

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
April 28, 2016

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

Districts Represented: Jim Rodriguez (District 1), William Beattie (District 2), O'Shay Watson (District 3), Andrew Roper (District 4), John Davis (District 5), Michael Sye (District 6), Joe Harbert (District 7), David Byrd (District 8), Tiffany Byrd (District 9)

Also Present: Kim Dolch, President, MPSSAA
Earl Hawkins, Past President, MPSSAA
Kevin Hook, President Elect, MPSSAA
Jay Berno, Principal's Representative
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor, Baltimore County (secretary)
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jill Masterman, Program Specialist, MPSSAA
Sharon Komornik, Administrative Specialist, MPSSAA
Donnee Gray, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA
Jeff Sullivan, Specialist, Montgomery County
Kevin Kendro, Supervisor, Frederick County
Brian Layman, Specialist, Anne Arundel County
Lynn Carr, retired Supervisor, Frederick County

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the January 2016 Executive Council Meeting
2. Minutes from the March 2016 MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee Meeting
3. 2016 Heads Up Football Coach Training Agreement
4. 2016-2017 Fall and Winter Bulletin Changes
5. Classification Committee Policies
6. Proposed State Tournament Policies
7. Maryland State Football Committee Proposal for Playoff Change
8. FY 2017 Budget
9. 2016-2017 Alignments
10. MPSSAA Transgender Guidance
11. MSDE Transgender Guidelines

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:33pm.
2. A motion was made by David Byrd, with a second by Andy Roper, to approve the minutes from the January 2016 meeting. That vote was unanimous.
3. Mr. Warner informed the group Sharon Komornik, the association's administrative specialist, will be retiring effective July 31, 2016. Mr. Warner is working with the Maryland State Department of

Education on the hiring process for Ms. Komornik's replacement. Mr. Warner thanked Ms. Komornik on behalf of the MPSSAA for her years of service.

4. Mr. Warner notified the council of the change in the state baseball finals originally set for Ripken Stadium on May 27/28, 2016. The facility was double booked and therefore unavailable on Friday and Saturday. The 4A state finals will be played on Friday, May 27th at UMCP. The 3A, 2A, and 1A games will be played on Monday, May 30th, at Ripken Stadium. A new agreement has been reached with Ripken Stadium to secure the MPSSAA dates going forward.
5. Mr. Warner provided the committee with an update of the house bills introduced during the 2016 Maryland General Assembly. House Bill 232 pertaining to athletic trainers and how their certification process is handled passed in the House and Senate.
6. Mr. Warner reviewed the recent NFHS Summit and Legal Meeting as it pertains to the MPSSAA. The main topic at the meeting was about the NFHS Network and presentations on legal concerns around the country. Mr. Elliott Schoen of the Attorney General's Office presented on behalf of Maryland. Mr. Warner reminded the committee the MPSSAA does not have ownership rights with the Network but rather an agreement with Play on Sports who provide content that is featured on the Network.
7. Ms. Masterman updated the council on the current MPSSAA sponsorships. At the winter executive council meeting volleyball and baseball ball contracts were discussed. The council voted to award Spalding to volleyball and Diamond to baseball with first rights of refusal going to the companies who most recently had the contracts. Molten chose not to exercise their first right of refusal and therefore Spalding was awarded the volleyball contract. Wilson did exercise their first right of refusal, and was awarded the MPSSAA baseball contract for the next five years. Precision Golf has offered sponsorship under a five year contract and will offer discounted items for purchase. The MPSSAA procuring companies interested in sponsoring the lacrosse tournament as Harrow is in their last year as the official ball sponsor. Mid-Atlantic Dairy and the Davco Corporation are current sponsors and will provide a presentation at the Board of Control meeting on Friday, April 29th.
8. Mr. Warner provided the group the minutes to the March medical advisory committee meeting. He also informed the group of Dr. Yvette Rooks' appointment to the NFHS Medical Advisory Committee pending approval of the NFHS Board of Directors at their July Meeting. Dr. Rooks' will also be attending the 2016 NFHS Summit on Essentials for Enhancing Participation, Reducing Injury Risk and Optimizing Performance. Mr. Warner believes discussion and recommendations may come regarding pitching limitations and number of wrestling matches in a season.
9. Mr. Warner provided the committee an update on USA Football and the meeting he attended with several others from the state. Based on previous concerns and the Heads up Football contract structure, decisions on using the USA Football model are better served on an individual school system basis versus through the state association due to the different legal offices and what is permissible in each LEA. The NFHS has launched all the online course work on the NFHS Learning Center website. Coaches may take the online course without a USA Football contract; however, in order to obtain an in person training from USA Football the LEA would need to enter a contractual agreement with USA Football.
10. Mr. Warner notified the group of the officials committee meeting that was held on April 25th at the executive council's recommendation during the winter meeting. There was concern from the officials committee about automatic renewal for officials returning to state tournaments, and an entire

observation plan will be given to that committee for their review. The committee has asked to meet annually.

11. Ms. Masterman reviewed the significant bulletin changes that will go to the Board of Control on April 29th for approval. Cross country changed the maximum allowed on the roster to 12; field hockey deleted outdated verbiage; golf added course rating; soccer changed sites for semifinal games; volleyball updated the Spalding ball information; basketball updated the wording as it pertains to a 3 man crew and table official; indoor track moved the 55 meter dash finals in between the boys and girls 3200 run; swimming and diving revised the uniform language; wrestling moved the start time of the regional dual meets to 4:00 and revised the tie breaker wording.
12. Mr. Warner notified the group of the change in insurance. The MPSSAA is working with Senn Dunn Insurance Company and has obtained a premium through K&K. The MPSSAA, whose insurance typically runs from April to April, has bound coverage to extend through July 2017. The change in the annual expiration date will allow the MPSSAA and Senn Dunn to shop premiums per fiscal year and alleviate concerns of changing coverage between the winter and spring championships. Mr. Warner is working on quotes to provide to the council members regarding additional coverages.
13. Dr. Beattie will be chairing a subcommittee formed to review regulation COMAR 13A.06.03.02A and provide interpretative advice to the MPSSAA Executive Director in regards to the changing of traditional school structures. Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Hook, Mr. Byrd, and Ms. Byrd will serve on the committee.
14. Ms. Masterman informed the council the 18 Minds in Motion scholarship winners will be announced on May 2nd via the MPSSAA website. The luncheon will be held at M&T Bank Stadium on June 2nd.
15. Mr. Bursick reminded the group about the student leadership conference registration, which has been open for a few weeks. Registration will remain open until May 6th. After May 6, 2016, the MPSSAA will open the remaining unfilled spots for the conference to as many student-athletes from any school that would like to attend until the capacity of 400 student-athletes is reached. He also spoke concerning the coaches conference which will be held at Paint Branch High School on June 18th. Registration will remain open until the capacity of 500 has been reached.
16. After Mr. Warner reviewed the FY2017 budget, Mr. Sye made a motion to accept. The motion was second by Mr. Davis and unanimously accepted.
17. Mr. Warner updated the members on state championship venues for 2016-2017. M&T Bank Stadium will not be available for the football state finals this year due to the Ravens home game. Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium has been brought to the table as a possible venue, as have Maryland, Morgan, and Towson. Mr. Warner will investigate the potential for those four venues. He also informed the members of the finance committee's recommendation to have the executive council discuss the increasing costs at the University of Maryland for volleyball and boys' basketball. The finance committee inquired about the use of high school gyms for state semifinals and hold only the finals at Maryland.
18. Mr. Warner reported Prince George's County will sponsor lacrosse during the 2017 season. With this year being a new classification cycle, once the alignments are set, the schools should be able to fit into the regions without increasing the classifications.
19. Mr. Warner distributed three playoff change proposals from the football committee. As part of the proposals, the committee wants to see the classifications for football done separately from the rest of

the sports. Option I allows the three highest point average in each region to secure a playoff spot. The fourth seed will then be filled with highest point averages across the classification, regardless of the region. Option II proposes a 9 week regular season with a 32 team playoff system. After week 9, the top 8 teams from each region would be placed in a traditional bracket, and the teams who did not make the playoffs would be permitted to schedule a consolation game with another team that did not make the playoffs. Option III involves seeding the teams 1-16 in each of the classifications.

Dr. Beattie made a motion to send the proposals back to the football committee and have them send one proposal to the executive council for review. Mr. Byrd second the motion, and the council unanimously agreed.

20. Mr. Warner brought to the council's attention the potential school closings for 2016-2017, which will affect the 1A classification's special alignments. The classification committee may need to convene to make amendments to the alignments when it is official that schools are closing.
21. Dr. Roper requested discussion about transgender considerations, and how LEAs are treating these cases. St. Mary's County hasn't put any guidelines in place yet, and he would like to hear what others are doing. Mr. Warner informed the group of the MPSSAA and MSDE guidelines which provides guidance to the MPSSAA and LEA's.
22. Mr. Sye requested discussion on forfeits versus no contests. He would like clarity on what constitutes a forfeit and how is it counted in terms of seeding for the state tournament. Mr. Warner informed the committee the only direction for forfeit versus no contest can be found in the football bulletin as it relates to the disbandment of a program at a school. Dr. Beattie motioned to adopt the language as it appears in the football bulletin to be used in all sports and a sub-committee to be formed to study the issue. Mr. Sye second the motion and the council unanimously agreed. Mr. Sye agreed to chair the newly formed sub-committee. Mr. Davis, Mr. Harbert, Mr. Watson, and Mr. Kendro will serve on that committee. Mr. Warner will distribute information for sport committees to use this spring for the seeding meetings.
23. Dr. Beattie brought forth a proposal to establish specific guidelines on which, in certain circumstances, the MPSSAA appeals committee may modify penalties imposed by local school systems for state violations involving player eligibility. The members of the appeals committee who are also on the executive council feel as though there are already measures in place to modify penalties. Dr. Beattie made a motion to accept the proposal, followed by a second from Mr. Hook. Four individuals were in favor, five against, and four abstained. The motion did not pass.
24. Mr. Warner reviewed the state tournament policies and classification policies that will be presented at the Board of Control on April 29th. The state tournament policies, if approved, will be placed in the general tournaments policies section of all bulletins. The first proposal requires rule books to be present at state playoff contests. The second designates the seeding process and tie breaking procedures. The third clarifies state tournament eligibility based on the sport season in which the regular season is contested.
The first classification proposal is for the Board of Control to ratify all special alignments at the spring meeting. The second is to assign boys and girls teams from the same school, in the same sport, to the same region whenever possible. The third proposal is to do the initial classification based on member schools that field greater than 50 percent of MPSSAA sponsored sports. The schools that field less than 50 percent will be assigned to the appropriate classification for the sports they offer. If there is still greater than a 10 percent difference, new alignments shall be developed.
25. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hawkins with a second by Mr. Harbert. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm.