



Minnesota State High School League  
2100 Freeway Boulevard  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Thursday, October 7, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota State High School League convened at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. President Jerome called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. All current members of the Board of Directors were present except Don Peschel. All members of League 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  
Tom Critchley, Executive Director, Minnesota Boys Basketball Coaches Association  
Amanda Johnson, MSHSL Executive Assistant  
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  
Mike Smith, Activities Director, Totino-Grace High School  
Charlie Sullivan, Student, Edina  
John Sullivan, Parent, Edina

Reflection by Member Engebretson

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Heier and second by McDonald to approve the meeting agenda and consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes Approved**

Motion by Vraa and second by Setter Larsen to approve the minutes of the Aug. 3, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Individuals or Delegations on Agenda Issues**

Motion by Stein and second by Revenig to enter the meeting into a closed session at 9:40 a.m. to discuss non-public educational data pursuant to MS 13D.05 Subd. 2(a)(3). The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Rocheleau and second by Heier to re-open the Board Meeting at 10:12 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Member Ostrowski expressed his appreciation and thanked League Staff for the continued work on behalf of the Board of Directors and member schools.

**Legislative Report Received**

Legislative Report was received regarding the State Legislature including an update on changes in leadership positions. Also encouraged Board Members to review the Minnesota Statutes on hazing and practices within their schools.

### **Legal Counsel's Report Received**

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

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

The Executive Director's Report was received and included:

- Thanked League Staff for its work and dedication on behalf of member schools.
- Shared report on the nine Area Meetings held in September and the feedback from member schools.
- Encouraged participation by Board of Director Members in attending Area Meetings and joining the virtual League-hosted LEAD Network meetings.
- Presented at the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association Delegate Assembly.
- Hosted the Section V Meeting at the League Office. Included State Association Executive Directors from North Dakota, South Dakota, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. Also in attendance were NFHS Executive Staff and NFHS Board members.
- Member Quednow, serving on the NFHS Board of Directors representing Sections V and VIII, attended and provided an update on the combined Section VII and VIII meeting.
- Presented to student leaders on the characteristics of leadership at the Student Leadership Day on September 22 at the West Central Conference in Sauk Centre.
- Attended and recognized the Twin Cities Dunkers and Minnesota Twins for their Annual Fund event, a fundraiser for activities and programs in the Minneapolis and St. Paul school districts which raised over \$150,000.
- Shared an update on the League's Salute to Title IX series in the MSHSL Connect. Shared the recognition of Dorothy McIntyre by the NFHS in their weekly Salute to Title IX. Associate Director Lissimore was recognized for her athletic achievements and leadership contributions to the continued advancement of equal opportunities. Director Martens encouraged member schools to recognize Title IX pioneers and barrier breakers in their communities and individuals that made a difference in the advancement of opportunities for girls.
- Thanked the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee for their work in providing guidance and professional input on League programs and initiatives. Reminded Board members of the importance of AEDs at events.
- Shared that the Minnesota State High School League continues its search for an applicant for another support staff member.

### **Executive Committee Report Received**

The Executive Committee Report was received and included updates on the following:

August 11

- Established the temporary pandemic provision to allow transfer students who returned to their school of original enrollment to be immediately eligible for varsity participation.
- Approved the placement of the Harding, Humboldt and Open World Learning cooperative in Class 5A football.
- Approved the requirement of a pre-participation sports physical exam and annual health questionnaire.

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- Approved a waiver request by Breckenridge/Wahpeton (ND) girls hockey team that allows opponents to schedule one game beyond the League limit if it is against Breckenridge/Wahpeton.
- Approved the League's Music Advisory Committee serving as the interim Music Approval Committee for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Closed session regarding litigation strategies regarding eligibility of students and ongoing cases.
- Shared an update on the PlayFly Sports Marketing Group, School Space Media and health care groups who provide athletic trainers who serve during state tournament events.

Motion by Ostrowski and second by Staloch to approve the Executive Committee Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

## **ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**

### **2021-2022 Strategic Directions**

The 2021-2022 Strategic Directions (Appendix A) were reviewed and include six defined areas. The approved strategic directions guide the work of the League. League Staff will develop strategic actions to align with each strategic direction.

Motion by McDonald and second by Lilleberg to approve the 2021-2022 Strategic Directions. The motion passed unanimously.

### **COVID-19 Guidance**

The COVID Guidance document (Appendix B) was reviewed for the 2021-2022 school year. Summary of the COVID-19 Guidance requirements include:

- a. Masks must be worn on any public transportation, including school transportation.
- b. People who test positive for COVID-19 cannot participate in interscholastic in-person competition until all three of these things are true:
  - i. They have had no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medicine that lowers fever, and,
  - ii. It has been at least 10 days since they first experienced symptoms or tested positive, and,
  - iii. The symptoms of cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms are better.
  - iv. (Day 1 is the earlier of the first day of symptoms or the day of the test. Student is eligible for competition on Day 11 if all three conditions have not been met.

Motion by Vraa and second by Tauer seconded to approve the COVID-19 Guidance. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Interrupted Competition Guidance**

The Interrupted Competition Guidance document (Appendix C) was reviewed for the 2021-2022 school year. The document includes guidance related to situations where member schools or individuals are precluded from practice and competition because of COVID-19 health and safety concerns for students or coaches, resulting in competitions being impacted.

Motion by Guthmueller and second by McDonald to approve the Interrupted Competition Guidance. The motion passed unanimously.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Membership Dues Payment**

Work continues with a handful of schools to address completing payment of 2020-2021 membership dues. Schools were given the opportunity to address the Board of Director Officers to address their specific situation and payment plan. Schools have all now paid their dues, adopted a payment plan of no more than two years or sunsetted their membership. No students have been denied the opportunity to participate in activities at those member schools because of unpaid dues.

### **Basketball Shot Clock**

The National Federation of High Schools' rules committee has approved a 35-second shot clock for use in states that choose to do so. The Board of Directors received updates from League Staff about the option of adopting a 35-second shot clock for Boys and Girls Basketball. League Staff has communicated with member schools on the shot clock option via Area Meetings this fall. League Staff shared information with the Board of Directors on next data-gathering steps with member schools. This option is expected to be an Action Item at the December meeting of the Board of Directors. Board of Directors provided valuable feedback to League Staff on items for inclusion in a survey to member schools.

### **Representative Assembly**

The deadline to submit proposed amendments for consideration by the Representative Assembly is Oct. 15. An amended proposal to sanction Unified Basketball activity has been submitted. Proponents of boys volleyball have indicated that the amendment to sanction Boys Volleyball will be submitted.

### **Fall Tournament Formats**

League Staff reviewed the lineup of 2021 fall state tournament events:

- Girls Tennis will be a two-class, four day bracketed event scheduled for Oct. 26-29. Class AA will be played at the Baseline Tennis Center on the University of Minnesota campus. Class A will be at the Reed-Sweatt Tennis Center in south Minneapolis.
- Boys and Girls Soccer will be a three-class bracketed event, a third classification had been previously approved to this activity and will take place over two weeks. The quarterfinals will be held at six different sites on Oct. 26-28. The semifinals will be held at U.S. Bank Stadium on Nov. 3-4 and six championship games will be played on Nov. 6. Third-place games will be played on Nov. 4-5 at the West St. Paul Regional Athletics Center.
- Boys and Girls Cross Country will be a three-class event, a third classification had been previously approved for this activity and is implemented this year. A tentative schedule has been determined for Saturday, Nov. 6 at St. Olaf College in Northfield: Class AAA boys, 9:30 a.m.; Class AAA girls, 10:30 a.m.; Awards, 11:15 a.m.; Class A boys, noon; Class A girls, 1 p.m.; Awards, 1:45 p.m.; Class AA boys, 2:30 p.m.; Class AA girls, 3:30 p.m.; Awards, 4:15 p.m.
- Volleyball will be a four-class bracketed event, a fourth classification had been approved for this activity. The tournament will be held Nov. 10-13 at the Xcel Energy Center in downtown St. Paul. This event has been extended to four days, will include full consolation, and features all championship and third place contests on Saturday, Nov. 13.
- Girls Swimming and Diving will follow the traditional two-class format and will be held Nov. 18-20 at the Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center on the University of Minnesota campus.
- Adapted Soccer will be a two-classification tournament and is scheduled for Nov. 19-20 at Stillwater High School.
- Football will be a seven-class bracketed event. The quarterfinals will be played at various Minnesota sites from Nov. 11-13. The 14-game semifinal round is scheduled for Nov. 18-20 at U.S. Bank Stadium. The two-day Prep Bowl Championships are scheduled for Nov. 26-27 at U.S. Bank Stadium.

### **Winter Tournament Formats**

League Staff provided a preview of the winter state tournament season, including specifics in programs with changes. Nordic Skiing will include the addition of a Sprint Relay event which will add a half a day at Giants Ridge in Biwabik. The State Wrestling Tournament will include a girls division. An update was also provided for potential venue change for the Boys Basketball tournament due to a scheduling conflict with the Minnesota Timberwolves at Target Center.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Eligibility Committee**

The Board took no action regarding the request considered in closed session to overturn the previous determination of the Eligibility Committee on September 1, 2021, which denied the request for additional semesters of eligibility.

Lilleberg moved and Rocheleau seconded to approve the Eligibility Committee Minutes (Appendix D) as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Audit/Finance Committee**

Tauer moved and Ostrowski seconded to approve the July 2021 and August 2021 financial statements (Appendix E). The motion passed unanimously.

### **Marketing and Communications Committee**

League Staff provided updates on the following:

- Tournament planning continues with online souvenir state tournament programs provided both pre-tournament and post-tournament, the MSHSL Connect monthly online newsletter and state tournament independent contractors.
- Area Meetings were held at nine locations over the course of three weeks in September. Feedback from member schools including a high interest by school administration to learn more about the website and technology.
- Reported on projected revenue from projected sponsorships for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Recognition programs are in full swing with the Most Valuable Teammate Award and the Sack Hunger campaign in partnership with Second Harvest Heartland. The Sack Hunger campaign encourages schools to collect non-perishable food through the State Football Prep Bowl Tournament. Schools are encouraged to identify school level honorees in both the Excel and Triple A programs.

### **Education and Leadership Committee**

League Staff provided updates on the following:

- Officials registration for fall has increased since the 2020-2021 school year. Recruitment of officials continues in partnership with MYAS on an officiating recruitment forum that will take place virtually on Nov. 3, 2021.
- The League's Officiating Diversity and Inclusion Council has established a mission, values and action strategies. The committee is seeing additional members for sub-committees.
- The League's Distinguished Service Awards will be presented to eight individuals. The presentation will take place on Nov. 27, 2021 during the Prep Bowl.
- The League is in the initial stages of partnering with the U.S. Council for Athletes' Health to provide content for health and safety within the coaches education courses and is seeking other resources that will help support our member schools.
- The League's Education Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet Oct. 19.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

The next Board of Directors Workshop will be held on Zoom on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 2 p.m. Board workshops will be scheduled during the months in which there is not a Board Meeting.

The next Board of Directors Meeting will be Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at a location to be determined.

The following changes have occurred between August 3, 2021 and October 6, 2021. These changes are covered by Board of Directors policies and MSHSL bylaws.

### **Dissolutions of Cooperative Sponsorships**

1. Blake/Providence Academy - Swimming & Diving, Girls
2. Bloomington Jefferson/Bloomington Kennedy - Debate
3. Bloomington Jefferson/Bloomington Kennedy - Speech
4. Brooklyn Center/Parnassus Prep - Football
5. Brooklyn Center/Parnassus Prep - Tennis, Girls
6. Cedar Mountain/Red Rock Central/Redwood Valley/Springfield/Wabasso - Gymnastics, Girls
7. Chatfield/Rochester John Marshall - Alpine Skiing, Girls
8. Cherry/Eveleth-Gilbert/Mesabi East - Hockey, Boys
9. Corley Christian Academy/Eide Academy/Fit Academy/United Christian Academy - Basketball, Girls
10. Crosby-Ironton/Pequot Lakes/Pine River-Backus/Walker-Hackensack-Akeley - Hockey, Girls
11. Face to Face Academy/Great River School/Math & Science Academy/Twin Cities Academy - Soccer, Girls
12. Fit Academy/United Christian Academy - Soccer, Boys
13. Heritage Academy/Minneapolis Edison - All Activities

14. Heritage Christian Academy/Maranatha Christian Academy/Providence Academy/West Lutheran - Football
15. Lakes International Language Academy/North Lakes Academy - Soccer, Girls
16. Lakeview/Marshall - Soccer, Boys
17. Lewiston-Altura/Rushford-Peterson - Cross Country, Boys
18. Lewiston-Altura/Rushford-Peterson - Cross Country, Girls
19. Mankato Loyola/Nicollet - Basketball, Girls
20. Minneapolis Roosevelt/Wellstone International - All Activities
21. Mound Westonka/Southwest Christian/Watertown-Mayer - Hockey, Girls
22. Mountain Iron-Buhl/Virginia - Hockey, Boys
23. Mountain Iron-Buhl/Virginia - Swimming & Diving, Girls
24. St. Cloud Apollo/Sauk Rapids-Rice - Nordic Ski Racing, Boys
25. St. Cloud Apollo/Sauk Rapids-Rice - Nordic Ski Racing, Girls
26. Staples-Motley/Verndale - Tennis, Girls
27. Tracy-Milroy-Balaton/Westbrook-Walnut Grove - Soccer, Boys

### **Cooperative Sponsorships**

1. Aitkin/Crosby-Ironton/Pequot Lakes/Pine River-Backus/Walker-Hackensack-Akeley - Hockey, Girls
2. Albert Lea/New Richland-H-E-G - Dance, High Kick
3. Albert Lea/New Richland-H-E-G - Dance, Jazz
4. Apple Valley/Eagan/Eastview/FIT Academy Charter School/Hastings/Rosemount - Adapted Softball, CI
5. Apple Valley/Eagan/Eastview/FIT Academy Charter School/Hastings/Rosemount/Two Rivers – Adapted Floor Hockey, CI
6. Apple Valley/Eagan/Eastview/FIT Academy Charter School/Hastings/Rosemount/Two Rivers – Adapted Soccer, CI
7. Avail Academy/Linwood Home School - Volleyball, Girls
8. Avalon/High School for Recording Arts - Volleyball, Girls
9. Bermel Home School/Collins Home School/hillcrest Lutheran Academy/Johnson Home School/Peterson Home School - Football
10. Bethlehem Academy/Discovery Public School of Faribault - Football
11. Blake/Eagle Ridge Academy/Providence Academy - Swimming & Diving, Girls
12. Breckenridge/Wahpeton - Hockey, Girls
13. Brooklyn Center/Cristo Rey Jesuit/Parnassus Prep - Football
14. Brooklyn Center/Cristo Rey Jesuit/Parnassus Prep - Tennis, Girls
15. Cedar Mountain/Red Rock Central/Redwood Valley/Sleepy Eye St. Mary's/Springfield/Wabasso - Gymnastics, Girls
16. Cherry/Eveleth-Gilbert/Mesabi East/Mountain Iron-Buhl/Virginia - Hockey, Boys
17. Cherry/North Woods/Northeast Range/South Ridge - Cross Country, Boys
18. Cherry/North Woods/Northeast Range/South Ridge - Cross Country, Girls
19. Chisholm/Hibbing - Music
20. Christian Liberty Academy/Corley Christian Academy/Dehnert Academy/Eide Academy/Meadow Lake Woods Academy/Tahellah Academy/United Christian Academy/Welch Academy - Basketball, Girls
21. Collins Home School/Hillcrest Lutheran Academy/Maggert Home School/Peterson Home School – Volleyball, Girls
22. DeLaSalle/Hiawatha Collegiate - Football
23. Dufour Home School/Frost Academy/Lakes International Language Academy - Soccer, Girls
24. Eveleth-Gilbert, Virginia - Football
25. Eveleth-Gilbert/Virginia - Cross Country, Boys
26. Eveleth-Gilbert/Virginia - Cross Country, Girls
27. Eveleth-Gilbert/Virginia - Swimming & Diving, Girls
28. FAIR School/Minneapolis North/Minneapolis Patrick Henry - Soccer, Boys
29. Gentry Academy/Mounds Park Academy - Volleyball, Girls
30. Goodridge/Marshall County Central/Thief River Falls - Cross Country, Boys

31. Goodridge/Marshall County Central/Thief River Falls - Cross Country, Girls
32. Grand Meadow/LeRoy-Ostrander/Southland - Dance, High Kick
33. Grand Meadow/LeRoy-Ostrander/Southland - Dance, Jazz
34. Great River School/Math & Science Academy/Twin Cities Academy - Soccer, Girls
35. Heritage Academy/Minneapolis Roosevelt - All Activities
36. Heritage Christian Academy/Maranatha Christian Academy/Providence Academy/RiverTree School/  
West Lutheran - Football
37. Houston/La Crescent Montessori and STEM School - Dance, High Kick
38. Houston/La Crescent Montessori and STEM School - Softball
39. Houston/Lewiston-Altura/Rushford-Peterson - Cross Country, Boys
40. Houston/Lewiston-Altura/Rushford-Peterson - Cross Country, Girls
41. Inspire Home School/Jaeger Home School Academy/United Christian Academy - Soccer, Boys
42. Isle/Onamia - Baseball
43. Isle/Onamia - Basketball, Boys
44. Isle/Onamia - Basketball, Girls
45. Isle/Onamia - Football
46. Lakeview Christian Academy/Marshall School, Duluth - Baseball
47. Lakeview Christian Academy/Marshall School, Duluth - Dance, High Kick
48. Lakeview Christian Academy/Marshall School, Duluth - Dance, Jazz
49. Lakeview Christian Academy/Marshall School, Duluth - Hockey, Boys
50. Lakeview Christian Academy/Marshall School, Duluth - Hockey, Girls
51. Lakeview Christian Academy/Marshall School, Duluth - Tennis, Boys
52. Lakeview/Marshall/Tracy-Milroy-Balaton - Soccer, Boys
53. Leaf Lakes Academy/New York Mills - Cross Country, Boys
54. Leaf Lakes Academy/New York Mills - Cross Country, Girls
55. Leaf Lakes Academy/New York Mills - Football
56. Liberty Classical Academy/Lunstad Classical Academy/Moseley Home School/Paulu Academy –  
Volleyball, Girls
57. Maranatha Christian Academy/Winn Home School - Volleyball, Girls
58. Marshall School, Duluth/Lakeview Christian Academy - Tennis, Girls
59. Minneapolis Edison/Minneapolis North/Minneapolis Patrick Henry - Soccer, Girls
60. Minneapolis South/Wellstone International - All Activities
61. Mound Westonka/Southwest Christian - Hockey, Girls
62. Pequot Lakes/Pine River-Backus - Dance, High Kick
63. Pequot Lakes/Pine River-Backus - Dance, Jazz
64. St. Cloud Apollo/St. Cloud Cathedral/St. Cloud Tech - Tennis, Girls
65. St. Cloud Apollo/St. Cloud Tech - Baseball
66. St. Cloud Apollo/St. Cloud Tech - Basketball, Girls
67. St. Cloud Apollo/St. Cloud Tech - Nordic Ski Racing, Boys
68. St. Cloud Apollo/St. Cloud Tech - Nordic Ski Racing, Girls
69. St. Cloud Apollo/St. Cloud Tech - Softball
70. St. Cloud Apollo/St. Cloud Tech - Tennis, Boys

### **Board Censure**

1. Lee Hartwell, Soccer Assigner, Violation of Code of Ethics for Officials

### **Ejections - Violation of the Coaches Code of Ethics**

1. Jorge Artavia, Boys Soccer, Elk River High School
2. Jason Barnhouse, Boys Soccer, Park Center High School
3. Taylor Brown, Boys Soccer, Park Center High School
4. Katelynn Fast, Girls Soccer, Mounds View High School
5. Fernando Gaitan-Gaitan, Girls Soccer, Mound Westonka High School
6. Ryan Hennager, Boys Soccer, Fairmont High School
7. Keaton Koehler, Girls Soccer, Chanhassen High School

8. Jacob LaDue, Boys Soccer, Mankato West High School
9. Jeff Mitchell, Boys Soccer, Bemidji High School
10. Jeff Neist, Girls Soccer, Hibbing High School
11. Malte Reiss, Girls Soccer, Mounds View High School
12. Ty Seim, Boys Soccer, Waconia High School
13. Dave Thompson, Boys Soccer, Hermantown High School

There being no further business, motion by Setter Larsen and second by Heier to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m.  
The motion passed unanimously.

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", which is larger and more prominent.

Erich Martens  
Executive Director