



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

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, February 2, 2023

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota State High School League convened at the League Office in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. President Stein called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. All current members of the Board of Directors were present except Astein Osei. All members of League Executive Staff were present.

Others attending all or portions of the meeting included:

Josh Anderson, *Playfly Sports Properties*

Roger Aronson, MSHSL Lobbyist/Special Projects Counsel

Kevin Beck, MSHSL Legal Counsel, *Kelly & Lemmons, P.A.*

Robb DeCorsey, Girls Tennis Head Coach, *Glencoe-Silver Lake High School*; Boys Tennis Head Coach, *Shakopee High School*; President, *Minnesota Tennis Coaches Association*

Amanda Johnson, Executive Assistant, *MSHSL*

Greg Juba, *Minnesota State High School Soccer Coaches Association*

Aaron Rothenberger, Girls and Boys Tennis Head Coach, *St. Peter High School*

Jaime Sherwood, Administrative Region Executive Secretary, *Region 2AA*

Scott Storricks, Girls and Boys Tennis Head Coach, *Coon Rapids High School*

Dave Wareham, Executive Secretary, *Minnesota Tennis Coaches Association*

Les Zellmann, Past President, *Minnesota Tennis Coaches Association*; Activities Administrator, *St. James Area High School*

Reflection by Dave Rocheleau

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Lilleberg and second by Kaus to approve the meeting agenda and consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Approved

Motion by Heier and second by Timm to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Individuals Addressing the Board

Public comments were heard on the tennis three class advisory proposal action item from Aaron Rothenberger (Girls and Boys Tennis Head Coach, St. Peter High School); Scott Storricks (Girls and Boys Tennis Head Coach, Coon Rapids High School); and Robb DeCorsey (Girls Tennis Coach, Glencoe-Silver Lake High School; Boys Tennis Coach, Shakopee High School; President, Minnesota Tennis Coaches Association).

Public comments were heard on the football seeding proposal and the tennis three class advisory proposal action items from Jaime Sherwood, Administrative Region 2AA Executive Secretary.

Board of Directors Members' Reports and Comments

Board members spoke to the importance of engaging in the book study on "From Athletics to Engineering: 8 Ways to Support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion For All". Members shared the value of engaging and learning more about one another and opening the door for more conversations related to DEIB topics. Additional conversation will take place at the next Board of Directors Workshop in March.

Legislative Report Received

League Lobbyist Roger Aronson shared updates from the State Legislature including information about possible employment law changes that may affect the League. The legislature is Democrat controlled and is likely to take action on items rather quickly.

Legal Counsel's Report Received

Legal Counsel Kevin Beck reported there are no pending legal actions.

Executive Director's Report Received

The Executive Director's Report was shared and received. The report included:

- Information that National Girls and Women in Sports Day was celebrated on Wednesday, February 1. Recognition of individuals who have roots with participation in Minnesota State High School League activities.
- An update on the MSHSL Foundation Form B1 Grant Application that is now closed and is earmarked to assist with transportation reimbursement for the seven regional meetings of the Together We Make A Difference initiative. Shared a reminder that the Form B2 Grant Applications are open until Wednesday, February 15. The MSHSL Foundation Board will meet on Tuesday, March 7 to approve B1 and B2 Grant Applications.
- Information from Member Kaus who represents Section 5 and 8 on the NFHS Board of Directors. She shared an update from the NFHS that work continues to increase diversity within NFHS Activity Committees.
- Update on the NFHS Officials Consortium 2.0 in Indianapolis with League staff member Jason Nickleby. Representatives from high schools, colleges, youth sports, officials groups, etc., gathered to discuss, collaborate and plan action in recruiting and retaining officials and addressing the shortage of officials.
- Announced that Rebecca Meyer-Larson from Moorhead High School is the recipient of the NFHS Citation Award for Performing Arts (Theater). She will be recognized during the NFHS Summer Meeting this July in Seattle, WA.
- John Millea shared two state level award recipients. Luke Klassen of Mountain Lake Area High School was the Spirit of Sport Award recipient and Lakia Manska of Morris Area High School was the Heart of the Arts recipient.
- An update on the involvement of MSHSL Staff at the Minnesota School Boards Association Conference on Thursday, January 12 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. League Staff also hosted two informational breakout sessions during the conference. Thanked Board Member Jeanna Lilleberg for moderating the League presentations.
- Amy Doherty provided a review from the Debate State Tournament held January 13 and 14.
- The Principals Advisory Committee met to review League updates, provided feedback on the activity advisory proposals, and shared in engaging discussion of the Adoption of Programs Task Force.
- Shared that the League presented during the MASSP Winter Conference last week and held an engaging discussion on the importance of activities within the school environment, the value of participation, classification and Competitive Section Placement.
- The ExCEL Award recipients will be recognized during the Girls Basketball State Tournament on Saturday, March 18 at Williams Arena.
- The Triple "A" Banquet is March 25 at the Minneapolis Loews Hotel. The recipients will then be recognized during the Boys Basketball State Tournament at Target Center.
- The MnlAAA Conference will be held during the final week of March. League staff will be active participants and will provide a number of presentations. The League appreciates its partnership with the MnlAAA.
- Open Board Positions will be considered over the next few months with the goal that all new members will be selected by the June meeting. Openings include a Governor Appointee, Region 1A/2A, Region 5AA/6AA, MSBA, MASA (AA Supt), MMEA and Boys Sports.

Executive Committee Report Received

The Executive Committee Report from the February 1, 2023, meeting was received and included updates on the following:

- Approved an extra-game waiver for teams that play St. Croix Prep/Gentry Academy/New Life Academy junior varsity team in Boys Lacrosse

- Approved support of attendance at the NFHS Summer Meeting, June 28-July 2, 2023, in Seattle, WA.
- Approved language in the Employee Handbook as it relates to weather-related challenges.
- The Board of Directors approved an action item for an expanded tournament format at the section and state tournament levels for Girls Wrestling which doubled the number of qualifiers to the state tournament.
- Reviewed the Activity Advisory Proposal Process and Proposal Form.
- Heard updates from the Adoption of Programs Task Force. The Task Force is currently working to define a presenting partnership.
- Approved the 2023 Board Workshop dates as July 30-Aug. 1 in Spicer, Minnesota.
- The Executive Committee report was approved as presented.

Motion by Lilleberg and second by McDonald to approve the Girls Wrestling Section and State Tournament Format that was recommended by the Executive Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Peschel and second by Revenig to approve the Executive Committee Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION

Wrestling Weight Classes

Beginning in 2023-2024, due to a change in the NFHS wrestling rules, each state association may determine the number of weight classes for their state at 12, 13 or 14. As a result, League Staff requested data from member schools on their desires for the number of weight classes. The data received from schools and the Wrestling Advisory Committee was shared with the Board.

Motion by Stein and second by Rocheleau to approve the implementation of 13 weight classes for both boys and girls, effective with the 2023-2024 school year. Report as presented (Appendix A). Motion passed unanimously.

- The approved weight divisions for Girls Wrestling are: 100 pounds; 106, 112, 118, 124, 130, 136, 142, 148, 155, 170, 190, 235.
- The approved weight divisions for Boys Wrestling are: 107 pounds, 114, 121, 127, 133, 139, 145, 152, 160, 172, 189, 215, 285.

Fall Activity Advisory Proposals

League Staff shared information about fall activity advisory proposals in the following activities (Appendix B).

- **Football: Seeding for Class Nine-Player through 5A** – This proposal would seed the section winners in Class Nine-Player through Class AAAAAA fields for the quarterfinal round. Currently, the state tournament quarterfinal matchups are a rotation of geographically connected section opponents. The proposal seeks to seed all qualifying teams from 1 through 8.

Motion by Stein and second by McDonald to seed state football qualifiers 1-8 in Class Nine-Player through Class AAAAAA. The motion failed.

- **Soccer: Mercy Rule** – This proposal would implement a running clock if the goal differential is five goals or more in the second half. The running clock would stop if the goal differential was reduced to four or less.

Motion by Stein and second by Smokrovich to approve the running time in the second half if the goal-differential is five or more. Motion passes unanimously.

- **Soccer: Regular Season Overtime** – This proposal would eliminate overtime in regular-season games. The result of a contest that is tied at the end of regulation will be recorded as a tie.

Motion by Lilleberg and second by Ostrowski to approve the elimination of overtime in regular season games when the contest is tied at the end of regulation. Motion passes unanimously.

- **Tennis: Seeding Class A Team** – This proposal seeks the implementation of a seeding system that uses the seeding of state qualifying teams from 1-5 with the additional qualifiers assigned to the bracket by random draw for Class A.

Motion by Stein and second by Schimek to seed teams 1-5 in the Class A Boys and Girls prior to the state-level quarterfinal round. Motion passes unanimously.

- **Tennis: Add a Third Class** – This proposal seeks to add a third class for both boys and girls tennis and modify the way schools are grouped in each class. The proposal is requesting that the 32 schools of highest enrollment be in AAA, with AA and A being split evenly within the remaining schools. The proposal also seeks a modification to the MSHSL Classification Formula for Activities Conducted in Multiple Classes.

Motion by Stein and second by Engebretson to increase the number of classes in Girls and Boys Tennis to three. The motion failed.

- **Volleyball: Official Squad Size Increase** – This proposal seeks to increase the number of players on the official roster for Section and State Tournament play from 15 to 18.

Motion by Rocheleau and second by Heier to increase the number of players on an official squad from 15 to 18. Motion passes unanimously.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

Together We Make A Difference

League Staff shared an update on the “Together We Make a Difference” Statewide Conference that took place on Friday, January 13 at Park Center High School. The League appreciates the strong partnership of MSBA, MASSP, MASA, AMSD, MNIAAA, MSHSCA, the Osseo Area School District and Forbes Solutions in this initiative. Next steps are to receive summary information from the regional and statewide conferences.

Representative Assembly

The Representative Assembly is scheduled to convene on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at a site yet to be determined. There are two amendments that will be acted on by the delegates:

- The first proposed bylaw amendment is to create a separate bylaw for adapted athletic programs that would best meet the needs of the sports and student-athletes. The authors of the proposed bylaw amendment are working closely with, and supported by, the Minnesota Adapted Athletics Association, MAAA.
- The second proposal is to sanction Boys Volleyball as a fully interscholastic sport beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Currently, boys volleyball has been approved for emerging status in the 2023-2024 school year.

Postseason Awards

Region Secretaries have submitted a proposal to bring alignment to the number of medals awarded between section and state tournament awards. The proposal is currently being studied and will likely be proposed for teams and individuals who are successful at the section level. A four-person caucus group of Region Secretaries developed a recommended draft revision of the trophies and medals awarded at the section level. League Staff members are reviewing the proposal and will also be reviewed by the AD’s Advisory Committee. This proposal may be an Action Item at the Board of Directors meeting as soon as April 6.

Classification and Competitive Section Placement: 2023-2024 and 2024-2025

Work continues on the Classification and Competitive Section Placement Process, which is ready to be implemented when enrollment data is received from the Minnesota Department of Education.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Eligibility Committee

The Eligibility Committee report included updated data on the number of transfer cases and outcomes.

Motion by Lilleberg and second by Heier to approve the Eligibility Committee Report as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Audit/Finance Committee

League Staff provided updates on the following items:

- Reviewed the November 2022 and December 2022 financial statements as presented.
- Reported that fall tournament attendance and revenue matched or exceeded those of 2021.

Motion by Revenig and second by Stein to approve the November 2022 and December 2022 financial statements as presented (Appendix C). Motion passed unanimously.

Marketing and Communications Committee

League Staff provided updates on the following items:

- League Staff shared information on preparations to host media at winter state tournaments. This includes a virtual Media Forum on February 8 and online credentialing with new options implemented as a result of feedback from the Media Advisory.
- League Staff shared a marketing and sponsorship update that included increases in merchandise sales, provided by Signature Concepts and a discussion about developing an overall marketing plan for the League.
- League Staff shared website analytics in the following categories: Website Page Views, Online Program Views and Social Media engagement.

Education and Leadership Committee

League Staff provided updates on the following:

- League Staff are engaged in generating a restructured rules manual for Dance Team. The restructured guidance will address rules only. Dance Team is not a NFHS-sanctioned activity.
- Cross Country-specific officiating rules will be included in the Track and Field Rules Interpretation meeting.
- League Staff are working with 10 students as part of the first year S.A.L.T. (Student Advisory Leadership Team). The students on this leadership team will be providing student input to League staff and the Board of Directors.
- League Staff is discussing current content and copyrights with the Anybody Can Save a Life program.
- League Staff will work on new protocols or initiatives from the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee that may fit into new Coaching Education Requirements.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Board Workshop: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 2 p.m.
- NFHS Summer Meeting: June 28-July 2, 2023 – Seattle, WA

Dissolutions of Cooperative Sponsorships

2022-2023

1. Jordan/Southwest Christian - Lacrosse, Girls
2. Legacy Christian Academy/PACT Charter School - Softball, Girls
3. Providence Academy/RiverTree - Baseball

2023-2024

1. Arcadia/Northfield/Randolph - Swim & Dive, Girls

2. Badger/Roseau - Cross Country, Boys
3. Badger/Roseau - Cross Country, Girls
4. Herman-Norcross/Wheaton - Football
5. Lakes International Language Academy/North Lakes Academy - Basketball, Girls
6. Northfield/Randolph - Hockey, Girls
7. Providence Academy/RiverTree - Volleyball, Girls

Cooperative Sponsorships

2022-2023

1. Academy of Holy Angels/Minnehaha Academy/Richfield - Synchronized Swimming, Girls
2. Avalon/High School for Recording Arts/Venture Academy - Basketball, Girls
3. Chisholm/Hibbing - Golf, Boys
4. Chisholm/Hibbing - Golf, Girls
5. Chisholm/Hibbing - Robotics
6. Cisewski Home School/Providence Academy/RiverTree - Baseball
7. Columbia Heights/DeLaSalle/Venture Academy - Wrestling
8. Covenant Creek Christian/Park Christian - Basketball, Boys
9. Eveleth-Gilbert/Virginia - Basketball, Girls
10. Jordan/Mayer Lutheran/Southwest Christian - Lacrosse, Girls
11. Kato Charter/Mankato Loyola - Basketball, Boys
12. St. Paul Harding/St. Paul Johnson - Gymnastics, Girls

2023-2024

1. Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley/Herman-Norcross/Wheaton - Football
2. Magnolia Academy/Providence Academy/RiverTree - Volleyball, Girls
3. Sleepy Eye/Sleepy Eye St. Mary's - Football

Ejections - Violation of the Coaches Code of Ethics

1. Chris Thompson, Boys Hockey, Tartan High School
2. Drew Waldbillig, Girls Basketball, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted High School
3. Duluth Denfeld Assistant Coach, Boys Basketball, Duluth Denfeld High School
4. Geoff Torzewski, Boys Hockey, New Ulm High School
5. JV Coach North St Paul, Boys Basketball, North High School-North St. Paul
6. Kenny Geiser, Wrestling, Thief River Falls High School
7. Matt Draeger, Boys Basketball, Litchfield High School
8. Pat O'Leary, Boys Hockey, Wayzata High School
9. Rob Lark, Girls Basketball, Princeton High School
10. Robb DeCorsey, Boys Basketball, Glencoe-Silver Lake High School
11. Scott Gudmundson, Girls Basketball, Becker High School

Violation of the Code of Ethics for Officials

1. Kurt Nathe
2. Trent Tumbleson
3. Robert Zuehlke, Jr.

There being no further business, motion by Heier and second by Tauer to adjourn the meeting at 12:47 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Executive Director