

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
May 17, 2021

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

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro, (District 2) Jeff Sullivan, (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 Duffy, President, MPSSAA
Michael Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA
Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative
Earl Hawkins, representing District 3
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. The meeting was called to order on May 17, 2021 at 11:06am.
2. Mr. Duffy asked the committee to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Davis made a motion to accept the minutes, followed by a second from Ms. Basler. The minutes were approved 13-0.
3. Mr. Duffy inquired about a Board of Control update for Wednesday, May 19th. Mr. Warner indicated the meeting was set for 10:00 in the Winters Mills High School auditorium. Two people have requested a virtual option, which will take place via Google Meet. On the agenda for the meeting will be approval for fall and winter bulletins, COMAR regulation waivers, spring state championships, and any other necessary business. Mr. Kendro asked if Minds in Motion would do an in person recognition ceremony and Mr. Bursick indicated there may be a possibility for an outdoor venue, but nothing would be confirmed until after Wednesday's meeting. Mr. Warner also indicated the finance committee would meet again Thursday if the Board of Control approved spring state championships.

4. There was a question as to whether the MPSSAA would be providing passes for the playoffs should they be voted to move forward and Mr. Warner informed the group none would be available. He informed the council to provide an administrative list to the opposing school for those individuals who would normally use a state pass.
5. Mr. Warner provided everyone with an overview of when and where the state championship contests would take place for each sport. At this time Regency Furniture Stadium is being used for baseball on June 18; Bachmans Sports Complex is being used for softball on June 18; Loyola University is the site for lacrosse on June 18-19; Wilde Lake HS and Wilde Lake Tennis Center is the site for tennis on June 18-19; track and field is tentatively being held at Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex on June 18-19.
6. Mr. Duffy inquired as to which school systems have lifted capacity restrictions and mask requirements.
 - District 1: Carroll open; no masks in all counties.
 - District 2: masks may be removed if the heat index is above 80 degrees; capacity limits remain.
 - District 3: have lifted some but not in schools
 - District 4: Calvert removed masks during competition
 - District 5: Howard lifted capacity, anticipated mask will follow.
 - District 6: mask lifted for those who are vaccinated, capacity will be lifted today
 - District 7: both counties have lifted capacity
 - District 8: no capacity limits in any county, but mask requirement vary
 - District 9: spectator limitation, meeting about masks later in the week
7. Mr. Warner informed the group that the COVID page on the MPSSAA website has been updated with the latest information provided by the health department and the governor. The medical advisory group met last week to review guidelines and updated the language for outdoor venues. The current requirement is for indoor facilities and for those non-vaccinated individuals. Mr. Warner informed the council the medical advisory board recommended no masks for officials but masks for spectators. After some discussion about how to govern every county since most are in different places at this point with mask wearing and capacity sizes, the recommendation was for the guidelines to come from the local jurisdictions.
8. Ms. Basler inquired as to whether students would need a vaccination in order to participate in athletics. The risk manager in her county put forth a recommendation stating such. Mr. Warner said schools will require it before athletics would need it. Mr. Warner also shared next year, for teams who had students with COVID, the entire team will not need to shut down, those that are not vaccinated will have a longer return then those who are vaccinated. .
9. Mr. Warner discussed virtual schools that are starting to form for the 2021-2022 academic year. He reminded the council of the COMAR 13A.06.03 regulations and that students may only participate for the school in which they anticipate their graduation requirements. Many school systems are working through the issues with virtual schools and the message needs to be consistent and clear.

10. Mr. Warner informed the council a discussion was needed about the June scholastic events offered for NCAA men's basketball. There are currently two events being offered – one in Washington DC and one in Philadelphia. He mentioned the Maryland Basketball Coaches Association has not put in to host one this summer. The current out of season waiver that was put in last year will allow for students to attend these events this summer. Several members feel this is a necessity for the student athletes in their districts. The out of season waivers permit students to attend, and the decision will be left up to the supervisors of athletics as to whether it is included in their out of season practice plans.
11. The June scholastic events discussion brought up another discussion about what local school systems are permitting up until June 30, when the out of season waiver is no longer in effect. Mr. Warner informed the group each school system is permitted to do what is in their plan. The MPSSAA allowed for out of season plans to be determined by each school system as the supervisor saw fit. Mr. Sye let the group know Baltimore County coaches are going to be allowed to work with their students from June 1 until June 30. The out of season plan will include all sports and will be open to all students at each school. This timeframe allows for school teams to engage in whatever the local school system permits. Mr. Warner indicated there needs to be outside the box thinking about how to re-engage students. Discussion was had around summer rules and how to be creative in high school coaches being permitted to work with the students. Dr. Sullivan would like to review the current out of season guidance. Mr. Warner inquired as to how students can be engaged between July 1 and August 11, 2021. (Mr. Sye left the meeting at 12:53) If school systems offer opportunities for non-returning players, that is permissible by the rules. Ms. Byrd proposed waiving the camp rule for June and July 2021 to allow re-engagement of students. Mr. Kendro countered and asked to open it up for the entire summer. Ms. Byrd withdrew her motion. Mr. Warner asked if the council is looking for an extension of the current out of season waiver that ends June 30. Dr. Sullivan stated he would not be able to speak on behalf of his district until he spoke with the athletic directors, principals, and coaches. There will be a workgroup created to look into the summer rules. (Mr. Hawkins left at 1:03 at which time he stated he approved the FY 22 budget)
12. Mr. Warner informed the council the finance committee approved the FY22 budget at their recent meeting. He stated the committee would reconvene following the Board of Control meeting if spring state championships were passed. He told the group the finance committee had a conversation about moving bulletins online only, but did not determine that at the meeting. Ms. Basler motioned to accept the FY 22 budget, followed by a second from Mr. Lee. Motion passed 13-0.
13. Mr. Duffy asked for a motion to adjourn and also informed the group there was no need to continue bi-weekly meetings. Additional meetings will be determined following the Board of Control meeting and then the schedule will resume with the typical school year meetings. Ms. Byrd made a motion to adjourn, followed by a second from Mr. Davis. The meeting was adjourned at 1:21 with a 12-0 vote.