

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting April 27, 2017

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

Districts Represented: Kevin Kendro (District 1), William Beattie (District 2), Earl Hawkins (District 3), Andrew Roper (District 4), John Davis (District 5), Michael Sye (District 6), Joe Harbert (District 7), David Byrd (District 8), Tiffany Byrd (District 9)

Also Present: Kim Dolch, Past President, MPSSAA
Dana Johnson, President Elect, MPSSAA
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor, Baltimore County (secretary)
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Donnee Gray, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA
Cheryl Wells, Administrative Assistant, MPSSAA
Jeff Sullivan, Specialist, Montgomery County
Matt Roberts, Acting Coordinator, Cecil County
Clayton Culp, Coordinator, Anne Arundel County
Bryan Ashby, Supervisor, Wicomico County

Excused: Kevin Hook, MPSSAA President

Materials Distributed:

1. Minutes from the February 2017 Executive Council Meeting
2. Proposed MPSSAA State Tournament Policies
3. Proposed Definition of Forfeits
4. Proposed Appeals Committee Language
5. NFHS Uniform Standards
6. Legislative Summary
7. Parkside HS Request for Reclassification
8. Proposed All-Star Language
9. 2017-18 Fall/Winter Bulletin Changes and Notes
10. Proposed Classification Guidelines
11. FY 2018 Budget
12. Fall 2016 Financial Report Update
13. Winter 2016-2017 Financial Report

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by President Elect Dana Johnson.
2. A motion was made by Andy Roper, and seconded by Earl Hawkins, to approve the minutes from the February 2017 meeting. That vote was unanimous.

3. Mr. Warner provided the committee a review of the bills which were relative to the MPSSAA that were introduced into legislation this past year. House Bill 513 and House Bill 980 did not make it out of committee; House Bill 1353 received an unfavorable report and did not make it out of committee. House Bill 708 passed which provides grant money to certain school systems for lacrosse opportunities. The bill expanded the grant recipients to included nonprofit organizations.
4. Mr. Warner presented the group with an update on the NFHS Summit and Legal Meeting, which he attended with Elliott Schoen, Deputy Counsel for the Attorney General. There was discussion on religious garment, specifically hijabs, as it pertains to athletes wearing them during contests. The board of directors is not taking action at this time. The MPSSAA took their own action to ensure students are permitted to participate without requiring additional documentation. Information was presented by the National Events Task Force in regards the NFHS conducting national events. At this time the task force was unprepared to recommend moving forward. The MPSSAA rules prohibit participation in these national events. Wrestling tournaments, from a health and safety aspect, are a concern to the NFHS. There is potential to limit the number of super tournaments to decrease the risk of infectious diseases. The NCAA presented an update on football recruitment, early signing period, camps/clinics, and medical material.
5. Mr. Warner reviewed the legal issue that occurred in the past academic year as it pertains to athletics. The girls' soccer classifications case was dismissed.
6. Ms. Masterman provided the council with an update on the MPSSAA sponsorships. To date Brooks and Wilson have renewed their sponsorship. The American Dairy Association renewed their sponsorship for the remainder of the academic year and will distribute low fat chocolate milk at the state track meet, just as they did for the wrestling tournament. MF Athletic intends to increase their sponsorship by \$300 for the running sports.
7. Mr. Warner discussed uniform guidance as it relates to students who would like to wear their religious headwear during contests. In Montgomery County during the girls' basketball playoffs, a student athlete was denied participation for wearing her hijab. While the NFHS does allow for religious exemptions, there was no waiver requested by the school. She did participate during the regular school year, but a different board of officials would not allow her to participate in the region final game. There is a statement now from the MPSSAA that states a school doesn't need to contact the office, a student can no longer be disallowed to participate based on religious attire.
8. Mr. Warner reminded the group to make sure to verify whether the contest is a scrimmage or game when participating against other schools, especially private schools. A contest is not permitted to be a scrimmage for one school and a game for another. It is one or the other.
9. Mr. Warner updated the committee on the information he discussed with the tennis committee at their spring meeting as it relates to classifications. The executive council recommended the tennis committee investigates four classifications versus their proposal of two. The committee will discuss at their fall meeting.
10. Mr. Kendro inquired about officials association fees other counties were incurring and the seemingly rising costs. Although all local jurisdictions would like to pay the associations the same fees, with each system being on a different negotiation cycle, it becomes difficult.

11. Mr. Warner spoke to the group about a “stay in touch” tour for the association. He would like to visit each district and collect information from across the state to discuss initiatives with the council. He would also like to see a strategic plan set and accomplished in the near future.
12. Ms. Masterman provided the council with an update on the Minds in Motion scholarship process. To date the deadline has passed, 459 applications are in the hands of the selection committee, and the meeting to finalize winners will take place on May 5, 2017. The luncheon will be held on June 1, 2017 in the Baltimore Ravens locker room at M&T Bank Stadium.
13. Mr. Bursick updated the committee on the status of the Student Leadership Conference which will take place on June 10th at Howard High School. Currently 281 students are registered to participate in the conference. Ms. Kathy Buckley will be the guest speaker.
14. Mr. Hawkins provided a recap of the Coaches Conference, which took place on April 22nd at North Point High School. Ninety-two (92) coaches attended and were instructed by area coaches in various sports.
15. Bryan Ashby, Supervisor of Athletics in Wicomico County, presented the council with information regarding Parkside High School’s misreporting of their enrollment. He requested the Executive Council consider moving the school from the 3A classification and placing it in the 2A, which aligns to the actual enrollment. The classification committee already supported the request. Mr. Sye made a motion to support the classification committee motion; Mr. Byrd made a motion to second it. The council passed the motion by a 12-0 vote. The Board of Control will need to vote on it at the meeting on Friday, April 28th.
16. Mr. Warner reviewed a proposal presented by the medical advisory committee, which would require all coaches to recertify in care and prevention of athletic injuries within the last five years. After discussion, the committee decided to endorse the proposal with new wording to read: “Beginning July 1, 2017, in order for coaches to stay relevant with the care and prevention of athletic injuries to students, all coaches are required to recertify utilizing a local school system approved course every five years.” Mr. Hawkins moved to accept the new language; Dr. Beattie seconded the motion. The council voted 12-0 to approve.
17. Mr. Warner informed the committee about a proposal made by the finance committee to increase reimbursement rates for state playoffs. The proposal increases the 0-50 mile rate by \$10 and increases the rate by \$25 for every additional 50 miles traveled. Ms. Byrd made a motion to approve the proposal and Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The proposal passed with a vote of 12-0.
18. Mr. Warner reviewed a proposal brought forth by the lacrosse committee to move from three classifications to four. When the original proposal was discussed in February, the directors of the boys’ and girls’ committees weren’t in favor of the proposal. They have since withdrawn their letter of opposition and are moving forward with their proposal. Mr. Byrd made a motion to approve the proposal, which was seconded by Mr. Hawkins. Following a 12-0 vote, the proposal passed.

19. Mr. Warner informed the council of the FY18 budget, which the finance committee approved at their most recent meeting. After a review of the changes made, Mr. Saunderson made a motion to accept the FY18 budget. Mr. Harbert seconded the motion. The Executive Council voted to approve by a 12-0 vote.
20. Mr. Warner reviewed significant changes for the 2017-2018 bulletin, which were noted in the handout. After discussion concerning the 35-point mercy rule for basketball, Mr. Sye made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kendro, to accept the basketball committee's proposal for a shot clock and mercy rule to be used in Maryland. The motion passed with an 11-0-1 vote. Discussion was had in regards to a wrestling proposal which would move the dual state finals from two to four classifications and would eliminate the team champion at the individual tournament. Dr. Beattie recommended studying classifications and competition as a whole. The council was in agreement.
21. Mr. Jeff Sullivan, Montgomery County Specialist, provided the council with information regarding work a sub-committee did on how classifications are completed. **This work will be used as a basis for the study on classifications and competitions as a whole.**
22. Dr. Roper distributed information the all-star language sub-committee drafted as it currently relates to the interpretation of the COMAR regulation. The language updates the current position paper on All-Star games. Discussion ensued about how a student athlete can regain eligibility without a violation being imposed against a school. A COMAR regulation change would be necessary. Dr. Roper made a motion to include the updated position statement in the rules and interpretation definition section of the MPSSAA handbook. Mr. Harbert seconded the motion and it passed 10-0-2.
23. Mr. Sye distributed literature regarding proposed language for forfeits. Discussion ensued on the new language and the location of the language. After discussion regarding COMAR, the decision was made to place the language in the front section of each fall, winter, and spring bulletin instead. Dr. Beattie motioned for the last sentence of the language, "appeals – a school or team may appeal a forfeit to the MPSSAA executive director. The decision of the executive director may be appealed to the MPSSAA appeals committee," to be deleted. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion and the proposal passed 11-0 (Ms. Johnson stepped away prior to the vote).
24. After being thanked for his 19 years of service, Dr. Beattie made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Davis, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was 12-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.