

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
February 8, 2021

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

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro, (District 2) Jeff Sullivan, (District 3) Shirley Diggs, (joined at 10:17) (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
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 Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA
Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative

1. The meeting was called to order on February 8, 2021 at 10:03 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 Mr. Davis. The minutes were approved 9-0.
3. Mr. Duffy requested Mr. Warner inform the council of any updates for the good of the group. Mr. Warner indicated there were no updates with the exception of House Bill 817 and it being cross-filed in the Senate. The MPSSAA submitted a letter stating the challenges the association sees if this bill were to pass. Such challenges include limits of participation on future generations, the social-emotional well being of those generations, the limits on scheduling opportunities with surrounding states which do not permit graduates to participate, and the burden on the school administration to oversee and discipline students who are not enrolled and attending, to name a few.
Mr. Davis asked if this bill getting cross-filed means it was gaining traction and Mr. Warner indicated he was unsure. He said if there are amendments and more co-signers then it may be something that will pass. Mr. Duffy asked if there was anything the council could do to assist and Mr. Warner informed the group to speak with their school system legislation.

4. Mr. Duffy asked for representatives to share any information in regard to their district starting athletics for the upcoming fall season.
District 9: waiting final approval but most likely fall cancelled and plans are being made for spring sports to begin on March 15th.
District 8: all 8 counties are prepared to start fall on Saturday; if games can't be played, they will not be made up.
District 7: both counties will begin spring sports on March 15th, and if games cannot be played, they will not be made up.
District 6: fall sports are set to begin on Saturday; no make up games.
District 5: Anne Arundel still working through some issues; Howard starting fall on Saturday.
District 4: St. Mary's starting fall Saturday, Calvert starting on February 20th, and Charles will probably start spring on March 15th.
District 3: will be looking at April for the start of spring sports.
District 2: will be starting fall sports on February 27th.
District 1: unsure of plans for Garrett and Allegany; Washington began winter sports on February 6th and will move to spring sports on March 15th; Frederick and Carroll will start fall sports on February 13th.
5. Mr. Duffy asked the group if they wanted to keep All Star events at the county level or if they wanted to move toward MPSSAA events. Mr. Warner stated it does not have to be MPSSAA organized events, but whether the association offers guidance to assist all school systems in running events. Mr. Duffy requested input from the council. Most people would prefer a showcase event versus a true all star event since most counties have not had opportunities for students to participate in athletics, and therefore challenging for all stars to be selected. The council would like guidance from the MPSSAA. Mr. Warner invited the council to update the document that was distributed.
6. Mr. Duffy inquired as to whether there was an update on which officials associations are still delinquent with their dues. Mr. Warner has heard from a number of school systems which have communicated with the official associations. Some have either paid or have made plans to take care of the obligations.
7. Mr. Duffy asked if there was an update on girls' flag football. Both Mr. Warner and Mr. Kendro indicated at this time there was not anything to report.
8. Dr. Sullivan asked if there was an update on DragonFly and VNN. Mr. Warner replied it would be on the agenda for the February 22nd meeting.
9. Mr. Warner indicated he has been asked if the association would be willing to contribute \$1000 to the National Football Foundation scholarship this year due to the circumstances with COVID. He asked for feedback from the committee. The committee members who provided feedback were all in agreement it would potentially open up requests from several other foundations and in light of the fact that no state championships have been held in almost a year, the MPSSAA has had no major income. Mr. Warner agreed and told the group he would inform the requesting Supervisor of Athletics of the decision.

10. Dr. Sullivan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:52am. Ms. Basler second the motion and all were in favor. (10-0)