

# Minutes of MSBOA State Board Meeting

## 10-4-2020, Online Meeting

**Call to Order** – Tim O'Brien called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. A moment of silence was held for those who have passed away since our last meeting. Tim also reported that Larry Machione has recently had surgery and is currently home recovering.

**Attendance** – 12 of the 13 boards are represented on the call today, providing a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes** – The minutes from April's meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Peter Hansen and seconded by John Rafferty.

**Treasurer's Report** – The account balances were provided by email to the members. Checking account is \$10,735.02 and the Savings Account Maximizer is \$10,011.43. The report was unanimously approved on a motion by Bruce Anderson and seconded by Nick Castellone.

**Special Olympics** – Due to the ongoing COVID issues, Special Olympics does not have any updates as far as their planned tournaments or needs. They will be looking for each of our boards to cover the same areas and times as last year if they are able to proceed. More information will be forthcoming from them and Babe will pass it along to us when it is received. As always, the support of our 13 boards is greatly appreciated.

**IAABO National Update**- Tim reported that the IAABO Life Membership Committee has delayed their vote on new Life Members until February 2021. He also reported that there will be three straight meetings with Life Membership luncheons in order to get each class presented in sequence. The 2019 class will be inducted this coming April. The 2020 nominees will be inducted in the Fall of 2021 and the class of 2021 class will be in April of 2022. Massachusetts has one inductee for the 2019 class (Bruce Anderson, Bd. 30) and no members were nominated for the 2020 class. We are currently looking for nominations for the 2021 class, and those are due by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to Mike Hammond, our MSBOA Life Membership Committee chairperson.

Ron Martel reported that through a process that was worked out by the IAABO National Office, he was able to be elevated to the position of IAABO Vice President. This same process cannot be used for filling the vacant seat as the IAABO Region 2 Rep though. Therefore our nominee, Larry Machione, is currently in Limbo until October 29<sup>th</sup> when an in-person session is held. At that time, he is expected to be named the IAABO Region 2 Rep to the Executive Committee.

Ron also reported that it has been a very quiet summer with the National Office. The Fall Seminar was held virtually and was fairly well attended. The intention as it sits now is to hold the Spring Meeting in person if circumstances dictate that we can. This is planned for Lancaster, PA on April 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. It was also reported that the date for the liability insurance effectivity has been moved to 10/15 and this is expected to remain the date going forward.

John Rafferty raised the question that if there is no season, how would dues be handled with IAABO Nationally, as well as the MSBOA and the MIAA. Lou Levine mentioned that in Eastern Mass for Soccer, less than half of the officials have paid their MIAA dues. Lou mentioned that the MIAA has been forthcoming in refunding the \$10 if the seasons are not approved, so officials should register if they think they may work. In regards to the MSBOA dues, Lou mentioned that meetings this year will be incredibly difficult to hold in person with the indoor capacity limitations the state has put forth. This will mean virtual meetings and any board that holds in person meetings may be facing legal ramifications. This will make collecting of dues more challenging as well. At this point, no boards have submitted their dues to the MSBOA for 2020, as this typically happens at our April meeting and we

did not have that with the COVID issues. Due to the uncertain situation, a motion was made by Bill Boutilier and seconded by John Rafferty to set aside the assessment of dues for the 2020-2021 season. The motion passed unanimously.

**Interpreter Update** – Bill Boutilier reported that the MIAA will be holding a virtual meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss basketball and other winter sports. We are in a holding pattern until that meeting occurs. Bill reported that the September 24<sup>th</sup> NFHS call featured a total of 28 rule proposal submissions, but ultimately it was decided that no major rule changes should go into effect for this year due to the COVID situation and the uncertain season. Some of the proposals included the elimination of the 1-and-1 free throws, taking the coach's ability to call timeout away, and a Shot Clock being allowed by state regulation, but not mandated. NFHS also suggested the removal of the post game handshakes by players.

Some potential modifications include the pre-game conference to be only coaches and officials, maximizing the positioning to keep a 6 foot distance between officials and players and possibly a pre-game coin toss rather than a jump ball. The use of electronic whistles was not specifically mentioned by the NFHS and is being left up to each state to implement as they see fit. Dave Engleson mentioned that although multiple suppliers have these, there could be a lag time to get them due to high demand, so this may need to be addressed soon.

**Liability Waiver** – A document was emailed to the members in advance of the meeting which was a waiver document that the MIAA was providing to schools to be used as is if they wanted to or to be amended as they see fit and require the officials to sign this before working a game. This document serves three purposes, 1) Official affirms that to the best of their knowledge they do not have COVID, 2) Creates a hold harmless for the school for conduct of the players in relation to COVID during play, 3) Indemnifies the school for all conditions that could happen in the game for damages/fees. There is no guarantee that schools will use this document, but it is possible.

Lou feels that our officials should be made aware that this may be asking to sign this in order to work a game. A question was raised asking if officials should be making sure that adequate temperature checks/screening was done and all participants are OK to play? Would HIPPA laws even allow this? Another question was raised as to if we should get clarification about the waiver as our insurance probably wouldn't cover us if we signed the waiver. Jim Grady said that there may be no gross negligence provision that could cover us at that point.

Bernie Beriau moved that we direct our members not to sign this waiver, and Bill Boutilier seconded the motion. A significant conversation was held in as to how hard of a stand we should take against this. Lou suggested that we ask the MIAA to request that schools who are requiring the waiver should make this known in advance to our officials so they can make this decision for themselves. Ron Martel is going to present this information to IAABO and to Borden Perlman to find out their position on this and he suggests that we hold on any action with the MIAA until we get some feedback. The vote was unanimous for each board to communicate to their officials that we recommend not signing the waiver.

**National IAABO Zoom Account** – Tim had reached out to Donnie Eppley to see if IAABO National would be providing support for Zoom Accounts for virtual meetings. Donnie said there isn't really anything they can do for us since they would then have to support every board and that isn't a possibility.

**Board Interpretation Meetings** – Each board was asked to provide their schedule of Interpretation Meetings to the Secretary in order to have it disseminated and posted.

**Any and All** – Bruce Anderson reported that Board 30 has a member that is currently appealing a suspension and he asked what the process would be. That information will be sent to the Board 30

leadership. Mike Hammond asked if we will have enough officials to cover the Special Olympics this year? We are still waiting to see if the SO plans to play right now. Once we have that information we can push our boards to make sure we are covered. Rich Antonelli asked how many boards are planning to hold candidates classes this year? Donnie has a test available that was created and boards should contact him directly if they need it.

**Next Meeting** – Tim suggested that a virtual meeting should be scheduled once we have additional information about the waiver and the MIAA's plans for the season. Typically we have held a January meeting and that may be the correct timeframe.

**Adjournment** – With no other business to be addressed, a motion was made by Bill Boutilier and seconded by Steve Shorter to adjourn the meeting, and the motion was unanimously adopted. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Churchill, Secretary-Treasurer  
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