

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting  
September 6, 2018

- 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)
- Excused: Patrick Sullivan (Principal's Rep.)
- Also Present: Dana Johnson, President, MPSSAA  
Michael Duffy, President Elect, MPSSAA  
Kevin Hook, Past President, MPSSAA  
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA  
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA  
Jill Masterman, Program Specialist, MPSSAA  
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor, Baltimore County (secretary)  
Kathy Green, Specialist, Montgomery County  
David Dolch, Supervisor, Carroll County

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the April 2018 Executive Council Meeting
  2. Spring Financial Report
  3. NFHS Network analysis
  4. SafeSport abuse acts information
  5. MPSSAA Scholar Athletic Department Recognition Award information
  6. Recommendations for state tournaments from classification and competition task force
  7. Tennis Classification Expansion Proposal
  8. Tentative Supervisors Summit Agenda
  9. March 2019 calendar
  10. Event Staff Compensation for 2018-2019
  11. NFHS information on NCAA Basketball Changes
  12. Federal Laws as they pertain to the MPSSA
  13. NCAA Men's Basketball Recruiting Calendar
- 
1. The meeting was called to order at 9:43am by President Dana Johnson.
  2. A motion was made by Mr, Davis with a second by Mr. Byrd, to approve the minutes from the April 2018 meeting. That vote was unanimous. (11-0 due to Mr. Hawkins not being present at this time)
  3. Mr. Warner provided the council with new information regarding a few items within the association. At the moment, the hiring freeze exception was approved and the announcement for the vacant Officials Coordinator position should be sent out very soon. A senior softball player from Atholton

High School, Juliette Nierle, will be interning with the MPSSAA until February. The office has moved from the sixth floor to the ground level, where they have a larger common area, individual offices, and more space.

4. Mr. Warner provided the council an update on the location for the winter Executive Council retreat. The Wye River Conference Center has changed ownership and at this point, new options are going to be explored. The Ocean City Marriott has offered a very reasonable rate and with no objections from the council, Mr. Warner has decided to move the retreat there for 2019.
5. Mr. Warner reviewed the financial report from the most recent spring season. Due to a very rainy spring, a few sports had net losses, but overall, the earnings from the spring met the budget. Dr. Roper made a motion to accept the financial report, followed by a second from Mr. Sye. The vote was unanimous (12-0 with Mr. Hawkins arriving just as this was being discussed)
6. Ms. Masterman updated the members of the council on current sponsorships the association has with several vendors. Presently Wendy's, who has provided paper tickets, has included coupons on the back of the tickets. They also returned to providing coaches passes for the association. Brooks will continue to honor their contract until it ends in 2021. Huddle will provide free tickets to the MPSSAA and each district as part of the agreement with the association. American Dairy hasn't signed a new contract yet, but has indicated they will continue to sponsor the MPSSAA with \$48,000. Longstreth has shifted from original sponsorship to just supplying balls for the tournament. At this time she is working on soccer and basketball. Next year will begin the process for a new apparel, tennis, and football contracts.
7. Mr. Warner furnished an updated on a few health and safety items as they related to the meetings, new legislation, and policies. The Medical Advisory Committee will meet on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, January 9<sup>th</sup>, and April 10<sup>th</sup>, with Mr. Davis and Dr. Roper continuing to serve on that committee from the Executive Council. The NFHS has been working with Safe Sport to provide a free course titled "Protecting Students from Abuse" which stems from Congress amending to federal statutes – the Amateur Sport Act of 1978 and the Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990. Mr. Warner informed the group there are two pieces to this legislation – one being "establish reasonable procedures to limit one on one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult" and the other being to "offer and provide consistent training to adult members who are in contact with amateur athletes who are minors." Mr. Hawkins made a motion, which with a second by Mr. Sye in which the MPSSAA shall put procedures in place to limit one on one actions and provide consistent training for adult members. A 12-0 vote was taken. Mr. Warner will work on language to distribute to all LEAs as to what this means for coaches and officials who are working with student athletes. Mr. Warner inquired as to the council's thoughts on heat acclimatization and current policies across the state. The council agreed they would like general guidelines across the state as to how to handle the heat index issues when they arise during the start of the fall season. Mr. Warner will discuss with the Medical Advisory Committee and report back in February.
8. Mr. Warner informed the council the MPSSAA office will be attending the NFHS Section 2 meeting in Dewey Beach at the end of September. Three main agenda items for that meeting are the 2019 NFHS Summer Meeting, the NCAA Basketball report, and the state of football. The meeting in Indianapolis in late June will be the 100<sup>th</sup> meeting and the NFHS is planning a Centennial Celebration for attendees. The NCAA Basketball report deals with the time frame college coaches can recruit in July and August to limit the recruiting. They are trying to bring the high school coach back into the process. They have asked associations if they could host recruiting showcases during the last few weeks of June. Currently this is impermissible within the MPSSAA rules. The NFHS is concerned the recruiting process for

- football is headed down the same path that is currently in place for basketball, which is a concern. The consensus is there should probably be policy in place before it gets uncontrollable.
9. Mr. Bursick provided a recap of the 2018 Student Leadership Conference held at Howard High School in June. 372 student athletes had the opportunity to hear Craig Hillier speak, take part in new workshops, and work collaboratively to pack school supplies for Title I schools from each of the nine MPSSAA districts.
  10. Mr. Warner reminded the group of the officials recruitment campaign which began last August and currently has 470 new officials registered. A pamphlet is being designed to distribute to colleges and parks and recreation programs.
  11. Mr. Warner offered the group information on an opportunity for girls who wrestle. This winter there will again be a wrestling invitational held in February at Northeast AA High School. Sally Roberts, who founded "Wrestle Like a Girl" will provide a clinic at the event this year.
  12. Mr. Warner updated the council on the fall championship sites for this year. All will run at the same sites as last year and should proceed with no issues.
  13. Mr. Warner informed the committee of a decision made by the finance committee to have district treasurers be responsible for all rounds of the basketball tournament prior to the state semifinals. He will inform the basketball committee of this decision at their fall meeting.
  14. Mr. Bursick provided workers fees for all fall playoff contests.
  15. Lunch was served and the meeting convened again at 12:31pm.
  16. Mr. Bursick discussed an incentive program the MPSSAA would like to implement across the state, which would be open to all schools. The School Athletic Department Recognition Award would be based on various requirements such as Minds in Motion awards in a school, sportsmanship awards won at state championships, to name two. Mr. Byrd made a motion for Ms. Johnson to form a committee to investigate the award procedure, requirements, and implementation. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. 11 committee members were in favor and one abstained from voting.
  17. Mr. Sullivan recapped the classification and competition task force committee report with the council members. There are currently two classification timelines to be discussed with the Executive Council. One would establish guidelines by The Board of Control meeting in December; the other would do so at the April meeting. Transparency is vital, which is hard explain if the second timeline is used. Mr. Byrd makes a motion with a second by Mr. Davis, to use the timeline which ends with Board of Control in December. The vote is 12-0 in favor. There are two recommendations taken from the survey sent out in May, which are to expand the tournament to include a state quarterfinal round and to reseed prior that round. Mr. Byrd makes a motion, with a second from Mr. Davis, to explore the options through individual sport committees and receive responses back from them before moving forward. The vote is 12-0 in favor.
  18. Mr. Warner reviewed the current structure of the NFHS Network and where the MPSSAA fits into the model. Following a meeting Mr. Warner attended, there are two possible scenarios. One would make the MPSSAA eligible for VPS, with lower rights fees, but over a ten year period, more profits. In the second scenario the MPSSAA would not be eligible for VPS, and would only make slightly less money than scenario one. It is a more fiscally responsible and safe scenario. After discussion, the

council feels the best scenario is the second, and since that is the current structure, no motion or vote is necessary.

19. Mr. Warner reminded the council of COMAR regulations which was put into place two years ago stating all coaches are required to recertify in care and prevention of athletic injuries with an approved online course within the last five years. Mr. Hawkins was investigating the safe schools courses and reported it is not just one course, but several, which take over five hours to complete. While the courses are good, the committee feels like the length of time to complete several courses is too arduous and would like to wait for a recommendation on a course from the Medical Advisory Committee.
20. Mr. Warner brought forth a proposal from the tennis committee to begin using four classifications and 16 regions for tournament play. The committee will be working on the bulletin for the fall and it will go to the Board of Control in the spring. Following the fall meeting Mr. Warner will provided each LEA with the information.
21. Mr. Warner presented the group with information regarding the boys' state basketball tournament concerning parking and the tournament dates. March 14-16 will work at Xfinity Center, but it comes with problems concerning parking. UMBC's new arena has been talked about, but the new facility is much smaller. After discussing several different ideas, which include holding the semifinals at high schools or UMBC and holding finals at UMD, Mr. Sullivan recommended there needs to be a firm plan to change and since there isn't one, the tournament should remain as is at Xfinity Center. (Ms. Byrd was excused at 2:20pm)
22. Mr. Warner provided tentative agenda items for the January 24, 2019 Supervisor Summit.
23. Mr. Byrd made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:45pm. Mr. Sye second the motion and after a unanimous vote (11-0) the meeting was adjourned.