

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

February 13, 2017

Subject:

BCMS Fall Activities Report

Presenter:

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

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

NONE

DESCRIPTION:

A couple of things factored into the fall season to make it hectic and challenging. The first was the school start time change. This was the first season for the middle school since we changed our school start and end times. The other factor was the backlash from the closure of Hwy 25 at the west entrance of our building. While these factors made it hectic, I still believe that our coaches did a great job of making this a rewarding and fun time for kids.

Our Cross Country numbers have continued to grow over the last few years. We have gone from one coach in a 7-12 sport to making seventh and eighth grade a stand-alone program at the middle school. We have always agreed to add a coach if the numbers dictated it. The last few years, we have added a coach so we had two working with our kids. This year we had 29 kids running with our coaches. We actually dropped significantly in the number of girls participating. I don't have a great reason for this but it is something to watch. The kids love this program and the coaches do a great job of keeping them engaged and having fun.

Girls Tennis was the first sport where I was able to hire an elementary teacher to coach under the new schedule. Emily Moritz was hired from Montrose Elementary. Tony Steffes was great about working with us on any potential conflicts. Emily did an awesome job. She proved to be elite. She hadn't coached before, but has a strong tennis background and really made the season great for her girls. I heard from many parents how much their daughter enjoyed Emily and how much they improved.

Our Girls Soccer team had another very competitive season while also providing a large number of girls an opportunity to participate. We hired Paul Lundberg to work with Ruth Clarke. As a first year teacher, Paul was reluctant to take on the additional responsibilities of coaching. However, like in other years, it was tough to find a coach for this program. When I was finally able to convince Paul to coach, I quickly realized why he was reluctant. He is very organized and when he decides to do something he jumps all in. He did a great job and he admitted to me he is glad he did it and plans on coming back next year. Our Girls Soccer team was good and quickly became one of the better teams in the conference.

Another addition to our Soccer staff this fall was Paul Olson. Again, as I was struggling to find a coach for this team, I was lucky enough to have Paul come into my office and offer to coach. He has an extensive soccer background and was willing to take the job. Working with Dave Kaufman from the high school, these two were a great team. Paul and Dave not only had the boys playing well, but they have also suggested some changes for next year which leads me to believe we will be able to keep them. Our kids were very fortunate to have the quality of coaches in soccer we did this year.

Once again, Football was over 100 players - 108 to be exact. This is the first year in many that I had to find football coaches. We have been lucky enough to have a core group of 7 or 8 every year. This year, I ended up needing to hire five coaches, one coming a week before the start of the season due to one being moved up to the high school. Replacing five of eight was tough. Luckily we got good people who were willing to commit to it. Tom Gould, Eric Cagle and Barry Johnson, the remaining coaches were rocks and really were willing to carry the load. There were some bumps with that much turnover, but the majority of the kids really had a great season. I think the highlight of the season for me was watching both our 'B' teams and how much they improved from the start of the season to the end. That type of improvement will continue to add depth to the high school program.

Volleyball numbers stayed steady this year. Seventy-nine is a large number of girls to get touches to. However, our coaches divided the girls up into smaller teams and played a typical intramural schedule along with the game schedule and it seemed to be a nice mix of practice time and game time. The four coaches we have working with our volleyball girls are all employed in our building, so it makes it nice for them to be able to connect with their girls and each other during the day. I look for good things from our volleyball program based on how these girls did this year and the continued high numbers we are getting.

As I stated earlier, it was a unique season because of the start time change and the road construction. However, on top of those concerns, we also had other issues like not finding coaches or officials for various sports. In our first season with the new start time, we found a few issues that we will be working through such as having to pull kids from classes to get to events on time, home event start times, and trying to get our activity buses out of the parking lot before the school buses. One issue that I thought we would benefit from, was the ability to have elementary teachers coach. Unfortunately we were only able to take advantage of that with one teacher. I hope that we are able to find some other coaches in the elementary ranks. It was a season full of energy and excitement. It seems there wasn't a day that didn't have an activity issue to address. Overall, we will learn from this fall and make all the adjustments we need to improve upon things next year.

ATTACHMENT(S):

2016 Fall Participation Report