

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

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
April 15, 2021**

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 9:04 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.

Others attending all or portions of the Zoom Meeting are attached as Appendix A.

Reflection by Member Smokrovich

Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was observed due to the death of Daunte Wright.

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

Minutes Approved

Domin moved and Setter Larsen seconded to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2021, regular Board Meeting. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Individuals or Delegations on Agenda Issues

The Board entered into a closed session at 9:12 a.m. pursuant to MS 13D.05 Subd. 2(a)(3) to discuss not public educational data.

The Board came out of closed session at 9:55 a.m.

One student eligibility appeal was heard and will be reviewed by the full board later in the agenda.

Board of Directors Members' Reports and Comments

Member Ekstrom thanked Executive Director Erich Martens for speaking at his retirement reception and for sharing comments from President Novak, Vice President Jerome, and Past President Spohn Schmaltz.

Member White thanked the MSHSL staff who serve and work for member schools in a very difficult year.

Legislative Report Received

The Legislative Report was received including the MSHSL may come up in legislative discussions regarding masks, and student athletes being allowed to make a one-time transfer without the one-year varsity level ineligibility due to students transferring for a different education model because of the pandemic. The Governor's emergency orders have been extended.

Legal Counsel's Report Received

The Legal Counsel's Report was received including one pending case.

Executive Director's Report Received

The Executive Director's Report was received and included:

- Shared gratitude with the Board and Executive Committee regarding the time spent in the decisions that are made for member schools and thanked officials, member schools, venue, streaming and broadcast partners, and families and fans for their support and commitment to MSHSL activities during the pandemic.
- MNIAAA conference was held earlier this week and did a great job bringing people together. Staff Members Bob Madison and Laura Mackenthun presented at the conference and Erich Martens provided an MSHSL update.
- Jody Redman will be the keynote speaker at the Athena Awards Banquet on April 21, 2021.
- Staff members gave updates on winter tournaments.

Executive Committee's Report Received

The Executive Committee Report was received and included the Committee met three times prior to the Board Meeting:

- March 8:
 - Certified the Constitutional Amendment adding two Superintendent seats on the Board.
 - Approved moving the start of the Summer Waiver Period from June 1 to June 7, 2021 for the 2020-2021 school year only.
 - Approved postseason COVID-19 Interruption Guidance.
- March 15:
 - Reviewed and approved Classification Appeal recommendations from the ADs Advisory Committee.
 - Discussed sponsorship and marketing organizations.
 - Visited with representatives from United States Council for Athletes' Health (USCAH) regarding a potential partnership.
- April 14:
 - Reviewed and approved Competitive Section Placement recommendations from ADs Advisory Committee and League staff and to move the recommendations to the full Board for approval.
 - Discussed teams that were non-compliant with masking requirements at state tournaments and approved League staff providing a non-compliance letter to member school activities directors and officials who were involved.
 - Discussed the Representative Assembly Process and the two amendments that have been forwarded to the Delegation for their consideration: Boys Volleyball and Girls Wrestling.
 - Received an update from League staff regarding member schools who are not in good standing due to overdue invoices. Letters were sent to those member schools addressing their specific situation and included the legal standing for the Board of Directors to set membership dues.
 - The Financial Advisory Committee has met five times and has established an estimated \$4.5 million school support for the 2021-2022 school year and an estimated \$750,000 in tournament revenue.
 - Discussed identifying an Inclusion and Diversity Committee and invited Board Members to be a part of a sub-group.
 - Discussed League staffing through the 2021-2022 school year and approved the extension agreement of Craig Perry for an additional ten weeks.
 - Cancelled the April 28, 2021 Board Workshop.
 - An executive Committee Meeting will be held on May 10, 2021 at 10 a.m.
 - Discussed the August 3, 2021 Board Workshop and the benefits of meeting in person.

Jerome moved and Bosshart seconded to approve the League's Sports Medicine Advisory Committee's Position Statement being forwarded to the Minnesota Department of Health for their review and consideration. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Heier moved and Vraa seconded to approve entering into a planning partnership with USCAH. The motion passed by roll call vote.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

MSHSL 2021-2022 Calendar

Setter Larsen moved and Ostrowski seconded to approve the MSHSL 2021-2022 Calendar as presented (Appendix B). The motion passed by a roll call vote.

MSHSL 2021-2022 Meeting Dates

White moved and McDonald seconded to approve the MSHSL 2021-2022 Meeting Dates as presented (Appendix C). The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Administrative Region Placement

Executive Director Erich Martens stated Administrative Regions should be reviewed at least every six years, the last time this was reviewed was in 2012.

Tauer moved and Ekstrom seconded to approve the Administrative Region Placement as presented (Appendix D). The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Competitive Section Placement

Executive Director Martens stated that competitive section placement is a significant process and many hours of work by League staff are involved. Balancing competitive sections is based on number of schools, not success.

Associate Director Madison spoke regarding the process and shared the maps, criteria and the rationale for the proposed competitive section placements and to remember that maps will continue to be updated as staff make adjustments due to new co-ops being created and current co-ops being dissolved.

White moved and Revenig seconded to approve the Competitive Section Placement as presented. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Constitutional Amendment Vote

Heier moved and McDonald seconded to approve the Certification of the Constitutional Amendment that adds two superintendent seats to the MSHSL Board of Directors. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Spring Seasons

Smokrovich moved and Ostrowski seconded to approve the Spring Season Calendar as presented (Appendix E). The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Stein moved and Domin seconded to approve the updated Spring Sports Guidance Document as presented. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Golf Rules and Policies Formatting

Engbretson moved and Ekstrom seconded to approve as presented (Appendix F). The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Officials Registration Fees and State Tournament Compensation

Officials Coordinator Jason Nickleby stated that the Officials Advisory Committee met and recommends the Officials Registration Fees for the 2021-2022 school year be set at \$60.00 for officials with three or more years of experience. Each additional sport will be set at \$20.00.

Ostrowski moved and Bosshart seconded to approve the official registration fees as presented. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Dance Rules Books

Heier moved and Setter Larsen seconded to approve extending the current rules book for one more season. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

Executive Director Martens spoke regarding the Representative Assembly Process and stated that two amendments will be presented to the Representative Assembly Delegation on May 11, 2021: Boys Volleyball and Girls Wrestling. The Representative Assembly Meeting will be held virtually.

More than 80% of the member schools are in good standing with membership dues. The Executive Committee approved League staff to work with schools who have not submitted their dues payment.

Treasurer Stein gave an update on the work of the Financial Advisory Committee. The Committee continues to meet and discuss a recommendation for the June 1 Board of Directors Meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Eligibility Committee

An eligibility case was heard in a separate closed session. President Novak indicated Board action was required and that the Board could affirm the decision of the Eligibility Committee, grant eligibility to the student or request a further review by the Executive Committee. Smokrovich moved and Stein seconded to refer this eligibility case back to the Executive Committee at their May 10, 2021, Executive Committee meeting. The motion failed by a roll call vote.

White moved and Jerome seconded to approve eligibility for the student. The motion failed by a roll call vote (10-7 one abstention).

McDonald moved and Heier seconded to approve the eligibility report. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Audit/Finance Committee

Vraa moved and Ekstrom seconded to approve the February and March 2021 Financial Statements as presented (Appendix G). The motion passed by a roll call vote.

The Audit/Finance Committee reviewed the audit with Julie Mader from the State Auditor's office and Rich Matter stated the MSHSL audit received an unqualified audit opinion. All Board Members will receive an electronic copy of the audit.

Waterbury moved and Tauer seconded to approve the annual audit report for the year ending July 31, 2020. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

The Board approved an allocation of \$250,000 from the MSHSL Foundation to the Administrative Regions. The Audit/Finance Committee recommends that \$10,000 be granted to each of the sixteen Regions and that the remaining \$90,000 be distributed to the Regions based on need.

Jerome moved and McDonald seconded to approve the distribution of \$10,000 to each region and the remaining \$90,000 to be distributed on an as needed basis. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

Marketing and Communications Committee

Gravity Works created tools that helped place schools into competitive sections.

rSchools Today is now synced with our website for schedules, rosters and results.

An update was given on the number of website views during the state hockey tournament.

Pre-tournament and post tournament online versions of programs were available. Photographers were allowed to and shared photos with other media members due to the limitations on number of media allowed in a venue.

An update was provided regarding sponsorship renewals.

NFHS Heart of the Arts Award will be presented to Kylen Running Hawk of Morris Area High School at the Summer Conference in Orlando.

Education and Leadership Committee

Vraa moved and Setter Larsen seconded to approve the MSHSL Sports Qualifying Physical Form and the Health Questionnaire Form for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion passed by a roll call vote.

An update was given regarding Coaches Education and LEAD Network.

The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee continues to provide meaningful and ongoing support to League staff and member schools. The Committee recommends moving Bylaw 107 to the Eligibility Committee for their consideration in changing the term “physician” to “medical professional.”

League staff will work with the Steering Committee and the Minnesota Vikings to implement a plan to launch the second phase of the InSideOut Initiative. Six trainings will be available in the fall of 2021.

Officials’ registration for the 2021-2022 school year will open in May.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Four Board Members have shared interest in the 2021-2022 Board Officer positions.

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 9 a.m. and will be an in-person meeting if possible.

There being no further business, Heier moved and Revenig seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:24 p.m. The motion passed by a roll call vote.



Erich Martens
Executive Director