

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting  
May 3, 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 Sye, President Elect, 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: Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA  
Shirley Diggs, District 3 Representative

1. The meeting was called to order on May 3, 2021 at 10:03 a.m.
2. Mr. Duffy thanked Mr. Sye for overseeing the last meeting and 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. Lee. The minutes were approved 12-0.
3. Mr. Duffy stated the primary order of business for the meeting is to solidify the main contents for the May 19<sup>th</sup> Board of Control meeting, which are getting the fall bulletins and the spring state championships approved. Dr. Sullivan recommended a link be provided for people to review prior to the Board of Control meeting in two weeks. Mr. Warner referenced page 3 of the document, where a link with draft bulletins and other pertinent information has been inserted for Board of Control members to review prior to the meeting. Mr. Ashby indicated he reviewed the document with his assistant superintendent and feels the document will be supported as presented. Mr. Duffy asked for a review of the other districts to see if they had an opportunity to speak with their superintendents yet. District 1 informed the group he had heard there was support from the superintendents across the state; District 2 told the group he has been in touch with the interim superintendent and feels there is positive energy moving forward; District 4 told the council he knew two of the three superintendents were in

support but was unsure of St. Mary's County; District 5 said his superintendent supported the document but was concerned of the inequity if Baltimore City and Prince George's County isn't permitted to participate; District 6 said he is confident the superintendent will support it since there was a recommendation from the Office of Athletics to endorse it; District 7 echoed the statements by the others and said the documents looks great. She has been educating her district on how the playoffs will look this year and feels the principals will be in support, and therefore the superintendents will also be in support; District 9 sees no issue with the document despite what she feels will be a lack of participation in Baltimore City.

4. Mr. Duffy inquired about a statement on page 5 which references teams not participating due to non-COVID reasons. He questioned how students who have graduated are going to affect the school versus those who are returning. Mr. Warner said the way the rule is written, penalties could take place, but there is discretion on the individual analysis.
5. Mr. Warner informed everyone he and Ms. Basler had some discussion after she spoke to her principals and informed her that the surrounding states all go well into June for their playoffs, which is the way the MPSSAA intends to administer state playoffs this year should the Board of Control vote to move forward. Mr. Duffy brought up the fact that the other states have no issues with it because they have been doing it for years and the MPSSAA has not, therefore this will be hard for stakeholders. Mr. Saunderson agreed, noting principals are concerned about engagement at the end of a very long year.
6. Dr. Sullivan asked how this document and information will be released – through the Executive Council members, the MPSSAA website, or another avenue. Mr. Kendro also asked which council members had shared with people. Most have shared a draft with supervisors, but nobody has shared in writing. The members felt it was necessary for everyone to communicate in the same way. Dr. Sullivan agreed the information should be released as soon as possible with mention of formal action to take place on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Sye agreed and asked if this was sent to the superintendents, to which Mr. Warner said it was not formally sent to them. He intends to send information out through the weekly transmittal portal, upload the information to the MPSSAA website, and as soon as he receives approval on the packet, will get it out immediately.
7. Mr. Saunderson asked about the section in the packet where it states penalties WILL be imposed, should that instead read MAY be imposed. Mr. Warner said he will make the edit.
8. Mr. Lee asked for clarification about ticket sales and asked if they would be online only and if so, through which platform. Mr. Warner stated MPSSAA tickets would be sold via GoFan for the state semifinals and finals. He mentioned the finance committee recommended each district could do as they choose in regard to ticket sales for region contests. He indicated every year this is what happens; some districts can charge for every contest, some cannot. Mr. Sye is of the opinion every district needs to be doing the same thing this year and when the opportunity is present at the venue, admission needs to be charged. Mr. Kendro posed the question of how workers are going to get paid if not enough money is brought in during region contests. He was reminded it is the responsibility of the district to cover expenses

when gate receipts alone to not provide enough money to pay workers. Dr. Sullivan suggested the districts be permitted to ask for assistance if needed. Mr. Warner indicated the finance committee is meeting again the day after the Board of Control meeting to finalize the finances for state championships. They didn't want to make financial decisions if the Board of Control votes down the tournaments. Mr. Warner's recommendation is to continue the policy of district charging for region contests when the venues allow it. The Executive Council agrees with Mr. Warner. Mr. Kendro inquired about updating the payout form, to which Mr. Warner said each district uses their own form, but for the state semifinals and finals, the MPSSAA forms would be used. Mr. Bursick informed Mr. Kendro a form could be found on the region tournament reference guide page. Ms. Basler inquired if the fee schedule remained the same, to which Mr. Bursick indicated yes.

9. Mr. Duffy asked the council if there was anything else to update or change in the document besides the penalties and the finance portions. Everyone was on board with those items. Mr. Sye made a motion to move forward with the documents as they stand after Mr. Warner makes the changes. Mr. Ashby second the motion. The motion passed 11-0-1. (Mr. Ashby left the meeting to attend a previously scheduled meeting in his county)
10. Mr. Duffy asked if there was any new business for today. Mr. Warner indicated the COMAR regulation waivers need to be discussed and voted on by this group so they can be approved at the Board of Control. Mr. Duffy stated the one waiver that seemed to be controversial within the council was the one concerning adjusting the defined sport seasons. Mr. Kendro is of the opinion that waiver shouldn't be asked for again. He feels by asking for it local school systems will see it as a potential out. Mr. Duffy asked Mr. Warner if this waiver actually allowed the MPSSAA to change it, not local school systems. Mr. Warner informed the group the state superintendent would need to approve a change in sport seasons. If no waiver is in place, then the MPSSAA, and therefore local school systems, will need to operate within that time frame. He also said he understands all school systems want to operate within the same timeframe and not be on two separate calendars. He also informed the council that if there was a delay in starting and it got to the point of needing the waiver, it could be requested at that time. Ms. Basler asked the turnaround time on waivers to which Mr. Warner replied he couldn't give an exact time, but it should be relatively quick.
11. Mr. Duffy asked the group which waivers they would like to see included for the 2021-2022 academic year. Dr. Sullivan made a motion to support all waivers from this year except the one to redefine the sport seasons. Mr. Sye second the motion. Mr. Duffy asked for further discussion, at which point Mr. Warner asked the group if this included the out-of-season timeframe guidelines, which was permitted this year. Mr. Sye responded with a resounding no, at which time Dr. Sullivan withdrew his motion. Mr. Lee asked if the council could vote on each waiver separately.
  - a. Waiver 1: waiver of defined sport seasons, which allows the MPSSAA to modify the length and timeframes of the sport seasons. Mr. Sye made a motion to drop the waiver, with a second from Dr. Sullivan. The motion passed 10-0-1.

- b. Waiver 2: waiver for allowing changes to be made to schedules after the first allowable play date. Mr. Lee made a motion, followed by a second from Mr. Davis to ask for the waiver for the 2021-2022 academic year. The motion passed 11-0.
  - c. Waiver 3: waiver on limits of participation, which would allow those students playing on junior varsity and varsity teams to participate in both interscholastic and intramural programs. Mr. Lee made a motion to not ask for this waiver. Mr. Kendro second the motion, which passed 10-0-1.
  - d. Waiver 4: waiver on out of season practice. Mr. Davis made a motion with a second from Mr. Saunderson to not request this waiver. The motion passed 10-0-1.
  - e. Waiver 5: waiver on interstate and intrastate sanctioning of events. Mr. Sye made a motion followed by a second from Dr. Sullivan to ask for this waiver again. The motion passed 11-0.
12. Mr. Duffy asked Mr. Warner if all things for the Board of Control meeting were covered. Mr. Warner indicated yes – spring state championship information, fall and winter bulletins, and recommended COMAR waivers are all set for the meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Basler inquired about virtual options for the meeting and Mr. Warner indicated that would be available.
13. Mr. Warner provided the council with a few updates as it pertains to MPSSAA information. He informed the group Mr. Kazmarek and Mr. Bursick will be sending out the NFHS sport questionnaires for people to complete. He requested the supervisors encourage participation so there is a good representation from Maryland. Mr. Warner sent the two bylaw proposals to superintendents for their approval. The two proposals were for the number of wrestling contests permitted per week and allowing unlimited all-star games upon the completion of eligibility in the sport. He is waiting for 17 school systems to send back the response indicating approval or non-approval. Two studies were sent to the MPSSAA for consideration – one on the impact COVID has had on the mental health of students and another on girls flag football. If anybody wants to be a part of the conversation about flag football, please let him know.
14. Mr. Bursick provided an update on the Minds in Motion selections. Two from each district were selected last Friday and a story is being worked on for the website.
15. Mr. Warner indicated the Executive Council would convene on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup> to approve the FY 2022 budget and review a few other items prior to the Board of Control meeting. Mr. Duffy asked if the council would prefer to meet in person. All were fine with that and a location will be secured.
16. Mr. Kendro informed the group his superintendent briefed him on a pilot program from the CDC which would test students for COVID. He will find out more information.
17. Dr. Sullivan asked if anybody was sending a representative to the NFHS Summer Meeting. Mr. Davis asked if the finance committee approved it.

18. Mr. Duffy asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was offered by Mr. Lee. Mr. Sye second the motion and it was passed 11-0. The meeting ended at 12:03pm.