

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
April 26, 2021

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

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro, (District 2) Jeff Sullivan, (District 3) Shirley Diggs (on at 10:05), (District 4) Steve Lee, (District 5) John Davis, (District 6) Jeff Markle, (District 7) Debbie Basler, (District 8) Bryan Ashby, (District 9) Tiffany Byrd

Also Present: Michael Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative (on at 10:06)
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Ken Kazmarek, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor of Athletics, Secretary

Excused: Michael Duffy, President, MPSSAA
Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA

1. The meeting was called to order on April 26, 2021 at 10:03 by President Elect Sye.
2. Mr. Sye asked the committee to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Dr. Sullivan made a motion to accept the minutes, followed by a second from Mr. Markle. The minutes were approved 9-0.
3. Mr. Sye requested updates from the MPSSAA. Mr. Warner informed the council the finance committee meets on Tuesday, April 27th to discuss the FY22 budget. They will also be discussing online ticket sales for the state semifinals and finals. Mr. Warner informed the group the sport committees have been meeting and the winter bulletins are ready for review. He also notified the council of an email sent out state-wide from the NFHS about their two-year Title IX celebration. He requested supervisors send in names of individuals who would well represent Maryland. He mentioned the NFHS summer meeting books were sent out last week and he will ask the finance committee about using MPSSAA funds to support each district sending an individual to attend. Mr. Warner provided the council with an update on the COVID guidance. The Maryland Department of Health has recommended MPSSAA guidance should be used when addressing sports related questions and concerns.

4. Mr. Sye asked if there was any further information concerning spring state championships. He wanted to know if individuals have had an opportunity to speak with their superintendents yet. He spoke with his direct supervisor who said the inclination of the Baltimore County superintendent is to not support student athletes traveling outside the county. Mr. Ashby told the group his superintendent would support the decision of the athletics department. He also said it appears PSSAM will not be taking a stance, but rather each superintendent would cast a vote based on what they feel can safely be done in their respective school system. Dr. Sullivan is waiting for the timeline to be completed before he speaks to his superintendent. Mr. Warner informed the members of the council the action items need to be solidified so superintendents can make informed decisions.
5. Mr. Warner requested feedback on the Board of Control meeting in person on May 19, 2021 at Winters Mill High School. Ms. Basler voiced concerned over those individuals who would not be able to attend an in-person meeting and asked if an online option would be made available. Mr. Warner said he would check the logistics.
6. Mr. Sye asked about the timeline for the cover letter and information that should be included with it. He suggested the Executive Council review the spring sport bulletins and discuss the mitigation strategies included. Mr. Warner reviewed the baseball bulletin, which looks similar to the softball and lacrosse bulletins in regard to the way the tournament will be administered. The sport specific information is different. A team can continue their season if they are eliminated from the tournament or if they choose not to enter the tournament, provided they follow the season and weekly limitations. There will be no minimum divisor for the team sports, therefore a team with a 2-0 record is just as good as a team with a 10-0 record. All rounds prior to the state finals will be at the site of the higher seeded team.
7. Mr. Warner noted for the state tournament contests, admission would be determined later. Mr. Sye voiced the opinion that admission should be charged. Mr. Warner agreed and suggested it was more about the number of people permitted in each venue that needed to be determined. Dr. Sullivan requested admission at state tournaments be an item on the agenda for the finance committee. Some districts have been charging admission, some have not and some members feel it would be best to only charge at the neutral state championship sites. Mr. Warner will address the finance committee at their meeting. He did bring to the attention of the committee the state of the MPSSAA accounts and inform everyone the association is presently in a sound financial situation.
8. Mr. Warner suggested reviewing the tennis and track and field bulletins since they differ from the team sport bulletins. The tennis tournament will be a single elimination tournament with an 8 line bracket to start. The winners advance to the region final and those winners advance to the state semifinals. The classifications will be separated with one at the Wilde Lake Tennis Center at a time. In track and field, the first and second place winners of each event will advance to the state meets. The region meets will be conducted as one day meets per a devised timeline set forth in the bulletin.

9. Mr. Sye inquired as to what was needed to move forward. Mr. Warner informed him the framework is laid out for each supervisor to have a discussion with their superintendent. This is also the information that will go to the Board of Control for approval on May 19th.
10. Mr. Lee expressed concern about teams forfeiting after the tournament has started. Mr. Sye informed him there is new language developed surrounding forfeits for COVID reasons, but anything other than that should not be accepted and should be conduct detrimental to the tournament.
11. Ms. Byrd asked for information on recruiting events as it pertains to the NCAA basketball opening the calendar starting June 1, 2021. Mr. Warner said the house bill did not make it out of the Senate, therefore it did not pass. He asked the coaches association if they were going to move forward with any events for this year but did not get much feedback at the basketball committee meeting. He did acknowledge there needs to be discussion at a later date about the NCAA recruiting changes.
12. Mr. Sye inquired about three topics since no new business needed to be addressed. 1. What happened with the house bills revolving around athletics. Mr. Warner informed him they all stayed in committee. 2. As we move into the summer, where are we with 7 v 7 since football coaches are going to ask. Mr. Warner indicated the 80% rule is in affect until the last state championship concludes on June 19, 2021, at which point it opens to 100% until August 11, 2021. 3. As we move into May, has anything else been done to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the MPSSAA besides the logo contest. Mr. Warner said at this time, no.
13. Dr. Sullivan asked about the memorandum that was to be updated regarding out of season regulations. Mr. Warner informed him the memo was updated and the link is on the website. Dr. Sullivan also asked when all the information discussed today about state tournaments would be ready for distribution. Mr. Warner said all information should come together by Wednesday and a follow up Executive Council meeting should take place on Monday to approve all documents.
14. Upon hearing no further new business needed to be addressed, Mr. Sye entertained a motion for adjournment. Mr. Ashby made a motion, followed by a second from Mr. Kendro to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor – 11-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54.