

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
September 5, 2019

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), John Davis (District 5), Michael Sye (District 6), Debbie Basler (District 7), Bryan Ashby (District 8), Tiffany Byrd (District 9)

Also Present: Dana Johnson, President, MPSSAA
Michael Duffy, President Elect, MPSSAA
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative, arrived at 11:50am
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Jill Masterman, Program Specialist, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor, Baltimore County (secretary)
Clayton Culp, Supervisor, Anne Arundel County

Excused: Kevin Hook, Past President, MPSSAA

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the April 2019 Executive Council Meeting
2. 2019 Student Leadership Conference Report
3. MPSSAA Sport Director Meeting Agenda Draft
4. 2005 COMAR information
5. Historical information on Sanction Guidelines
6. Scholastic Event information/application
7. Proposed COMAR language for Sanctioned Events
8. Proposed language change for wrestling contests per week
9. Budget information through July 2019
10. MPSSAA Care and Prevention of Athletic Injuries Refresher Certification information
11. Indoor Track Region Meet proposal
12. 2019 MPSSAA Spring Financial Report
13. MPSSAA 2007-2011 Strategic Planning Report
14. MPSSAA Basketball Adoption proposals

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:39am by President Dana Johnson.
2. A motion was made by Debbie Basler, with a second by Mr. Davis, to approve the minutes from the April 2019 meeting. That vote was unanimous. (11-0)
3. Mr. Warner congratulated Mr. Duffy on his appointment as Carroll County Supervisor of Athletics, introduced Steve Lee as the new Executive Council member representing District 4, and introduced

Bryan Ashby as the new District 8 Executive Council member. Mr. Warner took a moment to inform the group two people would be joining the meeting after lunch to discuss the fingerprinting process for officials.

4. Mr. Warner informed the council a new Coordinator of Officials should be starting within the next few weeks. At the time of the meeting, a new administrative assistant had yet to be hired. The contractual position cannot be posted until the hiring freeze is lifted, therefore there is no imminent addition to the staff.
5. Ms. Masterman provided information on MPSSAA sponsorships for the 2019-2020 year. The American Dairy Association Northeast has renewed their contract and will continue to provide chocolate milk at certain state tournaments. Wendy's will no longer be sponsoring the MPSSAA, but Sandy Stewart has contact Subway to attempt to fill the void created by Wendy's. Wilson tennis will renew their two-year contract. Longstreth is on a year to year contract, and more will be discussed about this particular sponsorship at the winter meeting. The apparel contract is up for renewal and several companies have expressed interest in submitting proposals. Ms. Masterman will invite those interested parties to the winter Executive Council retreat to present the proposals to the group in person. Next fall (2020), the football and volleyball contracts will be up for renewal, therefore more will be discussed about them in the spring.
6. Ms. Warner updated the group on several NFHS items. The Section II meeting will take place at the end of September in Louisville, KY. Mr. Bursick and Ms. Masterman will accompany Mr. Warner to represent the MPSSAA. A review of the NFHS Summer Meeting ensued. Several people agreed with Dr. Sullivan's comment regarding the need for attendance from across the state since the finance committee approved a \$1000 reimbursement from the MPSSAA. Next year the meeting will be held in Denver, CO at the end of June.
7. Ms. Warner gave a brief update on the NFHS Network which resulted in a discussion about which LEA's have moved forward with Pixellot and the NFHS Network. Mr. Davis informed the group the general counsel members from across the state discussed the contract and they agreed it is not something districts should invest in at this time. None of the other council members were aware of this information and a few have already been approved to move forward with NFHS Network and Pixellot. Caroline, Cecil, Garrett, and Queen Anne's counties have all been given full approval. Baltimore, Carroll, Montgomery, and Prince George counties are waiting on signatures. Calvert, Baltimore City, Frederick, Kent, and Washington counties are waiting on approval. Howard and St. Mary's counties are not going to sign a contract. Anne Arundel has the cameras installed at all high schools and will be live streaming all contests this fall. They are under a different contract than what the other counties are looking to do now.
8. Mr. Bursick reviewed the 2019 Student Leadership Conference with everyone. Despite being short handed with facilitators, the conference was a success. Craig Hillier gave a good opening speech and the student athletes involved enjoyed the day. The committee will be meeting within the next several weeks to discuss the conference to be held on June 13, 2020 at Howard HS.
9. Mr. Warner presented the group with an agenda for a newly developed Sport Directors meeting. The first meeting will be held following the lacrosse sport committee meeting in October. Among the things to discuss at the meeting are mentoring new committee members, maintaining the integrity of the committee, and how the tournaments should be conducted. Mr. Warner is hopeful this will provide consistency across the different sports.

10. Mr. Warner provided the council with information regarding an upcoming meeting being held by Safety in Sports Solutions. According to Mr. Warner, the Korey Stringer Institute is conducting meetings in states across the country where the safety standards don't fit the KRI standards. They set up a meeting in October in Maryland without consulting with members of the Medical Advisory Board. A few members of the council were invited to attend, and were going for informational purposes, not to provide input to the KSI.
11. Mr. Warner reviewed the new process that will take place this fall with state quarterfinals. As approved last spring, the state quarterfinals will be reseeded and then the state semifinals will be played. He requested all supervisors make sure their stakeholders understand the process. He reminded people about the new nine-week football schedule and the new playoff format that will begin this year. Mr. Warner informed the council of a meeting held with Arbiter Sports over the summer in which they provided the MPSSAA information on being a "one stop shop" as it pertains to schedules, officials, and payment of officials. He will invite a representative from Arbiter Sports to the January Executive Council meeting.
12. Mr. Warner informed the council of the \$1000 donation the association made to the MSADA for the 2019 NIAAA Conference being held in the National Harbor in December.
13. Mr. Warner apprised the group of the new girls' division in the state wrestling tournament. As approved last year, there will be a separate region and state tournament for female wrestlers. They can opt to wrestle in this division, or they can continue to wrestle as they have in the past in the regular state tournament series. County or district tournaments are not a pre-qualifier for the girls' division.
14. Mr. Warner presented the council with the location of the 2020 state lacrosse tournament. Stevenson University decline to host again next year, citing graduation conflicts. Mr. Warner reached out to individuals at Loyola University, who were willing to host in May 2020. There will be a greater financial burden since the cost to rent that facility is greater than the cost to rent Stevenson University's stadium.
15. Mr. Warner informed the committee of the request for proposals regarding a sponsorship of MPSSAA state championship awards. Presently, a bid system is used, but he has asked for proposals from different companies to see what kind of incentives they can provide the MPSSAA for use of their awards. They are receiving publicity when state awards are distributed at tournaments, and maybe they would be willing to work an agreement with the MPSSAA. He will come back in January with further information.
16. Mr. Warner reported back on the out of state travel sanctioning concern that was brought up at the April Executive Council meeting. Members wanted clarification on the distance traveled and instructional time missed as it related to sanctioned contests which are more than 300 miles from the school. Mr. Warner distributed language from several different MPSSAA Handbooks in which the language states the distance is to be calculated from the school to the event site. Mr. Sye asked if anybody thought the loss of instructional time should be across the board, not just for events over 300 miles from the school. Mr. Duffy and Dr. Sullivan both concurred. The MPSSAA will continue to use the 300 miles from a school to the event as the guideline for sanctioning an event.
17. The MPSSAA will celebrate its' 75th anniversary on January 11, 2021. Mr. Warner inquired as to whether the Executive Council would like to form a task force to do something special to commemorate the anniversary. Mr. Hawkins made a motion, with a second by Mr. Duffy, to create an Ad Hoc committee to study doing something for the 75th anniversary. A unanimous vote ensued.

(12-0) The guest, Mr. Culp, volunteered to be on the committee, as did Mr. Lee and Mr. Duffy. Mr. Sye suggested speaking with sport committees to see what their thoughts are about what could potentially take place surrounding each specific sport.

18. A break was taken for lunch at 12:10pm.
19. The meeting commenced at 12:47pm.
20. Ms. Masterman distributed basketball adoption proposals and basketballs for the committee to review. After sharing the feelings of the basketball committees, Ms. Masterman informed the group the Spalding Precision was the top rated, followed by the Spalding Legacy, Wilson, and Baden ball. The proposal from Spalding was similar to what is currently being used. Dr. Sullivan made a motion to accept the Spalding Precision and the contract. Mr. Sye second the motion and it passed with an 11-0 vote (Mr. Duffy was not present)
21. Mr. Warner informed the council the care and prevention refresher course was out for coaches to become recertified. He reviewed the Maryland component and also the other pieces needed to become recertified. After reviewing, members of the council feel as though the refresher course touches on enough of the components required in the hands on care and prevention course. Individuals would like to know what happened to the Medical Advisory Council's input. Mr. Warner mentioned he will again discuss with the MAC and see if updates can be made via that group. Dr. Sullivan made a motion, with a second from Mr. Kendro, to accept this as version one for a care and prevention refresher. The motion passed 8-3 (Ms. Basler was not present) Ms. Byrd is going to replace Dr. Roper on the MAC committee. Mr. Sye said he would join the group if needed.
22. Mr. Culp, Supervisor of Athletics in Anne Arundel County, provided the council with an indoor track proposal to move all region meets to Prince George's Sport and Learning Complex. The committee proposed all regions be run at PGSLC for consistency across the state. It would allow student athletes to properly prepare for the state meet. Ms. Byrd inquired about financial implications – rental of the facility versus the Armory and Hagerstown Community College. Several members asked if school systems would be permitted to run a regular season meet there as well. Many agree there is a definite cost issue, which would prohibit most school systems from sending teams there during the regular season. Mr. Hawkins made a motion, with a second from Mr. Lee, for the indoor track committee to investigate cost and availability and to report back at the winter meeting. The motion was approved 9-1-2.
23. Mr. Kendro provided an update on the direction the sportsmanship task force has moved in the past 6 months. They are going to move forward with a sportsmanship video featuring coaches from across the state. A suggestion was made for schools which receive a sportsmanship award at the state tournament to also receive a banner to hang in their school.
24. Mr. Warner reviewed the spring tournament finances with the group. Most tournaments did very well and the financial report was a net gain across the board. Ms. Byrd made a motion to approve the spring finances. Mr. Davis provided a second for the motion. The motion passed 11-0-1. The finances for fiscal year 2019 were reviewed as well. Mr. Ashby made a motion to approve the report. Mr. Saunderson second the motion and it passed 12-0.
25. Mr. Saunderson left the meeting at 3:22pm.
26. Mr. Warner presented the council the 2007-2011 strategic plan that was developed from an extensive survey in 2006. After review, he asked if the MPSSAA should perform another survey and see what the

stakeholders want and begin to develop and new strategic plan? Mr. Hawkins made a motion for the MPSSAA to move forward with appointing a chairperson, perhaps a school system superintendent, who will then spearhead a five-year strategic plan. Mr. Lee second the motion. It passed 11-0.

27. Robin Lyles and Donna Rowlette from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (CJIS) provided information to the council as it pertains to background checks and fingerprinting for officials across the state. At this time, all LEAs are performing their own checks and several official groups have complained about the necessity for their officials to pay for several different procedures since they officiate in more than one jurisdiction. Representatives from CJIS explained it wasn't permissible for jurisdictions to share information, but there are two possible solutions. 1. Have all vetting centralized. This would result in a quicker notification for the officials. 2. Have the vetting done regionally. This would work for officials who mostly work in one region but would not for those who travel across regions to perform officiating duties. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.
28. Mr. Warner informed the committee of three COMAR proposals currently on the table. One is from the wrestling committee, which wants to have teams be permitted to schedule three contests per week one time during the season on a non-tournament week. Mr. Kendro made a motion, followed by a second from Mr. Duffy, to allow this change. 10-0 was the outcome of the vote. The second proposal is to permit out of season NFHS/MPSSAA sanctioned events to occur. Most members agree another summer of the NCAA scholastic recruiting events cannot pass without the MPSSAA taking action. Mr. Davis recommended everyone asks the general counsel in their jurisdiction what they feel about this proposal. Dr. Sullivan made a motion for the MPSSAA staff and state basketball committees to provide guidance to the state basketball coaches association to allow the coaches association to pursue hosting NCAA recruitment opportunities that comply with current MPSSAA regulations. Mr. Sye second the motion. A 12-0 vote ensued. (Mr. Hook voted via telephone). No action was taken on the second proposal. The last proposal is to change the language in the all-star section of the handbook to now allow student athletes to participate in an unlimited number of all-star events after their eligibility is exhausted. The new language would read: "individual students may participate in all-star games and events upon completion of their eligibility in the sport in which this participation occurs." Mr. Sye made a motion to accept this new language. Ms. Byrd made a second to the motion. The motion passed 11-0.
29. Mr. Duffy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Basler made a second to the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:42pm.