

**Minnesota State High School League  
2100 Freeway Blvd.  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430**

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
August 4, 2020**

Due to COVID-19 and Governor Walz September 11, 2020 Executive Order 20-89, the Board Meeting was held using Zoom virtual platform. President Novak called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. All current members of the Board of Directors were in attendance. All members of the executive staff were present for all or portions of the meeting.

A list of others attending all or portions of the Zoom Meeting is on file at the League Office.

Reflection by Member Kaus

Pledge of Allegiance

White moved and Heier seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed by roll call vote.

**Minutes Approved**

Reetz moved and Revenig seconded to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. The motion passed by roll call vote.

**Individuals or Delegations on Agenda Issues**

No individuals requested to speak to the Board regarding any agenda items.

**Board of Directors Members' Reports and Comments**

Board of Directors reports were received and included board members comments regarding the difficult decisions being made by the MSHSL Board of Directors and Member Schools administration.

**Legislative Report Received**

Legislative Report was received and included a possible additional special session that may begin as early as August 12, 2020. The State Legislature may consider a bonding bill to include a one-time funding stream of up to \$500,000 from MSHSL Foundation funds to be used to offset losses to the MSHSL due to COVID-19 which is supported by Representative Marquart.

**Legal Counsel's Report Received**

Legal Counsel's Report was received and included an update on two pending lawsuits.

**Executive Director's Report Received**

The Executive Director's Report was received and included:

- Thanking the Board for their time and participation at the August 3, 2020 Workshop.
- Thanking the Return to Participation and the Finance Task Forces for their time dedicated to discussing and proposing recommendations to the Board of Directors;
- Thanking the Youth Sports Round Table, chaired by Commissioner Tarek Tomes, for leading discussions and proposing recommendations to returning to participation in a way that is safe for all involved;
- Thanking Heather Mueller, Deputy Commissioner of MDE, for her continued communication and support to the MSHSL;
- The weekly Thursday LEAD Network Meetings continue to be a great way to communications resource with and for our Member Schools; and
- The Governor's Appointee to the Board of Directors has not been selected, but League staff is in contact with the Governor's office to focus on timeline of making a decision and appointment.

The Executive Committee Report was received and included.

- Accepted the recommendation of the Financial Task Force in creating a sustainable financial model for the MSHSL;
- Approved cancellation of the Fall Area Meetings and that initiatives that would be shared at Fall Area Meetings will be included in the weekly LEAD Network Meetings;
- Approved a review of the Board Policy Manual and Guidelines, Region Secretaries Manual, and the Employee Handbook during the 2020-2021 school-year;
- Reviewed and Approved a Student Notice of Assumption of Risk to be distributed to member schools; and
- Return to Participation discussion and recommendation to full board of a motion to accept.

McDonald moved and Heier seconded to approve the Executive Committee Report. The motion passed by roll call vote.

### **ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**

#### **Resolution in Appreciation and Recognition for Service and Dedication to the MSHSL Board of Directors: Joel Boyd, Rob Carpentier, Kristen DeClerk-Thompson, Jill Johnson, Eric Lehtola and Bonnie Spohn Schmaltz.**

Ostrowski moved and Engebretson seconded to approve the Resolution in Appreciation and Recognition for service and dedication for Board of Directors members whose terms had been completed. The motion passed by roll call vote.

### **Publications**

Smokrovich moved and Bosshart seconded to approve the following publications:

- The MSHSL Official Handbook;
- The Board Policy Manual and Guidelines;
- The Region Secretaries Manual; and
- The Officials Policy Manual.

The motion passed by roll call vote.

The Board Policy Manual and Guidelines, The Region Secretaries Manual, Officials Manual and the Employee Handbook will be reviewed during the 2020-2021 school year.

### **Head Cheer Coach CER**

McDonald moved and Heier seconded to approve the Head Cheer Coach CER as presented. The motion by roll call vote.

### **State Tournament Programs**

Discussion was held regarding Souvenir State Tournament Programs. Vraa moved and Reetz seconded to approve transitioning to an online souvenir state tournament program effective with the 2020-2021 school year. The motion passed by roll call vote. This was a discussion item at the July 14, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.

League staff will explore options for printed rosters to be sold by the MSHSL during the end of season events.

### **Music Advisory Committee Recommendation**

Bosshart moved and Revenig seconded to approve the transition to the online adjudication courses through the NFHS Learning Center. The motion passed by roll call vote. This was a discussion item at the July 14, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.

## **Uniform Modification and Special Recognition**

Stein moved and White seconded to approve the Uniform Modification and Special Recognition Policy as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote. This was a discussion item at the July 14, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.

## **2020-2021 Board of Directors Committee Assignments**

The 2020-2021 Board of Directors Committee assignments were reviewed. Heier moved and Reetz seconded to approve as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote.

## **Return to Participation**

Discussion was held regarding the safety of all involved in the return to participation for fall activities. The Board of Directors reviewed two options for fall sports recommended by the Return to Participation Task Force. Staff members indicated that since the situation is very fluid, plans are reviewed daily as well as making sure the governor's executive orders and the requirements set by the MDE and MDH are followed.

The Board of Directors also discussed continuing the 2020 MSHSL Fall Season as planned or to consider moving at-risk activities to another time; what other states are doing; transportation; fans; and ensuring that the safety and health of all involved is the first consideration. The objective is for all student-athletes to have an experience although it may not be traditional. The Board agreed to discuss and consider all fall activities individually instead of all at one time.

Reetz moved and White seconded to approve the return to participation protocol for the following fall individual sports: Boys and Girls Cross Country Running, Girls Tennis, and Girls Swimming and Diving. The season will begin on Monday, August 17, 2020 as scheduled. The length of the season will be reduced by 20% and the number of competitions will be reduced by 30%; no scrimmages, large events or invitationals will be permitted. There would be a two-team maximum competition for Girls Swimming and Diving and Girls Tennis; and a three-team maximum for Boys and Girls Cross Country Running. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Stein moved and Heier seconded to approve return to participation protocol for the following fall team sports: Boys and Girls Soccer. The season will begin on Monday, August 17, 2020 as scheduled. The length of the season will be reduced by 20% and the number of competitions will be reduced by 30% with a maximum of two games per week. Competition will be limited to conferences or districts and no scrimmages may be held. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Reetz moved and White seconded to approve return to participation in Girls Volleyball as a condensed season between the traditional winter and spring seasons. A roll call vote was taken and due to the lack of a majority, the motion failed.

Heier moved and Revenig seconded to approve return to participation in Girls Volleyball as originally scheduled with a start date of August 17, 2020. The motion failed by a roll call vote.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility that if Girls Volleyball continued as scheduled, there was the possibility that the season may be cancelled by a directive from the MDE or MDH if the numbers of COVID-19 cases increased.

Reetz moved and White seconded to approve the original motion to approve return to participation in Girls Volleyball as a condensed season between the traditional winter and spring seasons. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Member John Vraa asked to go on record that he wanted Girls Volleyball to be held in the fall and that this was a hard decision.

Ostrowski moved and Heier seconded to approve return to participation in Football as a condensed season starting on August 17, 2020. Associate Director Craig Perry spoke regarding information from the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee that indicated that volleyball and football are high risk activities. Discussion was held whether catastrophic insurance could be used for COVID-19 related health issues. Assistant Director Matter indicated that he had conversations with the MSHSL's insurance carrier and that catastrophic insurance is in place for injuries and is not likely that it could be used for health issues. The motion failed by roll call vote.

Smokrovich moved and White seconded to approve return to participation in Football as a condensed season between the traditional winter and spring seasons. A six-game schedule would be allowed with competition limited to districts and sub-districts. MDH guidelines would need to be followed. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ostrowski moved and White seconded to modify return to participation in Football and Girls Volleyball to allow practice during the fall season. The motion passed by roll call vote. The Eligibility Committee will determine the guidelines for the practice season.

Discussion was held regarding opportunity for the 2020 spring activities that were cancelled to have an opportunity to have a training season during the fall of 2020. McDonald moved and Reetz seconded for the 2020 spring activities to have a training season in the fall of 2020. The Eligibility Committee would have a discussion with League staff with feedback from Activities Directors as to what should be allowed. The motion passed by roll call vote.

### **2020-2021 BUDGET**

Assistant Director Rich Matter and MSHSL Board Treasurer Troy Stein spoke regarding the formation of the Financial Task Force approved by the Board of Directors at their July 13, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting. The Financial Task Force met and the recommendations from those meetings were shared with the Board of Directors. Discussion was held that it is too early to determine a culminating event (in lieu of a state tournament) to budget for revenue.

Vice President Tom Jerome indicated that no program cuts have been happened and that decisions have been difficult and painful. Failure to approve the recommendations of the Financial Task Force would mean cutting future programs and operating costs that will not be offset by revenues.

Jerome moved and Stein seconded to approve the recommendation of the Financial Task Force to support the MSHSL with additional membership fees which will be payable through an installment plan throughout the year. The motion passed by roll call vote.

Ostrowski moved and Waterbury seconded to approve the 2020-2021 Budget. This was a discussion item at the June 1, 2020 and the July 14, 2020 Board of Directors Meetings. The motion passed by roll call vote.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The Board of Directors reviewed the 2019-2020 Strategic Directions and discussed the inclusion of diversity and return to participation protocol. Staff will revise based upon Board discussion and bring back to the Board for review and approval at the October 1, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Eligibility Committee**

White moved and Vraa seconded to approve the July 31, 2020 Eligibility Committee minutes as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote. The Eligibility Committee Meeting was held via a virtual platform.

#### **Audit/Finance Committee**

Ekstrom moved and Tauer seconded to approve the July 2020 Financial Statements as presented. The motion passed by roll call vote. The Audit/Finance Committee was held on August 4, 2020 via a virtual platform.

Jerome moved and Ekstrom seconded to approve the State Auditor Engagement Letter for the MSHSL and for ten Administrative Regions. The report is on file at the League Office. The motion passed by roll call vote. The six remaining Administrative Regions use independent auditors to conduct their annual audit.

Ostrowski moved and Heier seconded to approve the 2020-2021 school-year insurance premiums. The motion passed by roll call vote.

### **Marketing and Communications Committee**

The Marketing and Communications Committee reviewed their purposes and goals for the 2020-2021 school year.

Reviewed MSHSL Publications including the Picture Yearbook.

The electronic newsletter *MSHSL Connect* will resume in September 2020.

An update on Corporate Sponsorships.

The Marketing and Communication Committee Meeting was held on August 4, 2020 via a virtual platform.

### **Education and Leadership Committee**

An update on officials registrations, training and development and clinics was given.

Continued work with Arbitrator.

Smokrovich moved and McDonald seconded to approve the reciprocity of officials. The motion passed by roll call vote.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on October 1, 2020.

There being no further business, Heier moved and Reetz seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:37 p.m. The motion passed by roll call vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erich Martens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erich" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "Martens".

Erich Martens  
Executive Director