

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

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
June 1, 2021**

Due to the requirement to accommodate for distanced seating, the Board Meeting convened at the Marriott Northwest, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. President Novak called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. All current members of the Board of Directors were present. All members of the executive staff were present for all or portions of the meeting.

Others attending all or portions of the meeting included:

Roger Aronson, MSHSL Lobbyist/Special Projects Counsel
Kevin Beck, MSHSL Legal Counsel
Amy Doherty, MSHSL Assistant Director
Suzy Guthmueller, Centennial, MSBA
Tim Leighton, MSHSL Communications Coordinator
Laura Mackenthun, MSHSL Assistant Director
Rich Matter, MSHSL Assistant Director
John Millea, MSHSL Media Specialist
Jason Nickleby, MSHSL Coordinator of Officials
Jim Paulsen, *Star Tribune*
Don Peschel, Brandon-Evansville, MASA
Lisa Quednow, Austin, Regions 1-2AA
Dave Rocheleau, Pierz, Regions 5-6A
Teri Staloch, Prior Lake-Savage, MASA

Reflection by Member Tauer

Pledge of Allegiance

Domin moved and Heier seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Minutes Approved

Hautala moved and Revenig seconded to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Individuals or Delegations on Agenda Issues

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

Board of Directors Members' Reports and Comments Received

Board of Directors Reports and Comments were received and included:

- Member Vraa recognized Assistant Director Rich Matter for his work with the Adapted Bowling Tournament and encouraged other schools to consider implementing adapted programs.
- Member Hautala thanked the League Staff and the Board for their work and support in providing streaming coverage of winter state tournaments.
- Vice President Jerome recognized the importance of the first board meeting in person since the start of the pandemic and thanked all board members for their attendance.

Legislative Report Received

Legislative Report was received and including the continued work at the Legislature on the K-12 education funding. The Senate and House continue their work and will return on June 14 for a special session with the likelihood of completion prior to the June 30 deadline.

Legal Counsel's Report Received

Legal Counsel's Report was received included one ongoing case and one pending lawsuit.

Executive Director's Report Received

The Executive Director's Report was received and included:

- Introduced incoming Board Members including two inaugural MASA members. They are: Suzy Guthmueller, Centennial, MSBA; Jeanna Lilleberg, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City, MSBA; Don Peschel, Brandon-Evansville, MASA; Lisa Quednow, Austin, Regions 1-2AA; Dave Rocheleau, Pierz, Regions 5-6A; Teri Staloch, Prior Lake-Savage, MASA. A Governor Appointee is still to be determined.
- Recognized the leadership and support by member schools provided to their student-athletes during a challenging year.
- Recognized the work done by many groups during the past school year including, but not limited to: Lead Liaisons, Return to Participation Task Force, AD Advisory Committee, District Football Committee, Finance Advisory Committee, Officials/Judges and venue partners.
- Recognized the MSHSL Board of Directors and League staff on their dedication and courageous leadership during the past school year.
- Recognized President Novak for his leadership during the past school year.
- League Staff provided updates and previews of spring tournaments.

Executive Committee Report Received

The Executive Committee Report was received. The Committee met twice prior to the Board Meeting and included:
May 10

- Approved football district placements determined by the Football District Placement Committee.
- Discussed models and formats for spring state tournaments.
- Approved the resignations of League Staff members Lynne Johnson (Executive Assistant) and Jody Redman (Associate Director). League Staff has moved forward with the posting and hiring for replacements for these two positions.
- Reinstatement of in-person Fall Area Meetings for 2021-2022 school year and continuing the LEAD Network meetings on a bi-monthly basis.
- Approved attendance of the NFHS Summer Conference by Board Officers, board members entering their fourth year and League Executive Staff.
- Approved in person Board of Directors Meeting on June 1, 2021.

May 31

- Approved meeting minutes from April 14 and May 10.
- Approved District Football Placement adjustments for Goodhue High School and Lewiston-Altura High School.
- Reviewed the League's partnership with U.S. Council for Athletes' Health (USCAH).
- Reviewed Finance Advisory Committee proposal for membership dues model and recommended approval by the full Board.
- The MSBA, MASA and League Staff will host a webinar to speak to the work done by the Finance Advisory Committee on Membership Dues.
- Approved salary agreements for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. Additionally, the committee approved the hiring of one additional support staff member to support programming following the recent reduction of support staff positions.
- Supported two-day, one-night workshop inclusive of a board meeting on the second day to be held on August 2 and 3.

Jerome moved and McDonald seconded that the resolution to be included in the Financial Policies and Procedures portion of the Board of Directors Manual. The resolution defines the language of "Annual Membership Dues" as used in the MSHSL Constitution and is inclusive of all membership fees, activity fees, student fees and any unpaid balances from the previous year. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

White moved and Smokrovich seconded to approve the Executive Committee Report as presented. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

2021-2022 Complimentary Ticket List

Engebretson moved and Hautala seconded to approve the list of sponsors and partner organizations that receive complimentary tickets to League events as presented (Appendix A). The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2021-2022 Speech Season: Book and Topic

Associate Director Amy Doherty and Member McDonald spoke to the selection process of the book and topics.

Heier moved and Tauer seconded to approve the annual book and topics that students will use for the 2021-2022 school year as presented (Appendix B). The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2021-2022 Board Officers

McDonald moved and Setter Larsen seconded to approve the selection of Board Officers, Tom Jerome (superintendent, Roseau) as president; Troy Stein (activities director, Edina High School), as vice president and Jim Smokrovich (principal at East Ridge High School), as treasurer. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Associate Director Lissimore spoke to work done by a group of Board Members and League Staff to develop the draft of a framework of a committee that is in line with the League's strategic direction.

Member White stated that we have an opportunity to move the initiative forward to create and promote a culture where diversity, equity and inclusion are valued and respected, and would be a standard of all League programs.

Member Smokrovich spoke to the importance of his service on the committee to begin the work at the local level and with the Board.

Member Vraa spoke about the work done with MNIAAA to see their representation be more diverse and the parallels that exist with the MSHSL.

Stein moved and Jerome seconded to approve the formation of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee as presented (Appendix C). The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2021-2022 Preliminary Budget

Associate Director Matter stated the budget is built on the return of tournaments to their traditional venues and to continue to provide the services, insurance, and programming that has been a part of the League. In addition, it provides for additional classes in cross country, soccer, volleyball and track and field.

Vraa moved and Ostrowski seconded to approve a preliminary budget for the 2021-2022 school year as presented. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2021-2022 Membership Dues and Activity Fees

Executive Director Martens spoke to the work done by the Finance Committee and guiding principles that guided the work on creating a model on membership dues. The model focuses on financial sustainability, equity and fairness and the recommendation of revenue sharing with member schools. Membership Dues will be based on a membership fee, a per-student fee and a per-activity fee. Modifications are in place for smaller-enrollment member schools. Through revenue sharing, excess funds at the end of the fiscal year would reduce membership fees the following school year.

Treasurer Stein acknowledged the work done by the finance committee and representation of those involved. The committee will continue to meet going forward.

Ostrowski moved and Ekstrom seconded to approve the Membership Dues and Activity Fees model for the 2021-2022 school year as presented (Appendix D). The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

Executive Director Martens spoke to the experiences and lessons learned during the past school year and encouraged the Board to reflect on their experiences and share reflections.

Member Ekstrom spoke to the work done by League Staff on the benefits of streaming and broadcast of the tournaments. It is vital to be able to share that experience with others who are unable to attend.

Member White spoke to many of the challenges faced this year with tournaments and all the work to make them successful.

Member Vraa spoke to the benefits of some tournament formats this year. League staff will continue to work with advisory committees and venue partners on formats for the 2021-2022 school year.

President Novak spoke to the importance of communication through the LEAD Network. Also, the value of the relationships with the Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Association of School Administrators.

Member Revenig acknowledged President Novak for his leadership during this past school year.

League Staff provided updates on tournament formats for the 2021-2022 school year that include:

- Football – With the 2020 section rotation for the state tournament not being used. The option to keep the 2020 rotation in place for the 2021 tournament will be considered.
- Cross Country – With the addition of a third class, consideration will be to have six races at St. Olaf College on Saturday, Nov. 6 or perhaps move one class to Friday afternoon.
- Soccer - With the addition of a third class, third-place games are not planned to be played at U.S. Bank Stadium. Options will be considered to hold those games in another venue or forego third-place games.
- Volleyball - With the addition of a fourth class, additional options will be considered at the Xcel Energy Center as well as other venues in considering consolation rounds.
- Track and Field - With the addition of a third class, options will be considered, including adding another day to the competition and/or a second venue. Major considerations include the schedule, parking and the number of days required of many officials.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Eligibility Committee

Setter Larsen moved and Heier seconded to approve the Eligibility Committee Minutes as presented (Appendix E and F). The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Audit/Finance Committee

White moved and Ostrowski seconded to approve the April 2021 Financial Statement as presented (Appendix G). The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Revenig moved and Tauer seconded to approve the required Charitable Financial Annual Report IRS Form 990 that is filed annually. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Marketing and Communications Committee

The Media Advisory Committee met on May 18 for its annual meeting. The group reviewed the winter season of state tournament coverage and previewed the spring schedule.

MSHSL Connect, the League's monthly online newsletter, is completing its second year of e-publication. The final edition of the 2020-2021 school year will be available in June.

Online souvenir state tournament programs are nearing the completion of their first year. A pre- and post-tournament edition are offered free of charge and have been very effective.

Membership registration will begin on the League's website June 2.

A website update was provided on development occurring in June on transfer and reviews. Plans and work continue on year end rollover, brackets and cooperative sponsorship tracking. A tool to provide participation numbers will be available the beginning of June.

Hautala moved and Smokrovich seconded to approve the continuation of the annual sponsorships with Spalding and Baden through 2025 and to extend the partnership with Smitty Officials Apparel for an additional two years. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Education and Leadership Committee

Officials' registration for the 2021-2022 school year opened on May 18.

An Officiating Recruitment Forum is planned for July 14 in a virtual format with a focus on fall sports.

The League is planning to hold two in-person clinics and two virtual clinics for each sport during the 2021-2022 school year.

The Officiating Diversity and Inclusion Council has been created and development of the committee and initiatives continues and is expected to partner with the MSHSL DEI Committee.

An update was provided that the MN Head Coaches Course is a service to member schools for head coaches that may meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes. The courses will continue to be offered in a virtual format this fall with hopes of in-person learning in the winter.

The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee is analyzing data collected by the League over the course of the past year and has provided a first draft entitled, "COVID Positive Testing in Minnesota High School Fall and Winter Sports: A guide for future decision making." This will assist the League in making informed decisions and providing a safe environment for student participants.

Davis Whitfield of the NFHS executive staff has asked the League to write a grant to the NFHS Foundation to update the Anyone Can Save A Life program. League Staff will continue discussion on formalizing a plan to write a grant.

INFORMATION ITEMS

New Board Member Orientation will be held July 13, 2021 at 9 a.m. at the League Office.

The Board of Directors Workshop will be held on Monday, August 2, 2021 followed by the next Board of Directors Meeting on Tuesday, August 3, 2021.

The League office will begin summer hours on Monday, June 21, 2021 and will go through Thursday, July 29, 2021. Summer hours will be Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m. through 5 p.m. and closed Fridays.

Departing League Staff members Jody Redman and Lynne Johnson were recognized for their years of service.

Departing Board Members Mike Domin, Kirby Ekstrom, Blaine Novak, Todd Waterbury and Frank White were recognized for their years of service.

The following changes have occurred between April 16, 2021 and May 31, 2021. These changes are covered by Board of Directors policies and MSHSL bylaws.

Dissolutions of Cooperative Sponsorships

1. Andover/Legacy Christian Academy, Boys and Girls Lacrosse
2. Nova Classical Academy/St. Croix Preparatory Academy, Girls Lacrosse
3. Rochester John Marshall/Rochester Lourdes, Boys Lacrosse

Cooperative Sponsorships

1. Apple Valley/Burnsville, Girls Lacrosse
2. Eveleth-Gilbert/Virginia, Boys Tennis
3. Grygla-Gatzke/Roseau, Boys Golf
4. Immanuel Lutheran/Mankato Loyola, Baseball
5. Lakeview Christian Academy/Marshall School, Duluth, Softball

6. Long Home School/Maranatha Christian Academy, Boys Golf
7. St. Cloud Cathedral/St. John's Prep, Softball
8. Liberty Classical Academy/St. Croix Preparatory Academy, Girls Lacrosse
9. Rochester Century/Rochester John Marshall/Rochester Lourdes, Boys Lacrosse

Coaches' Ejections

1. Shannon Blansette, Anoka High School, Baseball
2. Tyler Broderson, Hopkins High School, Baseball
3. Paul Katzenmeyer, Farmington High School, Baseball
4. Brian McCarthy, Henry Sibley High School, Baseball
5. Jason Mihalakis, Hopkins High School, Baseball
6. Greg Salveold, Moorhead High School, Baseball
7. Paul Twenge, Minnetonka High School, Baseball

Baseball Pitch Count Violations

1. Mark Downey, Mounds View High School, Baseball

There being no further business, Domin moved and Ekstrom seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:28 p.m. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.



Erich Martens
Executive Director