

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING:**September, 2016****SUBJECT:****BHS 2016 Spring Activities Board Report****PRESENTER:****Nick Guida**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Report only

DESCRIPTION:

Buffalo High School successfully completed its spring activities this past June for the 2015-16 school year. Coaches and Advisors have completed a short narrative of their season for you to review. Thank you for supporting activities at BHS!

Softball – Brad Zrust

Last year was a pretty magical season for Buffalo Softball! Each year you set team goals hoping you can reach them. Last year we were able to attain some of these goals. Winning our section and going to state were two of them. Once there you want to have some success. Our girls having a taste of state last year were ready for some success. We started out by winning our first two games and making it to the state championship. Unfortunately we didn't win the game, losing 5-3. But we did come out of it knowing we played inspired ball and left everything we had on the field.

As a coach I was so proud of how these athletes performed on the field and how they conducted themselves off the field. It is a special group with great team leaders. Also I would like to thank the community for the support throughout the playoffs and after our last game. It was pretty special to have the firetrucks meet us in Montrose and escort us into and around town. To see the joy that this brought to these girls while this was happening is a memory I will not forget. It took a lot of the sting away from losing a state title game. Hopefully we can get back there and go one step farther.

Go Bison!

Adapted Softball - Ruth Clarke (12 years) and Dave Kaufmann (9 years)

This was a great year! The team really improved and we had a great season, We graduated 4 players last year which left some big holes to fill. We gained 3 new players. For the first time, we entered a tournament at Cooper High School before the season started, we played 3 games and won 2. It was a great way to get prepared to start the season, Kail Dornbusch pitched another great season and led us to 7 wins. The Bison finished with a 7-7 record. We ended the season with a playoff game against Minneapolis Adapted at Roosevelt High School. The team really improved as the season progressed with very exciting, competitive games. Our captain was senior Jared Peterson-Lomker for the third year. His love of the game, hard work and positive leadership really helped to encourage the team and keep them focused. Our goal has always been

to keep improving, not only in the number of wins but as individuals. We stress improving skills and playing together as a team. We see great potential in our team. This year, James Madden received All-Conference and Jared Peterson-Lomker and Amanda Aberle received All-Conference Honorable Mention.

GLAX - Megan Scherer (1st year)

This season was a fresh start for the Girls Lacrosse program and couldn't have been possible without the support of the parents, athletes, my Assistant Coach Aaron Johnson, as well as Nick Guida and Tom Bauman. Many girls were unsure of what to expect, but they came in with open minds and were excited to get the season going. The girls and I learned a lot from each other. Because of this, we were able to grow together as a team as well as a program. We relied on the experience of our 5 seniors and 2 juniors to help lead the younger sophomores (4) and freshmen (9). Many of the players were asked to play different positions with different people. Everyone was eager to do what they could to help the team.

We ended 8-3 in the conference (tied for first) and 8-4 overall. Our team was awarded 5 All Conference Awards, (Jordan Thompson, Aimee Swanson, Gabby Coudron, Erica O'Borsky, Claire Stevens) and 4 Honorable Mention Awards (Callie Stumpfl, Jilli Hovland, Danika Tweten, Hannah Anderson). We made many strides during the season and hope to build off of them in the upcoming year!

Track and Field - Scott Palmer (21 years)

Overall, the 2016 BHS track program recorded ten all time Buffalo top ten performances, two school records (100 and 200 meter wheel chair) and one state champion Jayson Gorton who also set a state record in the 100 and 200 meter wheel chair race. In a tough Mississippi 8 conference meet, the girls improved on their 2015 tenth place finish to finish in 8th place, 1 point out of seventh. At the Section 2AA meet the girls finished in 10th place, crowning Rachel Bertram Section Champion in the pole vault and sending her to the state meet. The boys on the other hand, finished 4th at the Mississippi 8 conference meet, two points out of 3rd. The boys finished in 8th place at the Section 2AA meet sending many to the state meet - Jayson Gorton in two events 100 and 200 meter wheel chair, the boys 4x800 meter relay team of Jake Kluver, Henry Lemp, Lucas Smith and Isaac Basten, and Jordan Thielman in the Discus. The Bison boys and girls teams both achieved state gold status academically with many academic all state individuals.

Girls Golf - Debi Warpula, 1st year, Eric Fridell, 1st year

The excitement of facing a new challenge and pre-season preparation meetings had me on the edge of my seat heading into the season. I was confident because the mentor walking beside me was Durand Onell. He and I saw more than golf eye to eye and we were both heading into the season with great anticipation.

The first day of practice was spent writing notes to his family as we did what we could to encourage them in their loss. If our loss as a golf team was as great as it was, we could only imagine what theirs was. We processed this as best as we could being available for both the

boys and the girls teams to talk to Coach Charley and myself. This report would not be complete without the beginning of our season.

Some principles that I worked on this season were; out-preparing your opponent, positive attitudes no matter the circumstances, being a team of integrity, fostering a culture of unity for all players regardless of level of ability, being their best at home, in the classroom and on the course always took a backseat to the previous two. Golf is a sport that is so mental that if anything is "off" they most likely would not be able to perform to their potential. So we cleaned up distractions by having set aside homework time in our week of practice. With that said, I am proud to say the girls had a collective GPA of 3.77 this season!

Our first event was the Monticello Invite and in the blistery conditions, the girls ended up winning the first event of the season. The strong work ethic of the team had them enjoying more wins than defeats as the season went on carrying on the traditions of a winning golf program. Our first conference match defeat in years happened at the end of April, and I could not have been happier. Strange for a coach to say, but the pressure was released and they were able to get back to golf and having fun.

Our scores steadily improved over the weeks with our low team total at home at Wild Marsh of 316! The team managed to stay ranked at 4th in state throughout the season. With a conference match called short by only 2 holes due to storms, we regained that title since we had won the Mid-tournament. The girls also held on as Sections Champs sending all 6 members of the varsity team to State! The girls overcame more than written words can fully express and ended up placing 6th overall at State which was a wonderful end to a year full of learning and growth for all. With all 6 returning next year we are all looking forward to 2017!

Baseball - Coach Mike Beilke (13 years)

The Bison had a regular season record of 9-11. We started slow going 2-8 the first half but improved by going 7-3 in the second half. We finished the Mississippi 8 Conference with a 7-6 record which was good enough for a 3rd place finish. We lost two close playoff games. The first loss was to #2-rated Maple Grove 6-2, and the second loss was to top-20 rated Moorhead 6-3. We graduated ten players of which five are planning on playing college baseball. Our team received the Academic Gold Award. Our captains were Luke Merz and David Watermillier. Players receiving All-Conference Honors were Luke Merz, Isaac Noble, Josh Fussy, and Mitch Gabrelcik. Honorable Mention All-Conference award winners were Josh Munoz, Eathan Soeffker, and Hunter Brings. Eathan Soeffker was selected to the All-Section Team. We lost a number of good players to graduation but we have a field of very talented players returning. At this time, we are excited about where our program is. The players are very excited about moving to the high school to play on the new field next spring!!!

BLAX - Joey Hartfiel

The season itself was successful and a bit tumultuous.

With a 9-4 record, it was a winning season. The student athletes partaking in lacrosse this year, developed their skills and were able to take what they learned on the practice field, and excel on the game field. Towards the end of the year, it was challenging to keep the team focused on lacrosse due to certain situations that arose. However, when it mattered most, the team rose to the occasion and was able to focus on lacrosse.

If anything is to be taken from this season, it would be that now, more than ever, the field is an extension of the classroom, and is used to educate young minds preparing them for the future. While the season is to focus on skills and gameplay in the sport of lacrosse, the opportunity to deal with adversity as a team was even more important. The loss of teammates due to circumstances and the questions and controversy surrounding the program allowed these young men to mature. They learned that in life, there are situations they will not have control of, but that life does go on. However, what they do have control of, is the effort and quality of work in the classroom and on the lacrosse field, and that in the end, knowing you put in that quality effort, no matter the outcome, is what truly matters.

We did receive additional recognition at the conference and section levels as far as individual awards this year. Perhaps the most noteworthy moment was our regular season victory over STMA which gave the team a lot of confidence to finish out the season.

The boys lacrosse program will continue to be successful due to the youth on the team, and if positive supportive direction and education is provided by its coaches, parents and staff.

Boys Golf - Charley Keifenheim

Sport took a backseat to human relations in our 2016 season. We began our season with the tragic loss of our coach, teacher, and friend, Durand ONell. All of us on the golf team were eagerly anticipating Durand taking over as head coach. He seemed like the perfect fit with his experience, his knowledge of the game, and his passion for working with kids. As it transpired, all we could do was to try and honor him with our work ethic and sportsmanship. The boys team was led by senior Ben Zitur, and juniors Tom Russett, and Luc Persson. These young men had a great season. They finished a very competitive conference season behind STMA and played their best golf of the year in the Section 8 tournament held in Sauk Center. This year we had good depth of scoring in the line-up as freshmen River Goodmanson, Nate Persson, and 8th grader Walter Ylitalo took turns scoring low for the team. We are looking forward to a strong team next year with so many returning varsity players. Thank you for an opportunity to enjoy this fun sport through BHS.

Boys Tennis - Ben Watkins

After graduating seven all-conference seniors, the 2016 boys tennis team was short on experience entering the season. The expected difficulties of playing against experienced players produced a lot of resilience and character in this team and I was proud of the effort and attitude that we displayed throughout the season. The team did an incredible job of bonding together and as I look through the roster, every single player improved immensely throughout the course of the season. We finished 5th in the conference with a 5-4 conference record and our highlight matches were against Cambridge and Rogers, whom we beat 4-3 each in close matches that were

great tests of character and will. Both of those matches were decided by different student-athletes who stepped up at the right time.

Senior Captain Eric Olson was named to the first time all-conference team, and senior Tom Fredrickson, juniors Grant Wykle, and Cade Stensby, and sophomores Nick Immel and Noah Steinmetz were all named honorable mention all-conference. Senior Hunter Hartke was voted as our Most Improved Player, Grant Wykle was voted as our Most Valuable Player, and Eric Olson won the Bison Award for his leadership and dedication.

As for academics, this team was amazing. We matched our average team GPA of 3.91 from last season, which placed us in the Academic All-State Gold division. Tom Fredrickson, Hunter Hartke, and Chase Schottler were all named academic all-state and were joined on the academic all-conference team by Peter Deneen, Stone Goodmanson, Nick Immel, and Grant Wykle.

If we measured the season in wins and losses, it would have been a disappointing year. However, there are definitely some bright spots coming up. Over 65% of our team wins from this year are from returning players (compared to less than 10% last year) and our JV team were undefeated conference champs with many players who got some varsity experience this year. We also have developed a nice summer youth program that is getting players started early with tennis and sticking with it.

Buffalo FFA – Gary Wirkus (2nd year)

The Buffalo FFA had a memorable year. Our chapter had 40 students compete at the State FFA convention in various Career Development Events in April. Maggie Socha placed 1st in the Prepared Public Speaking contest and will be competing at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis in October. Zara Wirkus was also selected as a member of the National FFA Choir this year. Andrew Socha and Morgan Krause will also join an elite group of FFA members as they each will receive their American FFA degrees this fall at the National FFA convention. On the State level, Shelby Campbell earned her State FFA degree this spring.

Along with these accomplishments, Buffalo FFA students were very busy this summer showing animals at the county and state fair and assisting with the new Agriculture Education Center at the Wright County fair which was a huge success. The Buffalo FFA members also had another successful landscape build at the Minnesota State Fair where they placed 2nd in the state of Minnesota. We are very proud of our accomplishments this past year!

KNOWLEDGE BOWL - Coach Lacy Schramm (4th year coaching at BHM, 10+ overall)
Part-time Assistant Coach Tracy Johnson (3rd year), Part-time Assistant Coach Durand Onell (1st year)

2016 will be remembered as the year we had Coach Onell. After coaching against him for several seasons, I asked if he would apply for the Spanish position at Buffalo. He did, and I am so grateful that he came to work at Buffalo. I am so thankful that the Buffalo Knowledge Bowl team was able to work with Durand from November until the middle of March.

Buffalo KB is Growing - Record numbers of students were another highlight and challenge for the year. This year we were able to play 9 teams at most regular season meets instead of 7. However, this means that the program may need an additional full-time assistant coach. We made it work with a rotating practice schedule. My assistant coaches split the contract and worked on an every-other day basis and meet schedule. Going into the future we will need to address the numbers concern, but turning away Knowledge Bowl students is difficult.

To help foster leadership and relationships, we once again visited the local middle school Knowledge Bowl programs as a mentorship opportunity. During our practices, we set up an observation program that allowed students to observe other teams, take notes and reflect on their performance to improve play. Over the season it was rewarding to watch leaders develop and witness team dynamics change.

As the season progressed, it was evident that the Buffalo teams were among the strongest in Region 7. However, the competition in our region also grew, making this season more challenging. We did take back the Conference Championship Title and many other trophies this season.

The Knowledge Bowl State Competition was in April. It was an eventful journey up to Cragun's Resort, with many BHS KB traditions checked off our lists: breakfast at Nelson Brothers', bowling, a Nerf war, banquet, and more. As a coach, it was wonderful to watch everyone have so much fun together. The hard work had already been done, so it was time to play. In the end Varsity 1 took fourth place at the state meet.

The strength and reputation of our team speaks to the strength of the BHM school district and Region 7 Knowledge Bowl. It speaks to the strength of our academic programs and support from the community. **Knowledge Bowl is much more than an academic competition.** I'm often asked, "Why do you coach KB and give up your Saturdays," by acquaintances. Sure, KB is fun and I enjoy the program, but it has more meaning than that. I coach Knowledge Bowl because the future engineers, mathematicians, scientists, professors and doctors on my Knowledge Bowl team need to be kind and work well with others to solve society's biggest issues. You may not understand the impact of your Knowledge Bowl experience for years. **Knowledge Bowl builds skills that will last a lifetime.**

Main Concern:

The 2015-16 team consisted of 41 student in grades 9-12, up from 31 last year and 26 in 2014. These students were divided into 9 teams, 4 Varsity and 5 JV, for practice and competition. This made running practice difficult, since we were only allowed 2 coaches. Some creative scheduling allowed us to cycle in all 9 teams for practice, but it was not ideal. Meets require one coach per three teams, so we were often relying on volunteers at other schools.

State Team placed 4th at State:

Sam Hamann 12

Sophie Lefebvre 11

Jacob Nosbush 12

Travis Wolden 11

Abbie Kunze 12 (alternate)

Mississippi 8 Conference Champions

Sam Hamann 12

Sophie Lefebvre 11

Jacob Nosbush 12

Travis Wolden 11

Spring Theatre Production April 2016: A Midsummer Night's Dream - Debb Bestland

This spring I was asked if I was interested in again directing the play. I agreed and suggested we ask Amy Sparks to co-direct with me in order to work in new and younger staff in coaching the plays. We also used this approach with Dave Kilgore and Greg Bestland co-sharing the technical position. The show was held April 21-23. Tickets were \$5 and \$3. We began with a very small budget due to the fall musical expenses. We were able to use what we had and borrowed from Annandale high school, renting and buying only things not covered as well as consumables such as makeup supplies. We were able to complete the show under our \$1500 budget. We strongly urge that in the future the play budget is divided. Musicals are costly to produce, no matter how well it is planned, so we suggest the theatre budget goes. 2/3 to musical, 1/3 to play.

We decided to do a Shakespeare play in order to help bring a challenge to the students. The set was designed by Deb Bestland and costumes were designed by Amy Sparks. Makeup was creatively designed for our fairies by students. Rehearsals took a physical theatre approach with a focus on the body and its connection to character development. In addition to our normal student leadership positions, we added student leadership in the form of a house manager. This position was suggested last fall and we found it to be a great asset to the running of the show. We had 29 student actors and approximately 25 student technicians. We had a significant number of new students involved in this production. Parent help was also given.

Student Sound: Ty Van Pelt

Student Lights: Kyra Nygard

Student Stage manager: Belle Wanke

Student House Manager: Grace Happe

Tracy Hagstrom Durant planned and managed the intermission concessions.

Mock Trial - Jason Swanson

In honor of Mock Trial's 30th year of competition, the season's case was the Hamm kidnapping in St. Paul during the 1930s. Like cases in the past that have taken place in other decades, students were able to learn a lot regarding themes and social issues that were present at the time.

The season started out strong. The Varsity team finished first out of 23 teams at their first weekend competition in St. Cloud. The second competition in Lakeville ended prematurely due to the fact that it was taking place the same evening as the tragic death of two of their students in an auto accident. Varsity finished 3rd out of 35 teams at the third weekend competition in Apple Valley.

Buffalo hosted the Mississippi 8 competition this season and finished second, losing to STMA by 5 points. That left the Regional Competition, which is the main competition that students and coaches work toward all season. Varsity and JV beat the competition in our region, and in the end it came down to Buffalo Varsity facing off against Watertown-Mayer. In an extremely intense trial, both teams ended in a tie. Watertown-Mayer ended up winning the tie breaker point. Of the 10 Varsity members, we said goodbye to 2 seniors at the end of the season. With 8 returning varsity members this year, we are looking forward to another strong season.

Music - Summer Follow Up

The following students were selected to perform in the All-State Bands this summer: Naomi Curran, Peter Deneen, Matt Fenton, Zane Jovanovich, Joey Patterson, Mallory Rabehl, and Jonah Schmitz.

We also had many BHS students perform with the MN Music Ambassadors throughout Europe this summer. And, we had about 20 students perform at the Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner's State Convention.

We had 4 students selected to perform in All-State Choirs this summer: Faith Kulzer, Jack Soden, Katie Swartzner and Allie Swearingen. They spent the first week in August on the St. John's University campus working with nationally recognized conductors.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Spring Activities Participation Report