

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

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
October 1, 2020**

Due to COVID-19 and Governor Walz Executive Order 20-89, the Board Meeting was held using Zoom virtual platform. President Novak called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. All current members of the Board of Directors and 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 Stein

Pledge of Allegiance

Domin moved and Jerome seconded to approve the agenda as amended: Move Discussion Item 10A – Media Policy Manual Streaming to Action Item 9D. The motion passed by a roll call vote

**Minutes Approved**

Heier moved and Smokrovich seconded to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2020 Regular Board Meeting and the September 21, 2020 Special Board Meeting. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

**Individuals or Delegations on Agenda Issues**

George “Skip” Toops, Pierz High School Wrestling Coach, spoke in favor of holding a wrestling season in 2020-2021.

Cort Sylvester, Rosemount High School Speech and Debate Coach, spoke regarding the proposed speech bylaw and policy changes and gave a summary of the changes that are being recommended.

Nick Cedergren and Dave Dorn spoke regarding Unified Basketball. A Bylaw Amendment Proposal has been submitted to the MSHSL from member schools regarding a potential partnership with Unified Sports.

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

Board of Directors reports were received and included board members thanking Executive Director Martens, President Novak and the entire MSHSL staff for their leadership.

**Legislative Report Received**

Legislative Report was received and included upcoming election; special session due in thirty days; and, a possible resolution being introduced by the Minnesota School Boards Association regarding the online learning statute that was passed 17years ago.

**Legal Counsel’s Report Received**

Legal Counsel’s Report was received and included an update on one pending case. The League has filed a motion to dismiss and a hearing has been scheduled.

## **Executive Director's Report Received**

The Executive Director's Report was received and included:

- A thank you to board members for their commitment and service to member schools;
- As the Board of Directors and League staff work through decision-making, there are two primary goals: to provide opportunities for students and to provide them in the safest manner possible;
- Continue to review state information and have conversations with Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education, and the Governor's office; and
- The sharing of information with Minnesota Association of School Administrators and the Minnesota School Boards Association.

The Executive Committee Report was received and included:

- The Committee reviewed a proposal from Special Olympics Minnesota regarding Unified Basketball. This proposal will continue through the Representative Assembly Process, and, if approved by nine of the sixteen regions, will advance to the Representative Assembly Delegation for consideration at their May 2021 Meeting;
- The Committee discussed the Membership Dues Information that was sent to member schools and the feedback that had been received. The Executive Committee instructed Executive Director Martens to have direct communication with any member school that had requested additional information, to continue to have conversations with MASA and MSBA, and to host three virtual Engagement Sessions with superintendents;
- Discussed the approved additional classes for four activities beginning in the fall of 2021;
- Approved the addition of a Board Workshop every two months to help guide discussion and decision making during the pandemic;
- The MASA request to have two seats on the MSHSL Board of Directors; and
- Approve employment agreement with League staff.

Jerome moved and Revenig seconded to approve the Executive Committee Report. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

The Board of Directors recessed from 10:07 to 10:17 a.m.

## **ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**

### **2020-2021**

White moved and Ostrowski seconded to approve the 2020-2021 MSHSL Strategic Directions as presented. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

### **Athletic Calendar for the 2020-2021 School Year**

Executive Director Martens thanked the Return to Participation Task Force for their work in providing two calendar recommendations for the Board of Directors to consider.

White moved and Ostrowski seconded to adopt the maximized winter option and include a 20% reduction in contests. In the last two weeks of the season allow for a third contest for COVID-19 related rescheduling.

Following a thorough discussion, White moved and Ostrowski seconded to withdraw the original motion and amend to adopt the maximized winter calendar with a 30% reduction in contests and opening up to three events in a week in the last two weeks for makeup due to COVID-19. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

### **Post-Season Competition**

Post-season competition was a discussion item at the September 21, 2020 Special Board of Directors Meeting. Heier moved and Vraa seconded to approve the post-season competition as presented at the September 21, 2021 Meeting with an amendment to cross-country. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

The Board discussed state tournaments and possible opportunities. Stein moved and Revenig seconded to allow League staff to develop super regional competitions for the fall season. The motion failed by a roll call vote (8-10).

## **Media Policy Manual – Streaming**

Executive Director Martens explained that the Media Policy is evolving and there is a need to address the current model. Ekstrom moved and McDonald seconded to approve the proposed changes to the MSHSL Media Policy. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

The Board of Directors recessed from 12:31 to 12:41 p.m.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

The Board of Directors reviewed the proposed Speech Rules and Policy (Appendix F). This will be an action item at the December 3, 2020, Board of Directors Meeting.

The Board of Directors discussed how student athlete participation is progressing through the pandemic and its impacts on eligibility and the possible need for adjustments. White moved and Engebretson seconded to allow a one-time exception to Bylaw 208 that allows volleyball participants to tryout for club volleyball on November 1 and/or November 8, 2020. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Revenig moved and Tauer seconded to approve an exemption to Bylaw 205 that would allow participants to serve a chemical violation in fall season one and then switch to a fall season two activity (volleyball and football) and complete that season in good standing. This exemption would not set a precedent for the future. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Associate Director Madison discussed the District Football Policy and the language regarding the placement regarding 9-man football and due to the change in the timeline, grades 8-11 enrollments would be used instead of 7-10. This will be an action item at the December 3, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting.

The 2019-2020 Representative Assembly Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2020 using a virtual platform and the Delegation will consider five proposed amendments. The Meeting was rescheduled from May 12, 2020, due to COVID-19.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Eligibility Committee**

Heier moved and Ostrowski seconded to approve the Monday, September 28, 2020, Eligibility Committee minutes as presented. The motion passed by a roll call vote. The Eligibility Committee Meeting was held via a virtual platform.

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

The Audit/Finance Committee met with the auditor to discuss the upcoming audit. Work will begin next week, and a complete report will be shared in February.

Ostrowski moved and Smokrovich seconded to approve the July and August 2020 financial statements as presented. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Tauer moved and Heier seconded to approve the fine arts judge's registration of \$15.00 per year. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

The Audit/Finance Committee met virtually on Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

## **Marketing and Communications Committee**

An update regarding website development including a “Writing for the Web” Workshop for staff.

Data received from Member School Surveys regarding COVID-19 information.

The *Connect*, the MSHSL monthly online newsletter is in its second year; and

An update on current and potential Corporate Sponsorships.

## **Education and Leadership Committee**

League Staff will work with the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee to develop a one, three, and five-year plan for health education and support for Member Schools for the Board to review.

Coaches Education Classes will be available through a virtual platform beginning on October 11 and running through November.

Rules Interpretation Meetings are available for coaches to complete.

Work continues with officials’ registration on Arbiter.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

A Board of Directors Workshop will be held on October 28, 2020 beginning at 2 p.m.

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on December 3, 2020.

The following changes have occurred between the August 4, 2020 Board Meeting and October 1, 2020. These changes are covered by Board of Directors policies and MSHSL bylaws.

### **Assignment of New Member Schools**

1. Cole Home School, Rochester, Administrative Region 1A
2. Haselius Home School, Kasson, Administrative Region 1A
3. Robertson Home School, Rochester, Administrative Region 1A
4. Rounds Home School, Rochester, Administrative Region 1A
5. Unity High School, Burnsville, Administrative Region 4A

### **Dissolutions of Cooperative Sponsorships**

1. Baum Home School/Carlson Home School/Gay Home School/Hagstrom Home School/Hicks Home School/Hoffman Home School/Jones Home School/Klein Home School/Luster Home School/McCullar Home School/Master Home School/Osterlund Home School/Perry Home School/Reynolds Home School, Girls Cross Country
2. Biermeier Home School/Friess Home School/Fulton Home School/Fry Home School/Goetz Home School/Hagstrom Home School/Hicks Home School/Osterlund Home School/Reynolds Home School/Ruelle Home school/Sedlmajer Home School/Young Home School, Boys Cross Country
3. Browerville/Long Prairie Grey Eagle/Sauk Centre/Wadena-Deer Creek, Girls Hockey
4. Eveleth-Gilbert/Mesabi East/Mt. Iron-Buhl/Virginia, Girls Soccer
5. Great River Academy/Math and Science Academy/Twin Cities Academy/ Girls Soccer
6. Hawley/Lake Park Audubon, Dance Team
7. Holdingford/Upsala, Boy & Girls Cross Country
8. Holy Trinity/Lester Prairie, Baseball, Boys & Girls Basketball, Boys & Girls Cross Country, Girls Softball, Boys & Girls Cross Country, Girls Volleyball
9. Martin County West/Martin Luther, Boys & Girls Cross Country
10. St. Paul Academy & Summit/Visitation, Girls Hockey

Cooperative Sponsorships

1. Baum Home School/Carlson Home School/Cole Home School/Friess Home School/Gay Home School/Hagstrom Home School/Hicks Home School/Hoffman Home School/Jones Home School/Klein Home School/Luster Home School/Master Home School/Maselius Home School/McCullar Home School/Osterlund Home School/Perry Home School/Reynolds Home School/Robertson Home School/Rounds Home School/Young Home School, Girls Cross Country
2. Belle Plaine/Jordan, Boys & Girls Soccer
3. Biermeier Home School/Friess Home School/Fulton Home School/Goetz Home School/Hagstrom Home School/Hicks Home School/Klein Home School/Reynolds Home School/Ruelle Home School/ Van Camp Home School/Wass Home School/Young Home School, Boys Cross Country
4. Browerville/Long Prairie Grey Eagle/Sauk Centre, Girls Hockey
5. Cambridge-Isanti/North Branch/St. Francis, Girls Hockey
6. Ely/Eveleth-Gilbert/Mesabi East/Mt. Iron-Buhl/Virginia, Girls Soccer
7. Face to Face Academy/ Great River Academy/Math and Science Academy/Twin Cities Academy/ Girls Soccer
8. Granada-Huntley-East Chain/Madelia/Martin Luther/Truman, Boys and Girls Cross Country
9. Heritage Christian/Providence Academy/RiverTree School, Girls Tennis
10. Holy Trinity/Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted, Baseball, Boys & Girls Basketball, Boys & Girls Cross Country, Girls Softball, Boys & Girls Cross Country, Girls Volleyball
11. Long Home School/Maranatha Christian Academy, Boys Soccer
12. Providence Academy/RiverTree School, Boys and Girls Soccer, Girls Volleyball
13. St. Croix Lutheran/Unity, Football, Girls Soccer

Coaches' Ejections

1. Matt Beckberg, Park Center, Boys Soccer
2. Andi Bilani, St. Paul Highland Park, Boys Soccer
3. Chad Keller, St. Clous Apollo, Boys Soccer

There being no further business, Waterbury moved and Heier seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m. The motion passed by a roll call vote.



Erich Martens  
Executive Director