

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
October 5, 2020

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

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro, (District 2) Jeff Sullivan, (District 3) Shirley Diggs, (District 4) Kevin Hook for Steve Lee, (District 5) John Davis, (District 6) Jeff Markle, (District 7) Debbie Basler (joined at 10:09), (District 8) Bryan Ashby, (District 9) Tiffany Byrd

Also Present: Michael Duffy, President, MPSSAA
Michael Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Ken Kazmarek, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor of Athletics, Secretary
Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA (joined meeting at 10:46)

Excused: Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative

1. The meeting was called to order on October 5, 2020 at 10:04am by President Duffy.
2. Mr. Duffy asked the committee to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Sye made a motion to accept the minutes, followed by a second from Mr. Hook. The minutes were approved 10-0.
3. Mr. Duffy opened the meeting asking for updates from the MPSSAA office. Mr. Warner had none; Mr. Bursick informed the council while no members of the Executive Council sent revisions for the sport modifications, he did receive a few from the rules interpreters and made such changes. Those modifications are now ready to be approved by this body.
4. Mr. Duffy inquired as to whether there were any updates from districts in regard to the October 7, 2020 start versus the second semester start. There were none.
5. Mr. Duffy asked if there was any update from the MPSSAA office as it pertains to the potential December 7, 2020 start. He received an email from his Chief of Schools which indicated there was information in the weekly MSDE transmittal about the potential December 7, 2020 start date, information about what all the local jurisdictions were in regard to athletics, and two

Harford County specific pieces of information. Mr. Warner indicated there is a weekly memo sent from MSDE but he didn't see any information concerning what Mr. Duffy referenced prior to the release of the email.

6. Mr. Duffy asked Dr. Sullivan if the letter from the Supervisors of Athletics had moved forward to PSSAM at this time. Dr. Sullivan informed the council that, to his knowledge, it has been shared, but he does not know what the next steps are to move it forward. Dr. Sullivan noted that originally 19-of-24 school systems signed the letter with Baltimore County recently signing to make it 20 school systems. Mr. Duffy posed the question to Mr. Warner, who stated he had not been provided a copy of the letter and has no knowledge of the contents or the requests within the letter, and is unsure how it will be reviewed. In past cases where items have gone to PSSAM, they have been put on a PSSAM agenda and make determinations on how they would like to proceed. Mr. Davis indicated PSSAM did review the letter, passed a motion to approve, and it will move along to MSDE for their approval. Mr. Duffy inquired from Mr. Warner as to the timeframe in which something like this would have action taken. Mr. Warner indicated since he had no knowledge of the letter or what specific motion or requests would be coming from PSSAM, it would be speculative to provide any indication of what process would take place.
7. Mr. Duffy asked what the Executive Council's next steps should be. He inquired about sport committee meetings and whether the intention was to move forward with those that didn't take place earlier in the fall. Mr. Warner indicated the priority is to get fall sport modifications out to the school systems who are going to engage in the October 7th plan, and to meet with the basketball committee since that meeting didn't happen due to the State Superintendent's announcement a few weeks ago. Spring sport committees will also need to be engaged to begin the discussion around the modifications that will need to take place for those sports.
8. Mr. Duffy inquired about the Board of Control and what their engagement needs to be during this time. He asked if they need to approve sport modifications now or if that is something that will need to occur at a later date when fall, winter, and spring are finished. Mr. Warner said the Executive Council needs to make a recommendation on the sport modifications for the Board of Control, or invoke emergency action approval by the Executive Council or Executive Director. All members of the council indicated they would prefer the Board of Control has input on the decision. Mr. Kendro asked if these modifications have been vetted by the sports medicine advisory committee and felt they should be the group to approve since they have more background knowledge in health and safety. All members agreed the Board of Control needs to approve, but Mr. Sye mentioned the council needs to decide what they are recommending to that body.
9. Mr. Sye requested the meetings be recorded, not only for accountability purposes, but to make sure all pertinent information is captured for review purposes. Mr. Duffy noted that Mr. Warner was recording today's meeting and he appreciated the meeting being recorded. Mr. Duffy noted we will continue to record online meetings.
10. With no other agenda items, Mr. Duffy asked if there was any new business for the good of the group. Mr. Kendro requested confirmation that none of the sport modifications were

approved by any group at this point. Mr. Warner indicated he would like to have the Executive Council take action on them so they could then be shared with the sports medicine advisory committee. He mentioned the process would need to move quickly so the school systems set to start on October 7th have the modifications in place. As he said previously, the modifications have been out for review since the beginning of September, and have come down from the NFHS, been reviewed by our sport committees, and have been vetted by the rules interpreters. (Ms. Johnson joined the meeting at 10:46)

11. Mr. Kendro made a motion to have the sport modifications reviewed and approved by the sports medicine advisory committee, then brought back to the Executive Council for approval prior to sending to the Board of Control. With no second, the motion did not move forward.
12. Mr. Hook made a motion to approve the sport modifications, send approved modifications to the sports medicine advisory committee, and if they have any changes, they could send them back to the Executive Council for revisions. Mr. Ashby second the motion. The motion passed 11-1
13. Mr. Warner informed the council Monday, October 12, 2020 is Columbus Day, which is a state holiday, therefore the meeting would need to be moved. The council agreed to conduct the weekly meeting on Wednesday, October 14th at 12:30pm.
14. Mr. Sye inquired as to whether Mr. Warner will continue to be meeting with three Superintendents of PSSAM moving forward. Mr. Warner informed him he has only met with the three PSSAM representatives once, on August 5th. Mr. Warner noted he did request to meet every two weeks or another way to keep PSSAM informed but no meeting dates have been scheduled.
15. With no further business, Mr. Ashby made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Basler made a second to the motion and all were in favor. 12-0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:54am.