

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
January 31-February 1, 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 for Andrew Roper (District 4), John Davis (District 5), Michael Sye (District 6), Debbie Basler (District 7), David Byrd (District 8), Tiffany Byrd (District 9)

Also Present: Dana Johnson, President, MPSSAA
Michael Duffy, President Elect, MPSSAA
Kevin Hook, Past President, MPSSAA
Patrick Sullivan, Principal's Representative
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 2018 Executive Council Meeting
2. NFHS information on NCAA Basketball Changes
3. Care and Prevention Refresher Course Information
4. Appropriate Educational Accommodations for Student Athletes with Concussions
5. NFHS Summer Meeting Preliminary Conference Schedule
6. "What do people need to know about the MPSSAA?" information
7. 2019-2020 DRAFT calendar
8. MPSSAA Football Bulletin
9. Football Committee Proposal
10. Workgroup recommendations for state tournaments
11. Sanctioning reminders
12. COMAR 13A.06.03.04
13. Become an Official flier

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:30pm by President Dana Johnson.
2. A motion was made by Mr. Hawkins with a second by Mr. Davis, to approve the minutes from the September 2018 meeting. That vote was unanimous.
3. Mr. Warner provided the council with MPSSAA updates. The boys' soccer committee chair is stepping down this spring and the football committee chair is going to remain in place until December 2019. As of the end of January, almost 40 applications had been received for the Coordinator of Officials position. The administrative assistant position has not been posted yet, but Mr. Warner is hopeful that will take place soon.

4. Ms. Masterman updated the council on the current MPSSAA sponsorships. The basketball contract is due for renewal, with the process beginning in the spring. In the fall, the football and volleyball contracts will need to be renewed for a winter approval. The MPSSAA has an upcoming meeting with the Allstate Foundation to discuss several items they currently support. The current contract with Wendy's parent company is good for another year (expires in July 2020), as is the Brooks contract (expires in December 2020).
5. Mr. Duffy provided an update on the 2019 Student Leadership Conference taking place at Howard High School on June 8th. Craig Hillier will return as the guest speaker and will provide the student athletes with a copy of his book. The committee will meet in the coming weeks to discuss details.
6. Ms. Masterman furnished the council with an update on the Minds in Motion Luncheon for this year. Omari Pearson will speak to the guests on May 30, 2019 at M&T Bank Stadium. The application will go live on March 1st, with a deadline of noon on April 12th.
7. Mr. Duffy reminded the council of the girls' wrestling tournament taking place at Northeast AA High School. Approximately 80 girls registered to compete in the second annual tournament. Monica Hovermale is returning to provide a clinic for all participants prior to the start of the tournament.
8. Mr. Warner informed the council of the most recent meeting of the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC). The committee is reviewing the current state guidelines for heat acclimatization. The committee provided Mr. Warner a return to learn checklist for student athletes who have suffered a concussion. The draft will be completed at their next meeting. The MAC also reviewed care and prevention of athletic injuries recertification and the need for an online course. Mr. Warner informed the group there should be something in place by the summer which will be online and take approximately 1.5 hours to complete.
9. Mr. Warner presented information on the NFHS Section 2 meeting that took place in Dewey, DE in the fall. A large topic of conversation at that meeting was in regards to upcoming goals the NFHS has put in place. One such goal is researching the impact on middle and high school athletic participation. The "My Reason Why" campaign has trickled down to the middle school programs across the country with the hopes of increased high school participation. The Section 2 meeting also involved discussion on field hockey goggles and the lack of protective eyewear for student athletes who wear prescription glasses. Mr. Warner also informed the body Ms. Masterman is the Section 2 recipient of the 2019 NFHS Citation. She will receive her award at the NFHS Summer Meeting in Indianapolis, which is also the 100th such meeting.

Mr. Warner presented information on discussion that was had at the NFHS Winter Executive Directors Meeting. One major topic of conversation related to what associations are doing about the loss of revenue across the country. This discussion morphed into sport offerings and the discussion of girls' flag football being implemented in several states. At this time, the Ravens are potentially interested in assisting in the funding of the sport in Maryland.

Mr. Warner informed the group of the NCAA basketball recruiting events set to take place this summer across the country. The Executive Council at length discussed the June recruiting period for member high schools. The Council considered how the current policies put in place by the NFHS and NCAA create significant equity concerns in regard to gender and Title IX, sport offerings, and participation opportunities (only available for member schools and not for private schools). Furthermore, the Council expressed concern that the recruiting events challenge current COMAR language as it relates to out-of-season coaching and out-of-season practice and expressed

- that the events may create liability concerns for local school systems. The Executive Council does not feel that the MPSSAA can approve of events this year given these concerns; however, further discussions and even a task force comprised of other stakeholders such as superintendents, principals, coaches' associations, and other school system personnel should be considered given the ability to involve the high school coach in the student-athlete recruiting process as well as provide opportunities for Maryland student-athletes.
10. Dr. Sullivan presented information from the sub-committee working on the competition of the state tournaments. The current proposal calls for reseeding after the section finals. This proposal is supported by the supervisors across the state, as discussed at the summit held last week. The next recommendation would be from the Executive Council to the Finance Committee. Mr. Kendro made a motion, followed by a second from Mr. Lee to move the proposal forward to the Finance Committee. The motion passed 11 in favor, 1 against, and 1 abstention.
 11. Mr. Warner offered the group information on a proposal that came from the football committee about an expansion of their state tournament. They would like to see a nine game schedule with an additional week for playoffs, which allows more teams to make the state tournament series. Dr. Sullivan made a motion, with a second from Mr. Duffy, in support of the proposal. The motion passed 10 in favor, 2 against, and 1 abstention.
 12. Ms. Johnson adjourned the meeting for the evening.
 13. Ms. Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:53am.
 14. Mr. Warner revisited the NCAA basketball recruiting events being held over the summer. He wants to emphasize regarding the end of July NCAA Development Camps the MPSSAA is not going to approve or disapprove the events. As long as local rules are not violated, it is a parental decision at this time.
 15. Ms. Masterman shared several soccer balls with the committee for their approval. The soccer committee prefers the Wilson ball. Mr. Kendro made a motion, followed by a second from Mr. Byrd to adopt the Wilson soccer ball. The vote was unanimous.
 16. Mr. Warner discussed a question brought to him by several people in regards to officials' groups and the need for state wide policy on background checks. Several Supervisors would like to see consistent standards on the level of background checks of officials. Mr. Warner will work on language to add to the MPSSAA Handbook and request input from the Attorney General's office on it as well.
 17. Mr. Sye requested a discussion on the standards of competition. At present time there is nothing in the standards which prohibits a student athlete from competing on both the varsity and junior varsity team when playing against a member school. Mr. Sye would like to know what the standards provide if this is permissible. Mr. Warner informed the group the standards are for in place for eligibility purposes and do not speak to limits of participation. The Council did not make any new recommendations at this time.
 18. Mr. Warner reviewed the current structure of the region wrestling individual tournaments. Historically there has been a rotation, but there is concern about travel across the state. Mr. Duffy reminded the group a school would need to be able to hold three mats in order to efficiently run the tournament. Mr. Duffy made a motion for the wrestling committee to locate centrally located facilities for the tournaments, and if none were available, a rotation between the districts involved would then

- take place. A second was made by Mr. Davis, and a 12-0 vote ensued. (Mr. Kendro stepped out of the meeting)
19. Mr. Bursick reminded the council of what constitutes the need for sanctioning of an event, and how the process works. He encouraged the Executive Council to reiterate to their constituents the guidelines, the deadlines, and which forms need to be completed for each type of event.
 20. Mr. Warner brought forth the preliminary 2019-2020 MPSSAA calendar for review. He wanted to emphasize the first fall play date is after Labor Day; 2020 is a leap year, with March 1st falling on a Sunday, therefore the first spring practice date is February 29th and the first spring play date is March 20th.
 21. Mr. Warner requested feedback on the recent Supervisor Summit. Everyone in the room was very pleased with the attendance and outcome, despite the lengthy agenda. The consensus is to move forward with two summits each year, one mid-year and one at the end of the academic year.
 22. Mr. Warner provided the group with current MPSSAA goals. One such goal is for the recruitment of officials. A pamphlet was developed by the MPSSAA intern, which has been shared with the group. An electronic copy is also available for people to disseminate. Sportsmanship is also another focus of the MPSSAA. Proactive measures need to be put in place instead of reactionary actions. Dr. Sullivan suggested revisiting the “respect the game” initiative developed several years ago. He made a motion for Mr. Kendro to head a committee to investigate a reboot of the “respect the game” literature. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion and all were in favor. This committee will also look into school athletic department honors and report back to the council.
 23. Mr. Warner asked the council if the “tour of the state” was something they thought necessary. It was done a few years ago, but with the new summit taking place twice a year, the council feels the summit covers the necessary information.
 24. Mr. Warner inquired as to the opinion of the Executive Council on who should be paid for by the MPSSAA to attend the Executive Council meetings. The council feels the 13 District Representatives, the President, Past President, President Elect, Principal’s Representative, the secretary, and the MPSSAA staff should be the only ones who are paid for by the MPSSAA. They also feel guests should not sit at the table, and should not be permitted to have a speaking role.
 25. Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Dr. Sullivan. The committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:52am.