

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
February 1-2, 2018

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

Districts Represented: Eric Michael for Kevin Kendro (District 1), Jeff Sullivan (District 2), Earl Hawkins (District 3), Andrew Roper (District 4), Clayton Culp for 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 (arrived at 10:52am)
Kim Dolch, Past President, MPSSAA
Dana Johnson, President Elect, MPSSAA
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative (present Friday)
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Donnee Gray, MPSSAA
Jill Masterman, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor, Baltimore County (secretary)
Steve Lee, Coordinator of Student Activities, Charles County
Annette Wallace, Principal, Pocomoke HS (present in the afternoon for task force)

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the October 2017 Executive Council Meeting
2. Non-Game/Forfeiture Language
3. NFHS Summer Meeting Information
4. MPSSAA Student Leadership Conference Registration Information
5. MPSSAA Girls Wrestling Invitational Information
6. Medical Advisory Committee Notes
7. 2017-2018 Goals and Achievements and State Tour Recap
8. Out of Season Language Proposal
9. Wrestling Rodeo Language/Information
10. Misconduct Detrimental to Tournament Information
11. House Bill 552
12. Maryland Tennis Committee State Tournament Outline

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:46 a.m. by President Elect Dana Johnson
2. A motion was made by Dr. Roper, with a second by Mr. Sye, to approve the minutes from the October 2017 meeting. That vote was unanimous. (11-0)
3. Mr. Warner provided the council updates on their office as it relates to staffing and space. At the present time, the administrative assistant remains on long-term leave. They are hopeful she will be back in the office near the end of February. Mr. Warner also informed the group of the progress on

revamping the MPSSAA office and designing new office space. There is a significant cost to continuing the process, and Mr. Byrd motioned to spend the necessary funds to continue updating the office to provide the needed space. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. (12-0, Mr. Hook was present)

4. Mr. Warner provided the council an update on the upcoming sport committee director vacancy in indoor track after the 2018 state championships. Mr. Sargent will be stepping down and a replacement director search is currently underway.
5. Mr. Warner informed everyone about the classification proposal email that will be sent to superintendents in the near future. He asked for assistance from supervisors in discussing the proposal with their superintendents to ensure the process moves along in a timely manner. If superintendents provide a favorable recommendation, the proposed amendments will move forward to the State Board of Education.
6. Ms. Masterman presented the group with information on the current sponsorships status for those sports in which the contracts are getting ready to expire. Currently Brooks wants to be released from their contract, but Mr. Warner has requested they honor the remaining three years first. Longstreth hasn't committed at this time, but Ms. Masterman should know their status relatively soon. The Spalding contract for softball will expire in 2019 and they have indicated the need for Maryland to move to the red stitch softball for the 2019 season since production of the white stitch ball will probably cease soon.
7. Mr. Warner furnished an updated on the Section II meeting held in West Virginia in late September 2017. Mr. Warner continues to request the NFHS to provide the girls lacrosse rules examination in the same manner all other sports examinations are conducted. Currently the exam is only offered through US Lacrosse. The NFHS continues to unfold the schedule for rules interpretations to return to in person version on a selective basis instead of webinar. This year field hockey, football, volleyball, and soccer will meet in person. The executive directors of Section II have agreed to have each state contribute between seven and eight hundred dollars each year to assist the state hosting the section meeting. This will be a change from the current process, which is to have the host state increase their budget by several thousand when it is due to be held in their state.
8. Mr. Warner delivered information on several NFHS updates. Bob Gardner will be retiring from the NFHS Executive Director position effective August 1, 2018. The NFHS Network is under new leadership as Mark Koski was recently appointed CEO. While the MPSSAA is not currently a member of the NFHS Network, the MPSSAA does have an agreement with PlayOn Sports which provides programming to the Network. Mr. Warner reviewed several relevant presentations that were held at the NFHS Winter Meeting in January. Such topics included middle school athletic programs and how technology it is constantly changing. The NFHS continues to present an Outstanding Service Award and Maryland will again have an honoree in May 2018. The NFHS Summer Meeting will be held in Chicago at the end of June and Mr. Warner invited each district to send at least one representative. Mr. Bursick informed the group of major changes being put in place for event managers in regards to sanctioning events. The changes involve providing opportunities to take no jurisdiction over attending schools and a more comprehensive list of schools. The NFHS is currently working to install an AED program to ensure every high school in the United States has an AED. A current hot topic around the country is national events and who should be operating them. A proposal was made at the national council meeting to authorize the NFHS board of directors to devise a plan. The proposal passed by a narrow margin despite member states stating that was not the job of the NFHS. Mr. Warner reminded the council it is currently a violation of the MPSSAA rules for students to participate in events after the conclusion of their sports season as a representative of their school. More discussion will take place

at another time to see if the Executive Council would like to change current regulations to allow specific participation in NFHS national events.

9. Mr. Bursick provided material on the upcoming Student Leadership and Coaches Conferences being held at Howard High School on June 9, 2018. The Student Leadership Committee met recently and discussed their registration process, their keynote speaker, and what changes they were making to the program for 2018. The Coaches Conference Committee has decided to host their conference in conjunction with the student one and will be moving forward with their agenda soon.
10. Ms. Masterman told the group the Minds in Motion scholarship application will be online March 1, 2018 and the luncheon will be held at M&T Bank Stadium on May 31, 2018.
11. Mr. Bursick advised the council of the upcoming girls wrestling invitational being held at Northeast – AA HS. Eighty two girls from across the state registered to attend the first such invitational. The hope of the wrestling committee is to continue this in subsequent years.
12. Mr. Warner notified the committee of the recent medical advisory council meeting outcomes. At this time the main focus of the group is creating a new concussion form and working on the care and prevention refresher course to be given to current MPSSAA coaches.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 12:12pm and reconvened at 1:11pm.
14. Mr. Warner informed the council of the set up for the afternoon task force discussions. One task force will discuss the current classification system and bring forth any recommendations for change; the other task for will discuss competition as it currently stands across the state.
15. Mr. Sullivan reported back to the group concerning classifications following the breakout session. The task force identified several issues: the number of 1A schools, the disparity of enrollment, the board of control approved 50% and 10% rules, the challenges to sections, and the overall tournament structure. The committee examined a proposal made last spring in regards to classifying by sport instead of by school. The committee will meet in the coming weeks to follow up and have a written proposal.
16. Ms. Dolch reported to the council the discussion held on competition. The main piece of information derived from the subgroup conversation was the current tournament format. Discussion was had on open tournament versus qualifying tournament. Competition will continue to be a topic of discussion as a proposal on classification comes forward.
17. Eric Michaels, Clayton Culp, Steve Lee, and Annette Wallace departed.
18. Mr. Sye distributed literature concerning the proposal he discussed at the fall Executive Council meeting. The recent changes in Section I of Sport Bulletins require a schedule contest to be a no game is an opponent never starts the season or plays one game. He provided the group with three options: 1 – if a team disbands either temporarily or permanently, then the opponent receives the forfeit win; 2 – add deadline language to determine if a team is playing or not. If a team is not playing, or can't field a team, then the opponent has a certain amount of time to pick up a new game; 3 – change COMAR and allow time to pick up another game. Mr. Warner will look at regulations surrounding misconduct if a team fails to inform schools in a timely fashion of their inability to field a team. Further discussion will be placed on the Spring Executive Council meeting agenda.
19. The meeting was adjourned for the evening at 5:25pm.

20. A brief evening meeting was held to examine the desire for an athletic summit for supervisors around the state. Mr. Hook will provide details to all supervisors about the possibility of meeting during June at a location to be determined.
21. The Executive Council reconvened at 8:46am with John Davis and Patrick Saunderson present. District I did not have a representative present.
22. Mr. Warner recapped the portion of the meeting that took place on Thursday in regards to the classification discussion. April's meeting in Ocean City will provide an opportunity for further discussion and clarification as how the process will look moving forward. Forfeiture language will also be revisited at the April meeting.
23. Mr. Warner informed the council of a scheduling issue at SECU Arena in March 2019 which will affect the girls' state basketball tournament. A similar situation occurred several years ago at the University of Maryland and as happened then, the girls' state semifinals and finals will take place at SECU Arena a week later in 2019. This led to discussion about the cost of Xfinity Center and the possibility of moving semifinal games away from college campuses to high schools. Several people suggested investigating and determining the schools that have the capacity to host.
24. Mr. Warner reviewed the new legislation that is currently under consideration. House Bill 505, which prohibits state funds to be used to build or replace synthetic surfaces is being examined. House Bill 552 is under review as well. This bill is trying to amend the current concussion bill and change words to educate instead of provide awareness.
25. Mr. Warner informed the council of the four classification tennis proposal, which was worked on at the fall tennis committee meeting. The committee is currently working out the details on how to progress through the region and onto the state finals. They will provide something in writing for the spring meeting.
26. Mr. Gray discussed the recruitment of officials with the council. At this time, there are just over 200 leads for new officials. The MPSSAA will continue targeting the former student athletes who are currently in college or have just graduated.
27. Ms. Byrd initiated a discussion on misconduct detrimental to the tournament. She has had concern in regards to how notification takes place. Following discussion, the Executive Council believes the notification should come from the MPSSAA Executive Director to the Supervisor of Athletics for the school system. The local Supervisor of Athletics will notify the school who has engaged in misconduct detrimental to the tournament and ensure the regulations are applied appropriately. The MPSSAA staff will work on language for the April meeting.
28. Mr. Hook inquired as to the MPSSAA's role in identifying illegal players. Calvert County is going to be using a form similar to one Texas uses to track a student once he/she transfers to a new school. Would it be beneficial for the entire state to use the same type of form to ensure student athletes are eligible to participate in athletics once they have left their previous institutions?
29. Mr. Warner reminded the council about discussion held at the fall meeting concerning Special Olympics desire to run events at the spring state track and field state championships. Mr. Warner does not foresee a problem with them having ample time to run the events, but he is concerned with the fact that each LEA is not using the Special Olympics model. He believes all corollary student athletes should be able to participate in the event. Further discussion with the subcommittee established from the fall meeting may take place.

30. Dr. Roper passed out literature pertaining to wrestling “rodeos.” He questioned the group on the whether or not other jurisdictions were currently holding these types of events. Mr. Warner noted these events must meet the definitions found in the MPSSAA handbook.
31. Wicomico County sent a proposal with Mr. Byrd about changing the language as it pertains to “returning schools players” for out of season practice. The proposal changes that phrase to “students enrolled in your school.” Mr. Byrd made a motion but there was no second.
32. Mr. Warner recapped his “tour of the state” from last summer. He would like to gather more information on what topics the council feels the MPSSAA should make a priority for the upcoming year.
33. Mr. Warner apprised the group the MPSSAA office is exploring a new award to honor athletic departments across the state. Mr. Bursick talked about awarding points for certain aspects of the athletic program in each school. Points for academics – how many minds in motion certificates a school distributes to deserving student athletes; sportsmanship points – no ejections during the regular season and playoffs; student leadership and coaches conference attendees – point for each student athlete and coach present at the conference; state championship points – based on how far a team gets in the tournament. Mr. Warner has asked Mr. Bursick to get a committee together to develop a model.
34. Ms. Byrd inquired about outside groups running large tournaments in school facilities and then reaping all the benefits. Mr. Byrd mentioned a few things on the horizon on the Eastern Shore, one major thing is participation numbers decreasing. There has been talk of combining schools to participate in athletics, and also allowing eighth grade students to participate in high school athletics. Mr. Warner mentioned out of season regulations to the group. He feels the MPSSAA cannot be any less restrictive than they currently are unless the LEAs take the liability and make them school teams.
35. Ms. Basler made a motion, followed by a second by Patrick Saunderson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously passed at 12:01pm.