

Athletics & Activities Committee Meeting Minutes – August 26th, 2014

Start Time: 6:30pm

End Time: 8:18pm

Committee/Board Members in Attendance: David Hommrich, Neely Crowell, Raeann Lindsey, Rob Brownlee

Staff in Attendance: Scott Hagy, Mark Elphinstone

Public Comment: Kathleen Trehy, Karen Cimino, Lori Oleksak- Boys' Soccer ticket sales
Rusty Phillippi, Denny Fuga- Sports Budget

Discussion Topics:

- Fall sports update from Mr. Elphinstone. 154 athletes in middle school sports. 175 in high school sports. Good depth in all programs, with no danger of not fielding a team. New numbers coming in as new students enter the district. Numbers do not include cheer squad, which is covered under Activities
- Coaching changes. Girl's basketball (Head Coach Rich Griffin, Asst. Paul Palaschak and Maria Costanza). Cross Country (Asst. Coach Sarah Harden), Middle School Soccer (Head Coach Keith Buckley and still an open position). Boys Varsity Basketball coach has been selected, subject to approval by school board this Thursday.
- Discussed the way we'd like to handle athletics budgeting going forward. The plan is to have the budget for fall sports ready for board review in January, and Spring / Summer sports available by June.
- Mr. Elphinstone emphasized the importance of a steady program of replacement for items that wear (e.g. football helmets) rather than large costs coming all at once.
- Mr. Elphinstone also express concern with the quality of certain items (e.g. agility rings) that are breaking prematurely. The committee members emphasized that the board does not want to specify brands of equipment, and that our focus is on having a competitive bidding process. In other words, if the quality of what is being specified is a problem, then we should specify another brand. But the board still insists on competitive bidding to make sure we get the most possible value from our budget.
- Century Sports is a favorite because of their service. It also appears that they were the low bidder on many items in the recent bidding process. The board appreciates the service aspect of whoever provides our athletics gear, but still must insist that we follow a competitive bidding process.
- Mr. Elphinstone reported that grounds-keeping is at an all-time low. Grass needs cutting, fields need tending to. The district is starting to look shabby and it reflects poorly on all of us. The board members in attendance agreed, and this matter has been addressed with Dr. Stropkaj. We expect immediate action to be taken to rectify the situation.
- Mr. Elphinstone also reported that the football field and the high school and middle school gyms are in urgent need of repair. Apparently the providers of the turf product think they can get us a more aggressive price than what we have seen in the past. Regarding the gym floors, it costs approximately \$30,000 to have them resurfaced and striped. This typically lasts 5 years
- The committee would like to see the district create capital accounts for long term replacement issues like the field and the gym floors. Ideally, we would save enough that we can pay for these

predictable repair items when their time comes due. Will discuss with Matt Cesario and with Eric Brandenburg.

- Tennis courts are routinely damaged by some kind of hydraulic problem on that side of the property. Resurfacing the tennis courts costs \$4,000 each time, and they are already cracking (even though it was done only two years ago).
- High school softball field does not have dugouts. Girls' softball team must sit in the rain and in the heat. Also a safety issue.
- The attendees agreed that we need to achieve parity for all sports (girls and boys). No excuse for there to be no dugouts, when the boy's baseball team has them.
- Parents of several of the boys' soccer players came to discuss not charging for attendance at boys' soccer (as a way to get more attendees). Season passes were discussed as a way to keep the cost down for parents.....those in attendance had no idea these existed. Need to make more parents aware of season passes and the value they bring.
- The board will immediately discuss implementing necessary changes to ensure Title 9 compliance, and general level the playing field between girls and boys sports.
- We need to do a better job marketing our sports. Would like to have our new communications director help, with direction from coaches.
- Mr. Elphinstone asked that parents not go on the field when/if a student is injured. The trainers must be free to do their job, and the best outcome will be achieved when we allow them to do that.
- Mr. Elphinstone also asked that all parents respect the chain of command. If a parent has a complaint, first go to the coach. Expect a 24 hour turnaround. If they don't hear anything by then, they may feel free to contact Mr. Elphinstone directly. If no response there in 24 hours, then go to Mr. Hagy. If still no satisfaction, then Dr. Stropkaj. It is only fair to the coaches that they be given the opportunity to rectify a situation. Need to respect the chain of command.
- Mr. Hagy talked to us about activities, and said that it is pretty well managed currently.
- Told us about freshman rush, which is a time-tested way of engaging freshmen students in clubs in the district
- Talked about Adventurer's Club, and there was interest in seeing things like ski trips, etc..