

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
January 27-28, 2022

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

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro, (District 2) Jeff Sullivan, (District 3), George McClure for Shirley Diggs, (District 4) Steve Lee, (District 5) John Davis, (District 6) 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
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor of Athletics, Secretary

Excused: Shirley Diggs, District 3 Representative

1. President Duffy called the meeting to order on January 27, 2022, at 10:03am.
2. Mr. Duffy requested a motion to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2021 meeting. Mr. Davis made a motion to accept, followed by a second from Mr. Kendro. The minutes were approved 13-0.
3. Mr. Warner provided the council with a few legislative updates, including House Bill 435 which involves youth sports. A few items in particular stand out for high school athletes: 1. A student must be cleared to return to full academic participation before returning to athletics; 2. The definition of concussion is any type of direct or indirect hit to the head, which changes the current definition; and 3. This will affect public and private schools. Mr. Warner believes there will be a bill concerning heat acclimatization, which may require a wet bulb globe thermometer to be used to obtain temperature. He also believes there may be a bill on the accessibility of AEDs. There also may be a comprehensive health and safety bill coming soon.
4. Mr. Bursick informed the council the Minds in Motion scholarship application will be available at the beginning of March. Despite AllState withdrawing their sponsorship the scholarships will still be fully funded. The presentation ceremony date and time are still being decided.
5. Mr. Warner was recently part of a call with the NFHS sports advisory committee where discussion surrounded the policies of the new CDC guidance. He said a new return to play

form is being worked on by the MPSSAA Medical Advisory Committee. He indicated they are trying to amend to the current guidance if asymptomatic or very mild symptoms, the form does not need to be completed. The medical advisory committee has also been reviewing heat acclimatization, which means new guidelines will probably be written.

6. Mr. Warner updated the Council that local superintendents reviewed the Board of Control COMAR proposal at their January 7th meeting. He indicated there was full support for the changes and the next step is taking them to the State Board of Education at their February 4th meeting. Several council members indicated they would like parameters or basic guidelines. Mr. Warner suggested speaking with athletic directors, coaches, and other individuals in the local school systems to gather questions. Mr. Duffy suggested an FAQ sheet to assist coaches on what is permissible.
7. Mr. Warner informed the council there are currently still unpaid officials fees dating to 2020 from one association. The unnamed association did officiate in fall 2021 and has been told they are not in good standing and will not be able to register for fall 2022. A letter indicating an April 1, 2022 deadline to resolve the unpaid fees should be sent to the association. Mr. Lee made a motion for the association to be current with their dues to the MPSSAA by April 1, 2022 in order to remain in good standing with the MPSSAA. Mr. Sye second the motion. It passed 13-0.
8. Mr. Warner spoke of a potential sponsorship proposal with VidSwap. Dr. Sullivan indicated Montgomery County currently uses it and Mr. Sye said Baltimore County is in the process of signing a contract as well. Mr. Warner said the sponsorship would run through June 30, 2025 and would provide VidSwap to the MPSSAA at no charge. This proposal would also include training material for officials. VidSwap is going to give every boys and girls basketball team in the state a trial for the remainder of the 2022 season. They will also provide exclusive pricing to schools who want to use the product. A few individuals expressed concern over the difficulties VidSwap had with game breakdown and recruiting videos, especially as it pertains to football. Mr. Warner informed them the company is aware and is looking at ways to rectify and enhance the processes. President Duffy asked what the next steps are and Mr. Warner indicated the contract is in the process of being finalized. Ms. Basler asked if this was mandatory to use when the sponsorship is in effect and Mr. Warner said no, it is just like GoFan, ATI, and other companies the association uses that local school systems don't use.
9. Mr. Warner informed the group he and Mr. Bursick conducted meetings with the wrestling and indoor track committees to discuss measures that will ensure all teams have an opportunity to enter the state tournament despite maybe missing part of the regular season. It was done for outdoor track and tennis last year, and football this year, and should be a consideration for the winter athletes as well. Mr. Bursick provided more detail with the logistics of both tournaments. Mr. Warner provided financial information as well. Mr. Davis expressed concern about only taking the top two wrestlers from each region and Mr. Bursick informed him that was a discussion at the wrestling meeting, but if the seeding is done properly, there should be a true second place. (Mr. Saunderson left the meeting at 12:01pm)

10. Dr. Sullivan indicated his support for the changes made to the wrestling and indoor track bulletins and tournaments. He had a question about the vaccination requirement at the University of Maryland and how it would affect the basketball state tournament. Mr. Warner told him all tournaments will be subject to all requirements at the facilities hosting. Mr. Sye asked if indoor track would be held on four dates or two dates? He will need to speak with the Baltimore Armory if additional dates are needed. President Duffy requested a motion to approve the winter sport modifications as presented by Mr. Warner and Mr. Bursick. Mr. Ashby made a motion and Ms. Basler provided a second to the motion. The motion passed 12-0.
11. Mr. Duffy asked for a motion to adjourn today's meeting and reconvene tomorrow at 10:00am. Mr. Kendro motioned to adjourn. Ms. Basler second the motion. After a 12-0 vote, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15pm.
12. At 10:02am on January 28, 2022 the second portion of the meeting started. In addition to Mr. McClure from District 3, Ms. Diggs was also present. Mr. Saunderson and Ms. Johnson were not present at the start of the meeting.
13. Mr. Warner reviewed football championship feedback regarding the 2021 tournament with the council. Despite skepticism, the tournament went well and after the fact was well received. Several council members agreed it went well but would like to hear the opinion of the football committee. Mr. Warner would like feedback from the council based on the significant steps the council took in the fall prior to the spring committee meeting in April. (Mr. Saunderson joined the meeting at 10:12am)
14. Dr. Sullivan requested officials background checks be on the agenda and asked for an updated on the situation. Mr. Warner did not have any information to provide an update. Most committee members think it's not as realistic as they once thought, and the jurisdictional hurdles will still be hard to overcome.
15. Dr. Sullivan spoke on the NFHS Implicit Bias course. He asked if anyone in the group has taken it and what their opinion was. Mr. Kendro took it and thought it was good, as did Mr. Duffy. Dr. Sullivan informed everyone the VHSL added the course as a requirement for officials. He asked Mr. Kazmarek for his thoughts. Mr. Kazmarek did reach out to some officials groups and of the ones who replied, none were supportive of adding the course as a requirement. Mr. Lee suggested the officials committee look at the course and review at their next meeting. Committee members agreed that would be a good place to start. Dr. Sullivan made a motion for the officials committee to review the possibility of recommending or requiring officials to complete the Implicit Bias course and report back at the April Executive Council meeting. Mr. Lee second the motion, which passed 13-0.
16. Dr. Sullivan requested a discussion about gender guidance for non-binary students be on the agenda for this meeting. He recently reviewed the MPSSAA transgender guidelines, which are from 2016. Mr. Warner informed everyone the guidance is reflective of the current practice from the US Department of Education and national guidance.

17. Mr. Warner asked for feedback on the status of LEA's receiving boys lacrosse equipment for the upcoming season. He knows there are shortages and wants to know if school systems will be able to properly outfit their teams since the NFHS will not offer a waiver and the state association should not offer one since it is a safety issue and would put the MPSSAA at a huge liability. Mr. Sye made a motion for a letter to be drafted to the NFHS requesting a 12 month delay on new shoulder pad requirement. Mr. Markle second the motion. The motion passed 13-0.
18. Mr. Warner discussed school travel reimbursement with the council. There is a lot of work that goes into reimbursing schools/school systems, therefore he would like to discuss with the finance committee removing travel reimbursement and increasing the district subsidy. Mr. Kendro wants to make sure no schools are adversely affected.
19. Mr. Duffy would like the finance committee to review and adjust how the MPSSAA State ticket prices are advertised. Currently the \$6.00 is actually \$7.00 with a convenience fee. Mr. Warner does not feel this is necessary since online tickets have been offered since 2008 and nobody has mentioned it.
20. Mr. Warner informed the group he spoke with the state superintendent about the strategic plan for the association. He would like to continue to work on various items within the plan such as the philosophy, regulations, student safety, finances, and the structure of the association to name a few. He would like to get workgroups started and have more discussion at the April Executive Council meeting.
21. Mr. Duffy requested any further items for the good of the group. Mr. Lee requested cheerleading be added to the April agenda. Dr. Sullivan would like to discuss the MPSSAA providing funds for the districts to recognize coaches and athletic directors for their efforts over the past two years. He asked for it to be on the finance committee agenda at their next meeting.
22. With no other business, Mr. Duffy entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Lee made a motion, followed by a second from Ms. Basler. The motion passed 12-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 (Ms. Johnson left the meeting at 11:40)