

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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FALL MEETING

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020

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The D.C. State Athletic Commission met via Zoom (due to COVID-19 and the ensuing public health emergency), at 6:01 p.m., Rosalyn Overstreet-Gonzalez, Chairperson, presiding.

PRESENT

ROSALYN OVERSTREET-GONZALEZ, Chairperson

KAREN CURRY, Commissioner

DWAYNE FOSTER, Commissioner

MICHAEL HUNTER, Commissioner

LARRY CARROLL, Commissioner

TERRY LYNCH, Commissioner

KEVIN WILLS, Commissioner

TIA BRUMSTED, Ex-Officio

ALSO PRESENT

CLARK RAY, Executive Director, DCSAA

SITO NARCISSE, DCPS

KENNY OWENS, DCSAA

SHELBY SWANN, DCSAA

DAVID MARTINEZ, DCSAA

DESMOND STEWART, DCSAA

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

ASCERTAINMENT OF QUORUM: The Chairperson determined that there was a quorum.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 21, 2020: The Chairperson entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of the July 21, 2020 Summer Meeting of the Commission. Upon a motion duly seconded, the Minutes of the Summer Meeting were unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Director Clark Ray gave the report.

Director Ray presented an overview of the budget mark for FY 2022 and amendments to the FY 2021 budget. The Budget Office has asked the agency to identify an additional \$55,725 in cuts for FY21 out of a budget of \$1,185,643, resulting in approximately a 4.7 percent reduction. They have also asked the agency to cut an additional \$71,139 from the FY22 budget, which will make the budget mark \$1,114,504, a 6 percent reduction across the board. Finance Program Analyst Alan Lord is currently working with the Budget Office to identify areas for reduction.

Commissioner Lynch asked whether other agencies were asked to make similar reductions and whether the staff could identify alternative income sources. Director Ray said that he assumed that most District offices were asked to make similar cuts. DCSAA recently signed a contract with TPG to solicit sponsorships, and they have done well for the agency so far.

The staff put together a reengagement plan, which the D.C. Department of Health (DOH) found to be within the guidelines for the current phase of reopening. Under the plan, coaches and student athletes are permitted to work together in non-contact voluntary skill development drills. Schools were permitted to begin reengagement starting September 1st, but it was left up to each individual LEA or member school to determine when and if they will begin reengagement. The staff has also developed a return to practice plan which states that practice will start for winter sports, i.e. basketball and indoor track, on December 13th. The document was written to reflect the current Phase 2 reopening and is pending review by DOH.

Director Ray gave some context for athletics in states surrounding the District. Maryland has decided that athletics may resume but has left it to each district to decide whether to reengage. The state's current scenario involves three five-week seasons beginning in February of 2021, with schools allowed to have athletic teams participate if their students are in a virtual learning mode. Virginia will begin practice for winter sports on December 6th, and they will also allow students in virtual learning to participate in competitions. Director Ray noted that parochial and private schools in D.C. are members of conferences that include Maryland and Virginia and that may influence their decisions around reengagement. The past few months have also highlighted the socioeconomic divide in athletics; athletics have continued to take place around

the D.C./Maryland/Virginia (DMV) area, and student athletes who can pay to play have still been able to do so during the pandemic.

During a recent virtual town hall meeting with parents and school personnel, Dr. Vin Gupta noted that student athletes are not being tested unless they become symptomatic or they are identified through contact tracing. Director Ray commented that until a vaccine is approved, there will be risks associated with all athletics, and ultimately it is the decision of parents and caregivers to take the risk of having their children participate. Commissioner Brumsted added that the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE's) most recent health and safety guidance from August 21st requires all schools to cancel athletic events. Even as schools move towards future iterations of the guidance which allow for increased athletics, immunizations will continue to be very important. Director Ray added that the discrepancy between policies that apply to D.C. public and charter schools and policies that apply to private schools could have serious implications.

NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Commissioner Lynch asked whether there were any upcoming vacancies at the agency or changes in Commission membership. Director Ray said that he was not aware of any vacancies, although some Commission terms might expire at the end of the current fiscal year.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion duly seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the Fall Meeting at 6:35 p.m.