

**School Board Meeting/Workshop:**

June 11, 2012

**Subject:**

BHS Activities Update

**Presenter:**

Tom Bauman

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

Report only no recommended action (at this time). Action will be taken at the next school board meeting.

**DESCRIPTION:**

Background - History:

At the February Board Workshop the BHS fall activity report was given and a discussion ensued regarding self-funded activities and the long-term viability of self-funded activities. A recommendation was made that the Board discuss the future direction for MSHSL activities that were formerly sponsored by the District. Information regarding the history of activity budget cuts, activity fees and self-funded activities was discussed at the Board retreat on May 18<sup>th</sup>. This report is a continuation of that discussion.

Rationale for proposal:

Self-funded activities are difficult to track and hold accountable for timely receipt of funds raised for the activities. The competition for fundraising is great for any program, but magnified with self-funded activities. Leadership in booster organizations is always changing and communication often breaks down.

Boys Swim and Dive has been self-funding for the past three years and is requesting that the District revisit the decision in 2009 that cut the program. Currently, the swim and dive team is paired with Girls Nordic Ski to comply with Title IX requirements. The participation level in girls Nordic skiing is extremely low and fundraising is a concern to keep both programs viable.

A modest increase in student activity fees and a realignment of district funded activities to pair Boys Swim and Dive with Girls Dance Team would meet Title IX guidelines and more than likely experience a higher participation rate.

Program implications:

Boys Swim and Dive is a strong activity in our Mississippi 8 Conference, the MSHSL and in other surrounding communities and will most likely continue to have healthy participation rates. The Dance Team is a Title IX recognized sport

offering and is also strong in the Mississippi 8 Conference, the MSHSL and surrounding communities. Pairing these two activities will offer more opportunities for students than the pairing with Girls Nordic Ski.

Dropping Girls Nordic Ski will affect three students which is hard to, do but in the long-term, keeping the program is unsustainable. The lack of a girls Title IX offering with a boys activity has an impact on both activities. The only way Girls Nordic Ski can continue is through self-funding if it is not paired with Boys Swim and Dive.

Financial implications:

An activity participation fee increase of \$10 would partially offset the ongoing costs of reinstating Boys Swim and Dive and Dance Team. A donation of approximately \$10,000 from Boys Swim and Dive boosters would also offset the first year implementation costs. Activity fees do not cover the costs of activities in BHM nor do the fees in any district in Minnesota, but the fees do supplement the cost of the activities.

Evaluation:

Participation rates, student surveys and annual activity reports to the School Board will continue to be the method in which programs will be evaluated.

Next steps:

The next steps will be for the School Board to discuss the information presented at the Workshop and determine if action at the next School Board Meeting is warranted.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**