

LIVONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Human Resources

Memorandum

TO: Andrea Oquist, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Keith McDonald, Director of Human Resources

DATE: July 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Gymnastics Community Education Program

Since 1988 the Livonia Public Schools has run a community education gymnastics program. As the program grew, it moved to a larger facility at the Livonia Recreation Center where we rent a large space. As the cost of renting the facility and retirement benefits for personnel have risen and continue to rise, the District has been looking for options for the program.

We were approached by the Livonia YMCA regarding potential interest in taking over our program. Since the program existed at the Livonia Recreation Center, we first explored the possibility of the City taking over the program. Recently, their Parks and Recreation Commission voted not to take over the program. We immediately reached out to Brian Wolverton at the YMCA who still had great interest.

Over the past few weeks, we have been meeting regularly with the YMCA to discuss a transition plan for the program. Both LPS and the Y share a commitment in maintaining the current programming structure and costs as best as possible. This includes running our competitive teams through the YMCA and hiring our current coaching staffs. As we approach the start of the fall season, it was determined this is the best time to make the transition.

We are currently in the process of preparing to meet with our staff to inform them of the change and provide them with a layoff notice. At the same time, the Y will be providing them with opportunities for employment. We will be also sending a letter to our families and offering an opportunity for a meeting. The YMCA has stepped up tremendously in an effort to welcome the new families into the YMCA.

While change is never easy, we feel that we are being as diligent as possible to minimize the disruption to the program. We all envision a transition that is more of a move of venue with the hope that the gymnasts and families don't feel much more change. In the end, we believe the gymnastics program is finding an appropriate home at the YMCA, an entity with a mission and purpose of providing opportunities for school aged students to participate in recreational activities.

kwm

C: Board of Education