



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

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Tuesday, June 6, 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 9:39 a.m. All current members of the Board of Directors were present except John Ostrowski and May Thao-Schuck. All members of League Executive Staff were present except Senior Associate Director Bob Madison and Assistant Director Amy Doherty.

Others attending all or portions of the meeting included:

Pat Barrett, Liaison, *MN Girls Basketball Coaches Association*  
Kevin Beck, MSHSL Legal Counsel, *Kelly & Lemmons, P.A.*  
DJ Brynteson, President, *Minnesota Debate Teachers Association*  
Dr. Renee Corneille, Superintendent, *St. Anthony-New Brighton Public Schools, representing MASA*  
Keith Cornell, Activities Director, *St. Michael-Albertville High School, representing Regions 5AA and 6AA*  
Tom Critchley, Executive Director, *MN Boys Basketball Coaches Association*  
Mark Gitch, Director of Orchestras, *Wayzata High School, representing MMEA*  
Andrew Hansen, President Elect, *Nordic Ski Coaches Association*  
Mike Hennen, Activities Director, *Forest Lake High School, representing Boys Sports*  
Amanda Johnson, Executive Assistant, *MSHSL*  
Brad O'Donnell, Activities Director, *St. Clair High School, representing Regions 1A and 2A*  
Kristi Peterson, Shakopee, *Minnesota School Board Association*  
James Ware, Head Boys Basketball Coach, *Park Center High School*

Reflection by LeRoy Fairbanks

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Lilleberg and second by Heier to approve the meeting and consent agendas. The motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes Approved**

Motion by Revenig and second by Smokrovich to approve the April 6, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Individuals Addressing the Board**

Wayzata Nordic Skiing coach Andrew Hanson spoke on behalf of the four Nordic Skiing Advisory Proposals. Three individuals spoke on behalf of seeding the Girls and Boys State Tournaments: Tom Critchley, the executive director of the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association, Pat Barrett, the Minnesota Girls Basketball Coaches Association representative and Park Center Boys Basketball Head Coach James Ware.

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

A number of board members commented on the quality of the spring state tournaments and shared their gratitude for the work done by League staff. There were also many words of appreciation for the many tournament staff and volunteers who assist in running tournaments.

**Legislative Report Received**

Executive Director Martens shared an update on behalf of Roger Aronson that a change in the Minnesota State Statutes was approved that modifies the number of MSHSL Board Members and accounts for two Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) representatives on the Board of Directors. Board President Troy Stein thanked Roger Aronson for his tireless work and commitment on behalf of the League during the Legislative Session.

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

Legal Counsel Kevin Beck reported no pending legal proceedings.

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

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

- NFHS Board Member Amanda Kaus provided an update from the NFHS Board of Directors. Shared that the NFHS will be implementing changes to technology in several areas over the summer and into the 2023-2024 school year.
- MSHSL Foundation Board of Directors has added new members Justin Brown, Litchfield; Virgil Jones, ISD 196; and Elisa Ryan Manny, Visitation. Dean Haugo, Moorhead, will replace Mike Kolness as president. The MSHSL Foundation will offer Form A and Form B for the 2023-2024 school year with discussion on an AED-specific opportunity through the "Anyone Can Save A Life" initiative and the Foundation.
- Yielded the floor to League staff for an update on the spring state tournaments.
- Shared updates on work toward Strategic Directions, which include Health and Safety, Officials and Communicating the story of the MSHSL. Some of the work consists of:
  - Partnering with the Max Foundation on mental health
  - Air quality index added to the Weather Conditions Policy
  - Bringing Anyone Can Save A Life back to League website and updating materials
  - Assisting in an officiating clinic on May 6 hosted by Vikings, which had 60 attendees with a number who have registered as an official for the 2023-2024 school year.
  - Creating and updating documents that are action items such as the Behavior Expectations generated by students, Code of Commitment, and a new membership video provided to member schools on June 2.
- The NFHS will host its second annual Women's Leadership Summit virtually on August 6-8.
- The Minneapolis Athena Awards were held on May 5 at the Earle Brown Center. Special acknowledgment of former MSHSL staff member Dorothy McIntyre, Region Secretary Nancy Manderfeld and many others for their service in leading this important program that recognizes outstanding female student-athletes in Minneapolis and St. Paul.
- The Representative Assembly Meeting was held on May 9 at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest. The Representative Assembly approved two bylaw changes for the 2023-2024 school year. Appreciation was extended to the Board Members for their attendance.
- The strong partnership with other professional associations will continue by attending the MASA Leadership Meeting and the MASSP Summer Conference.
- Applications for a Governors' Appointee position to the Board of Directors are still being accepted
- The New Board Member Orientation at the League office is planned for July 11. Board Orientation will take place for the first half of the day followed by League staff training for the last half.

### **Executive Committee Report Received**

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

April 27

- District Football assignments for 2023 and 2024 were approved and reviewed by the ADs Advisory Committee.
- Reviewed and affirmed the decision of the Eligibility Committee on a recent case.
- Approved an adjusted softball state tournament schedule for this year's tournament. The new schedule creates additional time for day one and a significant adjustment for day two. The primary focus of the adjustments was to provide adequate time between contests so that start times may be more predictable, the grounds crew will have sufficient time to prep each field and all four championships can be viewed successively on the same day.
- Approved spring ticket prices. These prices establish a consistent level of \$13 for adults and \$8 for students. Softball day one was \$21 for adults and \$14 for students. All these prices are consistently applied and are inclusive of any ticketing fees and facility fees.

June 2

- Reviewed and affirmed the decision of the Eligibility Committee on a recent case.
- Reviewed the membership application from a new member school application that included discussion on consideration of factors with new member schools.
- Reviewed the latest financial projection for year-end July 31, 2023, and the 2023-2024 projected budget.
- Reviewed and approved employee agreement increases for the next two years to be forwarded to the full Board of Directors. This included a one-time salary adjustment for all staff continuously employed since January 1, 2020 and annual raises for 23-24 and 24-25.
- Reviewed the Activity Advisory Process Policy, Presenting Partner Policy, MSHSL Behavior Expectations, DEIB Board Position Statement and the Region/Section Seeding Policy which, are action items on June 6.
- Reviewed the Boys Volleyball Task Force timeline and next steps.
- Continued discussion on projected facilities work that is scheduled at the League office. Improvements include:
  - Removing diseased/dead trees on the League grounds.
  - Replacing the water softener.
  - Resurfacing the parking lot.
  - Updating bathroom fixtures.
  - Purchasing high-visibility banners and signage for state tournaments.

Motion by Schimek and second by Timm to approve the District Football Placements for 2023 and 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Peschel and second by Vraa to approve MSHSL employee agreements for the next two years. The motion passed unanimously.

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

## **ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION**

### **2023-2024 Board Officers**

Motion by Heier and second by Rocheleau to approve the 2023-2024 Board Officer voting results: Jim Smokrovich-President; Don Peschel-Vice President; and Bill Tauer-Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Section and State Medals Proposal**

Reviewed a revised chart for awarding medals and trophies at the section and state tournament levels. Region Secretaries brought the proposal forward through League staff. The new amounts of medals and trophies will create consistency in the recognition of member schools and participants.

Motion by Guthmueller and second by Engebretson to approve the Section and State Medals Proposal as presented (Appendix A). The motion passed unanimously.

### **Activity Advisory Proposal Policy**

Reviewed the adjusted Activity Advisory Proposal. The adjustments to the proposal address the number of times a proposal can be submitted, adding a staff analysis to the proposal and requirement that the activity advisory committee of that sport or activity submits any proposal.

Motion by McDonald and second by Timm to approve the Activity Advisory Policy Proposal as presented (Appendix B). The motion passed unanimously.

### **Winter Activity Advisory Proposals**

League staff shared information about winter activity advisory proposals in the following activities.

- **Basketball: Seeding #1 through #8 for all classes**

This proposal would seed state qualifying teams #1-8. Currently, the State Tournament Quarterfinals are seeded #1-5 in each class for their respective tournament. A blind draw determines the remaining teams representing seeds #6-8.

Motion by Stein and second Tauer to table and direct League staff to gather information from Activity Advisory Committees in most programs and initiate further study and discussion at the Board of Directors Workshop in August. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Dance: Order of Dance Competition at State Meet**

This proposal would establish that the qualifying teams at the state meet would use the following for competition order at state preliminaries: implement a random draw of 3<sup>rd</sup> place section finishers in spots 1 – 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> place section finishers randomly drawn for 5 – 8, and 1<sup>st</sup> place section finishers in the 9 – 12 spots.

Motion by Heier and second Schimek to table to motion and direct League staff to gather information from activity advisory committees in most programs and initiate further study and discussion at the Board of Directors Workshop in August. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Debate: Rules and Policies Modifications**

The proposal updates standards and qualification methods for Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum and Policy Debate to match the format used by Congressional Debate and set the number of state qualifiers at 24 in all four events.

Motion by McDonald and second Lilleberg to approve the Debate Rules and Policies proposal as presented (Appendix C). The motion passed unanimously.

- **Nordic Ski Racing: Pursuit Qualifiers**

Currently, four skiers not on the two qualifying teams advance to the state meet in the pursuit race. This proposal would increase that number to six.

Motion by Stein and second by Thornton to approve the Nordic Ski Pursuit Qualifiers that increases the number of individuals qualifying for the State Meet from each section to be qualifying teams plus six highest finishers. The motion failed by voice vote.

- **Nordic Ski Racing: State Tournament Schedule**

With the addition of Sprint Relay, this policy seeks to provide consistency to the schedule and order of events at the State Meet.

Motion by Stein and second by Indra to approve the Nordic Ski Racing State Meet schedule as presented (Appendix D) that provides for greater consistency. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Nordic Ski Racing: Substitutions**

Currently, a school's State Meet Nordic Ski team consists of 5 skiers skiing the pursuit race, 2 skiers skiing the sprint relay and two alternates. If one of the skiers cannot ski, one of the alternates may take the skier's place. This proposal provides additional flexibility, which allows any skier on that team's State Meet roster to be substituted into the removed skier's start position. A skier from the listed alternates must fill the new open start position. After that, no other skiers may be moved to different start positions. Once a skier is taken out of the State Meet, they cannot be put back into the State Meet. No skier can ski in more than one race (Sprint Relay or Pursuit Race) at the State Meet.

Motion by Rocheleau and second by Peschel to approve the Nordic Ski Racing proposal as presented (Appendix E) to modify the use of alternate skiers at the State Meet that permits a skier from the Sprint Relay to fill an empty spot in the Pursuit, or vice versa. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Nordic Ski Racing: Tiebreaker**

Currently, the tiebreaker policy has four steps to break a tie. This proposal would simplify the policy by eliminating the first step of combining the times of the fastest two finishers in the pursuit event. The next three steps of the current policy would remain as currently stated.

Motion by Tauer and second Thornton to approve the implementation of updated tiebreaking criteria by removing the current first determining factor as presented (Appendix F). The motion passed unanimously.

- **Wrestling: Add an Additional Half Day to State Meet**

This proposal would add an extra half day, beginning with a session on Wednesday afternoon. The proposal would provide:

- a. Room for growth of the number of qualifiers in the girls division,
- b. Additional time for all wrestlers to have the opportunity to participate in wrestle backs, and
- c. Hold team quarterfinals and consolation semifinals on Wednesday, with team finals, 3rd and 5th place on Thursday.

Motion by Stein and second by Revenig to approve an Activity Advisory Proposal to add a half-day of competition to the current three-day format for the Wrestling State Tournament. The motion failed.

### **Basketball Rules – Shot Clock Adoption**

League staff presented draft language (Appendix G) in preparation for the implementation of the basketball shot clock for the 2023-2024 season that was previously approved by the Board of Directors. Included is language on the conditions requiring the clock reset and an adjustment to the closely guarded rule in the front court.

Motion by Vraa and second by Timm to approve policy language for the implementation of the basketball shot clock for the 2023-2024 season. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Heier and second by Smokrovich to approve policy language that removes the closely guarded counts while a player is dribbling in the front court. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Vraa and second by Peschel to approve policy language for shot clock violations as a reviewable situation via replay in limited circumstances during State Tournament play in televised games. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Presenting Partner Policy**

Chair of the Adoption of Programs Task Force, Member Smokrovich spoke to the Presenting Partner Policy, which the Adoption of Programs Task Force developed. Currently, Robotics and Clay Target are in a Presenting Partnership with the League.

Motion by Lilleberg and second by Kaus to approve the Presenting Partner Policy as presented (Appendix H). The motion passed unanimously.

### **Region/Section Seeding Policy**

This proposal was renamed from Region Consistency Policy to Region/Section Seeding Policy. The policy includes updated seeing options, tie-breaking criteria and forfeit procedures for sections.

Motion by Stein and second by Indra to approve the Region/Section Seeding Policy as presented (Appendix I). The motion passed unanimously.

### **MSHSL Behavior Expectations**

The student generated Behavior Expectations document was completed through the Together We Make A Difference initiative and the Student Advisory Leadership Team (SALT). The behavior guidelines and expectations are directed at students and adults to be implemented by member schools.

Motion by Smokrovich and second by Heier to approve the MSHSL Behavior Expectations as presented (Appendix J). The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Board Position Statement: Code of Commitment**

The Board Position Statement Code of Commitment is in harmony with the MSHSL Behavior Expectations and provides direction for all involved in League activities. The Board Position Statement was created through work done by the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee.

Motion by Lilleberg and second by Stein to approve the Board Position Statement Code of Commitment as presented (Appendix K). The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Boys Volleyball Task Force**

League staff has developed a document that guides an approved Task Force by exploring the format, timelines and season when the activity will be played.

Motion by Heier and second by Thornton to approve the Boys Volleyball Task Force as presented (Appendix L) and includes the addition of a girls volleyball and boys volleyball representative. The motion passed unanimously.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **District Football Policy**

League staff shared updates on the recent work of the District Football Committee, which includes updating reference language from 9-man to 9-player and the number and the naming of districts. Additional future edits will include changing the word school to teams throughout the policy.

#### **Football State Semifinal Seeding**

League staff shared information on the consideration of seeding the teams in 9-player through Class AAAAA that qualify for the semifinals played at U.S. Bank Stadium. League staff and the Football Advisory Committee will continue to review and determine a potential timeline if approved for implementation. Additional discussion will take place at the August Board Workshop.

#### **2023-2024 Preliminary Budget**

Director Matter shared the latest financial projections for year-end July 31, 2023, and the proposed 2023-2024 budget. Action on the 2023-2024 budget will occur at the August Board Meeting.

#### **2023-2024 Membership Dues and Activity Fees**

Director Matter shared the preliminary 2023-2024 MSHSL Budget. Final action on the determination of membership dues will be based on the 2022-2023 year-end financial report. This will be an action item at the August Board Meeting.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Eligibility Committee**

The Eligibility Committee report included updated data on the number of cases and outcomes and was approved as presented.

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

The Audit/Finance report included:

- Reviewed March 2023 and April 2023 Financial Statements
- Reviewed the July 31, 2022, Annual Audit Report
- Reviewed the Charitable Organization Annual Report and IRS Form 990

Motion by Smokrovich and second by Rocheleau to approve the March 2023 and April 2023 Financial Statements as presented (Appendix M). The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Lilleberg and second by Timm to approve the 2021-2022 Fiscal Audit Report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by McDonald and second by Heier to approve Charitable Organization Annual Report and IRS Form 990. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Marketing and Communications Committee**

The Marketing and Communications report provided updates from League staff on the following items:

- Reviewed a draft summary of projected modifications for the 2023-2024 Media Policy Manual. The summary included defining the role of a Team Video Operator and Student Media clarifications.
- Provided an update on social media engagement.
- Provided a sponsorship update that included Midwest Dairy as the Triple “A” Awards sponsor. Midwest Dairy will also be a partner in coaches education and student leadership initiatives.
- Disability Hub MN, a presence during the Adapted Athletics State Tournaments, will also expand its footprint at other events.
- The League has reached a three-year contract extension with HomeTown Ticketing.
- League staff shared ongoing work on a Branding Standards and Style Guide document.

### **Education and Leadership Committee**

The Education and Leadership report provided updates from League staff on the following items:

- Shared updates on CER courses and that the League will have exclusive rights to InSideOut content for a three-year cycle.
- The Mental Health Suicide Prevention module is nearly complete. Partnering with the Max Foundation and Dr. Tim Denny for content leadership.
- A Concussion in Student-Athletes video has been updated with information from Dr. Bill Roberts.
- Shared an update on S.A.L.T., which has identified 10 new members. Those new members will meet with three returning members in June.
- Approved the draft of the MSHSL Behavior Expectations document.
- The MSHSL Officiating Consortium will meet in July. Superintendents, Principals, Activities Directors, Coaches and Officials will make up the consortium.
- Partner with RefReps on developing an officiating curriculum or use in the classroom by students.
- Develop updated recruiting materials for the upcoming year.
- More than 2,600 officials participated in the Officiating DEI Council survey.
- Reviewed the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee recommendation of including Air Quality Guidelines and Index to the current weather policy.

Motion by Indra and second by Engebretson to add the Air Quality Index component to the current weather policy. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Outgoing Board Member Recognition**

Departing board members Suzy Guthmueller, Matthew Heier, Amanda Kaus, Astein Osei, John Ostrowski, Troy Stein, and John Vraa were recognized for their years of service.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- Board Members at Spring State Tournaments
- NFHS Summer Meeting: June 28-July 2, 2023 – Seattle, WA
- New Board Member Orientation: July 11, 2023 – League Office
- Board Workshop: July 30-31, 2023 – Spicer, MN
- Board Meeting: Aug. 1, 2023, 10 a.m., Spicer, MN

## **Dissolutions of Cooperative Sponsorships**

### **2023-2024**

1. Badger/Greenbush-Middle River - Wrestling
2. St. James/Windom - Soccer, Boys
3. St. James/Windom - Soccer, Girls

## **Cooperative Sponsorships**

### **2023-2024**

1. Badger/Greenbush-Middle River/Tri-County - Wrestling
2. Madelia/St. James/Windom - Soccer, Boys
3. Madelia/St. James/Windom - Soccer, Girls
4. Mankato East/Mankato West - Adapted Floor Hockey, CI

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

1. Aaron Meier, Baseball, Royalton HS
2. Aaron Turner, Baseball, White Bear Lake Area High School
3. Amy Johnson, Softball, Girls, Ada-Borup-West High School
4. Chad Spitzer, Baseball, St. Paul Central High School
5. Chris Zollner, Baseball, St. Thomas Academy
6. Coach Meier, Baseball, Royalton High School
7. Greg Pogreba, Baseball, St. Paul Johnson High School
8. Jack Hannahan, Baseball, Cretin-Derham Hall High School
9. JV coach, Baseball, Browerville High School
10. Osseo Head Coach, Baseball, Osseo High School
11. Pete Anderson, Baseball, Andover High School
12. Pete Hayes, Baseball, Anoka High School
13. Ryan Fitzpatrick, Baseball, White Bear Lake Area High School
14. Steve Baker, Baseball, Eagan High School

## **Violation of Bylaw 202 - Assault**

1. Dan Wilson

## **Violation of the Code of Ethics for Officials**

1. Brad Panning

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion by Heier and second by Guthmueller to adjourn the meeting at 12:55 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.



Executive Director