

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

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WINTER MEETING

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TUESDAY
DECEMBER 14, 2021

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The D.C. State Athletic Commission met via Zoom at 6:06 p.m. EST, Rosalyn Overstreet-Gonzalez, Chairperson, presiding.

PRESENT

ROSALYN OVERSTREET-GONZALEZ, Chairperson
MIKE BRYANT, Commissioner, Unconfirmed
LARRY CARROLL, Commissioner
TERRENCE LYNCH, Commissioner
KEVIN WILLS, Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT

KENNETH OWENS, Executive Director, DCSAA
DAVID MARTINEZ, General Counsel, DCSAA
EVELYN LIGHTFOOT, DCSAA
DESMOND STEWART, DCSAA
DEVON WADE

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Overstreet-Gonzales called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

ASCERTAINMENT OF QUORUM: The Chairperson determined that there was a quorum of three of the five members of the Commission. Commissioner Mike Bryant's swearing in is pending.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 13, 2021: The approval of minutes from July 13, 2021 has been tabled.

DIRECTORS UPDATE: Director Kenneth Owens gave the report.

In the DCSAA Winter Championships, Maret won football, Sidwell Friends won girls' soccer, St. Albans won boys' soccer, Woodrow Wilson won volleyball, and St. John's won both boys' and girls' cross country. The fall season was difficult as student athletes had to wear masks and were required to be vaccinated. Student athletes are required to be vaccinated by September 1 unless they meet an exemption. Student athletes are able to participate indoors without masks as long as they are on the court.

The football championship was held at Georgetown University. We moved the volleyball championship from Trinity University to Sidwell Friends. DCSAA saw great attendance numbers at all of the championship games, and plans to add swimming and wrestling to the calendar this winter.

Commissioner Lynch expressed his appreciation with how far athletics have come together to compete in the city. Director Owens mentioned that at the first cross country meet DCSAA held there were 28 athletes participating, and that has grown to over 700 athletes this year.

Chairperson Overstreet-Gonzales asked what percentages of student athletes are vaccinated. Director Owens brought up that a majority of students are required to be vaccinated to attend school unless they meet the exemption. Mr. Bryant mentioned that students are currently at 64 percent vaccinated and that DCSAA expects that number to grow further into the winter sports season.

Two years ago DCSAA generated \$52,000 through events and sponsorships, and will reinvest the money back into programs. Some of that money will help pilot new championships this year. DCSAA has asked DC Council for an additional \$73,000 for FY '23. Out of the additional funding requested, \$23,000 will go to supporting operational costs with \$50,000 allocated towards implementation of the new sports. DCSAA has one vacancy and has hired on Desmond Stewart full time.

Chairperson Overstreet-Gonzales asked Director Owens what Mr. Stewart's title is and what vacancy does DCSAA have. Mr. Stewart is DCSAA's Sports Coordinator, and the vacancy would be for Director Owens' position. DC Council originally asked DCSAA to cut \$30,000 from their operational costs; however, after a discussion they will be funded in full for Fiscal Year 2023.

NEW COMMISSIONERS/REAPPOINTMENT UPDATES: Chairperson Overstreet-Gonzales spoke with a member of the Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA) three weeks ago who told her that she should be reappointed in January by DC Council after a hearing and a vote. She will continue operating as there is a six month grace period. Several members have left the Commission. DCSAA expects Mike Bryant to be sworn in soon.

Director Owens updated the Commission that DC Council has a private school parent and a charter school parent that they are hoping to confirm in January. Commissioner Lynch offered a resolution of appreciation for members who have termed out.

APPEALS PANEL CALENDAR AND TEMPLATES: Chairperson Overstreet-Gonzales asked for DCSAA to create a calendar for the appeals panels so commissioners know their places on the schedule. There is a script that the presiding official reads from. Additionally there is a template for issuing decisions which can just be filled in. Director Owens talked about how the DCSAA staff will work on a way to implement this. Commissioner Lynch mentioned that MOTA/the Commission should help educate new board members on their full responsibilities. Commissioner Carroll would also like to see a template to help the appeals process along.

Mr. Bryant talked about how the waivers may slow down now that school has passed the first term. It will also be more difficult for student athletes to lean on COVID for a waiver. Mr. Martinez, the General Counsel, reported that there has been an uptick in "COVID waivers;" however, DCSAA's position is still that there is no COVID waiver available.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR: Commissioner Lynch asked Director Owens whether DCSAA can start a boys' volleyball program. Additionally, he would like to see an expansion of ultimate frisbee to become a co-ed sport. Commissioner Wills asked how many schools in DCSAA outside of the DCPS schools are involved in the bowling league. Director Owens reported that he is unaware of any charter or private schools that have bowling. DCSAA will look into the possibility of expanding the bowling program to become co-ed. The next DCSAA meeting will be held in March 2022. Commissioner Carroll asked where he could find a schedule of all of the sporting events. Director Owens mentioned he would send the Commissioners a schedule of all the events, which can also be found on the DCSAA website.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission Winter Meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.