

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

April 29, 2014

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting April 10, 2014

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

Districts Represented: Jim Rodriguez and Kevin Kendro (District 1), Jeff Sullivan (District 2), O'Shay Watson (District 3), Andrew Roper (District 4), Greg LeGrand and John Davis (District 5), Mike Sye (District 6), Ken Zorbach (District 7), David Byrd (District 8), Robert Wade (District 9),

Also Present: Earl Hawkins, President, MPSSAA
William Beattie, Past President, MPSSAA
Kim Dolch, President Elect, 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)
Lynn Carr, Heads Up Football Liaison
Sharon Komornik, MPSSAA

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the January 2014 Executive Council Meeting
2. Senate Bill 857
3. House Bill 427
4. House Bill 1332
5. 2014-2015
6. The Impact of the Coach on Student-Athlete Development
7. House Bill 427
8. House Bill 426
9. MPSSAA Softball Adoption Proposals
10. New Balance Tennis Tournament Agreement
11. 6-man Football Mechanics Proposal

Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:30pm

2. The January 2014 minutes were reviewed and following a motion by Ken Zorbach, and a second by Bob Wade, were unanimously approved.
3. Mr. Sparks provided the date for the outgoing President's dinner to be held at the Elkridge Furnace Inn. This year's dinner, which honors the service the President of the MPSSAA, will be held on June 3rd at 6:00pm.
4. Mr. Sparks provided a review of the bills enacted by the legislature.
5. Mr. Warner reviewed the changes for the 2014 fall bulletins. All dates, semifinal pairings, and classifications were noted in addition to two schools changing classifications.
6. Mr. Sparks reviewed County Sports Zone with the group. After almost a full year the consensus is that they are doing a good job.
7. Mr. Warner spoke on the upcoming Student Leadership Conference being held at North County High School in August. Registration will open in mid April and continue until the beginning of May with two students per school. After May 8th the registration will open for anybody else who would like to attend. Allstate Foundation has continued their support of the conference and increased their sponsorship by \$1500.
8. Ms. Masterman informed the council of the approaching deadline for the Minds in Motion scholarship. The committee will meet on May 1st to select the nine district and at-large winners. The luncheon will again be held at M&T Bank Stadium at the end of May, with Dr. Yvette Rooks speaking. In addition, a former winner will also attend and make a few comments.
9. Mr. Sparks reviewed the contract the MPSSAA has with PlayOn! Sports. Currently the MPSSAA has no ownership with the NFHS Network although the MPSSAA does receive full benefits.
10. Mr. Lynn Carr, former Frederick County Supervisor of Athletics, and current liaison between the MPSSAA and the Heads Up Football program informed the council of the partnership between the two groups. Beginning this summer USA Football will train high school football coaches across the state in the proper mechanics of tackling. Each school will have the opportunity to have their coaches trained and one coach will be designated as the team's player safety coach. A motion was made by Ken Zorbach in which the MPSSAA would reimburse each school for one safety coach. Jim Rodriguez seconded the motion and it passed.
11. Mr. Hawkins spoke about the Coaches Conference he talked about at the last Executive Council meeting. After further consideration, he has decided to network with other states who run similar conferences to gain more expertise and revisit the idea next year.
12. Ms. Masterman distributed soccer balls and discussed the proposals brought to the MPSSAA by different companies. The soccer committee voted to accept the Brine soccer

ball and proposal. Jay Berno motioned to accept the soccer committee's recommendation and Ken Zorbach seconded it. It passed unanimously.

13. Mr. Sparks informed the council that the MPSSAA is still working to provide leadership for the corollary sports programs.
14. Mr. Sparks reviewed the FY2015 budget with the group. There was a recommendation to increase official's fees, tournament workers fees, travel reimbursements and the district subsidies by raising ticket prices for the 2014-2015 academic year. The recommendation is to charge \$10 for a college site and \$8 for a high school facility at a championship event and \$6.00 for a region event. Dr. Beattie motioned to accept the recommendation and Mr. Wade seconded. It passed unanimously.
15. Mr. Gray discussed a need to move to a 6-man crew for football tournament games. He feels by continuing to use a 5-man crew the play-off games are being compromised by the potential of officials being out of place during crucial plays. The council agreed to support the motion at the Board of Control meeting.
16. Mr. Sparks communicated a need to possibly review the system in which classification changes are currently made. At this time, individual sports review with a 10% difference in numbers. Mr. Warner mentioned that number could potentially be moved to 7-8% without having a significant impact on many sports.
17. Mr. Sparks reviewed the medical advisory committee's notes from their first year. One item they were asked to evaluate is the current forms the MPSSAA uses for such things as physicals and concussion awareness. They are also going to evaluate the care and prevention guidelines in the handbook and make recommendations concerning the course.
18. Dr. Beattie made a recommendation to adjust the fall and winter bulletins so that all teams in each section are seeded. Sectionals have had some unintended consequences that could be avoided by seeding the entire section. Jeff Sullivan made a motion to approve Dr. Beattie's recommendation and Jay Berno seconded it. Mike Sye wanted to discuss the possibility of seeding the region as a whole instead of each section. After further discussion, the council agreed to allow the seeding to occur as Dr. Beattie outlined, and Mr. Sye withdrew his motion for the present time. He intends to put it back on the agenda for the September Executive Council meeting.
19. Mr. Sye has concern about the indoor track committee's proposal to run the long and triple jumps at the state indoor track meet. He questioned where the student athletes would practice these events since indoor track is held in the winter and most pits will be hard. He also has an issue with athletes qualifying for the state meet from the previous season's outdoor meet. Mr. Sye agreed to inform the Board of Control the following day.
20. Mr. Zorbach raised a concern over swimming not being allowed to compete on consecutive days. He informed the council that swimmers swim more on practice days than they do during meets and would like to see a COMAR change to give flexibility to schools when a meet gets cancelled due to weather. With permission to schedule on

consecutive days, more meets will have the opportunity to be rescheduled. The swimming committee endorsed the proposal. Ken motioned to support the proposal, Jeff Sullivan seconded it and it passed unanimously.

21. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.