

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

September 17, 2014

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting September 3, 2014
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Refer Questions: Edward Sparks, Executive Director, 410-767-0376

Districts Represented: Jim Rodriguez (District 1), William Beattie (District 2), O'Shay Watson (District 3), Andrew Roper (District 4), John Davis (District 5), Mike Sye (District 6), Ken Zorbach (District 7), David Byrd (District 8), Robert Wade (District 9),

Also Present: Kim Dolch, President, MPSSAA
Earl Hawkins, Past President, MPSSAA
Greg LeGrand, President Elect, MPSSAA
Jay Berno, Principal's Representative
Jill Masterman, Program Specialist, MPSSAA
Andy Warner, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Donnee Gray, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor of Athletics, BCPS (secretary)
Kevin Kendro, Frederick County
Joe Harbert, Cecil County
Jeff Sullivan, Montgomery County

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the April 2014 Executive Council Meeting
2. Spring Financial Report
3. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Information
4. Special Olympics Partnership Proposal
5. Soccer Championship Information
6. Wicomico High School Tennis Proposal
7. Basketball Adoption Proposals

Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:30am.
2. The April 2014 minutes were reviewed and following a motion by Jim Rodriguez, and a second by Bob Wade, were unanimously approved.
3. Mr. Sparks reviewed the spring 2014 financial report, in which all sports were more profitable than the finance committee projected. As of press time, two facility usage costs have not been received, however they are not expected to significantly impact the net amount from the overall total of the spring championships.
4. Mr. Sparks provided information concerning the Heads Up football initiative that was presented at the April meeting. At this point many local school systems have not signed agreements with the organization because of various items in the contract.
5. Mr. Sparks discussed a situation that has been presented at Atholton High School with their cross country team. Howard County requested a waiver for a 19 year old runner with autism who is currently enrolled in their diploma program. After consultation with an attorney, it was determined the MPSSAA doesn't need to provide a waiver if the participant is not an official scoring runner in the cross country meets.
6. Mr. Sparks reviewed the Sudden Cardiac Arrest bill that was passed into law last spring. School systems are required to educate parents and athletes of the signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest. In coordination with the Medical Advisory Committee, the MPSSAA formulated a policy which was distributed and now used by the LEAs. The Medical Advisory Committee, which met twice last academic year, is now a standing committee that will advise the MPSSAA on current medical issues in the medical field.
7. Mr. Warner and Ms. Masterman spoke briefly on the upcoming launch of the new MPSSAA website. With the new design, the website will be more user-friendly, will be more functional for schools, and will also have a mobile site. The projected time frame is early October.
8. Mr. Sparks informed the committee that the winter retreat will be back at the Aspen Wye River Conference Center January 29-30, 2015.
9. Mr. Sparks provided the committee with information concerning Ref Pay, which is changing its name to Arbiter Pay. The soccer state championships will utilize that service this year with the goal of all championship payments being distributed through Arbiter Pay in the coming years.
10. Mr. Sparks reminded the group about the upcoming NIAAA Conference in December at the National Harbor. He encouraged people to attend.
11. Mr. Sparks reminded the committee about the new seeding procedure for the region tournament. Starting with the fall sports, each section will be seeded according to regular

season record. It will be imperative that all region directors not only obtain the record of each team in their region, but check it for accuracy. Once the bracket is released, there will be corrections made due to errors in records up until 10am the following morning. After that, the bracket remains intact.

12. Mr. Sparks introduced Jim Schmutz and Nate Garland from Special Olympics who provided information on a potential partnership the Special Olympics. That group is offering to work with the MPSSAA to administer the corollary sports programs. A steering committee consisting of Jeff Sullivan, Andy Roper, Kevin Kendro, John Davis, Earl Hawkins, Brian Ashby, and Greg LeGrand as chair person, was formed to provide the MPSSAA with recommendations covering the structure and administration of the corollary sports programs.
13. Ms. Masterman reviewed the basketball ball proposals for the 2015-2016 academic year. After the committee reviewed the three proposals from Spalding, Baden, and Under Armour, they endorsed the proposal from Baden but would offer Spalding the first right of refusal.
14. Mr. Sparks shared a letter from Stosh Schtierman, the president of District VIII, whose board of control members advocate a state tennis tournament divided into two or more classifications. Their rationale is to keep tennis consistent with the other state tournaments where there are multiple classifications.
15. Mr. Sparks communicated a change in venue for the soccer state championships. At this point the press box at UMBC is condemned and will not be usable by November. The MPSSAA has looked at various sites with Loyola University as the most preferred. The faculty expenses would increase, but the workers needed by the MPSSAA would decrease because Loyola would contract the vast majority of game day staff. David Byrd proposed Loyola be considered pending further research in the areas of parking, electronic ticketing, banners, and crowd capacity. Bob Wade seconded the motion and it was passed.
16. Mr. Sparks reviewed the status of Washington College for the field hockey championships. As of now, there is an issue with their field and it may not be resolved until after the championships are over. If that is the case, the field hockey state finals will be moved to a high school to be named at a later date.
17. Mr. Sparks spoke to the group about the football state finals at M&T Bank Stadium. In years past, if the Ravens were home, there was one game Thursday night, one Friday night, and two on Saturday. If the Ravens were away, the schedule of games was one Friday night and three on Saturday. Mr. Sparks suggests playing Thursday, Friday, and Saturday regardless of the Ravens schedule. Greg LeGrand proposed that recommendation and Michael Sye seconded the proposal and a unanimous vote was taken.
18. Mr. Warner informed the committee that sales of the Playoff magazine were very low across the board this past academic year. The MPSSAA has thrown away boxes of magazines for each sport and is losing money. Other state associations have done away with the programs and are now providing spectators with flip cards which include rosters

and game results of each team on them. Michael Sye proposed flip cards for the fall championships as a pilot. John Davis seconded, the motion and all were in favor.

19. Mr. Sparks briefly spoke to the group about amateur rules and the changing definition within amateur sports groups. The upcoming NFHS Section 2 meeting will provide more clarity on what other states are doing in this regard and Mr. Sparks will share information obtained at the next meeting.
20. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm.