

Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association
(MPSSAA)
Baltimore, MD

February 12, 2015

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting January 29-30, 2015
--

Refer Questions: Edward Sparks, Executive Director, 410-767-0376

Districts Represented: Jim Rodriguez (District 1), William Beattie (District 2), O'Shay Watson (District 3), Andrew Roper (District 4), John Davis (District 5), Mike Sye (District 6), Ken Zorbach (District 7), David Byrd (District 8), Robert Wade (District 9),

Also Present: Kim Dolch, President, MPSSAA
Earl Hawkins, Past President, MPSSAA
Jay Berno, Principal's Representative
Jill Masterman, Program Specialist, MPSSAA
Andy Warner, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Donnee Gray, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor of Athletics, BCPS (secretary)
Jeff Sullivan, Montgomery County

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the September 2014 Executive Council Meeting
2. Recommendation Guidelines for Minimizing Head Impact Exposure and Concussion Risk in Football
3. Illinois Class Action Suit
4. MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee Meeting Notes
5. Information concerning Montgomery County tennis season
6. MPSSAA Apparel Contract Proposals
7. Dates of NFHS Section 2 Season Lengths for Fall, Winter, and Spring
8. 2015 Collaborative Solutions for Safety in Sport National Meeting
9. 2013/2014 Summary Report of High School Sports Related Injury Surveillance Study
10. House Bill 1332 Task Force on Women's Injury Study Group
11. Proposal for Super Seeding Regional Tournaments
12. NFHS PSA for Maryland

Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:00pm.
2. Following an Executive Session, it was reported that the Council voted to accept the resignation of the President Elect, Greg LeGrand. The nominating committee will meet in March to place in nomination a candidate to present to the Board of Control in April.
3. The September 2014 minutes were reviewed and following a motion by Mr. Rodriguez, and a second by Mr. Zorbach, were unanimously approved.
4. Ms. Masterman presented the new PSAs from the NFHS. These 30-60 second spots have been distributed to radio stations throughout the state.
5. Ms. Masterman updated the group on the new MPSSAA website (mpssaa.org). She noted that the process took longer and the launch date was pushed back to being very close to the fall play offs. The feedback has been very positive.
6. Mr. Sparks reviewed several topics that were discussed at the NFHS Winter Meeting. Among those items were: the use of drones (MPSSAA will not allow use within a field or stadium complex); concussion guidelines; a class action suit against the state of Illinois over the long term effects of concussions; the age of refugees coming into the country with no documentation; the NIAAA Conference will return to the National Harbor in 2019; the NFHS Network and its subscription based viewing.
7. Mr. Sparks informed the committee about renovations that will take place at Cole Field House, on the campus of the University of Maryland. These renovations will displace the state wrestling tournament after 2015. The Show Place Arena has been visited as a potential replacement venue.
8. Mr. Sparks updated the council on Wendy's contract with the MPSSAA. It was extended through the 2019-2020 academic year.
9. Mr. Sparks provided the committee an update on the Medical Advisory Committee that works in conjunction with the MPSSAA on various medical concerns. At the January meeting the RIO study and House Bill 1332 (a study on female athlete injuries) were discussed. In addition, ATI was introduced as the group who would supply athletic trainers to the MPSSAA for championship events. The MPSSAA also shared the sport bulletins with the advisory committee to solicit input. One suggestion was made to have a medical director appointed for state semifinal and final tournaments. After a discussion, a proposal was made to include the following wording in the general section on all seasonal bulletins: "Schools entering the tournament agree to accept the recommendation of the medical professional assigned by the MPSSAA to cover the event." Mr. Hawkins motioned, Mr. Zorbach seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

10. Mr. Warner spoke to the group about the renewal of the National Student Leadership Conference to be held in Indianapolis in July. At this time, each state would be permitted to send two representatives. Mr. Warner asked the committee to send recommendations of student athletes who would not only benefit from attending this event, but who would also represent Maryland well. Mr. Warner also informed the group that this year's state conference would be held on August 5th at North County High School. In order to align the student leadership committee with sports committees, a chairperson was selected at the last meeting. Michael Duffy, AAM from Howard High School, will be serving in that capacity.
11. Mr. Sparks reviewed the Heads Up football initiative that was discussed at the winter retreat last year. At this time, school systems are still unable to resolve the legalities that have prevented an agreement.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 5:12pm for dinner.
13. The meeting reconvened at 7:15pm with a discussion of regular season guidelines and number of allowable contest. There was discussion concerning the time line, especially for the spring sports.
14. The topic of spring state championship dates followed the regular season guidelines dialogue. Due to several conflicts that occur at the end of the school year, no interest in pursuing a change was proposed.
15. Mr. Sparks shared an interest Cecil County has in hosting the cross country state championship at Fair Hill, a former racetrack. Conversation ensued concerning what criterion was needed for a venue to host a state championship – i.e. parking, facility capacity, restrooms, concessions, etc. Others expressed concern over another change in venue since it was moved to McDaniel while construction took place at Hereford, then it moved back to Hereford for this past season and now possibly a 3rd location in 3 years. The committee was scheduled to meet on Tuesday, February 3rd, and the subject would be discussed and a recommendation would be made there.
16. Mr. Sparks communicated how well the flip cards worked for the fall state championships. While some people expressed disappointment with the loss of the Playoff magazine, more people expressed positive feedback with the flip cards. One issue from the fall that needs to be resolved is providing the state semifinal teams a package of 30 flip cards as mementos. As we move forward with the winter and spring championships, the flip cards will continue to be used.
17. Dr. Roper asked for an exchange of ideas on conditioning session guidelines. Most counties are doing things through parks and recreation, while others have open gym policies in place.
18. The meeting adjourned at 8:12pm and will begin again following breakfast in the morning.
19. The meeting was brought to order at 8:52am.

20. Mr. Hawkins began a conversation concerning the appeals process and what the criterion was for a person being granted an appeal hearing. Dr. Roper distributed a paper which he had shown the group a year ago outlining the basic premise for how a person or school could appeal. Those three items are 1. Was the penalty imposed fairly? 2. Were penalties imposed at all? 3. Does the penalty fit the violation? Mr. Warner informed the group that our appeals process has been touted as one of the best in the country. The attorney general for the MPSSAA has backed the process and feels as though what is in place works very well.
21. The topic of student enrollment was brought to the table. COMAR .02A is being interpreted many different ways across the state. Mr. Hawkins wants clarification on the rule and how to interpret it. Last year changes were made to certain sections of COMAR in the handbook with the intention of clarifying some of the rules. This article is one that will need to be reviewed further for recommendations on amendments.
22. Mr. Sye began the dialogue that he brought to the group last year concerning the host for region final games. Now that each section has had an opportunity to host, he suggested that the tournament be super seeded and the schools with the best seed host the region final game. Mr. Sye made a proposal which stated the team with the best record will host the region final. If a tie, the current tie breaking procedure remains the same. Mr. Byrd made a motion to accept the proposal, followed by a second from Mr. Wade. The motion was passed 9-1 with 2 abstentions.
23. Ms. Masterman informed the council the apparel contract with Nightmare Graphics is up for renewal. Several companies presented proposals to the MPSSAA and sent samples for the Council to consider. After reviewing the merchandise and the proposals, the group voted to offer Nightmare Graphics the right of first refusal if they could meet the following additional incentives: a \$10,000 increase in financial backing each year, a 25% discount on merchandise, and an online store for purchases. Grr-Tees was recommended as the second choice should Nightmare Graphics not be able to accommodate the requests.
24. The tennis committee brought forth a report from their meeting concerning the fact that Montgomery County does not play girls' tennis in the spring, yet they are still permitted to participate in the state championship held in the spring. The tennis committee has no objection with the split season, but finds it unfair that they are able to participate in the championship. After discussion involving the definition of the spring sports season, number of practice days required prior to the first contest, and other topics, the council agreed that there needs to be a broader discussion about how sports are conducted in general.
25. Mr. Sparks notified the council of a few program initiatives. 1. Ref Pay was first used last year at the state wrestling tournament, and has subsequently been used at lacrosse last spring, and soccer this past fall. One sport per season will be added until all sports will be utilizing the system for paying officials and eventually staff workers. 2. A committee reviewing the oversight of corollary programs in the state was formed last year. With Mr. LeGrand no longer in his President-elect position, Mr. Davis volunteered to be the new

chairperson for the committee. A survey will be distributed across the state to determine what school systems were offering as corollary sports. 3. Mr. Hawkins is moving forward with the coaches' clinic this summer. He is hoping to hold it the same date and location as the student leadership conference in August.

26. A motion was made by Mr. Berno to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Mr. Sye. The meeting concluded at 11:10am.