

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
January 30-31, 2020

Refer Questions: R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, 410-767-0555

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
Kevin Hook, Past President, MPSSAA
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative, arrived at 1:49pm
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Jill Masterman, Program Specialist, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor, Baltimore County (secretary)

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the September 2019 Executive Council Meeting
 2. MPSSAA Apparel Contract Proposals
 3. Letter from Caroline County Public School Board of Education President
 4. MPSSAA Logo Contest Information
 5. DragonFly Max information
 6. MPSSAA Membership Survey 2020 outline
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1. The meeting was called to order on January 30, 2020 at 12:45pm by President Dana Johnson.
 2. A motion was made by Mr. Duffy, with a second by Mr. Davis, to approve the minutes from the April 2019 meeting. That vote was unanimous. (12-0)
 3. Ms. Masterman provided information regarding the apparel contract presentations that would take place during the meeting today. She informed the group the contract with Nightmare Graphics expires at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Each of the six companies bidding for the contract will be allotted ten minutes to present material and five minutes to answer questions. The following companies presented to the Executive Council:
 - a. Team IP

- b. Marketing special Promotions, LLC
 - c. Northwest Designs, Inc.
 - d. Pep Wear, LLC
 - e. Fine Designs
 - f. Nightmare Graphics
4. Following the six presentations, a brief conversation was held to find out the initial thoughts of the group. Several members of the council voiced the opinion that a few of the companies stood out with what they could provide during state championship events. More detailed discussion will take place tomorrow.
 5. Mr. Warner provided an update on the NFHS Executive Directors' meeting that was held in Austin, Texas at the beginning of January. DragonFly Max was present at the meeting to review what they are going to be offering the NFHS in the coming years. The subject of the NCAA basketball recruiting events was discussed as well. Mr. Warner informed the members at this time there were no applications into their office yet and the March 1 deadline was approaching. Dr. Sullivan feels a statement on behalf of the MPSSAA needs to be sent to membership. Mr. Sye agreed steps need to be taken to address the situation. Mr. Warner offered more time on the agenda tomorrow to have further discussion about the direction the council feels the association should take.
 6. Mr. Duffy updated the committee on the plans for the 75th MPSSAA Anniversary celebration. The logo contest is online and the gala set for January 9, 2021 is in the developmental stages.
 7. Ms. Warner spoke to the council about the strategic plan for several years ago, which included a statement for the MPSSAA to pursue an agreement for member schools to use web-based scheduling programs as a communication and schedule tool for the entire membership. Mr. Warner with the former MPSSAA Executive Director, met with two such companies, but neither fit the needs of the association. The MPSSAA office has been working with DragonFly Max and had the company present to all Supervisors of Athletics at their January summit. Mr. Warner stated DragonFly Max is the technology partnership the MPSSAA has been looking for the purpose of registering, assigning, and paying officials for state tournaments. The Executive Council discussed the use of DragonFly Max for score collecting and potentially state-wide scheduling. Mr. Hook made a motion to have the MPSSAA staff pursue a contract with DragonFly Max for officiating and scheduling, to begin in the 2020-2021 academic year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Duffy and successfully passed. (12-0-1)
 8. The council divided into three workgroups to review and update the strategic planning survey which was conducted in 2007. When the subgroups returned and the meeting reconvened, a brief discussion ensued revolving around some of the necessary items to include on the survey. Detailed reports will be given tomorrow by the workgroup leaders.
 9. The meeting was adjourned for the evening at 5:37pm.

10. The Executive Council retreat was brought back to order at 8:48am on January 31, 2020. Mr. Hawkins was excused from today's portion of the meeting.
11. Mr. Warner asked Mr. Ashby to provide the group with details of a request made by the Caroline County Public Schools (CCPS). CCPS's letter dated August 26, 2019 requested, "the MPSSAA to convene a workgroup to examine current classification practices and develop a more equitable and fair system that addresses the intent of state law, and clearly matches the philosophy of the MPSSAA." This request is based on concerns of potential misuse of legally transferred students for the purpose of interscholastic athletics. The MPSSAA Executive Council, after much deliberation on the various challenges of local educational agencies (LEAs), respectfully declined CCPS's request to convene a workgroup. The MPSSAA Executive Council cited the fact that the MPSSAA has a 74-year history of LEAs respecting the educational decisions of other LEAs based on the individual analysis of educational opportunities each LEA is able to provide to their student population. The MPSSAA Executive Council further cited that issues of this nature are best resolved between local superintendents of schools or within the regulations of the Bayside Conference.
12. Ms. Byrd and Mr. Hook requested discussion on MPSSAA COMAR 13A.03.06.05 regulation – violations, penalties, and appeals. Both members expressed concerns over more flexibility in how penalties are given to coaches, student athletes, and other school personnel. The committee shared concerns on who has the authority over school personnel and additional penalties for school athletic administrators are local control.
13. Mr. Warner opened the floor for discussion on the six companies who are interested in becoming the official apparel brand for the MPSSAA. The council shared their top choices based on the proposals and presentations. After a lengthy discussion, the council motioned the MPSSAA office to move forward with the contractual discussions based on having an MPSSAA branded onsite distribution, MPSSAA branded online store, and financial considerations. Mr. Sye made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hook. The vote was 12-0 in support of the motion. Mr. Warner will contact Nightmare Graphics regarding their contractual first right of refusal.
14. Mr. Warner opened dialogue concerning the strategic planning survey and asked for feedback from the workgroups. Mr. Duffy inquired as to what the MPSSAA is looking to obtain from the survey – is it a satisfaction survey or a survey to find out how to drive the organization forward? Mr. Sye feels it should be the latter and doesn't want to give people an avenue to complain about the association. There were eight main points the workgroups felt needed to be surveyed.
 - a. Should the MPSSAA expand to oversee activities as defined by the NFHS?
 - b. The effect starting before Labor Day has on JV sports.
 - c. The ability to modify JV schedules after the first play date.
 - d. Reviewing the state calendar (start date, spring sport championships, etc.)
 - e. Should the MPSSAA oversee middle school athletics?
 - f. Should the basketball state semifinals and finals be at one site?

- g. Should the district representatives and state tournament directors be active employees of school systems?
- h. Reviewing the summer and out of season rules.

Mr. Warner would like to use April's Board of Control meeting to promote the survey. Mr. Duffy will work on the actual survey and share when he has a draft.

15. At the supervisors' summit in January, Mr. Warner presented potential requirements for official associations to get their officials background checks and fingerprints in a more centralized system. Today he simplified and reviewed the recommendations to move forward with the centralization for the state. Said recommendations are as follows:
- a. Step 1: LEAs must agree on the level of background check and criteria for disqualification.
 - b. Step 2: LEAs must agree to amend registration and certification of officials to include background checks. (page 36 of the state handbook)
 - c. Step 3: LEAs and the MPSSAA must determine the process for how background checks would take place.
 - d. Step 4: The MPSSAA centralizes an official database system.

Dr. Sullivan made a motion for the Executive Council to charge the MPSSAA to take steps to centralize official background checks and certification by working with designation legal councils. Mr. Duffy seconded the motion. The vote was 12-0 in favor.

16. Mr. Warner asked if there was anything else for the good of the order. Ms. Masterman reminded the group they will be choosing a football and volleyball contract at the April meeting. She also informed everyone the Minds in Motion scholarship application will be released March 2, 2020. The luncheon will again be the Thursday after Memorial Day. Mr. Warner informed the council of the nominating committee's new role in vetting all NFHS awards. Mr. Sye inquired if Ms. Mitzel was permitted to speak to the cheer committee about the status of cheer within the MPSSAA. Mr. Sye inquired as to the status of changing the all-star game policy. Mr. Warner informed him the Board of Control agreed in December to table it for a year, so it will need to be reviewed at the April Board of Control meeting if changes are to be made.

17. The meeting was adjourned at 11:08am.