



Education and Leadership for a Lifetime

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February 10, 2021

Dear Superintendent/President/Head of School,

This letter provides notice to you and your Minnesota State High School League Member School, that a member school vote regarding a Proposed Constitutional Amendment is scheduled to be held electronically from February 22, 2021 through March 5, 2021. The member school vote will be conducted online via the MSHSL website. Specific voting information including the voting web link and ballot security code will be mailed to member schools on Thursday, February 18, 2021.

Background

On Thursday, February 4, 2021, the MSHSL Board of Directors unanimously approved a resolution directing that the Proposed Constitutional Amendment to Section 211.01 of the MSHSL Constitution be submitted for adoption by vote of member schools. A copy of the proposed amendment is included as an enclosure in this mailing.

The proposed amendment will add two members to the Board of Directors to be appointed by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators along with technical changes to existing language.

The MSHSL Board of Directors approved the following resolution which defines the voting process for the Proposed Constitutional Amendment:

The MSHSL staff is directed to conduct a mail (email) ballot vote on the proposed constitutional amendment. The Board finds that for purposes of Section 214.00 and other sections of the constitution, "mail" includes but is not limited to "email." Each member school is entitled to one vote, which may be endorsed by one or both of the designated school representatives. The voting shall take place over a two-week period commencing on February 22 and continuing through March 5. This period may be extended if in the judgment of the Executive Director and President of the Board of Directors, additional time is needed to ensure member schools have a reasonable opportunity to vote.

Process and Timeline for Member School Voting

February 10 – Member School mailing and emails sent to Superintendent/President/Head of School informing member schools of the pending member school vote, outlining the voting process and distributing the MSHSL Proposed Constitutional Amendment Section 211.01 and sample ballot. Copies of the email will also be sent to the Activities Administrator at each member school.

February 18 – Member School mailing sent to Superintendent/President/Head of School including the link for member school voting, the school specific ballot security code, and a copy of the official ballot and voting directions.

February 22 – The voting portal opens at 8:00 am CST for designated school representatives or their duly designated alternate to submit the member school vote.

March 5 – The voting portal will close at 5:00 pm CST, unless the Executive Director and President of the Board of Directors extend the voting time period per the adopted resolution.

Please prepare for the initiation of this voting process. The MSHSL Board of Directors strongly encourages all member schools to take part in the vote on this proposed amendment. The MSHSL Constitution has a 75% quorum requirement, and as a result, every vote counts.

This notice provides you with the opportunity to inform and involve your school's governing board, administrative team members, or other primary decision-makers within your school or district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erich Martens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "E".

Erich Martens
Executive Director, Minnesota State High School League

Enclosures: Proposed Constitutional Amendment Section 211.01
Sample Ballot



2020-2021

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

February 4, 2021: The Board of Directors adopted a resolution proposing the following MSHSL Constitutional Amendment, directing that it be adopted at a meeting of the member schools, or when considered necessary, by taking a mail vote of member schools.

211.00 BOARD OF DIRECTORS (pages 134-135 of 2020-2021 MSHSL Official Handbook)

211.01 Election, Terms, Vacancies

1. The management of the affairs of the Minnesota State High School League shall be vested in a Board of Directors as follows: as outlined under Section 45 of Chapter 718, Minnesota Laws 1988.

~~"The Commissioner of Education, or the Commissioner's representative, shall be an ex officio nonvoting member of the governing body of the Minnesota State High School League. The governing board must include the following members: four members of the public, at least one of whom must be an American Indian, Asian, Black, or Hispanic, and all of whom must be parents, appointed by the Governor under section 15.0597; two members of the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals selected by the Association; and 14 members selected according to League bylaws."~~

~~The fourteen (14) members of the Board, selected according to League bylaws, shall be:~~

- A. Four ~~(4)~~ designated school representatives elected from the Class "A" regions - one from Regions 1-2; one from Regions 3-4; one from Regions 5-6; and one from Regions 7-8 for a term of four ~~(4)~~ years.
- B. Four ~~(4)~~ designated school representatives elected from the Class "AA" regions - one from Regions 1-2; one from Regions 3-4; one from Regions 5-6; and one from Regions 7-8 for a term of four ~~(4)~~ years.
- C. Two representatives appointed by the Board of Directors of the Minnesota State School Boards Association.
- D. Two representatives appointed by the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals.
- E. Two representatives appointed by the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators.

****note: Former paragraph D has been renumbered to "F."**

- F. Four ~~(4)~~ activity representatives will be elected for a term of four ~~(4)~~ years. One representative will be elected to represent:
 - (1) Boys' Sports
 - (2) Girls' Sports
 - (3) Music
 - (4) Speech

Each of the activity representatives must be from a member school and have been designated by the governing board of that school as its activity representative.

- ~~E. If the Board does not include a representative of one sex, a representative of that sex shall be appointed by the Board. Eligible appointees are individuals who are eligible to be designated school representatives. The minority representative, formerly appointed by the State Board of Education, is now included in the Legislation and shall be a parent appointed by the Governor.~~

- G. **Four members of the public appointed by the Governor pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 128C.01.**

2. The Regions shall elect their Directors in accordance with the following schedule:

Class "A"

- Director representing Area 3 (Regions 5-6) - 2021
- Director representing Area 4 (Regions 7-8) - 2022
- Director representing Area 1 (Regions 1-2) - 2023
- Director representing Area 2 (Regions 3-4) - 2024

Class "AA"

Director representing Area 1 (Regions 1-2) - 2021

Director representing Area 2 (Regions 3-4) - 2022

Director representing Area 3 (Regions 5-6) - 2023

Director representing Area 4 (Regions 7-8) - 2024

Once the initial election rotation has been established, election shall occur every four (4) years as the director vacancy occurs.

The same schedules shall be continued each year.

3. Method of Election

A. Region Directors

- (1) A director shall be elected every fourth year by the member schools of the area (combined regions assigned by the Board of Directors for governance and representation purposes). The election shall be conducted between March 1 and May 1. Every member school has two (2) votes to be cast by the designated school representatives.
- (2) Each member school may nominate one candidate. The candidate shall be an individual who is eligible to be a designated school representative.
- (3) The region committees of the area (combined regions) shall establish an election committee, establish election procedures, and conduct the election.

****note: This section has been reorganized for clarity but is not changed.

B. Activity Representatives

(1) The Executive Board of each of the four (4) activity associations shall select a slate of candidates, establish election procedures, and conduct the election. Only designated activity representatives of member schools are eligible for election. The Associations include:

(1). Boys' Sports - combination of Minnesota State High School Coaches Association and Minnesota Interscholastic Activities Administrators Association;

(2). Girls' Sports - Minnesota State High School Coaches Association for Girls' Sports;

(3). Music - Minnesota Music Educators Association; and

(4). Speech - Speech Activities Association

- (2) Elected by the designated activity representatives of the member schools in each activity area between March 1 and May 1 every fourth year as follows:
 - (a) Boys' Sports and Music in 2023;
 - (b) Girls' Sports and Speech in 2024.

4. In the event that a vacancy occurs during the term of a director from any of the areas (combination of regions), a successor shall be appointed by the combined region committees. The new director shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

In the event that a vacancy occurs during the term of an activity representative, a successor shall be appointed by the executive board of that activity association. The new representative shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

5. A director who has served one (1) full four-year term on the Board shall be ineligible for any subsequent election or appointment to the Board.
6. The term of office of each member of the Board of Directors shall begin on August 1 following their **appointment or** election.
7. Directors shall not hold any other office in the Minnesota State High School League.

8. The appointments made by MASA and MASSSP pursuant to paragraphs D and E above shall rotate between a representative from a "Class A" Region and a "Class AA Region".

9. The initial terms of the MASA members commencing in 2021 shall be for 4 and 2 years respectively. Thereafter, each term shall be four years.