

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

May 8, 2017

Subject:

2016-17 Winter Activities
Report

Presenter:

**Tom Bauman,
BHS Activities Director**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION: Informational

DESCRIPTION:

Buffalo High School has completed the winter activities season for the 2016-2017 school year. Coaches have shared a short narrative summary of their seasons for you to review. The report also includes a detailed summary of participation numbers including number of coaches and coaching ratios.

UPDATES/PROGRAM NEWS:

- Facilities
- Conference Membership
- MSHSL
- Other

WINTER ACTIVITIES SUMMARIES:

GIRLS HOCKEY: Head Coach Mark Nordvall (1st Year)

Assistant Coach: Cody Effertz (1st Year)

Assistant Coach: Cory Carlson (2nd Year)

Assistant Coach: Johanna Ellison (5th Year)

A new co-op and coaching staff provided a season of transition for Bison Girls Hockey in 2016-17. Because of the co-op realignment, there were a smaller number of skaters available to field Varsity, Junior Varsity and U15 teams so all 34 players were brought into the High School program. This made for some pretty busy locker rooms but also enabled more effective practices both at the Varsity and JV levels. The season started with a team building/scrimmage Fest in Red Wing. Friday evening was spent as one large group getting to know one another and having fun doing team building exercises and sharing goals. Saturday was full of hockey with 4 scrimmages at Red Wing's arena. The season finished with a very competitive finish coming up just short against number one seed Brainerd/Little Falls in the Section Quarterfinals.

In between, the Bison played a competitive conference and non-conference schedule finishing second in the Mississippi 8 Conference. Seniors Leighton McAlpin, Ali Klein, Jordan Wurm, Taylor Thompson, Jillianne Hovland and Anna Monsrud provided very strong leadership for a very young team. Fifteen of the thirty-four team members were in the 8th or 9th grades. These senior leaders should be commended for the way they

carried themselves and led by example. Leighton McAlpin, Taylor Thompson, Jordan Wurm, Ali Klein and Jada Habisch were named to the Mississippi 8 All-Conference Team. Emma Carlson, Jillianne Hovland and Allisen Carothers were named Mississippi 8 All Conference Honorable Mention. Taylor Thompson was named to the All Section 8AA Team. Taylor and Jordan Wurm were also selected to represent Section 8 in the 2017 Senior Classic Tournament.

BOYS HOCKEY: Head Coach Aaron Johnson (4th Year)

Assistant Coach: Thomas Johnson (4th Year)

Assistant Coach: Bruce Johnson (1st Year back, 4 total in Buffalo, 49th year of coaching)

Assistant Coach: Scott Goodmanson (17 years)

Assistant Coach: Dave Carothers (1st Year back since Coach MacMillan)

The boys hockey team had a very successful 2016-2017 season. The team finished with an overall record of 14-12. In Mississippi 8 play, the Bison finished in second place for the 3rd time in the last 4 seasons. The Bison's conference record was 8-3. The team was lead by 12 seniors this season. The seniors were Tom Rooney (captain), Nick Mueller (captain), Blake Habisch (captain), Cade Stensby (captain), Connor Kuhlman, Luke Ramsey, Stone Goodmanson, Mateo Johnson, John McNamara, Nick Hanson, Jon Pearson, and Jack Stevens. The Bison placed four players on the Mississippi 8 All-Conference Team. The members included seniors Blake Habisch, Cade Stensby, and Nick Mueller along with sophomore Nathan Mueller. Senior Tom Rooney and Sophomore Joe McNamara were both All-Conference Honorable Mention. The team earned the number 6 seed in section 8 for the playoffs. The Bison traveled to Roseau to face the number 3 seed Rams and lost 6-5 in double overtime. The 36 members of the Boys Hockey team had a great experience and learned many valuable life and hockey lessons. The varsity team finished with a team GPA of 3.49 during the quarters of the hockey season. The boys were positive leaders around school and represented our program with class.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Head Coach Scot Sorenson (13 Years)

Assistant Coach: Jeff Kylonen (13 Years)

Assistant Coach: Stacy Eggers (9 Years)

Assistant Coach: Alexa Thielman (1st Year)

Assistant Coach: Shawn Sorenson (1st Year)

The 2016-2017 Buffalo Bison Girls Basketball team was looking for a strong start with several key returning players and a deep bench. Instead, injuries became a significant challenge to overcome early in the year. Off-season ACL injuries ended the career of M-8 All-Conference Fwd Cadyn Leudemann and the season for sophomore Reese Wishart. Then in December, a concussion did it for Ashley Cordt. All were expected to be strong contributors to the team. This is where the strength and depth of this team started to shine. Leadership from seniors Autumn Senger, Hailey Sorenson and Jordan Warner stabilized our group and built confidence in our younger players. Juniors Megan Lowell, Bailee Larson and Sarah Hudson along with sophomore Jordan Zrust returned as key players from a year ago. Sophomores Lauren O'Connell, Areefa Seepersaud, Kiera Johnson and Claire Boser and freshmen Alana Hartmann and Alyssa Sorenson rounded out the varsity roster. The game schedule was a strong challenge and the

Bison grew to take it on. They met some tough opponents early and had their ups and downs. Playing extremely well at times, then seeing the play be difficult at times as well. They came into M-8 Conference play ready to challenge for the top and gave STMA one of their toughest M-8 battles in years, falling in defeat. The Bison ended the conference season 11-2, coming in second to STMA. They finished the year 16-11 with many strong wins around a few tough losses. Four of the losses were to teams that were ranked #1 including State Champions Elk River and Orono. Off the court, the Bison also had a successful season. They had a team GPA of 3.75 with 11 Academic All-Conference winners: Cadyn Luedemann, Jordan Warner, Ashley Cordt, Sarah Hudson, Bailee Larson, Megan Lowell, Kiera Johnson, Lauren O'Connell, Reese Wishart, Hanna Van Den Einde, and Jaycee Knutson. Players who received All-Conference Honorable Mention were Bailee Larson and Megan Lowell, while Autumn Senger, Hailey Sorenson and Jordan Zrust made the All-Conference Team. The JV and Freshman teams also had successful seasons and the future continues to look bright for the Bison

BOYS BASKETBALL: Head Coach Josh Ortmann (1st Year, 5 as assistant in program)
Assistant Coach: Ross Mjelde (14 Years)
Assistant Coach: Jason Sorenson (1st Year back, 11 years)
Assistant Coach: Todd Bouman (4 Years)
Assistant Coach: Mike Curry (6 Years)
Assistant Coach: Kevin Kray (1st Year)

The 2016-2017 boys basketball season was one our coaching staff will cherish for a lifetime. We had the opportunity to coach some of the best student athletes at Buffalo High School. As we approached the season, we chose to focus on doing everything in our power to teach these student athletes the definition of success. When we say success, we are talking about what it looks like, feels like and sounds like. This senior group took this challenge to heart. They learned to instill the daily habits that lead to meeting this definition of success. Our seniors continued to grow through leadership, accountability and positivity. These traits quickly trickled down into our younger athletes. Come January, we knew we were doing something right. If you were to come to BHS during passing time between any class period, it would not be uncommon to see a senior basketball player walking down the hallway with a freshman player or a junior basketball player, alongside a sophomore. As a coach of these young men, it was a proud moment when we saw our kids turn a new leaf and take that "next" step towards the right direction. We truly believe our basketball players have learned the daily habits of what it takes to be successful.

As the season came to an end, we finished with a 6-21 record. With that said, we truly believe we were playing our best basketball come March. We were a possession away from pulling off a major upset up at St. Cloud Tech during the quarterfinals of our section tournament. We were led throughout the season by our two All-Conference players Dylan Rohlin and Andrew Johnson.

On behalf of our coaching staff, we would like to thank the players for allowing us to coach them and the administration for all their support. We are extremely lucky to get to put Buffalo Bison on the front of our uniforms and represent the best school district in the state of MN.

DANCE TEAM: Head Coach Sara Beyer (1st Year)
Assistant Coach: Nicole Grant (1st Year)

The Bison Dance Team had their most successful season yet this past year! The girls came together as a strong, unified team and were able to work together to push each other to new heights. For the first time, the team placed in the top three at a competition which awarded us third overall for jazz in our conference. We also achieved our highest scores in the history of the team, which nearly doubled from the beginning of the season to the end of the season. The senior leadership was a major factor in keeping the team fun and free of any drama. Our graduating class included Rachel Westphal, Jade Haugan, Lexi Pearce, and foreign exchange student Carol Thomacheski. Their dedication to the team as well as their bright personalities will be greatly missed next year. Rachel and Jade made excellent captains that exemplified what it means to be on our team. Our 8th grade class was the largest of any grade present on the team and all of them ended the season as varsity dancers. They show the amazing potential that this team has to grow for years to come.

BOYS SWIM/DIVE: Head Coach Pam Brophy (8 Years, 11 in the program)
Assistant Coach: Dan Schirmers (3rd Year)
Assistant (Diving) Coach: Heather Peterson (3rd Year)

The 2016-2017 Boys' Swim & Dive season was successful both in terms of personal growth and exceptional athletic performance for our student-athletes. We had 40 athletes this season, including 13 first-time team members. Our conference record was 3-1-1, which placed us 2nd earning our highest M-8 finish in team history. Overall, our dual meet record was 4-3-1. In Invitational competitions, we placed 3rd twice, 5th once, 6th once, and 9th at the prestigious Laker Invite at St. Cate's. Our 3rd place finish at True Team, and 4th place finish at Sections were also our highest in team history. Scoring this well, as a team, is especially impressive considering our only first place finish in these meets was in Diving, (Hunter Brings). These records truly reflect the strong TEAM effort our athletes put forward this season. Overall, our athletes earned 19 changes in our Top 15 lists, 37 PRs at Sections, 38 PRs at JV Champs, and set 1 School Record. Boys Swim & Dive had 18 medal winners at Sections, and our first ever repeat Section Champion. Hunter Brings took first in Diving and was voted Section Diver of the Year for the second year. This resulted in an unprecedented 5th consecutive trip to State for Hunter. Diver, Quincy Kabe, took 4th at Sections to earn his first trip to state as a 9th grader. Heather Peterson was Section Dive Coach of the Year, with all 4 of Buffalo's Divers placing in the top 10. Our Section Medalists in Swimming events were: Marco Maffei, Carter Barton, Parker Kabe, Triston Kosek, Ramon Vega Jr., Max Menzemer, Will Bofenkamp and Kolbe Kramer, with most of these boys earning multiple medal honors. Hunter went on to finish 14th at State and Quincy was 23rd. This makes the 9th consecutive year our Swim & Dive program has had an athlete make it to the State meet. Our program had 5 athletes selected for All-Conference and 4 received Honorable Mention. In addition, we had a record 16 All-Academic Awards winners. Our team also earned a M-8 Gold Standard Academic award for the second consecutive year. Our Section Team athletes earned the Section 8AA Silver Academic standard, as

well. We held our 8th Annual Alumni Fun Fest over Winter Break and had 10 former athletes join us for swimming, diving and a poolside pizza party. Boys Swim & Dive also hosted our 7th Annual Border Battle Invitational Swim & Dive Meet. Once again, our team dedicated this season to a KICK Cancer initiative to support the parent of a former team member who is dealing with Stage IV Breast Cancer. As a result of our Kick-A-Thon, PINK OUT Night and Chuck-A-Duck efforts we were able to donate \$1859 to the Randy Shaver Cancer Research and Community Fund. Even though we are graduating 4 talented athletes, our strong core of young swimmers and divers gives us reason to be excited about the 2017-18 season!

GIRLS GYMNASTICS: Head Coach Martha Driscoll-Nelson (33 years)

Assistant Coach: Debi Warpula (2nd Year)

Assistant Coach: Willie Pecarina (1st Year)

The 2016-2017 gymnastics season was a memorable one, even though it was not one in which the Bison team was at the top of the Mississippi 8 Conference. Instead, it was a time in which a small group of girls did an exceptional job of working hard and doing as well as or better than a coach could expect. These young ladies were motivated, honest, intelligent, sincere, considerate, kind, inclusive and supportive of their teammates! Coach Driscoll-Nelson and the team members also appreciated the caring and giving nature and sincere efforts of assistant coaches Debi Warpula and Willie Pecarina. (In fact, the girls and their female coaches were surprised by Coach Willie at Christmas time when he brought all the girls, including the coaches, tote bags with their names embroidered in Bison purple!)

As far as meet results go, the season began well with a victory over rival Monticello and a second place finish in the 10-team "Flip for a Cure" Tournament at Elk River. Then came a series of injuries and seemingly never ending respiratory illnesses which took key team members out of competition at many meets during December and January. As a result of these health problems and being a small group, the team scores did not rebound to initial levels until the end of January when the gymnasts again began to put up team scores of 136 or higher. The team's overall record in dual meets this season was 3W, 6L. In spite of this, there were a couple of notable team scores. Balance Beam again was an exceptional event for the team. The 35.55 scored at the section 8AA Meet in February was the best beam team performance in the section, again besting the St. Cloud Tech Tigers (who were the overall 2017 State Runners up in Class AA). Beam competitors were Madi Peters, Amanda Montplaisir, Ingrid Nelson, Rachel Haas, and Samantha Poeschel. Another highlight of the section meet was a flawless set of uneven bar routines, (Haas, Allie Merz, Lauren McHenry, Montplaisir, and Peters). At the same time, the Bison peaked with their highest score of the season, 140.825, an even higher score than last year's section meet.

The JV Bison also did very well when injury and illness did not decimate the ranks. Individually, 8th grader Madi Peters qualified for the state tourney on beam, floor and as an all-around competitor. Junior Amanda Montplaisir was Section 8AA balance beam champ, scoring an amazing 9.60. She qualified for state on that event (after having spent most of the season unable to even practice beam because of a broken toe). Peters was Mississippi 8 All-Conference, earning honors on the balance beam and senior

Allie Merz was Honorable Mention on the floor exercise. Madi also earned All State Recognition from the Girls Gymnastics Coaches Association on beam and floor. Honorable Mention from the coaches association also went to Amanda Montplaisir on uneven bars and beam and to Merz on floor.

Team Awards voted on by the Bison Gymnasts: Most Valuable Gymnast- Amanda Montplaisir, Most Improved Gymnast- Peyton Retterath, Rookie of the Year- Samantha Poeschel, Hardest Worker- Ingrid Nelson and Most Dedicated Gymnast- Allie Merz. The proudest moment for this diligent group, however, occurred at the state tournament banquet, when they received the State Gymnastics Team Academic Champion Plaque with an amazing qualifying cumulative GPA average of 3.967! The team loses 4 key senior leaders in Merz, Nelson, McHenry and Alex Kahlert, but the coaching staff is again hoping for great things since the juniors in the program (Montplaisir, Retterath, Haas, and Samantha Twardy) are motivated, hard-working athletes and great human beings!

WRESTLING: Head Coach Ben Presler (2nd Year)
Assistant Coach: Blake Trullinger (2nd Year)
Assistant Coach: Jeff Granrud (1st year, 2nd Year in the program)

The 2016-17 wrestling campaign was one of persistence and faith. We finished the season with a record of 6-13, but that doesn't tell you the quality of young men and women we had in our room every day. Nor does it illustrate the level of team we had. Our kids worked hard, cared for one another and embodied the idea of growth over outcome. Our only struggle this year was dealing with injuries and illness from the beginning of the season until the end.

We started the regular season wrestling well, but waiting for the return of returning state qualifiers Jacob Scherber and Jay Andress. When they returned to start the new year, other members of the team had fallen with injuries, a theme that carried throughout the season. Even with the injuries, the wrestlers were never discouraged. They knew what the team was capable of and didn't let anything get in the way of their goals. Like I said above, our focus was on growth over outcome. We kept our attitude and effort sky high throughout. This all paid off in the in the post-season. We were given the 6th seed, and upset #3 Wayzata and #2 Maple Grove, but we fell to STMA in the section championship.

This year was Buffalo's first trip to the section championship since 2008! It was a great accomplishment for these kids, and it was well deserved. It showed that their patience through the season and diligence with their training paid off. In addition, the team earned a gold plaque from the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association for boasting a team GPA of 3.621.

Individually, the Bison had one of the best years in recent history. Riley Habisch led a group of four individual state qualifiers by placing 4th place in his third trip to the state meet. This tied Riley for the highest finish for any sophomore in team history. Scherber and Charlie DesMarais each improved on their previous state appearance by winning their first matches. Ben Ruhr joined them at the Xcel for the first time in his career.

ONE ACT PLAY: Co-Director: Tracy Hagstrom Durant (25 years)
Co-Director: Brandon Aldrich (1st Year)

Amber Waves By: James Still

20 students participated in the One-Act Play program during the 2016-2017 season. Play selection is essential to success in the competitive One-Act play arena. This year, Co-directors Tracy Hagstrom Durant and Brandon Aldrich, selected another moving, interesting and educational historic piece of challenging theater, *Amber Waves*. This particular play stretched the students as producers of theater and further prepared them to be educated, open minded consumers of theater. *Amber Waves* is a painful look into a poignant time in American history that significantly impacted the world we live in today. The students learned so much through research, rehearsal and performance. Education is always taking place. District 877 facilitates all of this education through valuing the arts! Once again our theatre students worked diligently and produced another winning show. **The students were able to dream, believe and achieve!**

About The Play – *Amber Waves* focuses on the children in a family struggling to hold on to their farm and each other.

"A play of compassion, tragedy and humor." - *Kansas City Star*.

"No other play or movie has zeroed in so well on the effects these problems have had on the children of farm families while ... making the case for the special place of farming in our nation's well being. Its themes could be just as applicable to the youngsters of stockbrokers, store owners or any other occupations that suffer drastic downturns." - *Washington Times*.

2016-2017 Season Performance Record

Mississippi 8 Conference Starred Performance

- All-Conference Ensemble Academic Gold Award
- All-Conference Cast – Emily Kern, Jonah Schmitz, Katie Swartzter
- All Conference Tech Crew – Emily Twardy
- All-Conference Cast Honorable Mention – Jack Soden
- All-Conference Tech Crew Honorable Mention – Grace Happe and Ciarra Fagerlie

Subsection 5AA – 1st place

Section 5AA Finals – 1st place

State One-Act Play Festival Starred Performance

MOCK TRIAL: Head Coach Jason Swanson (3rd year as head coach and 7th overall)
Assistant Coach: Heather Eld (3rd Year)

This season, we approached with a different strategy. There were a total of 25 members, so we divided into 3 teams rather than 2. We also evenly divided the teams, spreading out talent and experience. We ran with this model during the pre-season and all scrimmages. Just before winter break, we then divided into two teams (V and JV).

Varsity took 1st and JV 2nd at the M8 Conference in early January. Mock Trial is unique that both V and JV play in the same group of competition. Region play came next. All teams are guaranteed three rounds. Both teams performed well and advanced to Round 4. Both teams won round 4 and were the only teams left in region 3 by Round 5. The V team beat the JV team by 3 points, advancing to the state competition. The state competition consists of three trials where the top teams from all 12 regions face off. The Bison won trial one, lost trial two by two points and won trial three by 30 points. The Bison finished 4th at state.

KNOWLEDGE BOWL: Head Coach Hannah Mahan (1st Year)

Assistant Coach: Abby Bohler (1st Year)

Assistant Coach: Ann Hamann (1st Year)

This season was full of firsts for the Knowledge Bowl team. It was our first year with brand new coaching staff due to the leave of absences of Coaches Johnson and Schramm as well as our first year capping our team. Due to the huge success and popularity of Knowledge Bowl, we decided to hold a team-placement week immediately and cap the team at 36 members. We've also tried a new practice schedule to accommodate the later school day. Overall, the team had a fantastic time competing and getting to know each other! We consistently placed within the top half of all teams at tournaments and our top teams were almost always within the top 5-6 places in both JV and Varsity. We started our season off strong at the St. Francis Rumble on the Run tournament where Varsity 1 placed 2nd, JV 1 and 2 placing 1st and 3rd respectively and our overall team winning the Team award; an award that Glencoe-Silver Lake had taken home for the past 3 years. We continued strong throughout our season and worked on setting SMART goals and strategies for improvement with the team and building a strong team community. Our season ended with Varsity 1 and 2 competing at Sub-Regions, and Varsity 1 moving on to place 2nd in our region and 8th at the State Competition at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd over Spring Break. Overall, the season was filled with tough competition, lots of laughs and fun and a successful record.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Participation Report