

**School Board Meeting/Workshop:**

**February 10, 2014**

**Subject:**

**BCMS Fall Activities Report**

**Presenter:**

**John Hayden**

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

NONE

**DESCRIPTION:**

As I write this narrative, the temperature is below zero and snow is chest high outside my office. The fall came and went quickly like always. I think the reason it seems to go so fast is that we are kept busy with the number of kids we are getting started in activities for the year. Last year, I did a survey of parents and students looking to get some feedback on what we are doing well, but more importantly what we can do to meet families needs better. We discovered that people were overall very happy with our programs. One area that we found people saw some room for growth was in communication. We implemented a number of changes to make sure parents had the most up-to-date information. Coaches used a new tool called Remind 101, our website was updated with coaches names and email addresses, and we enhanced the look of our activities page to make it more user friendly. I have always been reluctant to add another meeting to parent's schedules if it wasn't needed. After getting feedback from this survey, I held my first fall parent meeting. The turnout and response were both very favorable. Parents filled the mall at the middle school and the feedback I got was very positive. It will be a permanent fixture in our school.

Our girls soccer team enjoyed a fun season. The team was coached this year by Ruth Clark and Joel Gilmer. Ruth is a veteran and Joel was new to our program. Both coaches really enjoyed the season. Ruth took the 'A' team and had a lot of success competing in the Mississippi 8, and Joel had the 'B' team and really enjoyed working with those girls. One of the nice things about the schedule this year is that STMA had a team at both of their middle schools. That adds two games to our schedule. Usually they have had just one between the two schools.

While not as dramatic, the boys soccer program also had high numbers. This year we were at thirty-six. That is up one from last year. This year Michael Bloch joined Ben Watkins as our two coaches. Ben and Michael were a great team. Michael took the 'B' team and Ben coached the 'A' team. The challenge on the boys side isn't just getting games, but getting quality games. Not all of the schools in the Mississippi 8 have competitive soccer programs. Our program proved too much for many of them. I am going to continue to try to find competitive games for our soccer program for next year. Unfortunately this was Ben's last year at the middle school. He will be coaching up at

the high school next year. Ben is an awesome coach who loves kids and did an amazing job with our soccer program. We will miss him.

Our big sport in the fall is of course football. One hundred and forty boys came out this fall. Down from the year before, but still very high. Our football teams were very competitive again this fall. One reason for our strong program is the continuity in our coaching staff. This year I required all of our football coaches to coach something different than what they were coaching the year before. It proved to be a good move. The coaches all took to their roles and seemed to have a little more energy. I really enjoy watching how our coaches work with this large number of athletes every year. Looking forward, it is going to be an interesting time in the football program. We will have a new Varsity coach, which will have an effect on our program. We are all looking forward to a shot of energy in the whole program. Because we have such large numbers, I am going to be exploring the idea of running the middle school program with two separate programs. We have enough kids that this would be an opportunity for kids to participate at a level they aren't currently able to.

Volleyball numbers were down from last year. However, eighty-four is still a high number of girls in that sport. Keep in mind six girls play at a time. We have implemented a strong intramural program that has teams of girls playing against other teams that stay back when a couple of teams play another school. This is a nice solution. Ideally we would like to get more schools to play, and we will continue to look into adding more games. Great coaching is also a reason for such a large number of girls in volleyball. Volleyball is a sport where kids need "touches" or hits. The more they get the better they become. We will continue to try to increase the number of "hits" for our girls.

The fall activities season at BCMS had high numbers and a quick pace. I enjoy getting to as many events as possible and watching how well our coaches work with their athletes. They are truly professionals who love kids, and provide a wonderful atmosphere for kids in their respective activities. I feel very good about what we provide for kids, parents and families in the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School system.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

BCMS 2013-14 Fall Activities Participation Report