

MSTCA Executive Board Meeting – 3/17/18 – Minutes

Present: Jim Hoar, Rick Kates, Frank Mooney, Tim Cimeno, Matt Griffin, Kent Taylor, Linda Rowbotham, Michael Budd, Steve Nugent, Sotirios Pintzopoulos, Zack Lankow, Mike O'Malley, Matt Wilson, Scott Ouellet, Joe LeMar, Charlie O'Rourke, Jeff Sousa, Lou Tozzi, Jayson Sylvain, Ian Butterfield, Bill Tilden (MSTCA Finance Committee Chair)

1. Jim opened the meeting at 7:58 a.m and read the meeting's agenda.
2. Review of the minutes from the January 15, 2018 meeting
 - Frank corrected “Rick met with the auditor” to “accountant”
 - Rick corrected “AD must be on site” to “AED must be on site”
 - missing minutes regarding Frank, Lou and Keith meeting with the RCC were added
 - Motion to accept (Frank); second (Ian); passed unanimously
3. **Motion** (Charlie): Nicole O'Neil will remain as Secretary of the MSTCA for the remainder of the year; second (Kent); passed unanimously; Jayson will act as the substitute as needed
4. Finance Committee Update
 - Jim gave a brief history of the MSTCA Finance Com. and turned the floor over to Bill;
 - Bill explained the need for our finances to be more organized;
 - MSTCA will begin using QuickBooks in order to have more accurate financial records which will also make our finances more open to the board
 - Kent explained how the MSTCA has a professional accountant, but we need to make sure we don't have money coming in and going out without at least 3 people verifying the numbers, especially with the Association now handling so much more money than in the past.
 - Jim expressed the need for the XB to know more about our finances
 - Frank gave a more detailed history of the MSTCA's finances and how much we've grown over the years;
5. MSTCA Awards Banquet
 - Jim reviewed the nominees for the Frank Kelley Adversity Award and the Bill O'Connor Humanitarian Award;
 - Lou presented the results of the Coaches Hall of Fame voting: Geoff Hennessy (Quincy), Phil Penza (Xaverian), and Ed Ryan (Marshfield) were elected from the general ballot; Bill Snow (Wayland) was elected from the veteran's ballot; Dan Walsh (Pope Francis) was elected from Western Mass;
 - The HOF awards will run prior to the COY awards at the banquet in order to have more of the focus on these prestigious awards
 - Regarding the Distinguished Service Award, there are 2 nominees: Nancy Huntley (MIAA) and Art Keene (Amherst); the decision was tabled

6. 2017-18 Indoor Meet Review

- The December meets were reviewed at the January meeting; Frank opened the discussion regarding our January and February meets.
- Kent reported the Coaches Small meet ran 4.5 hours while the Large lasted 6 hours;
- Rick had asked John Monz to study the numbers of our meets which are split by size (Winter Festival, Fresh/Soph, Coaches); Monz reported the numbers vary based on the attendance of the WMass and CMass schools; WMass teams often compete on Friday evenings due to track availability and often don't attend MSTCA meets on Saturdays.
- Frank mentioned limiting the size of the meets to keep them from lasting too long.
- Scott suggested an alphabetical split (A – L schools on Day 1 and M – Z on Day 2); Frank maintained small school athletes want to compete against others to have a better chance of medaling;
- Lou stated the Large/Small breakdown for F/S weekend this year was almost exact
- Scott suggested breaking the F/S meet into 3 divisions (Small/Medium/Large); Lou stated the F/S meets are long because the standards are too lenient and produce too many heats of the mile and 300m; Lou has sent suggested updated standards to the Indoor Committee for their next meeting.
- **Motion** (Scott): The preferred deadline for all indoor MSTCA meets, except for Last Chance and Freshman/Sophomore, will be the Monday prior to the competition; second (Linda); passed unanimously
- **Motion** (Charlie): The absolute deadline for entries (with penalty) will be the day after entries close; second (Scott); passed unanimously
- Last Chance Meet
 - Frank discussed how the Last Chance to Qualify meet is too large and has turned into the “Last Chance to Compete at RLC” meet; therefore we need to move the meet back a week to the final weekend prior to the cutoff date; as a result, any league meets currently held this weekend will need to be moved up a week;
 - Scott pointed out that if a kid barely misses qualifying at their league meet, then they will miss the entry deadline for Last Chance
 - Kent mentioned a huge reason why the meet is so large is because schools with user fees need to attend more meets to justify the cost to their parents;
 - Tim identified there are 7 or 8 league meets held at Reggie that week;
 - the issue will be sent to the Indoor Committee for further discussion
- Indoor Relays
 - Frank proposed we copy the decision made 4 years ago for the outdoor relays and have a meet director for each indoor relay instead of one meet director for all five; there's no advantage to having one person in charge of everything.
 - the issue will be sent to the Indoor Committee for further discussion
- Health Issues
 - Rick relayed concerns expressed by coaches, parents and officials regarding the spread of viruses through MSTCA-provided batons;
 - **Motion** (Kent): Change the verbiage on the Indoor entry forms to state: Bring your own baton; second (multiple); passed unanimously;

- Rick stated the MSTCA should still have batons for those schools who forget (or choose not) to bring their own; disinfectant wipes will also be available;
- Wipes will also be provided at the shot pits.
- Frank discussed the need to ensure only the MSTCA shots are used in meets; an illegal RLC shot was placed in the crate for at least one meet which added ~5 feet to each girl's top mark;

7. RCC / RLTAC Update

- Frank updated the board; our original bill was placed "in study" which is an unofficial death; we have "legalized" our original bill and placed this amended bill in two places: 1) the general agenda for the Higher Ed committee, and 2) as an attachment to the state budget...first the House and then the Senate; there are no hearings for the budget; a copy was sent to the RCC president to keep things legal
- the amendment stated the RCC would not have the right to name the RLTAC Board of Trustees; the majority leader put it on his budget line to have it on the House side; the amendment is being kept out of committee since this essentially kills the bill;
- Keith McDermott attended an RCC Foundation board meeting and reported that everyone has resigned; in this way, the AG's office has control of the money to make sure no one touches it inappropriately; Frank has been in contact with the AG's office; the Inspector General is reportedly investigating the RCC president;
- an MOA needs to be created between the Mooney and McIntyre families in which both sign-off for the MSTCA to control the money; Frank would like to use the money to install a raised LJ runway/pit on the home stretch side of the infield; he has called UCS for pricing = ~\$50,000; RCC Foundation has agreed to contribute \$10,000 towards a RLTAC project and are favorable to placing toward this runway;
- \$50,000 of the original funding is still missing
- Keith has a letter out to all of the corporations who contributed to his golf tournament about moving their donations over to the Mooney/McIntyre Fund

8. RLTAC Scoreboard

- Frank had a discussion with Keith McDermott and realized we are not using many of the capabilities of the new \$350,000 scoreboard; the screen can be divided so as to display multiple items simultaneously;
- we could display the dash heats quicker and also sell advertisements on the screen – both corporate and personal (ex: kids wishing teammates a Happy Birthday)
- Frank suggested taking one of the three Lynx operators at our meets and having them operate the scoreboard;
- Rick, Kent and Jayson will look to learn the scoreboard's features prior to next winter

9. RLTAC Emergency Plans

- Frank is concerned the MSTCA is still not fully prepared for an emergency at RLTAC
- Coaches became complacent when filling out their forms as the season progressed; the emergency action video which was created was unable to be shown on the scoreboard

prior to each meet; some announcers won't inform the public in regards to the emergency exits

- Frank believes we need to have 2 police officers who are ordered 4 – 5 months out; Tim stated the RCC is charging us for police officers but only providing us with veritas; Rick is going to speak with Boston PD #2 person more in depth; Rick informed the board that BPD is having trouble finding officers to work these OT shifts
- We are doing better than other states (as evidenced by out-of-state coaching comments made at NE Meet), but more work needs to be done.

10. Indoor Entry Fee Caps

- Scott distributed a sheet, as an example, encapsulating all of the entry fees Lowell had paid for participating in the 2018 Indoor season; he is concerned participation in MSTCA meets may turn into a rich/poor issue.
- Tim pointed out even with the high cost that the per kid cost is not high especially compared to other winter sports (gymnastics, ice hockey), and ADs should not balk at paying these fees when they pay so much for other sports; Joe would like to see this issue brought up at the AD convention

11. 2018 XC Schedule

- Jayson distributed the second drafts of the XC forms as he and Scott updated the board on the most recent XC Committee meeting;
- The two-day Twilight schedule is set; small schools on Friday night & large schools on Saturday night; the rotation for future years needs to be placed on the entry form; Jim is finalizing the permit for a two-day meet; CMass and WMass schools will have the option to swap days due to travel concerns; Jim and Rick are in discussion for a middle school race to open the Saturday slate.
- Mike reported the “Duck” Races will be moved up a week to September 15, 2018
- Frank Kelley will absorb the middle school Bay State Invy races and these races will be run after the championship races but before the small school slate
- Bay State is set for Northfield; the format will start with 3 races/gender but drop to 2 depending on entry numbers; Mike will forward a map of the new course which can be placed online
- Mooney Coaches will split both the boys and girls large school 11/12 races into Junior and Senior races to accommodate for the huge numbers

12. MIAA-Type Passes for MSTCA Meets

- multiple Athletic Directors came to Indoor meets to evaluate their coaches and felt their MIAA pass would allow them free entry; do we create MSTCA passes for this issue?
- trial this in 2018-19; have a sign-in sheet for ADs/Principals; they must show their school ID

13. CEO/Executive Director Evaluation

- Jim explained his special sub-committee has met and is continuing to discuss how to proceed in regards to the future leadership structure of the organization; the sub-committee will have more information ready to be shared at the June meeting.
- Lou stated the bylaws are in the process of being updated however the elections for XB officers still needs to be held in June 2018

14. New Business

- Linda requested the establishment of a Western Mass Track Coaches Association (WMTCA) fund within the MSTCA's finances since the group didn't come together as initially envisioned. This will safeguard some already accumulated funds earmarked for Western Mass; Linda handed over a check for \$1,487.33 to Rick which accounts for all of the funds currently raised through dues, t-shirt sales, and bank interest
- Lou informed the board Bill Jennings is ill and retiring after 56 years of both coaching and service to the MSTCA; he would like to honor Bill with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2018 banquet; approved unanimously
- Tim proposed some type of reimbursement for the members who are serving on the three seasonal committees;
 - **Motion** (Linda): The MSTCA will provide detailed shirts for the committee members; second (Jim); passed unanimously
 - **Motion** (Charlie): The MSTCA will waive the New England Clinic fee for all committee members; second (Tim); passed unanimously
- Tim stated we are looking to offset the cost of the new office space in Canton through a series of races to be held at the Wrentham Development Center; the first race is set for 10/14/18; XB members should be prepared to volunteer some time at these races;
- Tim expressed concern that the MSTCA be prepared for possibility of losing the RLTA battle and no longer having access to the track; we need to begin to set aside money in our account; the issue is being sent to the FinCom for further discussion.
- Frank asked for permission to alter the Large School F/S schedule at Franklin HS due to the site's multiple finish lines; in this way, the cameras will only have to be moved once instead of three times; approved 19 – 1 (No: Tim—only because it's Paul)
- Frank explained how word had gotten back to him how hard Mark Thornhill was working to put on the clinic;
 - **Motion** (Charlie): Raise the stipend for New England Clinic Director to \$2,500; second (Rick); passed unanimously
 - Tim mentioned the clinic should be connected to the fundraising group in order to better offset the costs
- Rick informed the board that Andover can no longer host the Outdoor D1 Relays as the district added that Saturday to the school calendar to help make up days lost due to inclement weather; a new site is needed
- Scott reported from the MIAA meeting that the Indoor trophies will be redistributed with the appropriate size since they are State titles and not Sectional titles;

15. Jim adjourned the meeting at 10:26; second (multiple)