

**School Board Meeting:**

**February 8, 2010**

**Subject:**

Varsity Lettering

**Presenter:**

**Tom Bauman**

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

Review

**DESCRIPTION:**

There is an argument that says we could recognize with a "BHS Varsity Letter" any and all BHS students making a strong commitment to any activity in school, or out of school, BHS sponsored or not. Some nearby schools have decided to branch out with "Varsity Lettering" and have even established classifications for programs.

1. Full Provider
2. Partial Provider
3. Independent Provider

Our current practice at Buffalo High School is to issue "Varsity Letters" to programs that are part of our department; ones that we provide for in full. (Funding, staffing, transportation, etc.) After a 45 minute committee discussion looking at arguments for and against lettering non-school sponsored activities, (BHS becoming a Partial or Independent Provider), the group was in unanimous agreement that earning a "Varsity Letter" at BHS remain for fully sponsored activities only.

There was one major argument for a change:

1. Recognizes kids for commitment and dedication in their selected activity

There were three arguments against this change:

1. It is true that sponsored (and most likely non-sponsored) activities could have a set of criteria to earn a letter based on commitment and a level of performance. That has been the argument of non-sponsored activities.

As a full provider, the school retains leadership of the activities staff. They are district hired and trained. In cooperation with our office, staff set criteria, monitor the lettering process, and understand and communicate that earning a

letter also means you represent your school with a high level of academic integrity, code of conduct, and abide by the rules of the school and/or governing league.

2. The list of non-sponsored activities is large, and could grow much larger. Managing and administering "lettering" for non-sponsored activities may appear simple, but may grow to be something out of control and lose it's intended meaning.

3. The tradition and history of a high school letter could be compromised.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**