

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

May 8, 2017

Subject:

BCMS Winter Activities
Report – 2016-17

Presenter:

**John Hayden,
BCMS Asst. Principal/
Activities Director**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Information

DESCRIPTION:

After a busy fall, winter seems to be a little calmer. The Activities Department at a middle school is different from the one at a high school in the winter. We only have three sports going on in the winter - one girls sport and two boys sports. In order to continue to offer opportunities, we add a number of intramural activities and a lot of academic, artistic and musical activities. It was great to see our kids taking advantage of the opportunities provided.

Girls basketball saw the numbers go up to where they were two years ago. Thirty-five seventh grade basketball players is a very solid number. We are able to develop enough girls to allow for quality depth with that number on the A team. We are also able to provide a positive experience for many who are just trying the sport with this many. While our 8th grade numbers were down a bit, it was still a positive number and allowed us to have two competitive teams at that level. We returned the veteran coaches to work with this group. Barry Johnson, Amiee Mooney, Dave Holler and Joel Gilmer do an outstanding job running this program. All four understand what we are trying to do with our activities program and complement each other very well. One issue we had was moving 8th grade girls up to the high school. We do have a policy in place to address this and the high school does a great job of working with us. However, sometimes things don't always work as planned. Our coaches worked through it with their kids and did a great job of making kids feel good about everything.

Boys basketball numbers jumped to a level we have been used to in the past as well. This year we had ninety-six boys out for basketball. That is a huge number for four teams. As always, it was the seventh grade that brought the most boys out. This meant we needed to hire a third coach to work with our seventh graders. Hiring a third coach allows us to spread out the kids during practice and also create more playing opportunities for kids. This year, we added three new boys basketball coaches. All three were great additions. Paul Miller, Nikki Schahn and Matt O'leary were all great for kids. Those three will admit they aren't great basketball minds. However, what they all are awesome at is treating kids well. Barry Johnson and Joel

Gilmer in the boys' basketball program are great A coaches. Great with kids and competitive enough to improve kids skill levels. The three new coaches were asked to coach B teams, teach a little about the game, but most importantly let kids enjoy the game and have fun throughout the season. This was a perfect fit for all three. Kids enjoyed the season on the B teams and the A teams were very competitive in conference play. This played out exactly how we like it.

Wrestling participation is a concern here at the middle school. I left that statement in from last year's report because it seems it is an ongoing concern. We have never gotten over the hump in regards to these numbers. We have great people involved in this sport at the youth level and we just hired a great young high school coach, but for some reason we seem to lose kids at the middle school level. We hosted the Mississippi 8 Middle School Wrestling Conference Meet this year. That meant all schools and all wrestlers were here for one event. We received numerous compliments for how well this event was run. Again, this is a compliment to the wrestling community in BHM. In order to pull this event off, we needed support from the youth association and our high school program. Everyone stepped up. Youth parents ran concessions and started showing up in the afternoon to help put mats down. Ben Pressler and his high school kids were at the event the whole night running the overall program and each mat. It was a great event for our wrestling program. I also want to mention our new coaches - Dan Scherber and Paul Olson proved to be a great team and I am hopeful they can help us get over that hump of low numbers.

As you look through the numbers in the numerous activities we provided, outside of sports in the winter, you will see that just about all of them had increases in numbers this winter. It is not as busy on the sports front, but it is great to watch all the other activities going on in the winter and see how many kids are taking advantage of things from music to art to math. The advisors we have for these activities all do a great job of making them meaningful and enjoyable for kids.

ATTACHMENT(S):

BCMS Participation Report