

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting April 25, 2019
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Refer Questions: R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, 410-767-0376

Districts Represented: Kevin Kendro (District 1), Jeff Sullivan (District 2), Earl Hawkins (District 3), Andrew Roper (District 4), John Davis (District 5), Michael Sye (District 6), Debbie Basler (District 7), David Byrd (District 8), Tiffany Byrd (District 9)

Also Present: Dana Johnson, President, MPSSAA  
Michael Duffy, President Elect, MPSSAA  
Kevin Hook, Past President, MPSSAA  
Patrick Sullivan, Principal's Representative, arrived at 1:18pm  
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA  
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA  
Jill Masterman, Program Specialist, MPSSAA  
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor, Baltimore County (secretary)

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the February 2019 Executive Council Meeting
2. 2018 State Questionnaire Responses
3. Non-Scholastic Event Information
4. 2019 Fall and Winter Bulletin Changes and Notes
5. SBP-Pixelot Plan for MPSSAA-Maryland
6. Officials Certification material
7. Officials Recruitment Campaign
8. NCAA Recruiting Process for Division I Men's College Basketball
9. 2019 Proposed Budget

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:40pm by President Dana Johnson.
2. A motion was made by Dr. Roper with a second by Mr. Davis, to approve the minutes from the February 2019 meeting. That vote was unanimous.
3. Mr. Warner provided the council with recap of the 2019 legislative session. There were no bills this year that had a direct effect on the MPSSAA. A few focused on physical education, but none that mentioned athletics made it out of committee.
4. Mr. Warner reviewed the NFHS Legal Meeting he attended with Elliott Schoen, legal counsel for the MPSSAA. A majority of the focus this spring was on recruiting officials, maintaining athletic directors, and sportsmanship.
5. Mr. Warner presented an update on the Medical Advisory Committee. Since the most recent meeting was postponed, there was little new information to share. He is waiting on further information in

regards to heat acclimatization and the care and prevention of athletic injuries refresher course. The council had discussion regarding the number of days between football contests. Mr. Sye indicated in Baltimore County their medical advisory board recently met and agreed four days between contests would be the standard. Discussion was held concerning whether the group wanted to take action as a recommendation. Mr. Hawkins made a motion that three calendar days must elapse between football games and/or scrimmages. After further discussion and concern voiced over voting without talking to district stakeholders, Mr. Hawkins withdrew his motion and the group opted to discuss at the local level first. Mr. Warner also sent correspondence to Bob Colgate at the NFHS to gather national data from him. The topic will be revisited in September at the next Executive Council meeting.

6. Ms. Warner notified the committee on the current status of the open positions within the office. At present time, first and second round interviews were held for the Coordinator of Officials position. The top candidate was notified the process is now in the Human Resources department. There has been no movement on the administrative assistant position.
7. Ms. Masterman reviewed the current corporate sponsorships and which ones are up for renewal in the upcoming year. Brine will fulfill its contractual obligations for the 2019 season, and following that, Wilson will have the new contract for soccer balls. The process for basketball contracts has begun. At the spring committee meeting, several different balls were distributed to committee members for them to test over the course of the next several months. The Executive Council will review the contracts at the fall meeting. Football and volleyball contracts will be up for consideration at the winter meeting. Mid-Atlantic Dairy has brought a new proposal to the MPSSAA which would include them using the MPSSAA logo to brand their products in stores. There are some concerns regarding the potential liability. NBC Sports out of Washington DC would like to be a financial supporter of the association. In addition to an agreed financial support, they would also run advertisements for the state championship events. Further investigation is needed before Mr. Warner will agree to partner with them. Mr. Warner has recently met with County Sports Zone to sign a new contract with them. He has been reluctant to sign a lengthy contract due to the inadequacies many have felt from them this academic year. Mr. Duffy suggested not dropping them since currently there is not another company offering to do the playoff brackets. Mr. Warner will meet with Ed Walden again to discuss possibilities moving forward.
8. Mr. Warner informed the council of a recently discussed opportunity with the NFHS Network. The group is willing to provide the member schools with Pixellot cameras in exchange for revenue sharing. The network is very interested in Maryland due to the structure of our school systems, which is very different from most states. Mr. Warner is going to invite a representative from Pixellot to the June Athletic Supervisors Summit for further information and discussion.
9. Mr. Warner presented updated information on the 2019 spring championships. There was a minor change in site for 2A baseball; tennis will be moving to one set of classifications on Thursday, one set on Friday, and championship matches on Saturday; softball will play all four championship games on Saturday at University of Maryland; lacrosse has been moved to Paint Branch High School due to Stevenson University's unwillingness to host this year.
10. Mr. Warner provided the council with 2019-2020 significant sport bulletin changes that will move forward to vote with the Board of Control. He also spoke to the group about how each sport committee reacted to the new classification and competition task force recommendations. He told the group lacrosse had the biggest concern with the new timeline required due to state quarterfinals being introduced. The new timeline would require their state finals to be played Memorial Day weekend, along with the tennis, track, baseball, and softball state finals. This puts an enormous burden on the MPSSAA office and is not something the lacrosse committee is in favor of doing. They would like to

keep the calendar the way it currently is and play the state quarterfinal on Wednesday instead of the following weekend. Ms. Basler made a motion to amend the classification task force recommendation for lacrosse, and allow their quarterfinal games to remain the same time frame they are currently in. Mr. Davis seconded the motion to maintain the current calendar. The vote was unanimous to keep it the same. He provided an update on the football committee proposal. Mr. Warner also informed the council of a decision made by the wrestling committee to start a girls state wrestling division at that state tournament. Girls will be able to decide if they would like to wrestle in the current format, or if they would like to be a part of the girls only state wrestling tournament, which will start not at a county tournament, but at the region level.

11. Mr. Warner reviewed two events that are currently being advertised to local school systems. As in the past, high school student athletes are not permitted to attend events that are billed as high school championships.
12. Mr. Warner requested information from the members on whether they would like to continue the Supervisors Summit. All were in agreement extremely pertinent information was discussed at the meeting, and would like to see it continue. Mr. Sye reached out to US Lacrosse and they are willing to host on June 10, 2019. In the same vein as the Supervisors Summit, Mr. Warner is interested in starting a Sport Committee Director meeting in the near future.
13. Ms. Masterman apprised the committee of the status of the Minds in Motion scholarship awards. At this time, all applications have been distributed to the districts and final selections will take place on May 3, 2019. The luncheon will be held at M&T Bank Stadium on May 30<sup>th</sup> with Omari Pearson guest speaking.
14. Mr. Duffy updated the committee on the status of the 2019 Student Leadership Conference. At this time the registration numbers are low, but greater numbers are expected as the registration hasn't been open for long. Howard High School will host the conference on June 8<sup>th</sup> with Greg Dale as the guest speaker.
15. Mr. Bursick provided the council with information on the MPSSAA Sports Official Campaign, which is in its second year. Almost 200 individuals became officials since the inception of the program.
16. Mr. Kendro reported on the Sportsmanship Task Force initiative discussed at the winter Executive Council retreat. The group has met once and is working on updating the Respect the Game campaign that was unveiled almost a decade ago. They have also discussed focusing on proactive approaches versus disciplinary measures. They have another upcoming meeting and will report back at the Supervisors Summit.
17. The Finance Committee approved the 2019 budget. Everything stayed status quo, with a few minor changes. Dr. Sullivan made a motion, followed by a second from Mr. Hook, to approve the 2019 MPSSAA budget. The group voted in favor 13-0.
18. Mr. Warner informed the group there has been discussion within some of the sport committees about competitive advantages when a school hosts its' own classification for state semifinal contests. The suggestion arose from sport committees for schools to host any of the other three classifications. The council agrees there is no advantage, and most agree the schools would not be willing to host a classification that was not their own. Mr. Duffy put forth a motion stating a school designated to host a state semifinal contest may host its' same classification. Mr. Davis second the motion and it passed 13-0.

19. Mr. Warner asked the council for feedback on the NCAA basketball evaluation events set to take place this summer. The council agrees with his decision to not sign off on these events. If the events follow the current MPSSAA rules, athletes are permitted to participate. The NCAA has a list of approved events on their website.
20. Mr. Bursick requested feedback from the assembly on the loss of instructional time for out of state sanctioned events. Currently there are many discrepancies over what addresses are being used when traveling out of state. He would like to know when approving, how does the group want it sanctioned? There have been instances where one school in a county can attend because the mileage is less than 300, but another school in the same county isn't permitted because they are just over 300 miles from the contest site. After discussion, Mr. Warner reported he would like to do historical research on the by-law before making changes. He will have information at the September meeting.
21. Mr. Warner provided information from the attorney general in regards to background checks. Local school systems are currently requiring these checks through their local school system contracts.
22. Mr. Warner thanked Dr. Roper for his many years of service and wished him well on his upcoming retirement.
23. The meeting was adjourned at 5:28pm.