

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
March 22, 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, (District 4) Steve Lee, (District 5) John Davis, (District 6) Jeff Markle (joined at 10:26), (District 7) Debbie Basler, (District 8) Bryan Ashby, (District 9) Tiffany Byrd

Also Present: Michael Duffy, President, MPSSAA
Michael Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA
Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Ken Kazmarek, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor of Athletics, Secretary

Excused: Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative

1. The meeting was called to order on March 22, 2021 at 10:03 by President Duffy.
2. Mr. Duffy 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. Davis. The minutes were approved 11-0.
3. Mr. Duffy asked for representatives to share updated athletic information.
District 1: Garrett and Washington are currently in spring sports; Allegany, Frederick, and Carroll are in fall sports. Frederick had to pause a few teams due to outbreaks. Mr. Duffy also mentioned Carroll had to dismiss a few coaches who held team gatherings against policies.
District 2: Opened with games this past weekend; spring sport registration is open; trying to figure out if they will engage winter sport athletes at all.
District 3: Currently engaging students in fall conditioning and skills; will start spring sports with limited competition on April 6th
District 4: Calvert and St. Mary's are in the fall season and have experienced teams shutting down due to COVID; Charles is participating in spring sports.
District 5: Anne Arundel and Howard are in fall sports.
District 6: Currently in fall sports. Have had a few teams that have had outbreaks.
District 8: Bayside conference is in fall season; have had a few COVID cases.

District 9: Currently in spring season and are experiencing low participation numbers.

4. Mr. Duffy requested Mr. Warner inform the council of any updates from the MPSSAA. Mr. Warner has restarted conversations about officials receiving one background check to permit them to officiate across jurisdictions. The MPSSAA has a database of officials, but needs a process accepted by the local school systems to obtain one collectively agreed upon background check. Mr. Warner also informed the council today is crossover day in the Maryland General Assembly. House bills 817 and 1185 and senate bill 759 are still in committee. In order to move forward they would need to come out of committee today. He said there are many people comparing these bills to one in Kentucky that is similar, however the Kentucky bill is an overall education bill while the Maryland bills are athletic related. Mr. Warner informed the group he and Mr. Schoen is registered for the virtual NFHS legal summit next month and the NFHS summer meeting information has not been sent yet. He is unsure whether Maryland delegates will be permitted to attend.
5. Mr. Duffy inquired as to whether the council comfortable moving forward with the current timeline set forth by the MPSSAA which would put the Board of Control meeting on May 18th. He would like to know if people thought that date was too late to make a decision about spring state championships. Mr. Kendro, Dr. Sullivan, Mr. Davis, and Mr. Ashby believe waiting until May is acceptable. Currently many jurisdictions would probably be prohibited from attending, but waiting gives the opportunity for change. Mr. Sye feels an earlier decision would be better and inquired as to why the typical end of April date couldn't be used for Board of Control. Mr. Warner informed everyone since many school system's spring sports games don't start until May 7th, the decision was made to wait on a meeting to allow a few weeks of competition before making any decisions. He reminded the group the MPSSAA has authority to conduct state championships, independent of approval from PSSAM or any other bodies. Dr. Sullivan asked for communication to be inclusive of the supervisors and Executive Council in order to help assure we are coordinated in our efforts moving forward, especially with discussion with Superintendents and spring sport directors.
6. Mr. Duffy asked the district representatives their thoughts on spring state championships if all jurisdictions were unable to attend. Mr. Ashby stated he believes all Eastern Shore superintendents would be on the same page with all their counties doing the same thing. Ms. Byrd inquired about the 40% rule, to which Mr. Duffy said he thought that was to elevate a sport to a state championship status, but would defer to Mr. Warner, who indicated that was indeed the policy. He stated the front of the sports bulletins all state schools are permitted to withdraw from the tournament if necessary and indicated this year is no different. Mr. Duffy feels it is important to all be in agreement since there is a good chance some will be unable to participate. A handful of the council feels it is okay to move forward with holding them regardless of how many jurisdictions are permitted to attend. Mr. Warner stated the plans are currently being laid to conduct spring sports state championships. When May 18th Board of Control meeting is conducted, if the choice is to move forward with championships, the foundation is there and should be able to be done without issues.

7. Mr. Warner reminded the council of the next scheduled meeting on Easter Monday. The consensus was to not meet and to choose new dates in April. The council will meet April 12, 26, and May 10th leading up to the Board of Control meeting.
8. Mr. Warner asked if any council members would like to join discussion with the track and field chairs today to provide input on the state championship plans. He also invited members to be included in the other meetings being held this week. Mr. Sye will join the meeting today and a few others mentioned interest but weren't available today.
9. Mr. Duffy entertained a motion for adjournment. Before accepting a motion, Mr. Lee congratulated Mr. Bursick on his recent marriage. Mr. Sye made a motion, followed by a second from Mr. Lee to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor – 12-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05.