

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

May 1, 2015

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting April 16, 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), Michael Duffy (District 5), Michael 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, Specialist, Montgomery County
Susan Spinnato, Director of Instructional Programs, MSDE

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the January 2015 Executive Council Meeting
2. Nominating Committee recommendation for President Elect
3. 2015 Fall and Winter Bulletin changes
4. Nightmare Graphics Contract for 2015-2020
5. Football Adoption Proposals
6. 2015-1016 Budget
7. Letter addressing Montgomery County tennis season
8. 2015-2017 Enrollment Numbers
9. Classification Committee Guidelines for Alignment
10. MPSSAA Coaches Leadership Conference draft

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:43pm
2. Mr. Sparks informed the council that the President, Mrs. Kim Dolch, would be leaving her position at North Carroll High School at the end of the year to begin tenure as the Director of High Schools in Carroll County.
3. A motion was made by Jay Berno with a second by Bob Wade to approve the minutes from the January 2015 meeting. That vote was unanimous.
4. Mr. Sparks requested assistance from the council concerning new language in COMAR to reflect a Board of Control approval of new swimming language. At the time of the meeting, only three superintendents from

the state had sent him their approval and he needs a collective response to take to the state superintendent. Council members will contact their local superintendents to request their approval to Mr. Sparks.

5. Following January's resignation of then President Elect Greg LeGrand, the nominating committee met to select a new President Elect. Kevin Hook was the choice, and his name will be presented at the Board of Control on April 17, 2015 for approval. He will serve 1.5 years and move into the President position when Kim Dolch's term is up in 2016.
6. Several new sport committee chairs people were named in the recent months. With Greg LeGrand's resignation, it also created an opening for the boys' basketball tournament director. Jeff Sullivan, Athletic Specialist in Montgomery County, has taken that position. Duke Beattie stepped down as the wrestling committee chair person. Brian Layman, Athletic Specialist in Anne Arundel County will serve as the state director and Michael Duffy, Athletic and Activities Manager at Howard High School, will serve as the tournament director. Eric Michael, Supervisor of Athletics, Health, and Physical Education in Washington County, will now serve as the new golf committee chair person.
7. Mr. Sparks reviewed the agreement the MPSSAA has with ATI Physical Therapy, who provides athletic trainers for the state tournaments. Following the fall and winter tournaments, the association is extremely pleased with the services provided and looks forward to a continued relationship with them.
8. Mr. Sparks provided a legislative review for the committee. Fortunately it was a relatively quiet year for the MPSSAA with only one item having been brought forth. There was one hearing on sensors for football helmets, but almost everybody opposed and it did not make it to the floor for a vote.
9. Mr. Sparks introduced Susan Spinnato, Director of Instructional Programs for the MSDE, who gave the committee information regarding the search for a new Executive Director of the MPSSAA. While the process is lengthy, it has begun with the MSDE seeking an exception to the hiring freeze. The Department of Budget and Management will next need to approve the need for a new Executive Director of the MPSSAA. A draft position announcement has been created and when the hiring freeze is officially lifted, it will be posted on various vacancy websites. Once candidates are determined, a panel consisting of MSDE employees, the MPSSAA President, athletic supervisors, principal, and perhaps one representative from the Attorney General's office will determine who shall then be interviewed by the deputy superintendent and the assistant state superintendent. The goal of the MSDE is to have a candidate approved at the state board meeting on June 23rd or July 28th. Susan is currently working behind the scenes regarding the salary.
10. Ms. Masterman supplied the committee information regarding the Minds in Motion scholarship and the application process. At the time of the meeting over 500 applications were submitted via the online form. A spreadsheet of applicants and their qualifications was sent to each committee member for them to determine their district winner. At the May meeting, the nine district winners will be brought to the committee and additional at large winners will be determined. The luncheon this year will again be held at M&T Bank Stadium in the Ravens locker room. The NFHS Network will live stream the event and present each winner with a copy of the ceremony.
11. The classification committee met earlier in the year to discuss the imbalance in various sports in some of the regions, particularly in 1A and 2A. The committee reviewed the proposed region alignments sent to them by various sport committees and approved the alignments for the upcoming academic year. The alignments will appear in the fall and winter bulletins, which will be voted on by the Board of Control at the April 17th meeting.

12. Mr. Sparks informed the council that the sub-committee formerly headed by Greg LeGrand which was formed to define the role the MPSSAA should take on overseeing corollary sports was now being led by John Davis. At this time, the group has yet to meet, but will be conducting a meeting in the near future.
13. Mr. Warner reviewed the fall and winter bulletins for next year, outlining the changes in each sport. One major change across all sports is the new language to designate the host of the region final game. The new language will reflect the host school as the team with the highest regular season winning percentage. Golf had the only other major change, which will allow individual players to play on the same day as their team, and all other individual golfers to play on the other day. This should help alleviate the high number of golfers on the 3A/4A day. Also, instead of a cut each day, there will only be one cut following both preliminary days.
14. Mr. Warner provided the group details about the upcoming national student leadership conference hosted by the NFHS. This year the new Student Leadership Committee chairperson, Michael Duffy, will chaperone the Maryland student athletes selected to attend the national conference July 20-22 in Indianapolis. Mr. Duffy spoke briefly concerning the annual conference to be held at North County High School on August 5th. Online registration opens on April 20th, with five students from each school permitted to register initially. After the cut-off date, if space is available, the registration will open to all interested parties.
15. Mr. Sparks updated the council on the sports medicine summit meeting he attended last month with national medical personnel and his counterparts from around the country. Emergency preparedness was the hot topic this year and he provided the group with an excellent sports medicine resource = www.sportsmedtoday.com
16. After reviewing the apparel proposals from the winter meeting, the council voted to give Nightmare Graphics the first right of refusal for the new contract. Nightmare Graphics came back with a new proposal that reflected an increase in what they are to pay the MPSSAA over the course of the new contract from 2015-2020. The council voted to approve the contract.
17. The football contract is about to expire and Mr. Sparks distributed information regarding the four companies who would like to receive the next bid. The football committee was polled and they prefer the Wilson ball. Dr. Beattie made a motion to accept the Under Armour proposal and give Wilson the first right of refusal, followed with a second by Michael Sye. A unanimous decision was made to accept Under Armour.
18. Dr. Beattie circulated information concerning the current tie breaking criteria as it relates to the state tournaments policies. As it stands now, the format isn't clear and concise and Dr. Beattie created language to resolve any potential questions. New language shall read as follows in the beginning of the state bulletins:

“15. When applying tie breaking procedures in instances where three or more teams are tied for a particular seed, the criteria must affect all three (or more) teams equally or proceed to the next tie breaker criteria. For instance, if team A beat team B, and team B beat team C, but A and C did not play, this criteria does not affect all teams equally – proceed to the next criteria. Also, in instances where three or more teams are tied, and a particular criteria applies to all three equally, the criteria may only distinguish the one team among the group that earns the higher seed. The remaining two (or more) teams are then reevaluated beginning with the first criteria.”

Mr. Zorbach made a motion to put it in the state bulletin. Dr. Roper seconded the motion and it was passed with a vote.

19. Mr. Sparks reviewed the 2016 fiscal year budget with the group. There was not a significant change in the overall budget, but some line items were altered slightly due to changes within the operation of the organization. For example, at one point in time, income was mostly generated through gate receipts, but now it is increasingly generated by sponsorships. There has been a reduction in publishing when the Playoff Magazines were discontinued. Mr. Berno motioned to accept the budget and Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion. A unanimous vote was taken.
20. Mr. Sparks inquired about the current system in place for the state semi final pairings. He asked if there were enough people who thought the sports needed to adopt what football does by reseeding before the state semi finals. There was no discussion and the state semi finals pairings will remain the same.
21. Mr. Sparks requested discussion from the group concerning Montgomery County's current girls' tennis season being different from when the state finals are held. A coach from Anne Arundel County brought it to the attention of the tennis committee and subsequently sent a letter to the MPSSAA raising the question as to whether or not this was permissible. Much debate went back and forth about various items related to this situation – i.e. how the girls obtained the necessary 10 days of practice prior to competition if they last competed in the fall; who is coaching them since it is out of their defined season; is this out of season practice; is this an unfair advantage. Mr. Sparks stated that somebody needs to formally draft something and take it through the proper process in order to make any amendments.
22. Mr. Sparks reviewed the classification breakdown with the members and reminded them of the 10% rule when determining alignment distribution. Dr. Beattie recommended the classification committee have discussion concerning the same school being in two different classifications within the same sport (i.e. boys and girls soccer). He also recommends the spring special classifications be completed prior to the school year ending so local systems can better prepare scheduling for the following year.
23. Dr. Beattie requested discussion on the definition of double headers as it pertains to wrestling in particular. Dr. Beattie sent a proposal to Mr. Sparks, who had reservations about the wording of the document. Dr. Beattie will make changes and re-submit for review.
24. Mr. Hawkins raised the subject of the coaches' leadership conference he is currently working on hosting in conjunction with the August student leadership conference. At the present time he has a tentative agenda and will continue to work with his committee on making it more definite.
25. Mr. Sparks informed the committee about the status of the flip cards that were implemented at this year's state tournament. One issue that was brought up from fall sports was making sure the participating student athletes received a card. This was put into practice for the winter season and worked out well.
26. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Beattie with a second by Mr. Sye. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.