

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting  
September 10, 2021

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

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro (joined at 11:08am), (District 2) Jeff Sullivan, (District 4) Steve Lee, (District 5) John Davis, (District 6) Jeff Markle, (District 7) Debbie Basler, (District 9) Tiffany Byrd, (District 3), Shirley Diggs, (District 8) Bryan Ashby

Also Present: Michael Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA  
Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA (joined at 11:51am)  
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: Michael Duffy, President, MPSSAA

1. The meeting was called to order on September 10, 2021, at 11:02am.
2. Mr. Sye presided over the meeting due to Mr. Duffy's commitment in Indianapolis with the NIAAA. After welcoming everyone, Mr. Sye turned the meeting over to Mr. Warner to begin the discussion on the football proposal. He indicated the main purpose for the proposed change is to alleviate issues associated with COVID-19 quarantines, loss of contests, and to provide an equitable opportunity for all schools to compete in the 2021 football state championships.
3. Mr. Warner indicated if the Executive Council would like to move forward with the proposal, the classification committee would meet to evenly divide the 182 schools into six classifications for this year's state tournament. Each classification would have no more than 32 teams, which would allow for four regions of eight teams to compete for a state title. (Mr. Kendro joined the meeting)
4. Mr. Sye indicated he reached out to Executive Council members following the September 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to take a straw vote. There was overwhelming support from that group and also initial support from the football committee for a one year fix, not for the future of the football

- tournament. He would like to hear from all committee members as to whether they would like to move forward with this proposal.
5. Concerns were raised over making changes to the bulletin at this point in the season, wanting the football committee to support the proposal, as well as whether superintendents and county athletic directors support it. There was also discussion about why it is a good idea to move forward with the proposal for such things as transparency in COVID cases within teams, quality teams not losing the opportunity to make the playoffs and making this only for one year.
  6. Mr. Sye suggested sharing the document with stakeholders in all counties and reconvening to make a final decision. Dr. Sullivan agreed and stated a timeline needs to be defined so a decision is made quickly.
  7. Mr. Lee made a motion to approve the document with minor word changes, share with stakeholders, and put a timeline of two weeks to gather feedback. There was no second, therefore the motion did not go to vote.
  8. Mr. Warner asked if classifications should be shown prior to the football committee and other stakeholder reviewing the document. The opinions were split on whether that was a good idea. Most were against this since it would allow people to vote based on where their school would fall and not strictly on whether the proposal is a good idea overall.
  9. Mr. Kendro would like to get the football committee's endorsement and provide the classifications to the committee before moving on. He would also like to see dates, times, and locations for contests. Questions ensued about the relevancy of these items and Mr. Kendro stated he believed it shows transparency. (Ms. Johnson joined)
  10. Dr. Sullivan again emphasized the need for a timeline so people could understand the process. With the football committee meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Sye asked if the classification committee could meet on September 13<sup>th</sup>, ahead of the football committee meeting. Following that meeting, information could be shared with stakeholders and then the Executive Council could meet again the following week. (Mr. Kendro left the meeting at 11:58am) Mr. Warner suggested talking to stakeholders as soon as possible instead of waiting until after the football meeting takes place.
  11. Mr. Warner reworded the first paragraph of the document to read the "MPSSAA will monitor..." and another sentence to "main purpose for this proposal..." Dr. Sullivan also encouraged a section dedicated to the timeline. That will be inserted after the rationale section.
  12. Mr. Sye recapped a timeline for everyone:
    - a. Proposal sent from MPSSAA to supervisors and superintendents today (9/10)
    - b. Classification committee meets 9/13

- c. Football committee meets 9/15
- d. Distribute to all stakeholders following 9/15 meeting
- e. Executive Council meets 9/22, 23, or 24

Mr. Warner suggests sending to supervisors and allowing them to handle distribution. (Mr. Kendro returned to the meeting at 12:32pm and left again at 12:35pm))

13. Mr. Sye asked if there was anything else to modify on the proposal. With nothing else to edit, Mr. Lee made a motion to accept the document, followed by a second from Mr. Ashby. The motion carried with a vote of 10-0.
  
14. Mr. Warner asked if those on the call who were also members of the classification committee could meet on Monday. Executive Council will reconvene on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.
  
15. Mr. Sye asked for any other business before adjourning. Mr. Ashby inquired as to transportation issues in other counties. A few other jurisdictions are also having problems.
  
16. Ms. Basler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, followed by a second from Ms. Byrd. The meeting was adjourned at 12:42pm.