

MSTCA Executive Committee Meeting -- 12/3/18 -- Minutes

Present - Aaron Ladd, Hatim Jean-Louis, Joe LeMar, Scott Ouellet, Mike Meagher, Linda Rowbotham, Rick Kates, Mike Budd, Jim Hoar, Mike O'Malley, Charlie Butterfield, Ian Butterfield, Zach Lankow, Bill Tilden, Tim Cimeno, Sotirios Pintzopoulos, Steve Nugent, Mike Miller, Paul Rittenburg, Frank Mooney, Kent Taylor, Lou Tozzi, Jayson Sylvain

1. Jim called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Review of the minutes from the October 22, 2018 meeting.
 - a. No suggested alterations
 - b. Motion to accept (Frank); second (many); passed unanimously
3. 2018 Cross Country Summary/Report
 - a. Twilight Invitational
 - i. Meet was reviewed at the previous ExCom meeting however the two-night format was revisited
 - ii. Many of the meet's expenses were doubled due to the two-night format (officials, MSTCA workers, some equipment, etc)
 - iii. Approximately 400 more athletes competed on the large school night than the small school night; 2019 is set to have small schools compete on Saturday and large schools on Friday; some members of the board feel the large schools should continue to have the Saturday evening slot
 - iv. when the initial move to two nights was made, the ExCom agreed to give each size a Friday slot during the first two years; compromise: continue to alternate the days, but change the large/small cut-off to a higher number in order to even out the participation numbers on each night
 - b. Frank Mooney Coaches Invitational
 - i. Meet was postponed one day due to inclement weather; therefore 17 schools cancelled
 - ii. Around 2,700 nonperishable goods were donated by competing teams; food was distributed to food pantries in Franklin, Wrentham, and Seekonk; Frank received thank-you notes from all three food pantries
4. Cross Country Committee Report - Scott
 - a. 2018 XC Mooney Athlete of the Year
 - i. Nominees were presented to the ExCom and will be voted upon by the membership in early-2019
 - b. 2018 Coach of the Year
 - i. Honorees were presented to the ExCom
 - ii. Lou will inform the coaches of their selection once approved

- c. Weather Policy
 - i. With the postponement of the Mooney Coaches Invitational, the XC Committee feels the MSTCA should have an official weather policy in place
 - ii. ExCom would like the XC Committee to create the plan at their next meeting

- d. XC Venues
 - i. This season has shown the lack of sites in the state capable of hosting a large-scale meet; a question arose as to what sites are left which can withstand both the huge crowds and the poor weather
 - ii. Information was shared about a potential site in Attleboro across the street from the high school; the old Highland Golf Course was purchased by the city and designated as an exercise course; Mike Miller asked if there were any XC sites at all on the North Shore; DCR does not want to deal with XC races at their sites anymore
 - iii. With the size of some of our XC meets, if we could find additional sites, would it be possible to hold a meet at two sites simultaneously in order to shorten the overall length of the meet?
 - iv. Aaron inquired if the MSTCA could hire a real estate company to find potential sites across the state; he will report back to the ExCom

- e. Medals
 - i. In order to avoid confusion, we need to remove the places written on the backs of our medals
 - ii. Can we purchase medals with lanyards since the athletes like to wear their medals after earning them?

- f. MIAA
 - i. Mike Miller reported on numerous complaints he received from members regarding the MIAA State Meet
 - 1. There was no safety plan in place
 - 2. There was no need to move the date of the event to Sunday when there was a perfectly viable site ready to go on Saturday

- g. MSTCA Technology Committee
 - i. The MSTCA should inquire about technology used by other associations to better communicate race progress/results to coaches, runners, and spectators
 - ii. Hatim asked if we could purchase a camera to be placed in the tailgate of the lead cart to broadcast the races live over the internet
 - iii. Aaron asked if a clock could be purchased and placed on the lead cart to inform spectators and lead runners of the elapsed time mid-race
 - iv. **Motion** (Jayson): The MSTCA should create a Technology Committee for the purpose of evaluating our current state of technology and offering suggestions to the ExCom for improvements to meets during all three seasons; second (Kent); approved unanimously

5. Board of Trustees Update
 - a. Lou stated that MSTCA legal has stated it is okay for Board of Trustee members to receive stipends for completing jobs on behalf of the MSTCA
 - b. While Board of Trustee member Charlie O'Rourke has resigned from the ExCom, Charlie Butterfield and Lou Tozzi will remain on the ExCom as non-voting members

6. Annual Awards Update
 - a. Lou stated he has received two nominees for the Coaches Hall of Fame
 - b. Charlie shared that Gerard Frew will be the 2019 Central Mass Inductee
 - c. **Motion** (Lou): To approve the XC Committee Coach of the Year nominees; second (Aaron); passed unanimously
 - d. Lou is looking for nominees for the Distinguished Service, Bill O'Connor, and Frank Kelley Awards
 - e. Lou shared a thank you note from Joe Tolbert for his COY honor from last year

7. Do-it Clinic Update
 - a. 186 athletes participated
 - b. Lou stated it was a successful day overall and the clinicians did a fantastic job working with the athletes
 - c. Frank asked about how the clinicians were reimbursed; Rick paid them by check; going forward the bookkeeper will make all payments as the new checks connected to QuickBooks will be arriving soon

8. MIAA Tournament Committee Update
 - a. Peter Rittenburg (Brookline AD) spoke at length about troubling developments which have happened over the past few months
 - b. In the summer of 2018, the MIAA proposed 6.5% cuts across the board; the XC/TF Committee did their due diligence about the best way to make these cuts, but the committee doesn't know the total of the MIAA's expenses
 - c. On September 26th, the committee was told that the MIAA tournaments weren't losing money, but instead were losing profit; therefore for FY20 the MIAA plans to charge \$100 per team per gender in tournament entry fees for all individual entry sports, like XC and T/F; it is projected these additional fees would generate an additional \$250K for the MIAA; the MIAA is now trying to be like the MSTCA by billing schools for each meet; however they only have control over their own tournaments
 - d. All meals and mileage for XC/TF Committee meetings were charged to the All-State meets; the MSTCA has the past 10 years of MIAA tax returns in their office; almost \$4 million in salary and pension plans; some fundraisers have been written as losses; MIAA revenue has increased by \$1.15 million over the past 10 years; salaries have increased by 59.5% over the same time span; school dues have increased by 223% over the same 10 years
 - e. Peter mentioned he has a bunch of questions he would love to have answered, however the MIAA refuses to hear him; he also still cannot go in front of their Finance Committee

- f. The XC/TF committee came up with recommendations and presented their data to the MIAA
- g. Western Mass ADs have already unanimously voted to leave the MIAA; the State Hockey Coaches Association wants out as well, but is also waiting to see what other associations do
- h. Multiple members spoke at this point: Many people don't separate the MSTCA from the MIAA, so we need to make sure the public knows we are not connected with them; this is a grassroots movement at the moment; members of the ExCom need to talk to their principals, superintendents, and ADs about this issue
- i. **Motion** (Lou): The MSTCA Executive Committee shall vote no confidence in the MIAA; second (Aaron); passed unanimously
- j. Rick mentioned the MSTCA needs to push out the message to coaches not to agree to host MIAA Outdoor T & F events, and we need to get Peter a voice at the AD meetings this spring

9. Bookkeeper Update

- a. Jayson mentioned the Board and the FinCom want to use Arbiter to pay our meet workers in the near future; this will begin with the Indoor season, but Arbiter will be optional for now; officials can be paid in this way as well
- b. All three checking accounts are now in QuickBooks and updated for the 2019 fiscal year
- c. Checks printed through QuickBooks will be arriving this month
- d. Cross County 2018 Financial Reports are almost finished; a couple more invoices have yet to arrive; the reports will be shared once completed
- e. Many schools have made the change to the Canton address for POs and payments; there are some still sending documents to the Seekonk address; Jayson will continue to work to communicate the new address with these districts/schools
- f. Sending Single Payments, Season POs, and Meet POs to the designated email address has been a huge success so far

10. Update on Purchases

- a. Rick has purchased the new speaker system; it performed perfectly at the FM Coaches meet and can be used during both Indoor and Outdoor as well; system is currently stored in the Canton HQ
- b. Charlie Butterfield will let the MSTCA borrow his laser measures for the Indoor season
- c. Lou mentioned the ExCom now has the right to approve purchases up to \$2,000 without additional approval of the Board of Trustees

11. New business

- a. Request from D1 Relays Meet Director to raise the standard for girls shot put from 20' to 24'; no motion was made
- b. Frank and Rick had a long meeting with RLTA Sherman Lewis about security during our meets

- i. if there is an emergency, there is no means for communication between the building administrator; the front desk and the trainers (among others)
 - ii. the exit doors should be numbered, just like schools
 - iii. the AED in the oval hasn't been checked since 2012 and has no pads
 - iv. RLTA security is horrible; the RCC President has basically told us to mind our own business, but this is our business
 - v. Frank is working on an updated communication plan for emergencies so in case of an evacuation we can determine who is still in the building;
 - vi. We can also use the Remind app to get word out
 - vii. A master list of coaches will be created and everyone on it will have a Google Doc shared with them which includes information on each of the 5 different sites to report to in case of an emergency
- c. **Motion** (Bill): The MSTCA should purchase 10 Walkie-talkies with earpieces for MSTCA leadership to wear during events; second (Rick); passed unanimously
- d. **Motion** (Bill): Beginning with Indoor 2018-19, the MSTCA will hire 2 people for each meet to wear an MSTCA vest and walk around the building to help with crowd control and to relieve other workers who are posted at the doors; second (Tim); passed unanimously; Lou stated the Board would approve a stipend of \$125 (same as a Line Clerk) per meet per worker
- e. With meet workers now paid either by check or by Arbiter after the meets, the bookkeeper needs to get money to the hosting coach prior to each meet in order to pay the student workers at the field events

12. Jim adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Next ExCom meeting is Monday, January 21, 2019 at O'Connors, Worcester, MA @ 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jayson Sylvain