

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
June 10, 2020

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

Districts Represented: Kevin Kendro (District 1), Jeff Sullivan (District 2), Earl Hawkins (District 3), Steve Lee (District 4), John Davis (District 5), Michael Sye (District 6), Debbie Basler (District 7), Bryan Ashby (District 8), Tiffany Byrd (District 9)

Also Present: Michael Duffy, President, MPSSAA
Michael Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA
Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative (joined meeting at 12:50pm)
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Jill Masterman, Program Specialist, MPSSAA
Ken Kazmarek, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor, Baltimore County (secretary)

1. The meeting was called to order on June 10, 2020 at 12:06pm by President Michael Duffy.
2. The minutes from the May 7, 2020 meeting was reviewed and approved.
3. Mr. Warner thanked Dana Johnson for serving as President, welcomed Michael Duffy as the new President, Michael Sye as the President Elect, and Jeff Markle as the District VI representative.
4. Mr. Warner informed the group he emailed the current MSDE document, which had been updated with the MPSSAA language. The Governor and State Superintendent will be holding a press conference at 5:00 today to provide an update on where the state currently is as it pertains to COVID and the restrictions.
5. Ms. Masterman provided the council with information on how the Minds in Motion winners were honored this year since an in-person luncheon could not take place. Each student athlete received a yard sign and will be sent a program commemorating their achievement.
6. Mr. Bursick provided the council with an update on the 75th anniversary logo contest winner. The winner, a student from Urbana HS, has not yet been notified, but will receive an email as soon as the scholarship piece is finalized. Urbana HS will receive tee shirts with the new logo and a \$1000 award for the athletic director to use as needed.

7. Mr. Warner encouraged the council to take part in the NFHS Summer Meeting, which will be done virtually this year. Registration information will be sent to council members so they can register for workshops.
8. Mr. Duffy informed the group the 2020 NFHS national student leadership conference will also be held virtually in July. Athletic directors were encouraged to have student athletes register and take part.
9. Mr. Warner provided a DragonFly Athletics update for the group. Mr. Bursick has been working closely with them to ensure the local school systems have been properly set up to run this fall if they so choose. For 2020-2021 academic year, it will not be necessary for local school systems to upload their schedules into the system, however registration of officials will take place on this platform. The goal is to have everything ironed out this year so state-wide schedules can be entered into their system for 2021-2022 academic year.
10. Mr. Warner reviewed waivers to certain COMAR regulations due to COVID. When he presents to the State Board of Education at the end of June, he will ask for waivers for the followings: COMAR 13A.01.01.02-1 Waivers from Regulations, COMAR 13A.06.03.03 A - Sports Season, COMAR 13A.06.03.03 B(1) - Maximum Number of Contests During a Sports Season, COMAR 13A.06.03.04C(9) - Limits of Participation, COMAR 13A.06.03.04E - Out-of-Season Practice, COMAR 13A.06.03.08(1)(b), and COMAR 13A.06.03.08(2)(c). Mr. Ashby made a motion to move forward with the COMAR waiver requests to the State Board of Education through the state Superintendent of schools. Mr. Sye second the motion. It passed 12-0 (Patrick Saunderson left the meeting).
11. Mr. Warner asked the task force leaders to give a report to everyone. Dr. Sullivan's task force looked at recommended resources for school systems regarding health screenings. He told the group they devised a screening form to be used prior to practice. Mr. Ashby's group looked at recommended resources for school systems regarding COVID 19 awareness and risks. They developed an acknowledgement statement that mirrors the concussion statement, a preparticipation COVID reporting form, and found resources on what you need to know about COVID, and information on multisystem inflammatory syndrome. Mr. Duffy's task force worked on low risk
12. After reviewing the work done by the task forces, discussion was had on what to do now. People are concerned there is no statement from the MPSSAA regarding what coaches are permitted to do at this point. Dr. Sullivan drafted a statement to send out clarifying the MPSSAA's viewpoint. The statement reads: while in normal circumstances the MPSSAA does not directly administer summer out of season activities, the association strongly recommends local school systems refrain from in person out of season contact and conditioning until further guidance is provided from the MPSSAA. This guidance will include considerations and recommendations from the CDC, NFHS, MSDE, and the Maryland Department of Health. The MPSSAA remains committed to promoting the safe return of interscholastic athletics for student athletes and stakeholders across the state of Maryland. The MPSSAA will provide the next update on summer out of season activities during the week of July 6-10. Mr. Warner prefers to wait

to send out messaging like this statement until guidance is given from the Governor and the State Superintendent. Mr. Sullivan reworded the statement to read: As stated in the Maryland Together: Maryland's Recovery Plan for Education, under the direction of the Maryland Department of Education, the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association will be providing guidance regarding the safe return of in-person operations of interscholastic athletics programs. The MPSSAA strongly recommends that local school systems incorporate this guidance into summer out-of-season operations plans. The guidance will include considerations and recommendations from the CDC, NFHS, MSDE, and the Maryland Department of Health. In the meantime, local school systems are providing guidance regarding the virtual engagement of student-athletes, in support of students' mental, physical, and social-emotional well-being. The MPSSAA remains committed to promoting the safe return of interscholastic athletics for student-athletes and stakeholders across the state of Maryland. Mr. Warner acknowledged the need for a statement and will work with the above from Dr. Sullivan to address concerns when the time is appropriate.

13. Mr. Duffy reminded the council there was a motion made at the last meeting to hold Board of Control meeting by June 30 and if the council does not believe the organization is prepared to hold the meeting, a motion needs to be made. Mr. Lee made a motion to postpone the meeting until a date to be determined. Mr. Davis second the motion, which passed 9-0. (Ms. Basler, Mr. Markle, Mr. Sye were no longer present at the meeting)
14. Mr. Hawkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lee second the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 p.m. by a vote of 8-0-1.