

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

Minutes of the MPSSAA Executive Council Meeting
September 14, 2020

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

Districts Represented: (District 1) Kevin Kendro, (District 2) Jeff Sullivan, (District 4) Steve Lee, (District 5) John Davis, (District 6) Jeff Markle, (District 7) Debbie Basler (joined at 12:12), (District 8) Bryan Ashby, (District 9) Tiffany Byrd

Also Present: Michael Duffy, President, MPSSAA
Michael Sye, President Elect, MPSSAA
Dana Johnson, Past President, MPSSAA (joined the meeting at 11am and left again at 11:45am)
Patrick Saunderson, Principal's Representative (joined the meeting at 11:27am)
R. Andrew Warner, Executive Director, MPSSAA
Jason Bursick, Assistant Director, MPSSAA
Ken Kazmarek, Coordinator of Officials, MPSSAA
Lynette Mitzel, Supervisor of Athletics, Secretary

Excused: (District 3) Shirley Diggs

1. The meeting was called to order on September 14, 2020 at 10:03am 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. Sye. The minutes were approved 11-0.
3. Mr. Duffy asked for Mr. Warner to share any updates from MSDE and also requested him to review the second semester plan that was approved and released on Friday. Mr. Warner did not have anything to update since the plan was shared.
4. Mr. Duffy inquired as to how the council wanted to move forward with the state championships, specifically how we want to get feedback on whether to hold them, what the stakeholders thoughts are and what the timeframe should be to do so.
5. Mr. Duffy requested each district representative to review what their thoughts are on the second semester sport bulletin plan. The responses were varied – mixed feelings about athletes continuing to play after losing versus moving on to the next season; make the attempt to conduct state tournaments; not necessary, the goal should be to get student athletes

on the field and not rush to have state championships; haven't met with leadership or athletic directors yet to gauge their thoughts. People inquired about requesting a mid-January start date for practices so February 1st could be the start of games. Discussion ensued about timelines and the overlap in seasons, which seems to be a major concern for almost everybody who has given feedback to date.

6. Mr. Duffy requested Dr. Sullivan share what the sub committee has done thus far with the history, rationale, and action plan. He emphasized the importance of acknowledging the challenges and also recognizing this plan isn't taking place now, but in 5 months. A sport bulletin plan needs to be set now in order for things to run efficiently in February. The committee feels there needs to be a sport bulletin plan in place that has been vetted by Board of Control, PSSAM, and MSDE, by the end of October so November and December are spent with local school systems creating schedules and contingency plans. The Executive Council believes this is a great start and looks forward to the continued work the committee does. Mr. Warner informed the group Board of Control should be the last group approving sport bulletin plans, after PSSAM and MSDE have reviewed them.
7. Mr. Warner made a recommendation to wait on requesting an earlier start to practice. At this point, we are only two weeks into the start of the school year and just released these dates in the Two-Semester plan three days ago. Mr. Sye asked who was actually going to make the decision about holding state championships. Is this a decision for the Executive Council, based on feedback from the sport committees, athletic directors, coaches, stakeholders, to then take to the Board of Control, or are the three superintendents making the decision based on your recommendation? Mr. Warner replied it is ultimately the Board of Control according to the Master Agreement, which consists of county representatives, making the decision as it relates to state tournaments.
8. The dialogue continued concerning the two week overlap and how to potentially rectify it. Dr. Sullivan created a schedule that would reduce the overlap to five days. January 11 to March 6 could be the winter season; March 1 to May 1 could be the fall season; April 26 to June 19 could be the spring season. This would allow for a 6 week fall season to ensure football can include all teams in the state tournament. Dr. Sullivan also created a January 4 to June 26 plan which would give each season 6 weeks and only a week overlap between seasons. While the council members liked this idea, several believe it will be a hard sell for superintendents to go that far into June.
9. After the conversation ended, Mr. Duffy suggested each district representative go back to their membership and get feedback on where people stand with moving forward with conducting state tournaments. Dr. Sullivan reminded the group the communication and messaging is vital to informing our membership as to the why behind whatever plan is chosen.
10. Mr. Warner requested a consensus from the Executive Council if the sport bulletin drafts as it relates to the second semester was supported. This is important for the sport committees to know when meetings start this week. The consensus of the group is to move forward with sharing the sport bulletin plan as a starting point, but also informing the sport committees this

is not set in stone and it's not an all or nothing plan. The council also agreed it needs to be shared and explained to the committee members to get their feedback on state tournaments.

11. Mr. Ashby made a motion to allow sport committees to first digest the modifications to the second semester plan before the council shares it out to other supervisors, leadership teams, and athletic directors. Mr. Lee second the motion, which passed 11-0.
12. Mr. Lee inquired about JV play and if their season would end when the varsity teams start state tournament play. Mr. Warner said no, they could play for the remaining two weeks.
13. Mr. Warner said he would email the contingency plan for council members to have. Dr. Sullivan said he emailed the document that explains the rationale for the plan.
14. Mr. Sye made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:58am. Mr. Davis second the motion and all were in favor. (11-0)