

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, March 24, 2023

Council Members:

Chris Adams, Camden
Eric Albright, Midland
Jay Alexander, Detroit
Judy Cox, Auburn
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven
Kris Isom, Adrian
Sean Jacques, Calumet
Jeff Kline, Mt. Morris
Jason Malloy, Westland
Vic Michaels, Detroit
Chris Miller, Gobles
Anna Rigby, Harbor Springs
Chris Riker, Portage
Meg Seng, Ann Arbor
Fred Smith, Bangor
Adam Stefanski, Boyne City
John Thompson, Brighton
Alex Tiseo, Marquette

Also Present:

Mike Berutti, West Iron
Ashley Higginson, Lansing

Staff Members Present:

Tony Bihn
Brad Bush
Jordan Cobb
Sam Davis
Andy Frushour
Dan Hutcheson
Cody Inglis
Geoff Kimmerly
Cole Malatinsky
Will McKoy
Andi Osters
Jon Ross
Adam Ryder
Mark Uyl (Recorder)
Kathy Westdorp
Paige Winne

President Scott Grimes welcomed all Council members and staff, along with Mike Berutti from West Iron, a member of the UP Athletic Committee.

Accounts of Meetings – Motion by Sean Jacques, supported by Eric Albright, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of Dec. 2, 2022; the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings of Dec. 1, 2022, Jan. 11, 2023 and Feb. 15, 2023; and the minutes of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Feb. 20, 2023. Adopted.

REPORTS

Legislation – The Council reviewed a report from Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. regarding activities of the Michigan Legislature that could directly or indirectly affect member schools' administration of interscholastic athletics.

Litigation – The Council received a report on legal issues in which the MHSAA has been engaged.

Administration – The executive director provided a brief review on winter tournaments, the process for a newly appointed Council member from the Michigan Department of Education, basketball Finals and Council meeting schedules, sportsmanship issues at the Individual Wrestling Finals involving two schools and MHSAA staff updates.

Andy Frushour reported that all four Boys Soccer Final matches will be scheduled and played at one site, Grand Ledge High School, on Saturday, Nov. 4. The advantages of having the Finals all at one location was discussed, and the Council will receive a report of this change at the December 2023 meeting.

Tony Bihn updated the Council on the school survey data for current sports offerings and possible future, emerging sports. Good questions were posed during the discussion and the Council looks forward to future data in these participation areas.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Football Task Force – The Football Task Force, comprised of Representative Council members, MIAAA leadership, officers of the MHSFCA and MHSAA staff members met on March 1. This group discussed a number of issues relative to football, specifically regular season scheduling issues and various playoff formats. Discussion focused on the current playoff format as well as alternatives such as an 8-week regular season with an expanded playoff field. Feedback was gained on small school issues at both the 11-player and 8-player levels, including a possible enrollment cap of 250 students or less to be eligible for Division 8 in the 11-player tournament. There was no consensus for change at this time, and the Council will consider a proposal from the MHSAA Football Committee regarding regional seeding at the May meeting.

CPR, AED's and Emergency Action Plans – Kathy Vrugink Westdorp provided an update from the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) which included information and feedback on possible regulations and approaches regarding CPR and AED requirements along with a renewed emphasis on the need for local Emergency Action Plans (EAP's). The original "How to Save a Life" program from the Minnesota state association was discussed, and further direction and support will be provided by the MHSAA SMAC. The Council was reminded that CPR requirements at the junior high / middle school level will be discussed in May.

MHSAA Awards Program – Andi Osters reported on the efforts of a small workgroup that included MHSAA staff and member school personnel in reshaping and rebranding the current MHSAA Awards (WISL, Forsythe, Bush, Norris) along with the addition of a new award. The Council was provided the updated award titles, criteria, timelines and the concept of a new MHSAA award.

Motion by Jason Malloy, supported by Fred Smith, to approve the rebranded award names and descriptions for the current WISL, Forsythe, Bush and Norris awards along with the addition of the new Champion of Progress Award named in honor of former Assistant Director Nate Hampton. Adopted.

New "Athletic Director Connection" Program – On February 15, the Audit & Finance Committee approved the concept and budget figures for the two pilot program years of the "AD Connection Program". Staff member Brad Bush provided additional implementation details, expectations and timelines.

Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Jason Malloy, to approve the Athletic Director Connection program for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years as a pilot program. Adopted.

Officials Game Fee Survey & Compensation – Staff has completed the bi-annual survey of leagues and conferences for 2023-24 regular season officiating fees which were provided to the Council. Recent increases in fees for next year by two large conferences have generated much statewide discussion amongst athletic administrators in light of the budget

planning process. Good discussion took place with the Council with more to come in the budget process for MHSAA tournament game fees for 2023-24 and beyond, along with the issues and challenges of local leagues and conferences working with officiating groups in setting and establishing future fees.

NEW BUSINESS

Vern L. Norris Award – The Representative Council was presented with the finalists for the Vern L. Norris Award. The Council selected the recipient of the award, which will be announced and awarded in early May.

Meetings – The Representative Council reviewed expenses for this meeting and the schedule for the May 2023 Council meeting. Motion by Kris Isom, supported by Fred Smith, to approve expenses for the March Council meeting. Adopted.

Audit and Finance Committee Report – This committee is responsible for reviewing past financial performance and future projections, reviewing and making revenue and expense recommendations for MHSAA programs, and finalizing the annual budget for the Council's approval in May. The Council reviewed the minutes of the committee's Feb. 15 meeting and were given an update on the first phase of the MHSAA building refresh project that will begin in the summer of 2023.

Motion by Fred Smith, supported by John Thompson, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendation for National Federation Annual Meeting attendance by Council members, and to approve the specific reimbursement limits for the 2023 meeting in Seattle, Washington. Reimbursement will be after the meeting and based on actual length of stay and required receipts. Adopted.

Motion by Chris Miller, supported by Sean Jacques, to approve the Audit and Finance Committee recommendations regarding staff compensation for 2023-24. Adopted.