

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting  
April 27, 2023

Refer Questions: R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, 410-767-0376

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro, (District 2) Kathy Green, (District 3), Shirley Diggs, (District 4) Steve Lee, (District 5) John Davis, (District 6) Jeff Markle, (District 7) Debbie Basler, (District 8) Bryan Ashby, (District 9) Tiffany Byrd

Also Present: Michael Sye, President, MPSSAA  
Jeffrey Sullivan, President Elect, MPSSAA  
Michael Duffy, Past President, MPSSAA  
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative  
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA  
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA  
Melissa Jones, Specialist, MPSSAA  
Lynette Mitzel, Secretary

1. President Sye called the meeting to order on April 27, 2023, at 12:36pm.
2. Mr. Sye requested a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting. Mr. Duffy made a motion to accept, followed by a second from Ms. Diggs. The minutes were approved 13-0.
3. Ms. Jones provided an update on the Minds in Motion program. To date there have been over 500 applicants. The committee will review and select the winners at their May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The luncheon will once again be at M&T Bank Stadium in the Ravens locker room. Committee members are encouraged to arrive between 10-10:30 a.m. to assist with setting up the locker room. The program commences at 12:00 p.m.
4. Mr. Kazmarek provided an update on the NFHS Section 2 officials summit hosted in Maryland. Several items were discussed such as how other state associations recruit, retain, pay, and register their officials. While the registration system currently shows 800 fewer officials than the previous year, he does think some officials were counted more than once, therefore skewing the accurate number. This year all officials will need to register with their primary association, which should provide more accurate information. Mr. Kazmarek also spoke about the fees other states were charged for championship games. He also mentioned all of Section 2 will use the same weeks for officials' appreciation during the fall, winter, and spring seasons.
5. Mr. Sye asked each district to provide an update for the council. District 1: Washington and Frederick counties held a student leadership conference last week; Frederick county is ready for girls flag football; athletic trainers for the fall is probably not likely. District 2: a health and safety coordinator was recently hired; the athletic trainer positions should be posted soon;

getting all athletic directors and principals trained in safely managing large scale events. District 3: the Commanders are working with schools on girls flag football; trying to find solutions to athletic trainer shortage; athletic directors are now 11month positions. District 4: The SMAC conference tournaments are approaching; working on full time athletic trainers for next year. District 5: Anne Arundel: piloting county championship weekend in the fall. Southern HS has new AD; struggling with athletic trainer shortage. Howard: Guilford Park new HS – Mike Lerner AD; full time athletic trainers still in the budget, but nothing has been confirmed. District 6: Twelve full time athletic trainer positions are still in the budget and should be confirmed soon; two new turf fields will be installed this summer; a new superintendent will be announced soon. District 7: In Harford county there is a budget shortfall and everything is on hold for now. In Cecil, the AD at Elkton is not returning for the 23-24 academic year. District 8: The Bayside scholar athlete banquet will be held next week; Salisbury dropped their athletic training program which has affected the number who are available, but they do have full time athletic trainers. District 9: The money is in place for athletic trainers, but right now doesn't have the people to hire; trying to establish middle school athletic programs.

6. Mr. Warner discussed a few NFHS updates with the council. There is a new algorithm for lacrosse via the Pixellot cameras, which should make for better online viewing of the game. There is a new website from NFHS – [allaccessnfhs.org](http://allaccessnfhs.org) – which is a platform for digital publications. PlayOn sports bought GoFan and R School, so Mr. Warner will have continued conversations with PlayOn regarding the state brackets and online ticketing.
7. Mr. Warner reminded the group of the sites for spring state championships. Tennis will be in Frederick County this year due to Wilde Lake Tennis Center undergoing court resurfacing. Baker Park and Frederick High will be the host sites. The lacrosse finals will be at Stevenson University; softball and baseball will return to their usual sites.
8. Mr. Warner provided an update on the sportsmanship committee work. He informed the group an initial memo was released with the idea of developing something for athletic directors to use at coaches and parent meetings. Ms. Basler reviewed the power point with the group, requesting feedback on the major points. Mr. Duffy inquired how “egregious” will be defined. Mr. Warner said it is flexible and up for state interpretation. The power point will be shown at the Board of Control tomorrow for feedback from that group. Mr. Warner recommended a small group develop recommendations for more egregious actions and bring it back to the council at the September meeting. Mr. Kendro volunteered the sportsmanship committee to do the work.
9. Mr. Warner notified the council of four June scholastic events taking place in Maryland. Mr. Sye inquired about how eligibility is going to work for the events. Dr. Sullivan said their requirements are the student athletes must have been on the roster during this past season, have finished the season in good standing, and have a valid physical. He also stated graduated seniors are not eligible.
10. Mr. Warner provided the council with information regarding legislation. No new athletic only bills were passed this session. A mental health education bill stayed in

committee and the basketball bill did not get a vote in the Senate. Senate bill 610 did pass, which allows a student to attend virtual school and participate in athletics at their home school.

11. Mr. Warner delivered information on the NFHS Network and the contract with PlayOn that is up at the end of the fiscal year. After some discussion on the legalities permitted by the MPSSAA, Mr. Warner is going to put together a proposal for another five-year contract.
12. Mr. Warner asked for an update on the cheerleading task force. They met and provided important feedback, with the main concern being how to adjust the COMAR language to fit the desires of the coaches. Ms. Green inquired about what would constitute a contest and Mr. Warner explained it could look something like wrestling contests. Dr. Sullivan asked about multiple day events and Mr. Warner said we probably didn't want to get too complicated too early. Dr. Sullivan asked if there was a need to distinguish between events and invitational and if more than one performance could be done at an invitational. These questions will be addressed at next task force meeting.
13. Mr. Warner noted significant changes for the fall and winter bulletins. Field hockey removed a round from playoffs. Football added a 2:00pm Monday as deadline for tournament games to be locked in. The football committee wanted to be clear there is no field considered an unplayable football field. They don't want games to be moved on perceived forecasts. Several people on the council were against this statement. Most agreed moving from Friday to Thursday was not ideal, but moving from Friday to Saturday shouldn't be a problem. Dr. Sullivan referred to page 28 of the bulletin that states games can be postponed whenever necessary. Basketball state finals will now be two days instead of three. Wrestling will be a three-day state tournament that includes the female division. Dr. Sullivan inquired about jurisdictions having a separate stipend for female wrestling coach. Indoor track will do all regions and state meets at Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex beginning at 1pm.
14. Mr. Warner reviewed the budget with the council. Mr. Duffy asked if there was another option for meeting space since \$22,000 seemed high. Mr. Davis said there was a building in Howard County that could potentially be used, and he would get back to Mr. Warner about it. Mr. Warner informed the group he was hopeful another position would become available for the association. The position, which would center around compliance, currently has a description in human resources for review. Districts are still permitted to send individuals to the NFHS Summer Meeting. Mr. Duffy inquired about PepWear and Lamb Awards contracts. Mr. Warner indicated the awards could be up for a new bid and PepWear is in the third year of five. Ms. Basler made a motion to accept the budget, with a second from Mr. Davis. The motion passed 13-0.
15. Mr. Warner brought forth a proposal for Name, Image, and Likeness education. He spoke with the IAAM and the MIAA about joining forces to have something created. Everyone in the group thought this would be beneficial to students and their parents. Mr. Lee made a motion to move forward with the proposal. Mr. Ashby second the motion. The motion passed 12-0. (Mr. Sye stepped out)

16. Mr. Warner inquired about the need or interest in the participation survey being expanded to collect more information about who is participating in athletics. Dr. Sullivan said they are already collecting information on socioeconomics and race and he feels this information could potentially be a data point for school funding; Mr. Ashby stated he believes it will be forthcoming from the new state superintendent.
17. Mr. Warner informed the group Senate Bill 610 (allowing a person in virtual school to play on home school athletics team) did pass. The Bill states “notwithstanding any other law or regulation,” which includes COMAR 13A.06.03.02 eligibility that states a student must be enrolled and attending the school in which it is determined their graduation requirements will be complete. Mr. Warner would like to see a small committee formed to review COMAR language and get out in front of it before bills are passed. Mr. Sye stated he would lead the committee and will find members to join him.
18. Mr. Sye opened the floor for any further discussion topics. Mr. Warner stated the following items are priorities going into the September Executive Council meeting: task force for the bill; sportsmanship committee finishing the power point; enforcement language for higher level penalties during events; cheerleading COMAR language; further discussion on 70/30 for district payment of playoff games. Dr. Sullivan asked Mr. Warner where he stands on the 70/30 subject and Mr. Warner indicated the finance committee needs to meet more than once a year to discuss this type of item.
19. Mr. Duffy made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Basler seconded the motion. All were in favor (13-0) and the meeting concluded at 5:44pm.