

School Board Meeting:

February 12, 2018

**Subject:
Report**

2017 BHS Fall Activities

Presenter:

**Tom Bauman,
BHS Activities Director**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION: Informational

DESCRIPTION:

Buffalo High School has completed its fall activities season for the 2017-2018 school year. Coaches and Advisors have shared a short narrative summary of their seasons for your review. This report also includes a detailed statistical summary of participation #'s including coaching ratios.

FOOTBALL:

Head Coach Todd Bouman (4th year)

The 2017 Bison Football season was once again filled with exciting games that featured some big plays. We ended the season with a 4-4 record, but felt we could have been 6-2 if we had made a couple more plays that ultimately determined the outcome of those games. While our losses were tough, 3 of the 4 came against teams that were eventually in the quarter finals, semifinals, or finals in the state tournament. Opening the season with a tough last minute loss to eventual state semifinalist Brainerd was not the start everyone had envisioned. The following week we played St. Francis at home in our beautiful stadium, in front of a packed house, and got a hard fought victory. The next two games were against state finalist, Elk River and state quarter finalist, Andover. We gave them a hard fight, but lost both games. We finished the season winning three of our last four games, which is a true testament of what this team was about. We were resilient, tough, and had a "team first" attitude the entire season long. Once again we proved to be successful in the classroom. As a team we had a 3.2 GPA overall which put us in the Gold category in the state for the 3rd consecutive season. We had *individual* school records broken, which I won't go into detail because this is the ultimate TEAM sport. From our team camp in July at SMSU, until our last game against Lakeville North, these athletes' main concern was helping their teammates. This team was a special group of men who truly cared about each other and the betterment of the team. We had five named to the All District Team. Treyton Welch was named the District MVP Wide Receiver, All Metro and All State. Ryan Kluver was chosen to play in the MN Football Showcase at US Bank Stadium which is the 3rd consecutive year Buffalo has been represented. I have been blessed to coach these talented athletes! Once again, a BIG thank you to everyone that has helped in any way throughout the season. There are so many moving parts to football that people don't understand and I truly appreciate all of the support we get from this great school, great administration and great community. I am very grateful for the opportunity to lead the Bison into the future, and look forward to a great 2018 season!

GO BISON!

VOLLEYBALL:

Head Coach Jennifer Peterson (2nd year)

The Buffalo Girls Volleyball program had almost 80 girls tryout this season, which is the most the program has ever experienced. We had 3 coaches rejoin the program to help fill openings for the year. Lauri Zumach and Josh Erickson ran the 9th grade teams this season. The players learned a lot from our veteran coaches, leading the 9th grade team to a 3rd place conference tournament finish. Brenda Diekman coached 12 girls at the 10th grade level who made great strides in their skills. Megan Scherer had 12 players at the JV level, who were very competitive in every match up. And lastly, at the varsity level, Assistant Coach Becky Karna led the girls for the first two weeks while I was on maternity leave. When I returned the team went on a 7 game winning streak and finished the season 13-13. The varsity team also tied for 3rd place in the Mississippi 8 Conference. They were led by senior captains Aivary Bouman and Kari Zumach. Nicole Odeen reached a significant milestone of 1,000 set assists as a sophomore this season. She also had a state record of 56 set assists during one match versus Rocori. Aivary Bouman, Nicole Odeen and Kari Zumach were named 1st Team All-Conference. Kennedy Sohler and Lauren Ehlers were given All Conference Honorable Mention awards. Kari Zumach also made All Metro 2nd Team, 1st Team All State and will be attending Creighton University on a full ride volleyball scholarship. Most importantly, our team GPA was high enough to place us on both the All-State and Conference Gold Academic teams. The varsity season eventually ended in the section quarterfinals in an exciting match against St. Michael-Albertville. Next season will bring new challenges as the seniors have left some large shoes to fill.

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY:Head Coach Dave Knutson (4th year)

The boys Cross Country Team began the year with some very big goals. They wanted to repeat as the Menahaga/Staples Champion; they wanted to win the Buffalo Invitational for the 5th straight year; they wanted to repeat as the Mississippi 8 Conference Champions; and they wanted to be the Section 2AA Champion. They achieved all of these goals and also reached their final goal finishing as a top 10 team at the state meet placing 9th overall. The boys were led this year by Junior Issac Basten. Issac was the Conference and Section 2AA Champion. He placed 11th at the State meet and is one of 3 boys in the program's history to run under 16:00 for a 5 kilometer race (3.1 miles). All-Conference athletes for 2017: Issac Basten (Jr), Braden Benson (Sr.), Nick Oak (So.), Ryan Russek (Jr.), Joey Anderson (Jr.), Alexei Hensel (Jr.) and Jadon Boots (8th).

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY:

Head Coach Jill Hanson (31 years)

Another Cross Country season has ended and it was quite the adventurous season. Even though on paper we are a boy and girl team we are really one team. As I observe other teams that are gender divided, I see opportunities that other teams don't have. Our girls and boys get the advantage of working with each other and seeing the strengths of each program.

We had a senior dominant class with 5 girls having run cross country for at least 4 years. Much leadership came from these girls, especially with caring and involving teammates. They made each girl feel very special. Cards were given to the runners after each meet from these seniors complimenting each one on their race. They had sleepovers, campouts and ice cream parties. They really enjoyed each other. These opportunities were senior driven.

Our girls' team, as a competitive team, was at best an average team. We had several very good runners but mostly we had girls who liked to be around each other. At a team meeting, I asked the girls what kind of team they thought they had. One girl answered we are a very good team. When I looked at her quizzically (we were not a good team) she went on to say that we all care about each other, support each other and are good friends. Who can argue that is not a good team? Are we not in the business of helping kids become good people? I would say that they were good people to begin with but they do buy into teamwork. On the competitive side, we were 3rd in the Conference; we had 3 girls who received All-Conference: Amanda Montplaisir, Alexis O'Malley, and Meredith Reynolds. At the section meet, our goal was to be in the top 10 and we were 9th. At that race, Amanda Montplaisir finished 11th and qualified for the state meet. That was her 3rd state meet in 5 years. She is quite the runner. At State, she ran her fastest race of the season and ended her high school career on a high note.

The girls are learning what it takes to go to the next level competitively. For running in the summer, we had more girls run more miles than ever before and we are hoping that they will continue that pattern. It has been a formula that is working for the boys and I believe the girls have bought into that idea.

I just finished coaching my 31st year of cross country and it never gets old. Their hard work, having each other's back, and stepping up when the team needs it. They also care about others in their community. This year we ran 100 miles on the track for the hurricane victims. They raised over \$1,000.00 for the Red Cross. It's a special group and I am proud to be their coach.

GIRLS TENNIS:

Head Coach Scott Larson (2nd year)

The Buffalo Girl's Tennis team began the fall 2017 season with 34 student athletes at the high school level. Led by senior captains Mya Lubben and Claire Stevens, the varsity posted a 9-0 conference record and captured the Mississippi 8 title. For the season, the team was 21-4, champions of the Rosemount Invitational, runner-up in the Buffalo Invitational, runner up in the St. Cloud Doubles Invitational and advanced to the Section 5AA team final before losing to Wayzata. During section individual play, our two doubles entrants and one of our singles entrants advanced to the quarter finals. Our other singles entrant and number one singles player, foreign exchange student Simona Potockova, advanced to the state tournament. We had a cumulative team GPA of 3.92 on the varsity, including six 4.0 student athletes. Mya and Claire were named All-State Academic Award winners for our team. We had four players earn All-Conference Awards and four others were named All-Conference Honorable Mention. Simona was voted the Mississippi 8 Player of the Year and Scott was voted the Section 5AA Coach of the year. Our athlete participation grew by seven players from last season to this season. Our

tennis courts were painted and looked beautiful. We have a strong booster club that continues to support our program through fundraising efforts. The parent, teacher, and administrative support for our team was unreal this year, (it was meaningful to our players to have Superintendent Thielman and all of the high school administration cheering us on at home matches throughout the year). Looking ahead, the painting of our courts addressed, the aesthetic need we had, but cracks have already returned and a complete resurfacing will need to be done in the near future to address the playing surface. The middle school courts are showing wear and have "soft spots" on them that take in excess of an hour to dry and become playable following rain. We need to focus efforts on middle school participation in tennis and retaining those athletes into their high school years. We also need to fill a Junior Varsity coach opening (this year we pieced it together with 2 coaches who split part of the year).

GIRLS SWIM & DIVE:

Head Coach Rachel Busch (3rd year)

We kicked off the season in our own pool this year, which was much welcomed after having started the 2016 season at Fitness Evolution. We learned a lot about flexibility in 2016 and that lesson carried over to 2017 to aid in another successful season. In the second week of the 2017 season, we had our week-long Purple vs. White competition. The week included an overnight trip to Wild Woods Water Park, where the Captains led us in developing team goals, we all discussed the importance of living drug and alcohol free lives, and we strengthened our family-like community through water park activities. The beginning of the season also brought discussions on our four pillars: be accountable, be dedicated, be grateful, and be respectful. The 2017 captains Abby Serbus, Alex Zeiss, and Natalie Bobick, did a great job leading our team of 45 throughout the season, showing true class and dedication. For our coaching staff, we had two returning coaches and two new. Coach Busch completed her seventh season, Shannon Barclay (Dive Coach) completed her fourth and Stefan Walker (Part-Time Swim Assistant) completed his second. The new faces were Amanda Paulson (Swim Assistant) and Lindsay Mattson (Part-Time Swim Assistant). The team was very fortunate to have such a dedicated and caring coaching staff.

The season wrapped up with a 7-1-1 dual meet record. The record gave us a share of the Conference title. We finished tied with STMA at our regular season dual meet and in the final conference standings. We finished 2nd at True Team Sections, our best placing in school history. The team swam well at the JV Conference Meet, with more podium finishes than ever. Most girls swam/dove season-best times/scores at the Section Meet, where we finished 5th. For the second year in a row, there was at least one girl that made it to the finals in each event at Sections. Participating in the State Meet were seven girls: Sydney Polzin (10th), Brianna Shroyer (7th), Kassy Shroyer (9th), Tianna Kosek (11th), Kolby Schendel (8th), Kaitlyn Schendel (11th), and Alex Zeiss (12th). The 200 Medley Relay was composed of Polzin, Shroyer, Shroyer, and Kosek. The 200 Free Relay was composed of Kosek, Schendel, Schendel, and Kassy Shroyer. Additionally, Alex Zeiss competed in diving, Kassy Shroyer in the 100 fly, and Tianna Kosek in the 100 free. The team finished 23rd overall with 15 points, all from Alex's 4th place finish in diving. School records broken were the 200 Medley Relay (Polzin, Shroyer, Shroyer, Kosek), Kassy Shroyer in the 100 fly, and Alex Zeiss in 6-dives. As a team, the girls earned the Conference and Section 8AA Academic Gold Award. Alex Zeiss was named

Section 8AA Diver of the Year and Coach Barclay was named Section 8AA Dive Coach of the Year. We have had many successes on the scoreboard this season, but more importantly, I am extremely proud of these girls for who they are and how they train and compete for one another. The entire team was a joy to work with and we are looking forward to the 2018 season. The captains for 2018 are Julia Kolles, Tianna Kosek, Kwynn Kalamaha, Kaitlyn Schendel.

BOYS SOCCER:

Head Coach Joe Pokorney (2nd year)

Assistant Varsity coach: Ben Watkins (2nd year in position, 3rd year coaching at BHS)

JV coach: Tanner Fischer (1st year)

JV2 coach: Paul Olson (1st year)

Boys' soccer had another good year in 2017. 68 student athletes tried out for three teams (Varsity, JV and JV2). We ended up with 22 players on the Varsity roster, 18 on the JV, and 21 on JV2. Our varsity team was led by senior captains Peter Deneen and Sam Studee, along with junior captain Conor Smrz. After graduating 13 seniors last year, the varsity team finished 5th in the Mississippi 8 Conference with a conference record of 5-3-1 and an overall record of 5-9-1. Of our nine regular season losses, seven were by one goal. One of the biggest credits to this year's team was their ability to stay positive, stay together and continue to work hard in the wake of tough losses. One of our goals at the outset of the season was to be playing our best soccer as we entered the section tournament. In many ways, we achieved this goal, playing well against a very talented St. Cloud Tech team in the first round of playoffs. We lost the game, but I was very proud of the effort, mindset and class that our kids showed throughout the season.

All-Conference honors went to senior Marvin Orozco-Barajas, senior Peter Deneen and junior Conor Smrz. All-Conference Honorable Mention Awards went to senior Noah Raisanen, senior Brent Fiore and junior Brian Miller. The varsity team also earned an Academic All-Conference Silver Award for a team GPA between 3.30-3.49.

Our JV and JV2 teams had competitive games all year and both finished with winning records. More importantly, however, players showed excellent growth over the course of the season. Our two first-year coaches were eager to learn and did a great job with these groups. We need to continue to build continuity and consistency through all levels of the program.

GIRLS SOCCER:

Head Coach Sarah Rodenwald (2nd year)

The 2017 girls' soccer season was another marked by significant injury at the varsity level. Going into the season, the girls were looking to build on momentum that started at the conclusion of the 2016 campaign. A string of injuries to key players made a successful season on the scoreboard pretty difficult. Led by Sydney Johnson, Buffalo's first ever Division I soccer signee (NDSU), the Bison girls played really well and improved while healthy. Unfortunately, that was not very often. The program's upswing continues, as the team achieved its highest win total in 5 seasons. Setting

aside the six wins, a 3-2 overtime loss to Monticello and a 1-0 loss to STMA were actually high points to the season on the field; great games and incredible effort by the entire squad. Overall, the team finished the 2017 season with a record of 6-9 and lost to Brainerd in the first round of the Section 8AA playoffs.

This year our varsity team read "The Hard Hat" by Jon Gordon, and focused their season on being a good teammate and what that means. There was a lot of chemistry on and off the field within the team. They played hard at all times, and didn't let circumstances define their success. They found success to be learning to depend on each other and make people around them better.

Seven seniors finished their BHS careers this past fall: Sydney Johnson and fellow captain Danika Tweten, as well as Lindsay Decker, Lindsey Kauffman, Grace Volden, Lauren Quiring and Samantha Haryn. As they were told at the banquet: in 12 years of coaching, this was the greatest group of seniors, as a whole, that I have ever been associated with. Their leadership was phenomenal.

Academically, the girls continue to impress in the classroom. The varsity team had 16 of 20 members earn Academic All-Conference Awards, and our team achieved a Gold Award with a cumulative team GPA of 3.76.

The program looks to have a bright future ahead with some very talented, hardworking freshmen being part of the program this year. The lower grades are seeing a lot of success in soccer also. The coaching staff included Carrie Walz in her 8th season, Josh Soukup in his 2nd season and Andy Frechette in his 1st season. We look forward to having the entire staff return for the 2018 campaign. Thank you School Board for your support of Bison Soccer!

FALL MUSICAL:

Director Tracy Hagstrom Durant (26 years)

James and the Giant Peach

Book by Timothy Allen McDonald, Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul,
Based on the book, *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl

Music Director: Michael Walsh
Choreographer: Debb Bestland
Tech Director: Rebekah Herdklotz
Lighting Designer: Greg Bestland
PAC Manager: David Kilgore
Student Choreographer: Perrin Thompson
Student Stage Manager: Grace Happe
Costumes and Hats: Leann Miller, Laurie Hoops (Volunteers)
Hair Styles: Joy Swearingen

Musical Synopsis: 100% family friendly!

Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach* is now a musical for the whole family to enjoy! Featuring a wickedly tuneful score by the Tony Award-nominated team of Pasek and Paul (*La La Land*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Dogfight* and *A Christmas Story the Musical*) and a curiously quirky book by Timothy Allen McDonald (*Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka*, *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley*), critics rave: *James and the Giant Peach* is a "masterpeach!"

When James is sent by his conniving aunts to chop down their old fruit tree, he discovers a magic potion that results in a tremendous peach... and launches a journey of enormous proportions. Suddenly, James finds himself in the center of the gigantic peach, among human-sized insects with equally oversized personalities, but after it falls from the tree and rolls into the ocean; the group faces hunger, sharks and plenty of disagreements. Thanks to James' quick wit and creative thinking, the residents learn to live and work together as a family. The dangerous voyage is a success, but the adventure takes a whole new twist once they land on the Empire State Building.

Performances were November 16, 17 and 18 at 7:30 PM and November 19 at 2:00 PM. Tickets were available in the high school office and at Gartner's Hallmark at a cost of \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00; they were also available at the door. This year we featured a cast of 32 high school students in our production. 62 students were involved in the set crew; this is the largest set crew we have ever had. Because of the sheer number of students in this crew, we had to divide them into an A day/B day system. This made it possible for our tech director to safely manage all of the students AND still have them be productive. The tech crew also had two special needs students involved. One of those students was always accompanied by one of her parents. A para was hired to accompany the other student.

14 students played in the pit orchestra and additional students were involved in the lighting/sound booth and costume/make-up crews. It was a HUGE undertaking for the BHS Theater Program due to multiple special effects and specialized costume requirements but it was the right time to tackle this production. Thanks to the generosity of several volunteers (both parents, past graduates and others) and other high school theater programs, we were able to rent and borrow necessary equipment, costumes and props so we could do the production.

This year, Hagstrom Durant decided to again enter the BHS production in the Spotlight Musical Theater Education Program/Contest through the Hennepin Theater Trust of Minneapolis. The Spotlight program provides many benefits to BHS. We received "pre-adjudication" and technical adjudication (focused only on our student technicians) during our dress rehearsals. Our performances were judged by three professional actors/directors/technicians. We were blessed to again receive the highest honor of Outstanding Achievement in Musical Theatre, Outstanding Overall Performance and Outstanding Overall Production. We received several individual and additional awards. We will again be performing at the State Theatre in Minneapolis on either June 12 or 13, 2018. We are very proud to represent the BHM school district in this endeavor.

The show was a huge hit. Crowd size was very large. The BHS students gave us both a powerful and very professional level production.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS- BOWLING:

Head Coach Ruth Clarke (16 years)

Another very successful year has come to an end for the Special Olympic Bowlers at the Buffalo High School. This year we had 10 bowlers. The State meet was on Saturday, November 11th at Brunswick Bowling Alley in Brooklyn Park. Nicholas Grady, who joined the team this year, received both awards for the Highest Score and the Highest Average during the season. He and Kyle Kauffman placed 6th at State. Jack Lieder, who won the award for Most Improved Average, took 5th along with Matthew Dehmer. Park Gilmer, a senior, took 4th place. We won 2 Bronze medals. They went to senior, Matt Brickley and senior Tony Fouquette. Senior Amber Bloom took Silver and 9th grader Lexi Georges also took Silver. It was a great competition! Coach Ruth Clarke would like to thank all the parents and fans for all the support throughout the season. Special thanks go to David Kaufmann, assistant coach and Char Vanbergen for helping out again this year.



Front row: Lexi Georges (9), Amber Bloom (12), Kyle Kauffman (10), Matthew Dehmer (8), Justin Bechenbacher (9).

Back row: Nicholas Grady (9), Jack Lieder (9), Matt Brickley (12), Park Gilmer (12), Tony Fouquette (12).