

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
September 1, 2022

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

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro, (District 2) Kathy Green, (District 3), Shirley Diggs, (District 4) Steve Lee, (District 5) John Davis, (District 6) Jeff Markle, (District 7) Debbie Basler, (District 8) Kurisha Hoffman for Bryan Ashby, (District 9) Tiffany Byrd

Also Present: Michael Sye, President, MPSSAA
Jeffrey Sullivan, President Elect, MPSSAA
Michael Duffy, 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
Melissa Jones, Specialist, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Secretary

1. President Sye called the meeting to order on September 1, 2022, at 10:02am.
2. Mr. Sye requested a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2022 meeting. Ms. Basler made a motion to accept, followed by a second from Mr. Lee. The minutes were approved 12-0. (Mr. Saunderson arrived at 10:04am)
3. Mr. Warner welcomed everyone and introduced Melissa Jones as the new MPSSAA Specialist.
4. Mr. Warner then provided updates from office. He spoke first about changes to the fall championships. Field hockey will be moving from Washington College to Stevenson University. Staffing was becoming an issue and they are hopeful with a move to a more central location the burden will lessen. Volleyball will now host state semifinals at school sites and continue to hold the semifinals and finals at Harford Community College. Basketball will be using Harford Community College for a site for state semifinal games, which probed a question from Mr. Duffy about whether all would be moved to that location. Mr. Warner indicated that location would just be an additional site. One item that arose from the state quarterfinal reseed is some of the neutral sites do not always make sense for the teams traveling to the site. With an additional site hopefully this will help alleviate potential travel issues. Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex has a new closing time of 9:00pm. Mr. Warner inquired if this would affect any regular season meets and if the state championships should start earlier. After discussion, the state championships will begin as normal. Mr. Warner informed the group the

contract with ATI has expired and they will no longer provide coverage at state tournaments. He is currently working with the state semifinal sites to ensure an athletic trainer will be present for all contests and will work with the state final sites to ensure the same.

5. Mr. Kazmarek spoke briefly about the registration of officials for the 2022-2023 academic year. Fall sport exams will open in the upcoming weekend. Based on information from the chart provided, there has been a significant drop in the registration of officials with no recovery since the COVID year. Mr. Kazmarek informed the group all officials must now register in DragonFly and will pay all fees online. Mr. Lee requested a list of all certified officials, to which Mr. Kazmarek informed the group he will send as soon as the exams close.
6. Mr. Warner reviewed a few significant interpretations as we head into the new school year. He reviewed a memo in the electronic folder which clarified the first play date and seasonal schedules. Mr. Kendro asked about the impact of the letter on junior varsity teams. Mr. Warner informed him how junior varsity is handled is up to the local school systems. Mr. Warner reviewed another memo contained in the electronic folder concerning the football coach box. This memo clarified the NFHS rule and provided guidance for the interpretation.
7. Mr. Warner informed the council the cost for Lamb awards will increase for this academic year which will significantly increase the budget line for awards.
8. Mr. Warner spoke of the NFHS coach of the year program, which will kick off next week. The program recognizes active coaches from the 2021-2022 school year. There will be a link sent to all athletic directors asking for nominations. The nominating committee will convene on September 30th to discuss and choose the MPSSAA winners. State winners will move forward to the section for consideration.
9. Mr. Sye asked for updates from each of the represented districts. The biggest issue across the board is lack of athletic trainers for the schools.
10. Mr. Warner provided a recap of the NFHS summer meeting held in San Antonio at the end of June. All who attended gave a brief overview of the most impactful session attended.
11. Mr. Sye and Mr. Warner spoke on the regional meetings they held over the summer with the districts. There were several overlapping themes of these meetings, such as sportsmanship language, NIL language, defining sports director roles, the purpose of the equity committee, how to strengthen communication, emerging sports, athletic trainer and official shortages, coach recruitment and retention, district account guidance, and middle school sports. Mr. Warner also mentioned a health and safety summit and bringing back the state student leadership conference. Items discussed during the summer may be included on the winter retreat agenda.
12. Mr. Warner updated the council on the COMAR amendments outlined on the agenda. The June scholastic events are not something the MPSSAA has the capacity to run so Mr. Warner is asking the committee's opinion on who will offer and run such events. Dr. Sullivan does not believe the basketball committee will be interested in doing it. Ms. Mitzel does not believe the

state coaches association has enough members to properly run an event. Several questions were raised on how the process works and Mr. Warner informed the group it is similar to NFHS sanctioning in which the NFHS and MPSSAA must approve events before they can take place.

13. (Ms. Basler left after the lunch break) Mr. Warner reviewed the NFHS change in the base level of coaching certification from AIC to level one. Dr. Sullivan inquired about what other jurisdictions are doing for credentialing coaches. District 2 is changing a few of their requirements to align with the NFHS.
14. Mr. Warner reviewed the final 2022 budget now that spring championships are over. Mr. Davis made a motion to accept the budget with a second from Kurisha. The motion passed 12-0.
15. Mr. Warner reviewed the new NIL guidance found in the electronic folder. There are guidelines and a frequently asked questions section to assist athletic directors, coaches, and student athletes when dealing with this subject. Mr. Duffy motioned to accept the guidance. There was a second from Mr. Lee. The motion passed 12-0. Mr. Warner also reviewed the amateur rules and potential changes to COMAR regarding the NIL language. After discussion about Operation Gold, Mr. Warner is going to obtain more information to share at the winter meeting.
16. Mr. Warner informed the council he and Mr. Sye reviewed the new summer camp guidance during their district meetings over the summer. It was met with positive feedback. Several council members were concerned about the total number of hours and only fall sports needing to stop by July 31st. Mr. Duffy indicated when the committee did the initial work on language there was strong feelings on all sports stopping by July 31st. After discussion, the first bullet wording was changed to After the last game of the spring state championships and ending on the final Saturday in July. Mr. Duffy motioned to approve, with a second from Mr. Lee. The motion passed 10-0-1. Mr. Duffy also motioned to send the guidance to the Board of Control. Mr. Davis second the motion, which passed 11-0.
17. Mr. Sye asked for feedback from the group on emerging sports. He wanted to know if the MPSSAA is offering sports in which the student athletes have interest. He would like to put out a survey to gather information on their desires and needs. Mr. Warner asked if there needs to be criteria to keep it on the agenda at Executive Council meetings. He asked if there should be an emerging sport committee with representation from each district and if there is a taskforce, progress needs to be made and reported back to the council. Cheerleading is moving forward with a taskforce working on language and an informal proposal.
18. Mr. Sye asked for any business for the good of the group. Mr. Duffy asked to revisit indoor track start times and feels a noon start would help alleviate the 9:00 closing time. Mr. Warner is concerned the facility may not open at 11:00am for region and state meets. He asked for individuals to discuss early start time with superintendents and report back.
19. With no other business, Mr. Duffy made a motion to adjourn. followed by a second from Mr. Markle. The motion passed 11-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 3:19pm.