3 **CARRIED:** Outside Agency Contests
- 6.3.1 **CARRIED:** Treasurer's Report
- 6.4.2 **CARRIED:** Outdoor Track and Field 2021-2022 - Approval to run 5 class meets and run the state qualifier (2 days with both divisions at the same site).
- 6.4.3 **CARRIED:** Alex Chambers as the Boys Tennis Assistant Chairman
- 6.4.4 **CARRIED:** Boys Ice Hockey Seeding
- 6.4.5 **CARRIED:** Girls Lacrosse Alignment
- 6.14.1 **CARRIED:** Matt McKenna, Athletic Director Niagara Wheatfield as Safety Chair



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1.0 CALL TO ORDER (Brett Banker)

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

President Banker informed the group that item 5.1 would no longer be an ACTION ITEM.

Motion to add **ACTION ITEM 5.1.2** to Agenda

CARRIED

Graczyk/Rabey

2.0 INTRODUCTIONS & AWARD PRESENTATIONS (Brett Banker)

NFHS Network Presentation – Doug Levesque from NFHS presented about the NFHS streaming of events. Reminder to Superintendents and Athletic Directors they continue to offer 2 FREE cameras per school. NFHS Network has all Sectional/Regional/States rights to broadcasts until June 2024. Can be a great source of revenue for both the individual schools as well as the Section.

Marissa Dauria with a special presentation – Unfortunate that Matt McKenna wasn't present. Matt pulled over on his way home and called 911 for a distressed individual on the side of the road which happened to be Sweet Home Football coach who was having a stroke. Thanks to Matt it saved Coach Zimmerman's life.

Introduction of new Council members. Welcome to Kevin Salisbury, Athletic Administrator from Southwestern, who is the new male rep to the CCAA, replacing Rick DeKay. Welcome back to Mark Kruzynski, Superintendent at Medina who will be filling the N/O BOCES Representative position that Michelle Bradley vacated to take on the NFL Superintendent Representative. Welcome to Trevor Brown, Assistant Principal at Kenmore West who will be the new Principal Representative for the NFL.

3.0 MINUTES (Brett Banker)

3.1 **Motion to approve** of the September 15, 2021 Athletic Council meeting minutes

CARRIED

Graczyk/House

4.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Mark DiFilippo)

4.1 Fall Sectional Championship Review - Congratulations to all fall champions. Attendance seemed to be good and was good to see our fall back to somewhat normal, with students at events and crowds at neutral sites. It is important to note to our member schools that although we are at neutral sites they need to provide adequate supervision for their school at all events. Some minor issues with fan behavior.

4.2 Fall state bussing - Niagara Scenic with whom we had bid and contracted with called the week of the event and informed us they did not have enough drivers to take care of our trip. Therefore, schools went on their own buses. Special thanks to Bob Breidenstein from Salamanca. They own two coach buses and provided one of theirs for us to use. Schools were told to provide billing to us and we will reimburse them for the expenses. Thanks to all schools for their cooperation in making it work to get our kids to Binghamton.

- 4.3 Winter state championships - Ocean Breeze announced a change to the state that they will no longer require athletes to be vaccinated to participate. However, spectators and officials will have to be. Competitive Cheer at RIT will require ALL participants and spectators to be vaccinated in March so please inform your teams. We will continue to update any changes as things progress. Reminder that for indoor track and boys swimming we will put 4 kids and 2 coaches per room for hotel stays.
- 4.4 Girls Flag Football update - The following schools have confirmed participation this Spring 22. Buffalo Academy of Science, Niagara Falls, Sweet Home, Depew, West Seneca East and West, North Tonawanda, Frontier. Hamburg, Amherst, Iroquois, Williamsville South and Orchard Park were on a waiting list and may get offered a spot.
- 4.5 Officials Negotiations Contract - Still working to schedule a date where each sport group will come in and meet the officials negotiations team.
- 4.6 Officials Vaccination status - Mark met with all the winter groups to let them know about the requirement. Thursday December 2nd will be the first Thursday to provide their eligibility list. If their group is 100% vaccinated they will only need to provide that list one time. If not, every Thursday they will be required to provide a list to the assignors of who is vaccinated or tested that week.
- 4.7 President-Elect 2022-2024 (Central) - President elect position will be open and will come from the Central which is ECIC and Buffalo. Application has been posted on the Bulletin Board. Deadline is our March meeting so we can approve a candidate at our May meeting.

5.0 COMMUNICATIONS (Mark DiFilippo)

On November 2, 2021, the Executive Committee voted and approved the following applications and changes:

- Bowl BG, Brocton, Chautauqua Lake, V 235 D2
- Bowl BG, Kenmore East and West, V 1452 D1
- Bowl BG, Added Friendship to the already approved Hinsdale, Cuba-Rushford, V 285 D2
- Cheer, Silver Creek, Forestville, V 270 D2
- Indoor Track, Health Science CS, WNY Maritime, 423 D2
- Wrestling, Added Depew to the previously approved West Seneca East and West, 1238 D1

5.1 Motion to approve Combining of Schools application numbers (2) through (3) (Item 1 withdrawn)

Winter

1. Girls Ice Hockey, Add Lockport to the Already approved West Seneca East and West, Eden, Hamburg
withdrawn

5.1.2 Motion to approve Combining of Schools application **changes** numbers (2) & (3)

2. Boys Swimming, Dunkirk, Westfield & Forestville **remove Westfield add Fredonia, V, 654**
3. Indoor Track B/G, Dunkirk & Silver Creek **Add Forestville, V, 607**

CARRIED
Gens/Rabey

5.2 Motion to approve: Eden Boys Lacrosse as Independent Status

CARRIED
Fallacaro-Dougherty/House

5.3 **Motion to approve** Outside Agency Contests items (a) and (b)

- a. Basketball-Boys, Lockport Boys Basketball Tip Off Tournament, 12/2-4/21 at Lockport HS sponsored by Rotary of Lockport & Lockport HS, Insurance Pending
- b. Wrestling, Lockport Wrestling Tournament, 1/14-15/22 at Lockport HS sponsored by Sunrise Optimist Club & Lockport HS, Insurance Pending

CARRIED

Breidenstein/Zirkle

6.0 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Combining of Schools Committee (Jeff Rabey)

Nothing to Report

6.2 Charter Schools Classification Committee (Jeff Rabey)

Nothing to Report

6.3 Finance Committee (Don Scholla)

6.3.1 **Motion to approve** the Treasurer's Report (Attachment)

CARRIED

Penhollow/Gens

6.3.2 2020-21 Audit Report was completed in Mid-October. Don will be happy to share the report with anyone interested. The only thing that continues to come up is the amount of cash handling at events. Hoping to move to more online ticketing to reduce cash.

6.3.3 2022-23 Budget presentation (Attachment) – Looking to approve Budget at the January meeting. Please discuss at your league meetings and ask Don if there are any questions.

6.4 Sectional/Intersectional Committee (Mark DiFilippo)

6.4.1 Unified Sports Scheduling – Bowling and Basketball schedules will be more geographical. Can not go true league based scheduling because not all of our leagues have enough teams.

6.4.2 **Motion to approve:** Outdoor Track and Field 2021-2022 - Approval to run 5 class meets and run the state qualifier (2 days with both divisions at the same site).

CARRIED

Graczyk/Halgash

6.4.3 **Motion to approve** Alex Chambers as the Boys Tennis Assistant Chairman

CARRIED

Fallacaro-Dougherty/Jeff Roth

6.4.4 **Motion to approve** Boys Ice Hockey Seeding – John McFall from the Hockey committee presented Boys Ice Hockey to utilize the "My Hockey Rankings.Com" formula for the current season for Division 2 seedings only. Division 2 teams are spread over 3 different divisions making for an unbalanced schedule.

CARRIED

Halgash/Taylor

- 6.4.5 **Motion to approve** Girls Lacrosse Alignment – 2022 alignment would be based off last year's with top two teams moving up and bottom two moving down in each division. Sectional/Intersectional still has to work with the playoff seeding formula. Final alignment will be attached in **APPENDIX A**.

CARRIED

Fallacaro-Dougherty/Rabey

6.5 Safety (TBA)

Nothing to Report

6.6 Modified Report (Matt Libroek & Julie Arnold)

Nothing to report

6.7 State Executive Committee /Central Committee

a) Superintendent (Jeff Rabey)

Nothing to Report

b) Principal (AI Gens)

Nothing to Report

c) Female Rep. / Male Rep. (M. Fallacaro-Dougherty / J. Graczyk)

The following items were approved at the October 2021 NYSPHSAA Central Committee meeting

1. Amateur Rule Revision
2. New regional assignments for Girls Volleyball, 2022-25
3. New regional rotation for Boys Volleyball, 2022-24
4. Allow schools to enter relay teams without individual athlete names in the sports of Boys/Girls Swimming & Diving –
5. Regional rotations established for team competition for 6-year cycle in the sport of Girls Tennis
6. Mandating all tennis players to “claim: profiles on UTR and require schools to submit season results
7. Increased the minimum number of contests to qualify for states from 2 to 3 in the sport of Competitive Cheerleading
8. Regional rotations established for team competition for a 6-year cycle in the sport of Boys Tennis
9. Allow Bowling to conduct virtual matches with section or league approval.
10. Approved NYSPHSAA Dues and ticket prices frozen for 2022-23
11. Approved the 2022-23 School Enrollment Numbers. (Attachment)

The following item is for discussion. It will become an action item for the January 19, 2022 Section VI Athletic Council meeting to provide direction for J. Graczyk, Male Representative, and M. Fallacaro-Dougherty, Female Representative to vote at the February 2022 NYSPHSAA Executive Committee meeting.

12. Classification Cut-Off Format
13. Championship Philosophy – Criteria for Sixth Classification
14. NYSPHSAA Ice Hockey Officials Fees increase

6.8 Extended Eligibility (Mark DiFilippo)

Nothing to Report

6.9 Chemical Awareness (John Grzymala)

Nothing to Report

6.10 Transfer/ Foreign Student (Mark DiFilippo)

Reports were emailed to the Executive Committee

6.11 Sportsmanship (Jim Graczyk & Doug Ames) - Leagues were asked to discuss whether they want the state to institute language about requiring parents to watch NFHS sportsmanship videos as a return ticket for getting ejected from a contest. Do our schools want to incorporate some sort of policy to deal with unruly behaviors. Leagues should also discuss whether they want stronger language for athletes/coaches/parents that make physical contact with an official. Please bring league thoughts back to the January meeting so Jim and Doug know how to represent the section at their February meeting.

6.12 Veterans (Jim Trampert)
Nothing to report

6.13 Mixed Competition (Al Gens)
Nothing to Report

6.14 Nominations (Maureen Donahue)

6.14.1 **Motion to approve** Matt McKenna, Athletic Director Niagara Wheatfield as **Safety Chair**
CARRIED
Graczyk/Rabey

6.15 Corporate Partner (Mark DiFilippo)
Nothing to Report

6.16 Hall of Fame (Jim Dunnigan) – December 3rd will be the 7th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony at Columns Restaurant. This year's inductees will be Matt Chimera (Kenmore West Coach), Mike DeBarbieri (Portville Coach), John "Pinky" Loughlin (Medina Coach), Marv Matteson (Kenmore East/Iroquois Coach), Mary Neilon (Ellicottville Coach), Frank Pavich (Niagara Wheatfield Athlete), Bill Ross (Niagara Wheatfield AD), Tom Shifflet (Sweet Home Athlete), Angela Tylec (Niagara Wheatfield Athlete), Peter Weishan (Salamanca AD/Coach).
Nominations for next year's class will be accepted until May.

6.17 Unified Sports (Doug Ames) - Currently we have 35 schools participating in Bowling and 43 playing basketball this year. Tuesday November 23rd will be the Pre-season Bowling meeting.

7.0 SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 All WNY Scholar Athlete (Jeff Roth)

Applications are open Fall Deadline Monday, December 6, 2021

7.2 Charter Schools (Mark DiFilippo)

7.2.1 Charter School Placement - Dr. Rabey chairing the Ad Hoc committee for placement of the 5 Charter Schools –First meeting went well. A survey will be sent to all the Charter Schools to gather more data about their location in relation to other schools, what facilities and programs do they have, size of school and future growth of programs. The committee wants to provide the Council with a recommendation at the January meeting.

8.0 STATE & SECTION SPORT COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 NYSPHSAA Girls Golf Meeting Minutes – October 22, 2021 (Attachment)

8.2 NYSPHSAA Boys Lacrosse Meeting Minutes-November 3, 2021 (Attachment)

9.0 GUEST REPORTS

9.1 NYSPHSAA Report (Robert Zayas) – Our Fall State Championships thus far have shown an increase in attendance. All Championship events are no online ticketing only. No cash sales at the gate for any event. In addition, the State has moved to online programs and will not be selling programs at the events. They have seen a large increase in the number of people viewing these programs. Robert reminded everyone of the September 8th document that was sent out across the state pertaining to the NYSPHSAA Championship COVID protocols. These protocols begin with regional play. No adjustments to sites, times or locations will take place.

9.2 NYSAAA Report (Jeff Roth)

Athletic Director Certification (Attachment) – This proposal will hopefully be going to NYSED soon. We are looking for Superintendent support for this to help Athletic Administrators be more successful. It would be for any Athletic Administrator currently with less than 3 years' experience on the job.

10.0 SPORTS REPORTS

None this month

11.0 OLD BUSINESS

12.0 NEW BUSINESS

13.0 GOOD OF THE ADJOURNMENT

Fallacaro-Dougherty/Graczyk

Motion to adjourn

CARRIED

APPENDIX A

Girls Lacrosse Final Alignments

Conference 1

Lancaster
Clarence
Frontier
Hamburg
Williamsville East
WS East
Eden
Gowanda

Conference 2

Orchard Park
Williamsville North
Niagara Wheatfield
Amherst
Grand Island
East Aurora
Iroquois

Conference 3

Kenmore
Niagara Falls
WS West
Lockport
Williamsville South
Lew-Port
Lake Shore
Salamanca

Conference 4

Buffalo Public
North Tonawanda
Sweet Home
Starpoint
Springville
Newfane
Depew

ATTENDANCE (Voting Members - *) (Absent) (Alternates in Attendance)

Executive Committee		Committee Chairpersons		Sportschairs
President*	Brett Banker	Chemical Awareness	John Grzymala	
President-Elect*	Maureen Donahue	Extended Eligibility	Mark DiFilippo	
Superintendents' Rep.*	Jeff Rabey	Finance	Steve Penhollow	
Principals' Rep.*	Al Gens	Male Modified	Matt Librock	Guests
Male Rep.*	Jim Graczyk	Female Modified	Julie Arnold	Pat Burke
Female Rep.*	Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty	Nominations	Maureen Donahue	Marc LaMorticella
Past President	Adam Stoltman	NYSAAA	Jeff Roth	Robert Zayas
Executive Director	Mark DiFilippo	Policy Handbook	Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty	John McFall
Treasurer	Don Scholla	Safety	N/A	Doug Ames
		Sectional Intersectional	Mark DiFilippo	
		Sportsmanship	Doug Ames/Jim Graczyk	
		Transfer	Mark DiFilippo	
		Veterans	Jim Trampert	
		Hall of Fame	Jim Dunnigan	
		Combining of Schools	Jeff Rabey	

League	Representative	Alternate
BUFFALO		
Superintendents Rep./AD*	Michael House	TBD - New Associate Supt. for Strategic Alignment and Innovation
Principals' Rep.*	Carlos Alvarez	Jody Covington, Performing Arts
Female Rep.*	Sarah Galante	Syble Smith (McKinley, Head Volleyball & Swim Coach)
Male Rep.*	Steve McDuffie	David Kelly (Olmsted, Head Golf, Swim & Tennis Coach)

CHAUTAQUA CATTARAUGUS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (CCAA)

Superintendents' Rep.*	Steve Penhollow, Falconer	TBA
Principals' Rep.*	Jason Halpainy, Randolph	TBA
Female Rep.*	Carol Zirkle, Fredonia	TBA
Male Rep.*	Kevin Salisbury, Southwestern	TBA

ERIE COUNTY INTERSCHOLASTIC CONFERENCE (ECIC)

Superintendents' Rep.*	Sean Croft, Starpoint	Jeff Rabey, Depew
Principals' Rep.*	Tim Wiles, Cleveland Hill	Steve Smith, Alden
Female Rep.*	Marissa Dauria, Sweet Home	Daryl Besant, Lake Shore
Male Rep.*	Dave Hack, Orchard Park	Vinny Dell'Oso, Starpoint

NIAGARA FRONTIER LEAGUE (NFL)

Superintendents' Rep.*	Michelle Bradley, Lockport	Dan Ljiljanich, Niagara Wheatfield
Principals' Rep.*	Trevor Brown, Kenmore	TBA
Female Rep.*	Lindsay Bergman, Kenmore	
Male Rep.*	Jon Roth, Grand Island	Brad Halgash, LewPort

NIAGARA ORLEANS LEAGUE (NO)

Superintendents' Rep.*	Jacob Reimer, Barker	Mark Kruzynski, Medina
Principals' Rep.*	Dan Bedette, Newfane	Steve Dimitroff, Akron
Female Rep.*	Jeff Roth, Wilson	Adam Krenning, Albion
Male Rep.*	John Grzymala, Roy-Hart	Eric Valley, Medina

SUPERINTENDENT REPRESENTATION (BOCES)

Erie 1 BOCES*	Jon MacSwan, Cleveland Hill	TBA
Erie 2 BOCES*	Scott Taylor, North Collins	TBA
ON BOCES*	Mark Kruzynski, Medina	TBA
CA BOCES*	Robert Breidenstein, Salamanca	TBA