

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
September 30, 2020

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

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro, (District 2) Jeff Sullivan, (District 3) O'Shay Watson for Shirley Diggs, (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
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative (joined meeting at 11:09am)
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Ken Kazmarek, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor of Athletics, Secretary
Kevin Hook, Supervisor of Athletics, Calvert County

Excused: Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA

1. The meeting was called to order on September 30, 2020 at 9:07am by President Duffy.
2. Mr. Duffy asked the committee to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Lee made a motion to accept the minutes, followed by a second from Ms. Basler. The minutes were approved 12-0.
3. Mr. Duffy opened the meeting asking for discussion about the Supervisors letter to PSSAM, which was drafted outlining other potential start dates. Dr. Sullivan began the discussion with a question to Mr. Warner regarding the proposal voted on at the last Executive Council meeting, asking if the action went to PSSAM. Mr. Warner indicated he did not send to PSSAM, noting he was under the impression all council members were going to reach out to their superintendents first. Mr. Ashby noted he shared the dates with his superintendent, who shared with the rest of the superintendents. Ms. Basler asked Mr. Saunderson if the principals were in favor of the October 7th start date and he indicated most had major concerns.

4. Mr. Duffy also requested discussion about whether state championships are still on the table if there are two options for school systems to choose moving forward. Mr. Kendro and several other members of the council interpreted the two semester plan as not having culminating events, such as state tournaments. Mr. Warner explained the two semester plan does provide for culminating events should health metrics permit them, and they will take place within the five weeks of competition.
5. Mr. Kendro inquired as to which plan was considered the MPSSAA plan – the October 7th start or the two semester plan? Mr. Warner informed the group both plans were authorized by the state superintendent.
6. Mr. Duffy suggested the council needs to provide a recommendation concerning whether state championships should be offered during both season options. Ms. Basler and several committee members asked how state tournaments could take place if not every jurisdiction was participating in the same athletics plan. Mr. Kendro, Dr. Sullivan and a few other members offered the opinion to wait and not make decisions about eliminating tournaments until more data is obtained on health metrics. The proposal made by the supervisors of athletics needs to be seen by PSSAM and a recommendation from that group needs to be heard before decisions should be made about taking away state championships. If PSSAM and the state superintendent agree on the compromise to starting later than October 7th, but before February 1st, then the committee feels state championships are not off the table. If however, the state superintendent does not agree to the compromise, then the council will need to decide if they want to move forward with state tournaments in the two plans.
7. Further discussion ensued regarding the two semester plan and whether, as written, it includes state tournaments. Many are under the impression the way it was presented there was not an option for state tournaments in the two semester plan. When the plans were presented on paper, the October 7th start plan shows culminating events, while the two semester plan does not. Mr. Warner read an email he sent on September 25, 2020 to all supervisors of athletics which was sent to clarify questions surrounding the two semester plan. It was also discussed at the last Executive Council meeting and voted on for the two semester plan to include culminating events.
8. Mr. Warner requested discussion on the specific sport modifications previously presented to the council and fall sport committees since the jurisdictions who are moving forward with the October 7th start date will need them soon. Mr. Bursick shared the most recent version. He will email the document for the council's review. Mr. Duffy requested feedback from the council by Friday, October 2.
9. Dr. Sullivan inquired as to the state of standing committee meetings seeing as how the classification committee typically meets in six weeks. Mr. Warner informed the group the standing committees will be meeting and that Mr. Bursick has already sent out information to the nomination committee. Mr. Warner informed the group school enrollments are as of September 30 enrollment and classification information will be coming out shortly. (Ms. Basler had to attend another meeting and left at 10:01)

10. With no other agenda items, Mr. Duffy asked if there were any comments for the good of the group. Dr. Sullivan encouraged all to have conversations with their respective superintendents about the December 7th option to the two semester plan. Mr. Davis encouraged the members to survey their coaches to see how many are on board for a October 7th start. Many in his jurisdiction are unwilling and/or unable to start then. Mr. Kendro informed the group some official groups aren't able to start on the first permissible play date of October 27th. Mr. Sye asked Mr. Warner if local school systems could create their own schedules as long as it fits into the defined sport seasons outlined by the MPSSAA. Mr. Warner told him as long as there are 20 practice dates before the first play date, all contests are within the first and last play dates, and weekly and season limitations are followed, yes that is permissible.
11. With no other new business to discuss, Mr. Sye made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ashby second the motion and all were in favor of adjournment. (11-0) The meeting was adjourned at 11:27am.