

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
April 28, 2022

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

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro, (District 2) Jeff Sullivan, (District 3), Shirly Diggs, (District 4) Steve Lee, (District 5) John Davis, (District 6) Lynette Mitzel for Jeff Markle, (District 8) Bryan Ashby, (District 9) Tiffany Byrd

Also Present: Michael Duffy, President, MPSSAA
Michael Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA
Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Ken Kazmarek, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA

1. President Duffy called the meeting to order on April 28, 2022, at 12:49pm.
2. Mr. Duffy requested a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2022 meeting. Mr. Davis made a motion to accept, followed by a second from Dr. Sullivan. The minutes were approved 13-0.
3. Mr. Warner provided the council with sponsorship updates. The MPSSAA signed an agreement with VidSwap. The NFHS is conceptualizing the creation of the NFHS Experience, which combines several systems to consolidate. At this point there is no set timeline. The NFHS is going to be sending each high school a wet globe bulb thermometer over the summer.
4. Mr. Bursick informed the council the Minds in Motion scholarship deadline was last week. Almost 400 applications were received this year and selections will be made at the beginning of May, with a June 2nd luncheon at M&T Bank Stadium. Each district will select one male and one female to receive a \$1000 scholarship.
5. Mr. Kazmarek spoke briefly on the 4800 officials who were registered this year. This number is down by about 800 from the 2019-2020 school year. He informed the group in an effort to gain officials for various sports, there is a discount for multi-sport registrations. He also told the council the finance committee approved a \$10.00 increase in state tournament fees for all officials.
6. Mr. Warner reviewed the significant bulletin changes for the upcoming academic year. Among the changes: cross country removed the requirement for an athlete to have run in two varsity

meets prior to region races; football is staying with six classifications; basketball will remain together; high school sites will be used for volleyball state semifinals. Dr. Sullivan informed the group during the Board of Control meeting, he would be proposing the football bulletin be voted on separately from the other fall sports. His coaches don't support six classifications and he wants to know if other sport committees, the classification committee, or the equity committee had any input on the change. Mr. Kendro suggested 1A through 6A for the classifications. Mr. Duffy, along with Mr. Sye, thought 4A should remain the highest classification. Mr. Kendro made a motion to use 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, and 6A as football classifications. Mr. Ashby second the motion. The vote was 5-8 and therefore did not pass. Mr. Sye made a motion to use the classifications as they were in the 2021 season – 1A, 1A/2A, 2A, 3A, 3A/4A, 4A. Mr. Davis second the motion. The vote passed 8-4-1.

7. Mr. Warner informed the council he was still waiting to hear from Morgan State about the track and field championships. There is a contract for the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex for three days, so if Morgan State is unavailable, the state championship will be held there. He also let the council know the site for 3A state semifinal baseball is currently not solidified. Joe Cannon Stadium is undergoing a turf renovation and will be unavailable.
8. Mr. Warner spoke of two bills that were recently passed. House Bill 515 is regarding uniform modesty, which would allow a uniform to be made more modest if culture or religion requires it. Dr. Sullivan asked how this would be monitored since he has run into a few problems in the past with officials disallowing student athletes to participate despite the letter from the MPSSAA. Mr. Warner encouraged discussions with officials' groups about allowing participation and then a follow up call with the supervisor if necessary. The second bill is House Bill 826, which regards emergency action plans for high school and middle school athletic programs. Mr. Kendro asked if others were using rectal thermometers as part of their emergency plan since NATA came out and said those were the guidelines to be used. Ms. Byrd asked her legal team and is waiting for a response. There is uncertainty surrounding who can perform the reading if an athletic trainer is not on staff. Mr. Warner suggested taking the language back to the medical advisory committee for further review.
9. Mr. Kendro inquired as to the status of the girls' flag football program. He made the committee aware of a survey that was sent out via the football committee inquiring about the girls' program. He would like to see supervisors informed of surveys before they are disseminated to coaches. Mr. Warner said 85% of the school systems would like to see the program in the spring and not the fall based on a survey of local school systems.
10. Mr. Warner informed the council the COMAR updates planned for the summer did not go through the Administrative, Executive, Legislative Review (AELR) process in time for the language to be in effect for summer 2022. Mr. Warner inquired as to whether there was a need for a waiver, or if the group thought waiting until it was passed to act. The group decided waiting is good since it was going to be a rush to get information out in a short period of time for this summer if it did pass.
11. Mr. Warner reminded the group the topic of strategic plan and long-term goals was tabled at the last meeting and needs to be revisited. His recommendation was to wait and see what comes

out in the state superintendent's blueprint and move forward with a five-year plan instead of working year-to-year. Over the summer the intention is for the MPSSAA to meet with the officers to craft a recommended timeline.

12. Mr. Kendro spoke on the 50th anniversary of Title IX and asked if an MPSSAA logo could be created and shared for social media use. Several people asked about various things to do to promote the event, such as a luncheon, banners, and social media posts.
13. Mr. Warner informed the council the finance committee added printing handbooks back to the budget for the upcoming year, with a cost of approximately \$8000. He also informed the group if books are printed again, there will be a July 1 deadline for receiving updated information – i.e. new principals, new athletic directors, changes in sport committee members. Mr. Duffy, and Mr. Sye feel supervisors can be responsible for printing any their jurisdiction needs. Mr. Kendro and Dr. Sullivan feel there is value in printing hard copies for the membership. Mr. Davis suggested printing fewer books. Ms. Basler suggested one per school or one per coach plus supervisors. Mr. Sye made a motion to remain with the online version of the handbook and allowing locals to print if they desire. Ms. Byrd second the motion. The motion passed 10-2-1.
14. Mr. Warner reviewed the 2023 budget with the council. Currently the MPSSAA is below budget, but that is before spring state championships take place. With those, the revenue should increase. Some expenses will increase for next year, such as committee meetings, which will continue to be held at the Marriott due to MDOT's inability to host. The finance committee recommended a \$10 increase to the daily workers pay for state tournaments. There was also an addition to the expenses for a sportsmanship committee and student leadership conference.
15. Mr. Warner reviewed the new heat acclimatization guidelines with the committee. Several people asked about weighing student athletes prior to and after practices. Some do for all sports, others for football only. Mr. Kendro asked for a new calendar to reflect the Wednesday start date instead of Saturday.
16. Mr. Warner asked the council if they wanted to discuss and take any action on the NIL issue on the rise. New Jersey has instituted something people across the country are considering, which takes the school out of the equation. If a student athlete and parent choose to use their name, image, and likeness, that's fine, but the school name, logo, and uniform cannot be used. Mr. Warner recommends those who are going to summer meeting attend the NIL session and we can reconvene at the September meeting in regard to action.
17. Mr. Warner informed the council the officials committee reviewed the implicit bias course and discussed at their spring meeting. The executive council asked for feedback from the committee prior to moving forward with requiring it be a necessary tool for officials to complete prior to officiating MPSSAA contests. The feedback provided was while the officials committee thought the material was decent, it doesn't really hit on what needs to be done to combat the issue. The suggestion was for locals to do it at their level.

18. Mr. Warner apprised the council on sportsmanship and how to address it when it concerns spectators, coaches, and athletes speak to officials in a negative manner. The North Carolina association has a zero-tolerance policy on inappropriate language and profanity, which has made an immediate impact on sportsmanship. The officials committee endorsed the same type of policy to come to the executive council for discussion. Mr. Kendro liked the policy. Mr. Duffy stated he likes this as part of sportsmanship but would like to see more proactive thinking versus reactionary. He would like to see something indicating what we want to see instead of what we don't. Mr. Warner indicated North Carolina says this became proactive. Dr. Sullivan suggested hitting sportsmanship at the beginning of every season and teach spectators how to be fans. There could be a school wide campaign to address it. Mr. Ashby told the group the Bayside Conference has had a plan in place for over twenty years that allows each member school to be evaluated at the end of every contest. The head coach of each teams rates the home and away games and at the end of the season the athletic directors get their rating. At the end of the season the principal gets a banner for winning sportsmanship. If a school doesn't fill out the rating, they receive a \$100 fine.
19. Mr. Kendro spoke on the sportsmanship task force committee's work and asking for it to be made into a standing committee. With a guaranteed representative from each district, he feels this would better represent the entire state versus what is currently represented at present. Mr. Warner indicated the president is permitted to ask for approval for a new committee to be formed. President Duffy suggested a sportsmanship committee be formed with approval from this group. A vote of 13-0 endorses the committee be established.
20. Mr. Warner reminded the council bus driver appreciation week is May 2-6, 2022. Officials appreciation week will also be added to the MPSSAA calendar.
21. Mr. Warner tabled the discussion on school system sponsored camps to the September meeting.
22. Ms. Mitzel gave a detailed presentation on why cheerleading should be the next sport added by the MPSSAA. Following the presentation, Mr. Duffy, Mr. Kendro, Mr. Lee, Mr. Sye, and Dr. Sullivan are fully on board with adding the sport and one indicated some superintendents already think it's a state sport. Some questions were asked, such as how many seasons, will sideline be eliminated, how do you differentiate between sideline and competition, can you do two seasons of the same sport. Several action items are necessary: finding out what other states are doing, looking at COMAR to see how to modify cheer to fit into the language, change how cheer is done each season. Several members of the committee offered to assist in the process. Mr. Warner stated it must be done in compliance with the regulations to formally adopt cheerleading as a sport.
23. With no other business, Mr. Warner thanked Ms. Johnson for her service on the committee for the past 6 years and thanked Mr. Duffy for his time as president. Mr. Duffy entertained a motion to adjourn. Ms. Byrd made a motion, followed by a second from Mr. Saunderson. The motion passed 13-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 5:04pm.