

**Section One, Inc.**  
**Center for Interscholastic Athletics**



**Athletic Council Meeting Minutes**

February 17, 2022

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88618825376?pwd=cXRNRnNxdVpCeHA5NnBtY3dEZDRzZz09>

Meeting ID: 886 1882 5376

Passcode: cW4Abh

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Representative</b>
President	Dr. Marc Baiocco
Conference I Athletic Director	Andy Guccione
Conference I Athletic Director	Joe Luzzi
Conference I Athletic Director	Steve Young
Conference I Principal	Brett Miller ( <i>absent</i> )
Conference II Athletic Director	Mike Arias
Conference II Athletic Director	Dan Belfi
Conference II Athletic Director	Chris Galano
Conference II Principal	Rudy Arietta
Conference III Athletic Director	Joe Ceglia
Conference III Athletic Director	Chris Drosopoulos
Conference III Athletic Director	Denise Kiernan
Conference III Principal	Joe Palumbo
At-Large Athletic Director (Class D)	Andrine Trotman
Championship Committee Co-Chair	Tom Baker / Adam Lodewick
<b>Non-Voting Members</b>	<b>Representative</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Principal	James Mackin
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Athletic Director	Joe Sigillo
Superintendent Liaison to Athletic Council	Anthony DiCarlo
Executive Director, CIA/Treasurer	Todd Santabarbara
Assistant Director, CIA/Assistant Treasurer	Jesse Merchant
Recording Secretary	Stacy Chimento
<b>Guests</b>	
NYSPHSAA Female AD Rep	Susan Reid-Dullea
NYSPHSAA Male AD Rep	Rob Pollok
Principal, Pearl River HS	Dr. Robert Zaccarelli
Athletic Director, Pearl River HS	Arthur McCormack

**I. Call Meeting to Order**

*Meeting was called to order at 9:35am*

## II. Approval of the Agenda

**(A)** Consider approval of the agenda

*Motion to approve the agenda: Drosopoulos / Ceglia*

**Carried:** Aye=12      Nay=0      Abstention=0

## III. Approval of the Minutes

**(A)** Consider approval of the **January 18, 2022** Athletic Council meeting minutes

*Motion to approve the January 18, 2022 meeting minutes: Baker / Sigillo*

**Carried:** Aye=12      Nay=0      Abstention=0

## IV. Treasurer's Report

**(A)** Consider approval of the Treasurer's Report

- *Cash Balance of \$855,751.97*
- *Reserve Balance of \$47,261.13*

*Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Drosopoulos / Kiernan*

**Carried:** Aye=12      Nay=0      Abstention=0

## V. Officer's Reports: President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

- *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – (Sigillo) – Requesting that attempts be made for all members to remain on the call and be present for the duration of the meeting in an effort to address membership concerns.*

## VI. Section One Report

**(D)** Football Scheduling / Independent Declaration

*Motion to table the discussion on Football Scheduling / Independent Declaration: Belfi / Baker*

**Carried:** Aye= 12      Nay=0      Abstention=0

## VII. NYSPHSAA Report: Dr. Robert Zayas, NYSPHSAA Executive Director

**(I)** Overview of the approved items from the February 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee meeting

*Susan Reid, NYSPHSAA Female AD Rep & Rob Pollok, NYSPHSAA Male AD Rep*

*Susan Reid reported the following to the Athletic Council:*

- *Six Classification Criteria: Based upon the concerns shared at the Athletic Council meeting our state reps did not support the six-classification proposal. However, the majority of Sections supported the proposal.*
- *Six Classification Process, Timeline: Carried, unanimously by all 11 Sections*
- *Cheer State Championship Venue: Originated as a discussion item but was moved to an action item regarding spectator limitations or changing the venue to provide the least restrictive environment for student-athletes. While our Section supported this action item, the proposal was defeated by the State Executive Committee.*
- *Wrestling & Basketball Proposal: Originated as a discussion item but was moved to an action item regarding spectator limitations. Our Section has continued to support a venue and*

*experience that embraces the least restrictive environment. In this instance, both venues had a testing option that provided all with the opportunity to attend and compete.*

**VIII. Mergers/Combining of Teams**

**(A)** Consider approval of the proposed mergers/combining of teams for the 2021-22 school year

*Motion to approve the proposed mergers: Kiernan / Baiocco*

**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention= 0

**IX. Outside Agency: N/A**

**X. Self-Report:**

**(I)** Use of an ineligible player – Yonkers HS, Wrestling

Rob Webb, Yonkers Interim Director of Athletics

*Rob Webb presented a self-report for the use of an ineligible player on the Yonkers High School Varsity Wrestling team. As a result of this violation, the prescribed NYSPHSAA penalty is the forfeiture of all events participated in.*

- *No additional sanctions were placed on Yonkers*

**XI. Friend & Neighbor Applications: N/A**

**XII. Senior All-Star Applications: N/A**

**XIII. New Member School Presentations / Applications**

**(D)** Consideration of the membership application for the **Hudson Lab School (K-8)**

*The Hudson Lab School shared an overview of their school and membership application to Section One (enclosed in meeting packet):*

*Small Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade private school founded in 2017 in Hastings on Hudson NY. Students will be graduating after 8<sup>th</sup> grade and moving on to both public and private schools. Not currently interested in moving beyond 8<sup>th</sup> grade or modified programming. They hope to offer soccer, tennis & lacrosse through mergers with Hastings UFSD. Some language exists on social media or websites and the application references moving toward K-12. The application is a K-8 application and would only be valid for the modified programming.*

**(A)** Consider approval of the membership application for the **Montfort Academy**

*Motion to deny the membership application for the Montfort Academy: Baiocco / Ceglia*

**Carried:** Aye=14      Nay=0      Abstention= 0

**XIV. General Action/Discussion/Informational Items**

**(A)** Consider approval of AIA as the exclusive merchandise vendor for Spring Section 1 Championships  
*Finance Committee*

*Motion to approve AIA as the exclusive merchandise vendor for Spring Section 1 Championships: Ceglia / Kiernan*

**Carried:** Aye=13      Nay=0      Abstention=0

Discussion: *The Section received and reviewed seven different proposals. AIA was selected to serve as a pilot for the spring season.*

**XV. Sports Action/Discussion/Informational Items (Proposals)**

**(A)** Consider approval of the revised **Boys Tennis** qualifying and seeding standards

*Chris Galano, Boys Tennis Sport Chair*

*Motion to approve the revised Boys Tennis qualifying and seeding standards: Ceglia / Lodewick*

**Carried:** *Aye=14      Nay=0      Abstention=0*

**(D)** Consideration to amend the Section One yellow card policy for **Boys & Girls Soccer**

*Tom Baker / Adam Lodewick, Co-Chair Championship Committee*

Discussion: *Our Section is currently more restrictive than the state yellow card policy for Boys & Girls soccer. This proposal will be reviewed by the Sportsmanship Committee and was crafted with the support input from the Boys & Girls Sport Chairs and Championships Committee.*

**XVI. Amendments to Section One Constitution: N/A**

**XVII. Membership Concerns**

- Spectator Behavior – Pearl River Basketball  
*Joe Sigillo, Nyack AD & Andy Guccione, Suffern AD*

***Joe Sigillo, Nyack AD, reported the following concerns to the Athletic Council:***

- *An incident occurred at the February 9<sup>th</sup>, Nyack vs. Pearl River Varsity Boys Basketball game involving Pearl River spectators.*
- *The initial incident included student spectators making noises resembling a monkey while a student of color was on the free throw line. Highly inappropriate and racially insensitive comments created an unsafe environment. These behaviors continued after the initial incident occurred and were captured on video.*
- *Pearl River supervisors and administrators who were present at the game did not address the issue beyond speaking with the student spectators at the time of the initial incident. No one was removed from the game.*
- *Racially driven chants and other inappropriate actions continued to occur throughout the remainder of the event which went unaddressed by administration.*

***Andy Guccione, Suffern AD, reported the following to the Athletic Council:***

- *A letter was drafted by the Suffern School District and shared with the Section 1 office stating that on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, “during the course of the game, Suffern players were subjected to taunts and highly sensitive remarks which included racially driven statements and chants from Pearl River fans”.*
- *The incidents were reported to Pearl River administration and Suffern acknowledged the district was taking the matter serious and was currently in the process of investigating.*

- *When learning of a similar incident at Nyack, Suffern felt compelled to report their experience as well.*

***Overview of Section One's oversight:***

- *Section One released a statement to the media regarding the Nyack vs. Pearl River incident. A copy was enclosed in the meeting packet.*
- *It was shared by the Section One Executive Director that it is the role of the school districts involved to investigate any incidents occurring at interscholastic athletic events.*
- *It is the role of the Section to support all districts involved and provide guidance as the district administration investigates the incident via DASA and/or Title VI.*
- *The Section One leadership will continue to engage outside resources to aid and support the districts involved.*
- *If there is no resolution between the involved districts, it is at this stage, that the Section would intervene to assist in addressing the situation.*
- *Providing the opportunity for the Pearl River School District to share the steps they have taken to address the reported issues inclusive of their event management plan to ensure a safe environment for upcoming interscholastic athletic events is a priority of the Athletic Council.*

***Pearl River Administration (AD & Principal) reported the following to the Athletic Council:***

- *The Pearl River administration was invited to present their event management plan that would ensure a safe environment for all in attendance for upcoming postseason events.*
- *Additional law enforcement, school administrators and event supervisors will be added for all upcoming events hosted at Pearl River.*
- *For their upcoming postseason home games, they plan to limit home spectators to a "manageable number" and limit away spectators to two per player.*
- *A series of other changes are anticipated to occur including the use of a QR code to be used to register students in attendance and the addition of sportsmanship signage in the gymnasium.*
- *Educational awareness and sensitivity trainings will be facilitated as part of ongoing work within the district.*

***Discussion of possible sanctions being considered by the Athletic Council:***

- *Postpone the game that is scheduled for today until a determination can be made regarding the appropriate path forward*
- *Pending investigation, recommend no student spectators (or the possible limitation of all spectators)*

- *Move all scheduled contests to their opponent's site for the duration of the post-season.*

*Motion to postpone today's (February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022) Varsity Girls Basketball game between Yonkers High School and Pearl River until further notice: Trotman / Ceglia*

***Carried:** Aye=10      Nay=0      Abstention=0*

#### **XVIII. Conference Reports**

- *Conference I – no report*
- *Conference II – no report*
- *Conference III – Concerns were shared and discussed regarding a post on social media that was made by an Athletic Administrator from one of our member schools. The individual serves in multiple roles, and there was a concern surrounding the context of the post and a potential conflict of interest that may exist holding multiple roles. The District Superintendent should be made aware. Superintendent Liaison, Anthony DiCarlo offered to speak with the respective Superintendent.*

#### **XIX. Standing Committee Reports**

#### **XX. Old Business**

#### **XXI. New Business**

#### **XXII. Good of the Order**

#### **XXIII. Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn: Kiernan / Trotman*

***Carried:** Aye= 10      Nay=0      Abstention=0*

**Next Meeting:**  
**March 22, 2022**  
**9:30am**