

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
October 21, 2021

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

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro (late), (District 2) Jeff Sullivan (late), (District 3), Shirley Diggs (late), (District 4) Steve Lee, (District 5) John Davis, (District 6) Jeff Markle, (District 8) Bryan Ashby, (District 9) Tonisha Montgomery for 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: Debbie Basler, District 7 Representative
Tiffany Byrd, District 9 Representative

1. The meeting was called to order on October 21, 2021, at 10:05am.
2. Mr. Duffy requested a motion to approve the minutes from the October 6th meeting. Mr. Sye made a motion to accept, followed by a second from Mr. Saunderson. The minutes were approved 9-0.
3. Mr. Duffy provided information from the task force and recommended the Executive Council remember a perfect solution may not exist right now, but to not let that hinder working toward something. Mr. Warner was concerned over wording in the proposal brought by the task force. He also expressed concern over the fact the proposal was not vetted by the superintendents. Mr. Sye agreed with Mr. Duffy that the group needs to start somewhere. Dr. Sullivan said the proposal has not been shared with his leadership team or athletic directors yet. Both Mr. Sye and Dr. Sullivan propose to have the council members request opinions from their stakeholders and return with more input. Mr. Ashby voiced his views on the challenges this will present for systems where the athletic directors are not full time. He supports Dr. Sullivan's two part process, which would move regulation language forward in time for April's Board of Control and then finalize everything by the end of the academic

year. Mr. Duffy reminded the group that the proposals do not require the school systems to do anything; nothing is mandated, these changes merely provide opportunities.

4. Mr. Warner indicated explaining an open window would be challenging. He recommended season time frames, June scholastic events, and school system sponsored camps as the items on which to focus. Ms. Montgomery inquired about liability during practice for a scholastic event. Mr. Duffy indicated the local school system would provide that. Mr. Warner further explained the MPSSAA would only sanction the event.
5. Mr. Lee inquired about practice opportunities and if the required 20 days would hold for the scholastic event. Mr. Warner indicated that is for regular season competition.
6. Mr. Sye indicated the items the task force provided for review are about providing opportunities for student athletes. He preferred one way the language is written but is open to the other. The important information is in the proposal; therefore, he made a motion to accept the language brought by the task force and to look at the interpretations later. Mr. Lee second the motion. Further discussion ensued and Mr. Kendro was brought up to speed since he just joined the meeting. At the time he joined, there were two proposals – one which the task force created, and one Mr. Warner developed. The vote was taken and it did not pass. (4-5-2)
7. Mr. Sye made a motion to accept Mr. Warner's camp language and Mr. Lee second the motion. Mr. Warner asked the group if they were comfortable with taking a vote before speaking with other supervisors and/or superintendents. Mr. Kendro asked timeframe and Mr. Duffy responded it needs to be done this weekend. He also reminded the group this would provide opportunities, but no school system was mandated to do anything in the proposal. The motion carried. (8-3)
8. With no other new business, Mr. Markle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Davis second the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 11:45am.