

# MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

## REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

East Lansing, December 6, 2024

### **Members Present:**

Chris Adams, Camden  
Eric Albright, Midland  
Jay Alexander, Detroit  
Judy Cox, Auburn  
Ross Fort, Lansing  
Scott Grimes, Grand Haven  
Chris Hartman, Kingsford  
Sean Jacques, Calumet  
Jeff Kline, Mt. Morris  
Jason Malloy, Westland  
Vic Michaels, Detroit  
Chris Miller, Gobles  
Anna Rigby, Harbor Springs  
Chris Riker, Portage  
Fred Smith, Bangor  
Adam Stefanski, Boyne City  
Dr. Arnetta Thompson, Wyoming  
John Thompson, Brighton  
Jennifer Thunberg, Freeland

### **Also Present:**

Mike Bakker, Fenton  
Scott Eldridge, Lansing  
Bill Zaagman, Lansing

### **Staff Members Present:**

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

**Accounts of Meetings** – Motion by Jason Malloy, supported by Chris Miller, to approve the minutes of the Representative Council meeting of May 5-6, the Executive Committee meetings of May 3, June 13, Aug. 5, Aug. 21, Sept. 5, Oct. 3 and Nov. 6 and the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee meeting of Sept. 26. Adopted.

## **REPORTS**

**Legislation** – Bill Zaagman provided an update on a variety of legislative issues, in particular HB 4816 which proposes NIL opportunities for Michigan students. Mr. Zaagman also provided a recap of active bills and the possible timelines with the current legislative session ending in just a few weeks. Governmental Consultant Services, Inc. will continue to monitor all bills in the upcoming 2025 session and will keep MHSAA staff and the Representative Council updated.

**Litigation** – Attorney Scott Eldridge reported to the Council on the status of legal matters involving or of interest to the MHSAA.

**Administration** – Reports from MHSAA staff included highlights from the just-completed fall season, status report on the MHSAA building renovation project and information on current and future challenges with broadcast television media agreements. Data was provided on MHSAA member schools, tournaments championships and finalists by type of school (public, non-public and public charter schools). A brief update was provided on the “Transfer Tracker” initiative that is being developed by MHSAA staff and FinalForms. The fall AD In-Service meeting report was provided by Dan Hutcheson, followed by an update on the new AD Connection program by Brad Bush. Andy Frushour reported a successful fall program of Sportsmanship

Summits along with the ongoing and future plans as the MHSAA celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on December 13. The Update Meeting survey results were presented, and this data will drive discussion with appropriate sport committees during the 2024-25 meeting cycle.

## **ONGOING BUSINESS**

**Baseball Pitch Count Issues and Tracking** – Staff provided an update on the recent Council action of electronic, online submissions of varsity “pitch counts” that was scheduled to begin in the spring of 2025. Due to a number of factors, staff proposed that this required online submission be delayed by one year.

Motion by Chris Adams, supported by Eric Albright, to delay the required, online submission of varsity baseball pitch counts to the spring of 2026, allowing more time for technology development and implementation. Adopted.

**Financial Update and Audit Review** – The Council reviewed another highly positive audit report produced by Maner Costerian for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Positive revenue was reported in 23-24 for the third consecutive year. The MHSAA was able to report another budget surplus during 23-24 which will allow further discussions with the Audit & Finance Committee on future priorities. It was noted that the past three financial years have been among the most successful in quite some time for the association, allowing staff to fully replenish reserves that were used during COVID and has allowed planning for the next unexpected financial challenge.

**NFHS Network Report and FDSN Transition** – Jon Ross provided a number of metrics on the NFHS Network with an overall increase in total views, percentage of MHSAA tournament games that were streamed and jump in average minutes of events viewed. He also provided a positive summary from the Football Finals at Ford Field as the rebrand from Bally’s Sports Detroit to FanDuel Sports Network (FDSN) went very well. Credit goes to the leadership of FDSN who branded the MHSAA Football Finals in a very effective way.

**New and Emerging Sports** – Staff provided an update on plans being made for girls field hockey and boys volleyball to be fully sponsored MHSAA tournament sports in the 2025-26 school year. The Girls Field Hockey Committee has met and a number of proposals will be brought to the Council in March for action. The MHSAA Volleyball Committee will meet soon with recommendations to be generated for the Council in either March or May. Other emerging sports will be discussed at the Classification Committee meeting in January, with the Football Committee and Track & Field Committee discussing both girls flag football and indoor track & field. The Swimming Committee will discuss water polo again at its next meeting.

**Event Security Update** – Staff led a discussion on the continuing work between the MHSAA and Secure Education Consultants (SEC) with the development of two online training modules for event security. It was noted that the SEC will be a key presenter at next summer’s MIAAA Camp Mid. Council members shared several instances and examples from the previous year where the SEC training content has made a positive difference in event planning and safety. Council member Ross Fort discussed the School Safety funds that are available to schools with the state’s 97C grant program. More investigation of these opportunities will be completed as this security focus will continue for the MHSAA and member schools.

**Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)** – Kathy Westdorp provided an update from the latest meeting of the MHSAA SMAC earlier this fall where eight areas of focus were identified. The Council received an update on the issue of preparticipation sports physicals and chiropractors being permitted to complete these exams. Staff provided a summary of the dis-

cussion that took place at the SMAC meeting, and then the leadership from the Michigan Association of Chiropractors was given time to present and discuss the issue. Following this presentation, the Council elected to take no action and will continue to allow physicals to be done by the current group of four, which includes an MD, DO, PA, and NP.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Recognition of Service** – During the lunch break, outgoing Council members Scott Grimes and Judy Cox were recognized for their years of dedicated service.

**Divisions Discussion** – Staff led a discussion on current divisions and MHSAA tournaments in baseball, basketball, cross country, softball, track & field and volleyball. Data was provided on the current number of schools in each division by sport with special attention being given to this group of six sports that are sponsored by at least 550 schools. Staff provided some general “pros and cons” as many sports committees discussed this topic during 2023-24 in light of last year’s Update Opinion Poll questions and answers. This is a complex issue and one that requires further thought, analysis, and discussion. The Council supported the staff recommendation to form a study group that will meet during the winter and spring to address this issue. This study group would include four Council members, four MHSAA staff members, four individuals identified by the MIAAA and four additional individuals within our membership identified by the Executive Director and this group will be organized in early 2025. The goal would be to have a status report for the Council at the May 2025 board meeting.

**Social Media Issues and Sportsmanship** – A robust discussion took place on a number of social media issues that crept into athletic contests during the past 12 months. The Council discussed how member schools address these controversies, and the question was posed regarding the role of the MHSAA in these negative situations. There was consensus that these matters are best handled between the schools involved with the MHSAA communicating with both schools when the association receives specific concerns and information.

**MHSAA Awards** – Final candidates for the Forsythe, Bush, Norris, Hampton and WISL awards were presented to the Council for voting. Votes will be tabulated, and winners announced during the 2025 calendar year. It was noted that staff member Kathy Westdorp has once again done an exceptional job of reorganizing the awards program with more candidates available this year for consideration than ever before.

**Meeting Expenses** – Expenses for this meeting were approved at the specified hotel rate for accommodations, the IRS-specified meal allowance and a 40¢ per mile mileage allowance round-trip.

**Future Meetings** – Regularly scheduled meetings of the Council are March 21, 2025 (MHSAA headquarters), May 4-5, 2025 (Gaylord) and December 5, 2025 (MHSAA headquarters).

The meeting was adjourned.