



August 2002



RIIL



EXPRESSES



Member of the
National Federation
of High Schools



A Proud Member of
The High School Internet Network

**FROM THE DESK OF
THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ...**

I want to take this opportunity to welcome all our members back as we begin a new school year. One of the great things about the business of education and athletics is that we get to start all over again every year. It makes it very conducive to having new goals, recharging batteries, etc. It is hard to imagine having the same group year after year, either in the classroom or on the playing field. Think about the record of a losing team just going on and on and on. 0-0 and a fresh group, in the total scheme of things, is one of the truly great parts of this thing we get to do every day.

In a poem entitled "The Station" by Robert J. Hastings, he writes about how all of us are constantly living for the goals that we set ... 'when I get to college, when I get a job, when I get a new job, when I retire', etc. It builds to the point only to remind us that reaching the goal many times leaves us disappointed and looking for more. He then takes us to the conclusion that it really is the journey that makes it all worthwhile. The journey is the best part.

We need to remind ourselves of that *every* day. The goals will all get here quick enough. Enjoy the day. One of the true joys for all of us is just enjoying the journey.

Lou Holtz, Head Football Coach at South Carolina University, said, "Your talent determines what you can do; your motivation determines how much you are willing to do; your attitude determines how well you do it." So ... as we start a new year, we can choose to have a good year or a bad year. I hope for the sake of our students, we all make the right choice.

With that in mind, the Principals' Committee on Athletics and the RIIL staff wish you a successful and enjoyable year. Please know that the RIIL administration and staff stand ready to assist you in any way. Please do not hesitate to call.

* * * * *

→ IMPORTANT REMINDER ←

The **Annual Principals/Athletic Directors meeting** will be held on **Thursday, September 19, 2002 at 8:00 am**. [*Please note the date change from the originally scheduled date of Wednesday, September 28th.*] The Principals' Committee on Athletics has declared this a mandatory meeting for the Principals or his/her designee and for all Athletic Directors. Please note that Assistant Principals and Administrators are also invited to attend this conference. The meeting will be held at the Rhode Island College Faculty Dining Center. Please mark this date on your calendar. Registration forms have been mailed to all Principals. Please return your completed registration form to the League office no later than Friday, September 6th.

* * * * *

"I have learned that success is measured not so much by the position one has reached in life as by the obstacles he has overcome."

Booker T. Washington

* * * * *

**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME**

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League [RIIL], is pleased to announce the inception of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame is dedicated to preserving the colorful tradition of high school athletics in Rhode Island and seeks to highlight the past in order to insure a promising future for Rhode Island high school athletics.

Nominees must exemplify the highest standard of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and moral character and will be considered on the merits of their contributions and achievements to high school athletics. Categories in which a person may be nominated are: competitor, coach, or administrator. In addition, a category has been created for any person whose activities as a game official, school supporter, or one whose combination of activities have resulted in a service qualified as outstanding or excellent.

The fifteen member RIIL Hall of Fame Committee is comprised of representatives from the RIIL Principals' Committee on Athletics, as well as from the Rhode Island Association of School Principals; Rhode Island Association of School Administrators; coaches and officials associations; retired administrators; and sports journalists.

In announcing the Hall of Fame, Richard B. Lynch, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League, stated, "The recognition of past personalities and their significant contributions to our statewide organization will serve to provide models for future generations to emulate."

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League will honor its first class of inductees at a ceremony in April 2003.

Nomination Forms can be downloaded from the RIIL's website, www.riil.org, or by calling the League office. Nominations will be accepted only on the official RIIL Nomination Form and **must be submitted to the Rhode Island Interscholastic League no later than October 1st**.

For more information, call the Interscholastic League office, (401) 272-9844.

* * * * *

Interscholastic Athletics ... an extension of the classroom!

* * * * *

**EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE,
I LEARNED FROM NOAH'S ARK ...**



1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something *really* big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float a while.
10. Remember ... the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.
11. No matter the storm, there is always a rainbow waiting.

* * * * *

BEYOND THE GAME

*Dr. Jim Tenopir
Executive Director
Nebraska Schools Activities Association*

Schools often face a difficult task of balancing the interests of individual students with those of the majority. Schools are often asked (or required) to respond to individual actions of students, sometimes in the most unpleasant ways. Sometimes, schools are charged with the dilemma of having to investigate student misdeeds, wrongdoing, and even unlawful activity. Whenever that occurs, schools face the responsibilities of prompt and appropriate action while still assuring due process for the accused.

Whether the case involves violations of training rules, issues with regard to the school's academic code, or infractions that violate law, the school is placed in the unpleasant position of dealing with the matter - not only to assure that the student (or students) in question is dealt with appropriately, but also to assure that the rights, expectations, or safety of others who might be impacted in some way are protected.

Schools with well-developed policies and well-articulated plans sometimes have a tendency to struggle when disciplinary issues arise. One can only begin to understand the stress and turmoil that accrues to those schools that maybe aren't as well prepared as other schools in terms of policies and procedures.

A recent high profile student disciplinary issue in a [Nebraska] member school caught the attention of the State board of Education. Apparently based upon the perception that the

matter wasn't handled correctly or based upon the perception that the penalty didn't fit the infraction, interests were stirred to direct the Nebraska School Activities Association [NSAA] to either take action or to restrict a student's participation in the school's activities program.

It is not the nature of the NSAA staff or Board to "duck" our responsibilities in assuring that our state activities programs are properly focused. I believe it is our collective desire to assure that our activities programs and participants are held to an appropriate level of accountability. However, it is our sincere belief that local schools are the entities that should develop policies and procedures that address student misconduct, rules violations, and even criminal behavior. It would be most difficult for our Association to adequately and appropriately investigate situations in which students are charged with offenses. We lack the manpower to enforce such expectations.

Further, there is a strong belief that any hard and fast rule we might promulgate to bar such "charged" students from participating in activities would not face the challenge of law. Students, too, have the rights of being considered innocent until proven guilty. There is strong legal opinion that our Association would have a difficult time enforcing suspension from activities if such suspensions were based primarily on being charged, as opposed to being convicted. The local districts would be in a better position to investigate and impose sanctions.

The NSAA Board of Control opted to not enter the fray by establishing a system of investigation and/or punishment. Nor did the Board devise action, requiring local districts to adopt some NSAA-imposed sanctions or procedures for offending students. I firmly concur with the consensus opinion of the board that defers such action to the local school.

From a recommendation perspective, I would encourage school administrators to engage in dialogue with their boards of education and legal counsel to determine how each local school will deal with such student misconduct or legal infraction issues, should such unfortunate occurrences face the local school. It is advisable to develop a local policy and supporting procedures for assuring that the offending student(s) are appropriately dealt with, while at the same time assuring the safety and well being of other students and staff.

* * * * *

**Legal
Notes**



From the Missouri State High School Activities Association:

School sports rule held constitutional. A student-athlete, a minor, by and through her father and next friend, Appellant v. Missouri State High School Activities Association, No. 79653 (Mo. App., E.D., July 16, 2002)

School rule banned students from competing on both a school and a non-school team in the same sport during the school's

team season. Trial court denied student's suit for injunction. Appellant argues that rule violates equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and student's rights of free association under the First Amendment.

Held: Affirmed; rule does not violate constitution. Rule did not impinge upon intimate human relationships or First Amendment freedoms. It does not prevent association or discriminate against such association. It is rationally to the welfare of high school athletes.

* * * * *



Guest Editorial

WISDOM AND ITS PLACE

*by Dan Salwedel
Executive Director
New Mexico Activities Association*

Wisdom can be operationally defined as a collection of experiences that are handed down with the intent of establishing a legacy that will be perpetuated through the ages. As has been said in numerous other forums, we teach value education. Our thrust is the socialization process and conventional wisdom affirms the value of that original purpose many times over. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following statements of fact which were evidenced as reported from various pieces of research conducted in our state as well as other states and institutions.

The GPA of students for the 13th consecutive year for those who participate far exceeds those of the non-participants. In fact, it's a 2.9 for the participants in interscholastic activities across the state of New Mexico as opposed to a 2.1 for those who do not participate in anything.

Over 96% of the dropouts in our state for the fourth consecutive year were not involved in any kind of interscholastic or performance activity. Six of every seven students who were sent to or summoned by the principal at member institutions in our state because of discipline problems were non-participants.

95% of the CEOs of Fortune 500 companies were ex-high school athletes.

Students who are involved in activities are much less likely to hold valueless their physical and emotional being and as a consequence are less likely to participate in drugs or something else that might be harmful to their personal beings. Students who are participants have a much higher rate of success in life; i.e., activities have a latent effect in terms of their true value, which is reflected in the importance placed on the experience the longer a student is away from high school. For example, in the value research conducted through the New

Mexico Activities Association state events and on its web, it's been found that over 90% of those who respond to those surveys from the perspective of those who are out of high school ten years or more substantially agree that their value selection was either originated, directed or affirmed significantly by a high school coach/advisor/sponsor. The number increases to over 92% for fifteen years and more away from the high school experiences and at 20-plus years, it's a little over 93%, which leads us to believe that activities play a more important role than we ever imagined, particularly on a long-term basis in terms of affirmation and establishment of values we practice as members of our society.

As a result of this and other pieces of research conducted throughout our nation, it is clear that activities play a very important role in the development of our society's future.

I was privy recently to an example of an interscholastic educator who truly understood his purpose as a role model, an experienced teacher. During a recent cross-country meet, unbeknownst to anyone else, he affirmed that one of his runners had cut off an opponent on the back side of the course inadvertently, but had appropriately reported the incident. This action led the other individual to finish higher and to have a minimum of two of his own participants in this particular meet. The coach and the runner refused to be identified yet recognized the fact that this was their responsibility for teaching and/or affirming one of those lessons we talk about on a regular basis. He placed what was right and/or sportsmanlike ahead of the success of his own individual performer and subsequently the team. That is a true interscholastic educator and a marvelously successful coach. He simply did what he was supposed to do and insisted that that was his role and credits should not be achieved for doing something that was right. Unfortunately, these examples are fewer than we would like to have noticed, although many of

our people do some extraordinary things in terms of representing what the mission of interscholastic education is all about.

This is also how we build on that leadership pool, which is an established goal of the Board of Directors to accomplish a larger group over a period of time in an effort to sustain this legacy or mission, as we've discussed. We set the template in so many ways, and we all have an active role within the value training process for generations to come. Even though we'll teach in the disciplines much differently in the not-too-

distant future, this assurance of importance is a direct reflection of that value education premise and its importance to society's future.

What defines a great program in interscholastic activities? Again, because these are social values, it's very difficult to measure in one form or another and as a consequence requires considerable effort on our part to do an appropriate job of tracking those successes we do achieve over a period of time. As the prior research and information attests, the true value doesn't really reveal itself until much later after the experience has been completed. One could define a sound program in any activity by measuring the number of times students come

Our efforts as interscholastic educators pay handsome dividends for generations to come, most of which we'll know very little about as a consequence. Yet, the rewards are tremendous to see a society blossom employing individuals who have a sense of purpose, commonality and a meaningful attachment to something greater than each of us is individually.

back to his/her teacher, coach, advisor, sponsor, etc. affirming things that they learned positively (values as identified earlier). The status of that individual as a productive member of our society, the kind of effort they put into their particular position, avocation or profession, the ability to sustain a family and prioritize one's life in an effective manner, which would include his foundation as well. The prior student's self-concept and ability to stick with things are very measurable values taught as a part of the experience, which will evidence themselves over a period of time. To acquiesce to barriers such as absence of funding or superficial measures such as wins and losses represents a surface approach. Our efforts as interscholastic educators pay handsome dividends for generations to come, most of which we'll know very little about as a consequence. Yet, the rewards are tremendous to see a society blossom employing individuals who have a sense of purpose, commonality and a meaningful attachment to something greater than each of us is individually. Therefore, possessing wisdom may very well mean that we require the vision to see the future as it is affected by present behavior. Leadership isn't, until you display it.

* * * * *

HIGH SCHOOL HAZING ... WHEN RITES BECOME WRONG

*Excerpts taken from a book of the same title
by Hank Nuwer*

Haze (*origin unknown*) 1A) to **intimidate** by physical punishment 1B) to **harass** by exacting unnecessary, disagreeable, or **difficult** work 1C) to harass or try to **embarrass** or disconnect by banter, **ridicule**, or criticism 2) to subject to treatment intended to put in ridiculous or disconcerting positions 3) to **separate** from a group

Hazing isn't a one-size-fits-all social problem. Some male and female students, particularly those who rarely get involved in school activities, go through secondary school without ever facing an initiation. Hazing may also be uncommon at schools where an enlightened administration has forbidden the practice and enforced stiff penalties for hazers.

However, at less vigilant high schools, people who tend to get involved in clubs and activities may be subjected to hazing not just once but many times. A few go through one outrageous initiation after another and may in turn subject others to similar treatment.

Hazing can start a few days or weeks after students begin high school. If freshmen join sports or the cheerleading squad, they may find themselves subjected to abuses that older classmates tell them everyone before them has endured. And should they decide to join a gang or high school secret society, new students will likely find themselves facing the roughest initiation rituals of all.

Is High School Hazing Getting More Brutal?

One thing is clear: hazing has grown more brutal. Following are four areas of hazing that are particularly troublesome:

- Some older athletes have become more willing to commit acts of same-sex rape against rookies with or without the

knowledge of the coach. In Texas in the mid-1990's, a high school coach's contract was taken away after school board members heard evidence that football rookies had coat hangers inserted into their rectum by veterans, and that the tradition had been in place for perhaps five or more years.

- A few high school social groups and upperclassmen in some high schools have been requiring teenagers as young as fourteen to consume potentially lethal amounts of alcohol to join their ranks.
- The involvement of high school females in cheerleader, pom-pom, sorority, and freshman class hazing is on the rise and may have unfortunate implications for national college sororities. Up to now, although some violent hazing, alcohol misuse, and even branding have occurred in college sororities, hazing has been far less a problem in female clubs than in male fraternities.

How to Attack Hazing

The best time for high schools to halt hazing traditions is to attack it preventively - *before* danger occurs and *before* battle lines are drawn between administrators, coaches, parents, and students. The challenge for all concerned, therefore, is to learn from the high schools that have endured hazing scandals, eliminated all "wrongs of passage," and established easily understood boundaries about what will and won't be permitted. The issue is as related to good management as it is to safety.

Here are some suggestions to help end hazing:

1. Help establish welcome programs for first-year and transfer students.
2. Reconsider *all* traditions in *all* school groups.
3. Don't get caught up in 'groupthink'.
4. Urge your school to adopt a statement of awareness.
5. Create a spirit of camaraderie.
6. Urge your school to take precautions to prevent hazing on team buses, in locker rooms, and during trips.
7. Tell a parent or another responsible about when you need help. Don't cover up hazing incidents.
8. Don't reduce the risk of hazing - eliminate it.
9. Contact hazing activists for guidance and information.
10. If you are involved in a hazing incident, don't be afraid to seek counseling.
11. Write to your representatives in state government.
12. Get involved in the prevention of gangs.
13. Complain to sports channels and the news media about athletic hazing.
14. Don't try at school what you see on television.
15. Don't confuse discipline with abuse.

For more information about hazing and how to write a hazing policy for your school, visit www.stophazing.org.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: *Hank Nuwer has written about hazing for more than 20 years. Known internationally for his publications on hazing and his hazing news service for educators and journalists, he has spoken at Cornell University, Indiana University, and the University of Colorado, among others.*

Nuwer is the author of two other books on hazing, Wrongs of Passage (Indiana University Press) and Broken Pledges: The Deadly Rite of Hazing, articles for the New York Times Sunday Magazine, Human Behavior, and Harper's Magazine, and several books for

Franklin Watts, most recently The Legend of Jesse Owens. He also worked as a consultant on the television movie Moment of Truth: Broken Pledges.

Hank Nuwer has taught journalism since 1982 and is currently an adjunct professor at Indiana University-Purdue University and Anderson University. He was named a 1999 outstanding alumnus of Buffalo State College in New York.

* * * * *



The following is a summary of the August 19, 2002 meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics:

The August meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:40 pm

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's Report was approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Lynch referred to several memoranda and publications that were placed in member's folders or filed in the League office.

RESIGNATION

David Light submitted his resignation as a member of the Principals' Committee on Athletics and as Co-Director of Boys' Basketball. On a motion made and seconded, the Committee on Athletics accepted, with regret, Mr. Light's resignation.

Mr. Lynch reported that there are two (2) vacancies on the Committee as the result of Mr. Light's resignation and Mr. Mercurio's resignation (June '02). Mr. Lynch stated that he has received letters from administrators of member schools who have expressed interest in serving on the Principals' Committee on Athletics. Mr. Lynch will meet with the interested parties to determine where their qualifications will best serve the Committee.

FOOTBALL

Mr. James Murano

Mr. Murano reported that there will be a meeting of all football coaches and captains on Tuesday, August 27, 2002 at North Kingstown H.S. He noted that this is a change from the meeting that was originally scheduled on Monday, August 26th. Representatives from the R. I. Football Officials Association and medical personnel will be present. In addition, a video will be shown about sports injuries.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported on a request from a student-athlete at Middletown High School who plays an offensive tackle position. He is seeking permission to wear #92, the number of a friend who passed away last Spring. Insofar as #92 is designated for defensive players, this issue was brought before the Committee.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the request for this year only.

SOCCER

Mrs. Kathryn Crowley

Mrs. Crowley stated that everything is in place for the beginning of the 2002-2003 girls soccer season. She reported that Kevin McNamara, Director of Athletics at Lincoln H.S., will serve as an Assistant Director of Girls Soccer.

Mr. Lynch reported that Victor Mercurio, who resigned as Director of Boys' Soccer in June 2002, will continue to oversee the boys soccer program until a new boys' soccer director is appointed.

Mr. Lynch also reported that there is a meeting for all boys' soccer coaches and captains on Tuesday, August 27, 2002 at the League office.

TENNIS

**Mrs. Denise Boulé
Ms. Candace Caluori**

Mrs. Boulé, Director of Girls Tennis, reported that there is a revised meeting schedule for girls' tennis that will be sent to all participating schools.

VOLLEYBALL

**Mr. Donald Kavanagh
Ms. Elaine Botelho**

Mr. Kavanagh, Director of Boys Volleyball, reported that he sent a survey to all participating schools regarding the change of boys volleyball from Fall to Spring. He is receiving responses to that survey and will report back to the Principals' Committee on Athletics at a future meeting.

FIELD HOCKEY

Ms. Jean Angell

Ms. Angell reported that everything is in place for the beginning of the 2002-2003 girls' field hockey season

CROSS COUNTRY

There was no report in Cross Country at this meeting.

BASKETBALL

**Mr. Gerald Foley
Ms. Cindy Neal
Ms. Colleen Gribbin**

Mr. Magarian submitted the 2002-2003 Girls Basketball Schedule for the Committee's review and consideration.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2002-2003 Girls' Basketball Schedule, to include the All-Star Game scheduled for Sunday, March 16, 2003.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported that he has met with representatives from the Convocation Center at the University of Rhode Island to discuss the possibility of holding the RIIL State High School Basketball Championships at that site. Mr. Lynch stated that initial figures indicate an approximate loss of \$8,000 if the event is moved to URI because [URI] will charge a \$2.00/ticket surcharge. The Dunkin' Donuts Center (formerly the Providence Civic Center) where the event has

been held for several years, does not charge the surcharge amount (\$2.00/ticket).

A site for the championships will be discussed by the Joint Boys and Girls Basketball Committee at its next meeting and Mr. Lynch will report the findings to the Principals Committee on Athletics.

FASTPITCH SOFTBALL Mrs. Elizabeth Marquis

Mrs. Marquis submitted the following 2001-2002 Fastpitch Softball Championships for the Committee's review and consideration:

Division Championships

I-North	Lincoln High School
I-South	Charlho High School
II-East	Tiverton High School
II-West	Johnston High School

State Championships

Division I	North Kingstown High School
Division II	Tiverton High School

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2001-2002 Fastpitch Softball Championships as submitted.

Mrs. Marquis reported that the 2001-2002 season was a very good one with an increased level of play from past years. She stated that there are three (3) new teams joining the RIIL fastpitch softball league that may necessitate a new alignment - possibly changing to three (3) divisions.

SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL Mr. Tony Torregrossa

Mr. Lynch reported on violations of the RIIL Rules and Regulations by the Cranston High School East slowpitch softball team and a letter from Donald Frederick, Principal of CHSE, in response to same. The violations were as follows: a student-athlete from the CHSE slowpitch softball team participated in a town league while playing for the school team; and, the CHSE slowpitch softball team voluntary forfeited two (2) games during the 2001-2002 season.

The Principals' Committee on Athletics commended Mr. Frederick for internally addressing the issues and taking the necessary steps to avoid that the same infractions happen again.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 11-1, with 1 abstention, to place the Cranston High School East girls slowpitch softball program on probation for one calendar year, beginning on June 15, 2002. If another forfeit/cancellation occurs during the 2003 season, the team will not be allowed to participate in any post-season play. In addition, the probation will be extended and/or the team will be subject to any other penalties as voted by the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

LACROSSE Mr. George Finn

Mr. Finn reported on the issue concerning Lincoln High School's membership in the RIIL boys' lacrosse league. During the last (2001-2002) season, Lincoln H.S. competed against RIIL member schools as part of the 2001-2002 RIIL

boys lacrosse schedule. However, in a letter from Mr. Frederick Silva, Principal, Lincoln H.S., it was stated that the Lincoln H.S. boys lacrosse team entered the season as a club team with the permission of the Principal and the Superintendent of Schools. The lacrosse program was never voted on by the Lincoln School Committee to be a sanctioned and funded program at the high school.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 7-4, with 1 abstention, to not include Lincoln H.S. in the RIIL boys lacrosse schedule for the 2002-2003 season. However, Lincoln H.S. may contact other RIIL [member] teams to schedule non-league games.

GOLF Mr. John Gray

Mr. Gray addressed the issue of four (4) separate forfeits by North Smithfield H.S. during the 2001-2002 season. The forfeits did not come to Mr. Gray's attention until the season had ended. One of the forfeits was because of a mix-up with the bus schedule that resulted in no bus being available. The others were the result of not having enough players to participate in the scheduled matches.

Mr. Lynch received a letter from Mr. Steven Knowlton apologizing for the incidents and assurance that the situation will be addressed so that similar occurrences do not take place next season.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 10-2 to place the North Smithfield High School golf team on probation for one calendar year beginning on June 15, 2002. If another forfeit/cancellation occurs during the 2003 season, the team will not be allowed to participate in any post season play. In addition, the probation will be extended and/or the team will be subject to any other penalties as voted by the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

It was further noted that the more severe penalty would have been imposed if the League had been made aware of the first, and subsequent, forfeitures when they occurred.

In other business, Mr. Gray reported that the Golf Committee will meet later in the Fall to discuss the possibility of forming a separate girls' golf league.

OUTDOOR TRACK Mr. Robert Littlefield

Mr. Lynch reported that the [outdoor track] coaches met at the end of the 2001-2002 season. Several recommendations were proposed to the RIIL. These recommendations have been referred to the Track Committee. Mr. Littlefield will report back to the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

HOCKEY Mr. Daniel Sheehan

Mr. Sheehan reported that of the nine (9) rinks that provide ice time for the RIIL high school hockey schedule, only one (1) has not yet submitted available dates for the 2002-2003 season. The Principal of Burrillville High School is scheduled for a hearing later in this meeting to appeal the Committee's previous denial of Burrillville High School's request to move from the Met A Division down to Met B. Once a decision is reached, Mr. Sheehan will proceed with the 2002-2003 schedule.

Mr. Lynch addressed the issue of rink guarantees, which is presently \$600.00/night. Several rink managers have contacted the League office to express their concerns that the existing guarantee is not enough to cover the expenses of making the rink(s) available for the RIIL high school hockey program. Mr. Lynch proposed increasing the rink guarantee amount to \$700.00 per night.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved increasing the rink guarantee to \$700.00 per night.

In other business, Mr. Lynch reported on the status of the RIIL girls' hockey program. He stated that the RIIL will develop a schedule and pay for expenses for the new girls hockey program. This will eliminate a cost to schools for ice time and officials.

Mr. Lynch proposed a fee of \$900.00 to schools participating in the RIIL girls' hockey league. In the case of co-op teams, it is anticipated that the schools would split the fee. Although the proposed \$900.00 fee will not fully cover all the expenses incurred in running this program, Mr. Lynch stated that he is hoping to secure sponsor monies for the hockey program.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved a \$900.00 fee for all schools participating in the RIIL girls' hockey program.

Mr. Lynch recommended that the girls hockey program adhere to the same game cap as the boys hockey program, which is twenty-four [24] games. He also proposed that November 4th be the first day of authorized practice for the girls' hockey program. The starting date for all [other] winter sports, including the boys hockey program is November 20th. However, because it is a new sport and the players have little or no experience in hockey, the earlier date will allow for adequate practice/condition time due to the limited availability of ice time for the girls' hockey program.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved a cap of twenty-four (24) games and a starting date of November 4th for the RIIL girls hockey program.

WINTER SCHEDULES / INTERPRETATION MEETING DATES

- **Gymnastics**

Mr. Richard Stapleton, Director of Girls' Gymnastics, addressed several issues that were discussed by the Gymnastics Coaches Association, including championship format, use of vaulting tables, and problems with scheduling because of availability of sites and the number of qualified judges. These topics will be placed on the agenda for the September meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics. In addition, Mr. Stapleton will submit the 2002-2003 gymnastics schedule at the September meeting for the Committee's review and consideration.

- **Wrestling**

Mr. Lemoi submitted the 2002-2003 Wrestling Schedule for the Committee's review and consideration. He noted the following: LaSalle Academy moved from Class B to

Class A-2; South Kingstown H.S. moved from Class A to B-1; and Mt. Hope H.S. moved from Class B to Class C-1. He also stated that Tolman H.S. has joined the RIIL wrestling league and has been placed in Class C-2.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2002-2003 Wrestling Schedule.

Mr. Lemoi also reported that the Wrestling Coaches Mandatory Interpretation Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16th, 7:00 pm at Cranston High School West.

SPORT OFFICIALS ASSIGNORS FEE PROPOSAL

Mr. Lynch reported on a fee scale that would provide a stipend for the assignor from each sport officials association. The fee reflects \$2.00/per assignment based on one-half the number of allowed games in each sport; i.e., boys' soccer has a cap of twenty-two (22) games. Therefore, each school participating in boys' soccer will be charged for 11 games x \$2.00 for a total of \$22.00. To compensate the assignors for playoff assignments, each school will be charged \$2.00 for each sport that requires officials; i.e., if a school has ten (10) sports that require assignments, it will be charged 10 x \$2.00 for a total of \$20.00. The assignors' fees will be added to the Membership Dues and Fees invoice that is sent to each school at the start of the school year.

Every school was notified last year to allow at least \$1,000.00 in their budgets for this expense. Mr. Lynch noted that in all cases, the figure is considerably less than \$1,000.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the proposed assignors' fees.

RIIL HALL OF FAME

Mr. Lynch reported that the newly created RIIL High School Athletic Hall of Fame will induct its first class on April 30, 2003. He stated that the Hall of Fame Committee shall be comprised of twelve [12] voting members and that the following vacancies still exist: two representatives from the Principals' Committee on Athletics; two representatives from the Athletic Directors' Association, and one representative from the Superintendents Association. In addition to the voting members, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Magarian and Mrs. Brown will sit on the Hall of Fame Committee.

Mr. Lynch stated that the deadline for submission of applications is October 1st and emphasized the necessity to fill the vacancies on the Hall of Fame Committee so that the Committee will be in place and ready to review the applications as they are submitted.

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE OF PRINCIPALS AND ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

Mr. Lynch submitted a survey to be sent to all member schools regarding a proposed amendment to Article 7, Section 7c - Non-School Competition, which would allow a student-athlete to participate/compete as a member of a non-school

team in organized non-school competition in the same sport or other sport provided there is no conflict with his/her high school team's practice/competition.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the possible ramifications of the proposed change to the existing rule.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to have Mr. Lynch address the aforementioned rule at the September 19th meeting of all Principals' and Athletic Directors for their feedback and report back to the next meeting of the Committee. At that time, the Committee will review and consider the findings and a vote will be held to determine whether or not to send the survey to member schools.

HEARINGS

Shannon Huffman - Barrington High School
Article 7, Section 7C1 - Non-School Competition

The student-athlete, who is entering her senior year, is requesting permission to participate as an individual a one-time weekend girls' soccer event during the high school soccer season - **granted**

David Randolph - Barrington High School
Article 3, Section 4C - 8-Semester Rule

This matter was continued from a previous hearing held in June 2002 at which the student-athlete and his parents were present. The [June] hearing was an appeal of an earlier decision by the Waiver Hearing Committee to deny a waiver request of the 8-Semester Rule.

Following the hearing at the June meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics, several members of the Committee had to leave to attend obligatory meetings within their [school] districts. Therefore, the Principals' Committee on Athletics felt it necessary to delay a decision until this [August] meeting so that all members who were present for the hearing could be present for the discussion and decision - **denied**.

Burrillville High School - [Ice] Hockey Alignment

Representing Burrillville High School at this hearing were Richard Trogisch, Principal; and Shane McConnell, Head Hockey Coach.

This hearing was an appeal of a decision by Principals' Committee on Athletics [June 2002] to deny a request from the Burrillville H.S. varsity boys' hockey team to move from the Met A division down to the 'B' division beginning with the 2002-2003 season - **denied**.

The Committee then adopted the following Closing Motion:
THAT ANY AND ALL MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.

The August meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 5:05 pm.

