

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting  
August 30, 2017

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

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

Also Present: Kevin Hook, President, MPSSAA  
Kim Dolch, Past President, MPSSAA  
Dana Johnson, President Elect, MPSSAA  
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative  
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA  
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA  
Donnee Gray, MPSSAA  
Jill Masterman, MPSSAA  
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor, Baltimore County (secretary)  
Kathy Green, Specialist, Montgomery County  
Clayton Culp, Coordinator, Anne Arundel County  
David Dolch, Supervisor, Carroll County

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the April 2017 Executive Council Meeting
2. Spring 2017 Financial Report
3. Paper and Electronic Ticket Agreement with Huddle Tickets
4. Health and Safety Compliance Survey
5. Korey Stringer Institute Survey
6. Recruitment of Officials Information
7. Proposed New Language for Classifications
8. Proposed New Language for Appeals Committee
9. Proposed Fall Start Date Adjustment
10. State Tour Recap

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:39 a.m. by President Kevin Hook.
2. A motion was made by Mr. Byrd, with a second by Mr. Davis, to approve the minutes from the April 2017 meeting. That vote was unanimous.
3. Mr. Warner welcomed Debbie Basler to the Council, and also welcomed Steve Lee, who is sitting in for Dr. Roper, and Kathy Green who is the new Montgomery County Athletics Specialist.

4. Mr. Warner provided the Council with an update on available space in the MSDE building in which they plan to move during the 2017-2018 academic year. He also informed the group of his intention to replace the state vehicle.
5. Mr. Warner reviewed the new location for 2017-2018 MPSSAA meetings. The Maryland Department of Transportation headquarters building will be the new site, saving the Association approximately \$20,000 in costs paid to the Marriott for meeting rooms. A few seeding meetings will be moved to Howard HS in an effort to stay consistent with locations. The winter 2018 Executive Council retreat will return to the Wye River Center in February.
6. Mr. Warner apprised the Council on the spring 2017 tournament finances. Most sports were very close to the budgeted amount, with the exception being track and field, due to escalating expenses. The Finance Committee did budget for increased expenses for the 2018 Track State Championships. Discussion ensued about finding another site which is less expensive and Mr. Warner will look into local colleges which could potentially host.
7. Ms. Masterman notified the group on the sponsorships for the new academic year. DavCo was bought by NPC Quality Burgers, who will honor the remainder of the current contract with the MPSSAA. They want to pursue a year-to-year contract, which Mr. Warner said he will discuss when the current three-year agreement has concluded. Sandy Stewart, who works with the MPSSAA on sponsorship, will continue to assist the MPSSAA as it relates to this sponsorship. The MPSSAA was also approached by Brooks Running, with whom the Association has a contract with through December 2019, about dissolving the contract early due to new marketing strategies. Ms. Masterman is reaching out to other companies while discussion with Brooks Running continues. The Longstreth contract, which expires at the end of the 2018 fall season, will most likely be renewed. M-F Athletics has offered \$1500 for a three-year contract. Wilson Tennis has renewed through 2019, which will provide tennis balls for the tournament, and shirts for the tennis committee. The American Dairy Association North East has not committed to a new contract at this point in time, but they didn't arise until mid-year last school year, so Ms. Masterman is hopeful they will follow through again this year. The soccer and softball contracts are both good through 2019. Huddle Ticketing has entered an agreement with the MPSSAA for online ticketing. They provided the Association with free paper tickets, scanners for the online and paper tickets, QR codes for all MPSSAA passes (champ pass, coaches pass, school administrator pass), and direct deposit of funds in to the tournament account. They will also do a cooperative purchasing agreement with school systems for those interested.
8. Mr. Warner provided the body with a review of two separate surveys concerning health and safety. The first was directly from the MPSSAA in regards to what each local school system was doing with the recommended State policies as they pertain to health and safety. Nineteen of the twenty-four counties responded and are following the recommended policies. The second survey was from the Korey Stringer Institute concerning the sports safety policies in Maryland. Each state was ranked in accordance to the standards set by the institute. Mr. Warner is more concerned with what the MPSSAA Medical Advisory Board recommends, and will discuss further at the October meeting with them. Mr. Warner asked for members to join the committee. Dr. Roper is currently serving and Mr. Davis agreed to be a part of the committee.
9. Mr. Warner reviewed the NFHS Summer Meeting, which took place in Providence, RI. The NFHS Network has removed their CEO and has named Mark Koski the new CEO, which puts an emphasis back on the Federation in regards to management. The NFHS has a memorandum of understanding with Special Olympics. The NFHS has implemented a Friday night football resolution to try to dissuade colleges from playing on the same night as high schools. Mr. Warner did not vote in support

- of it. Discussion continued at the summer meeting over national high school championships. Rule interpretations will go back to in-person meetings every other year. They will rotate sports and start with wrestling and basketball this year. Mr. Warner mentioned the Hall of Fame banquet held at the conclusion of the meeting, at which Bernie Walter was inducted in the class of 2017, Maryland's first.
10. Mr. Warner informed the group of the upcoming Section 2 meeting to be held in Wheeling, WV. If there are any topics the group wants him to discuss at the meeting, please let him know.
  11. Mr. Bursick reviewed the 2017 Student Leadership Conference with the Council. The June 10<sup>th</sup> conference held at Howard HS was the 8<sup>th</sup> annual. Kathy Buckley provided inspiration and motivation for the opening and general sessions and the student-athletes once again put together back to school supply kits for Title One schools across the state. The 9<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held on June 9, 2018 at Howard HS.
  12. Ms. Masterman provided the Council an updated on the Minds in Motion scholarship award. The number of applicants was up last year, which is a positive sign. All award recipients for 2017 had received their checks as of two weeks ago. The 2018 luncheon will be at M&T Bank Stadium the Thursday following Memorial Day. While a student speaker is tentatively set, a keynote speaker is still needed. The committee will meet via teleconference in October and then in person during the spring.
  13. Mr. Warner informed the Council of changes in the financial software used at the MPSSAA office. New invoices will now be distributed for all NFHS rulebooks, which should mean better record keeping for the MPSSAA. Most books have been sent, however a few sports are on backorder.
  14. Mr. Warner notified everybody of the switch from the Arbiter system to the NFHS system in regards to officials' exams and the registration process. There were too many errors while using the Arbiter system. He indicated the benefit of having the NFHS send the MPSSAA results of the exams and then the MPSSAA being able to notify officials groups as to which officials hadn't taken exams yet.
  15. Mr. Gray updated the group on the initiative to recruit officials. There has been a steady decline over the past few years and in an effort to obtain new officials, the office has publicized on their website, Twitter, and Facebook in hopes of acquiring new officials.
  16. Mr. Warner reviewed a proposal to host a wrestling clinic and invitational for girls who participate in the sport. He is currently working with Brian Layman, the State Wrestling Committee Director, to host the event at Northeast HS in Anne Arundel County during the wrestling season.
  17. Mr. Warner provided an update of the fall sports as it pertains to state championships. All will remain at the same sites used last year. The only slight difference will be the volleyball championships will be played on Saturday since there is no home football game for the University of Maryland.
  18. Mr. Warner reported to the group about a meeting he and Mr. Bursick had recently with Special Olympics individuals. The suggestion is to add 5-8 events at the State Track and Field Championships to be contested in May. The proposal is for Special Olympics to run their events in between the same event finals on Saturday at Morgan State. There is no set time frame for participation, so Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Sye, and Mr. Saunderson are forming a subcommittee to further discuss implications in regards to the MPSSAA event and review a formal written proposal from Special Olympics.

19. Mr. Kendro asked to discuss out-of-season concerns with the people at the table. He has concerns about why the number two was selected in terms of how many athletes a coach is permitted to work with per day. Mr. Hawkins reminded the group of the reason behind the number – the council didn't think one-on-one instruction was appropriate, and any more than two started to look like a practice. With two, a pitcher and catcher can work together, a quarterback and receiver, etc. In addition the rule allows for students to come to coaches and ask for additional remediation in their sport similar to the same remediation students get in math, science, English, etc.

Ms. Byrd began a discussion concerning out-of-season teams and monitoring and enforcing rules for teams that technically aren't under her jurisdiction. Mr. Hawkins suggested no rules over the summer. Mr. Hook agreed. Mr. Davis reminded the group the rules give guidance to teams so they don't become a school team and subsequently violate the rules. Mr. Warner will inquire with states at upcoming Section 2 meeting as to their summer rules and bring it back to the winter retreat for further discussion.

20. Mr. Sullivan reviewed proposed guidance for the Appeals Committee to ensure they are making a sound judgment when schools and individuals appeal their violation. There was an overall feeling that the Committee needed specific criteria in order to modify a penalty, therefore the subcommittee of Mr. Culp, Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Mitzel, and Dr. Roper came up with five items which needed to be met in order for the Committee to consider modification. The Appeals Committee is in support of the language. The MPSSAA Executive Director and the Attorney General found the proposal to be legally sufficient after providing some recommendations. Mr. Hawkins made a motion to accept the guidelines, with a second from Mr. Byrd. The motion passed unanimously. (13-0-0)
21. Mr. Sullivan distributed a proposal for delaying the start of athletics for future fall sports. Montgomery County proposed to start fall practice 20 days prior to and including Labor Day. The only sport majorly impacted by the later start would be football, which would have a later playoff than what is currently done. After discussion, there is a split reaction among other LEAs. Mr. Lee made a motion to poll Supervisors and Superintendents across the state. Mr. Davis seconded the motion and a 12-0-1 vote ensued. Mr. Sullivan asked for feedback prior to October 22<sup>nd</sup>, which is the deadline for submitting proposed Bylaw changes for 2018-2019.
22. The Executive Council took up discussion as it pertains the classification section of COMAR. Upon review, Mr. Hawkins made a motion to submit a COMAR change to the Constitution Committee from the Executive Council. Mr. Lee second the motion. All were in favor of the changes. 11-0-0 (Kim Dolch and Kevin Hook left at 1:50pm).
23. (Ms. Byrd left at 2:05pm) Mr. Warner provided a recap of the state tour he and Mr. Bursick took this summer. Overall the resounding themes were around the football playoff system, how to make the MPSSAA more visible, and what the vision of the Association is. Mr. Warner will continue working on the visibility and vision, and involve the Executive Council with these items at the meeting in February.
24. Mr. Sye made a motion, with a second by Mr. Sullivan, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:22pm (10-0-0)