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TELEPHONE: (410) 767-0376  
FAX: (410) 333-3111

R. ANDREW WARNER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Maryland State Department of Education  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201**

**MPSSAA Board of Control Minutes  
MPSSAA  
December 6, 2023**

1. Mr. Michael Sye, MPSSAA President, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Mr. Andy Warner welcomed everyone and reported that 54 of 63 voting members were present, qualifying for a quorum to conduct business for the association. Mr. Sye requested a motion to approve the minutes from April 28, 2023. Mr. Eric Michael made a motion for approval and Mr. Michael Duffy seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.
2. Mr. Warner provided an overview of the Spring 2023 financial report. He stated that we're doing online ticket sales for all semifinals and finals and that utilizing DragonFly helps to pinpoint expenses better. It was noted that the lacrosse budget was built for Loyola University, but the championships went to Stevenson University where the rental fee was much lower.

Mr. Sye requested a motion to accept the Spring financial report. Mr. Clayton Culp motioned with Ms. Debbie Basler as a second. The vote was unanimous to accept the reports.

3. Mr. Warner provided an overview of the financial report on the recent 2023 Fall Championship season. A few things to note:
  - Volleyball – Did very well. We over budgeted and paid out less.
  - Field Hockey – Stevenson University could not host the championships due to a conflict with their football schedule. Thank you to Paint Branch High School, who opened their doors to host.
  - Football – We are still trying to find a happy medium for budgeting for 6 classifications. We have more data now, but please see that we were pretty darn close to what was budgeted.

Mr. Sye requested a motion to accept the Fall financial report. Mr. Kevin Hook motioned with Mr. Jason Woodward as a second. The vote was unanimous to accept the report.

4. There are 55 voting members going forward. Mr. Jason Williams, Baltimore City, arrived.
5. Mr. Kevin Kendro was called up to give an update on the Sportsmanship Committee. A 2<sup>nd</sup> update was released in August 2023.

- First point - Enhancement of enforcement: Egregious behavior was defined. Schools were encouraged to adopt the same enforcement procedures.
  - Second point – A Sportsmanship Experience Survey from the MPSSAA Office was released to have coaches, officials, and administrators complete a survey after competitions so that data could be collected.
  - Bag tags with the Sportsmanship Survey QR code were ordered. All officials, ADs, coaches, and Central Office administrators will receive a bag tag and can complete the survey by scanning the QR code on the bag tag. We really want quick data. The Sportsmanship Experience Dashboard was shown on the projector screen to see the data that was collected from the fall season.
  - Mr. Warner – Taking a data driven focus will let us know what’s taking place out there. Can pull up data by county so that counties can see their own data and take steps toward a more positive experience.
6. Mr. Warner gave an overview of the partnership with Neptune Radio/GameTime. Gina Grubb informed him of this platform last year. The MPSSAA is utilizing GameTime for the championships and MPSSAA members can get special pricing.
  7. Mr. Sye called on each of the fall sport committee directors to report on the recent fall state championships.
    - Golf – Eric Michael
    - Cross Country – Michael Sye
    - Field Hockey – Kathy Green for Gina Grubb
    - Soccer – Matt Roberts
    - Volleyball – Sybil Kessinger
    - Football – Ryan Hines
  8. Mr. Sye called each of the winter sport committee directors to report on the upcoming winter sports tournaments.
    - Basketball – VaShawne Gross
    - Indoor Track – Clayton Culp
    - Swimming & Diving – Kevin Kendro
    - Wrestling – Brian Layman
  9. Mr. Warner discussed the new reporting method for Dual Wrestling and Basketball. He showed the automated spreadsheet on the screen.
  10. Mr. Sye brought up new business and presented the Nominating Committee’s recommendations.

Mr. Sye asked for a motion to accept the recommendation of Dr. Jeff Sullivan as the next

President. A motion was put forward first by Mr. VaShawne Gross and seconded by Ms. Lynette Mitzel. The motion carried 55-0.

Mr. Sye asked for a motion to accept the recommendation of Ms. Debbie Basler as the next president elect. There was a First by Mr. Michael Duffy and a Second from Mr. Bryan Ashby. The motion carried 55-0.

11. Mr. Warner discussed the meeting with the Medical Advisory Committee.

- Goal #1 is to rework the participation physical form. How can we rewrite it so that appropriate information is going to the appropriate place?
- A major topic discussed was medical timeouts. A pregame meeting should be done with the medical team that is already at the site. Guidance should be discussed on what it looks like to take a medical timeout.
- Mental health is a big discussion at the national level and we would like to bring the conversation to the forefront in Maryland.

12. Mr. Sye called up Ms. Lynette Mitzel and Mr. Michael Duffy to discuss the Cheerleading Taskforce. They thanked all who took the survey.

- They're trying to move forward with bringing cheer under the MPSSAA instead of the current format under a Maryland cheer association. It is understood that we are not currently adding sports, but cheer is already a sport in place at most high schools. The format of the fall and winter season was then discussed.
- Ms. Mitzel called up Dr. Jeff Sullivan to address the situation when Swimming & Diving came under the MPSSAA years ago when there was resistance from coaches about moving forward as an MPSSAA sport. Many cheer coaches said "no" to move under the MPSSAA. Dr. Sullivan discussed that a big piece were the coaches not having all the knowledge and understanding.
- Mr. Duffy addressed the reasons why coaches weren't on board to shift over to the MPSSAA after a question posed by Mr. Mike Watson. The vast majority just didn't want to change, but Mr. Duffy was direct in informing cheer coaches that the current format cannot continue.
- Mr. Warner took questions addressing the potential changes in COMAR. This would be discussed during the Executive Council meeting and the Board of Control may be voting on potential changes.

13. Mr. Warner brought forward a proposal for an amendment to COMAR from the superintendent of Washington County Public Schools. The proposal relates to amending the language for student eligibility for participation in interscholastic athletics at the high school level. Currently it states, "may represent only the school in which they are registered and at which it is anticipated they will complete their graduation requirements". The amendment would allow students to participate in athletics at the school in which the student would have

otherwise been required to attend if the student is enrolled and attending a school within the school system that does not have interscholastic athletic programs.

- Mr. Warner asked Mr. Eric Michael to speak on behalf of Washington County Public Schools for more clarification. Mr. Michael discussed the situation in Washington County and how kids are attending a school within the school system that does not have interscholastic athletic programs. Clarified that this amendment does not include homeschool students.
  - Mr. Warner asked Mr. Kevin Kendro to share comments discussed at the Constitution Committee meeting.
  - Mr. Clayton Culp said AACPS is dealing with students attending their virtual school, where students actually graduate from, and they cannot participate in sports at their home school. Mr. Warner commented that this is the route that homeschool students may go towards.
  - Mr. Warner stated that 28 votes are needed to move the proposal forward.
  - A motion must be put forth. Ms. Tiffany Byrd put a motion on amending language to read A. that "...attend in person, to the extent that school systems identify home schools at the high school level..."
  - Ms. Byrd made a motion to rescind.
  - Ms. Debbie Basler made a motion to amend the language further to state "...to the extent that school systems identify district home schools at the high school level..." It was seconded. Mr. Sye requested a vote of those in favor. 0 Yes, 48 No, 7 abstentions
  - Mr. Eric Michael made a motion to accept the language as written. Mr. Bryan Ashby seconded. Mr. Sye asked all in favor of what is written in the proposal. 23 Yes, 15 No, 16 Abstentions – The motion is short of the majority of 28 needed to pass.
  - Mr. Sye asked if anyone wanted to put any other motions forward on this topic. No motion was put forward.
14. Mr. Sye called each of the spring sport committee directors to provide information and proposals for the spring championship bulletins.
- Baseball – Jason Woodward
  - Softball –Marianne Shultz for Lynn Pitonzo
  - Lacrosse –Kathy Green
  - Tennis – Jean Vanderpool
  - Track & Field – Clayton Culp for Beth Shook

Mr. Sye requested a motion to approve the proposals for spring sport bulletins. Mr. Michael Duffy motioned, and it was seconded by Mr. Kevin Kendro.

Before the vote, Mr. Kendro first brought up a discussion on the Tennis Bulletin about region tournaments beginning on May 10 because it is very early. This has traditionally been the weekend of Frederick County Tennis Championships. Frederick did move this up a weekend, but when having inclement weather, it poses a problem. He wondered if any other county was affected. Ms. Jean Vanderpool asked if any other county championships were affected and only Anne Arundel confirmed. She said tennis can make an adjustment. No language needs to be changed, but the county can make the adjustment.

The vote to approve the spring bulletins was unanimous at 52-0. Two voting members had to leave.

15. Mr. Sye asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Lynette Mitzel made a motion and Mr. Eric Michael seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.