

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

February 9, 2012

Subject:

BCMS Fall Activities Report

Presenter:

John Hayden

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

NONE

DESCRIPTION:

Fall always seems like a microcosm of the school year. It seems that there is a lot of planning that goes into preparing for it, and before you know it is over. The fall sports season starts the same time as school; we move quickly trying to keep everything together and before we know it we are collecting uniforms and having pizza parties. Fall 2011 was no different.

In girls soccer we had seventy participants. Dave Robinson was brought in as our third coach to work with Erin Soukup and Ruth Clarke. Dave was wonderful. While he may not be the most knowledgeable soccer person, he certainly is great for the kids he gets to interact with and he complements the other two coaches wonderfully. Obviously with this many girls out we are challenged to get the girls into competitive situations so they are able to grow as players and enjoy themselves. We have attempted to be as creative with this as we can. We play two schools on the same day so that everyone of our girls is playing but maybe at different locations. We play schools three times and we play intramurals, to name a few. This makes for a confusing schedule and a fast fall. No doubt this will continue to be part of what we do.

While not as dramatic, the boys soccer program also has high numbers. This year we were at forty-seven. That is up five from last year. This year Maddie Eicher joined Ben Watkins as our two coaches. Ben and Maddie were a great team. Maddie 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. Coach Watkins and I will be looking to schedule some games against some Metro area schools next fall in order to grow our program and our kids.

Our big sport in the fall is of course football. One hundred and twenty two boys came out this fall. Same number as last year. Our football teams were very competitive again this fall. (That included a 7th grade team that beat up on one particular Middle School Assistant Principal's son from another school.) I really enjoy watching how our coaches work with this large number of athletes every year. One reason for our strong program is the continuity in our coaching staff. Our football staff has remained the same for a number of years. The one exception this year was the addition of Ben Starns this fall. Looking forward, we have to come up with a plan for helmet purchases now that a new policy was put in place by the helmet reconditioning companies. This policy will require us to purchase more helmets than we have in the past.

Volleyball was up to almost one hundred athletes. Keep in mind six 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):