

School Board Meeting:

May 10, 2010

Subject:

BCMS Winter Activities Report

Presenter:

John Hayden

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

None



DESCRIPTION:

During the fall, BCMS experienced a rise in the level of participation. Unfortunately, we were not able to continue that trend in participation through the winter. In fact, BCMS Activities saw a considerable drop in participation. Every activity saw a decline in participation. Analyzing the numbers it is hard to come to one conclusion as to why we were down.

The biggest decline in participation came in Basketball, both boys and girls. The greatest drop was in boys however. While we have been in the 80's on the boys side the last three years, this year we only had 52 participate. Those numbers are not dangerously low, still at 20-30 a grade level, however for a school which has a goal of high participation, those numbers are concerning. We are in the process of identifying students we may have lost, and trying to draw some conclusions as to why. One factor is that those high numbers make school basketball less appealing to students because they get less floor time with such a high number of participants. This is a hard one to combat. We have over the years made adjustments to the schedule and budget by adding "intramural" games and more instructional time for basketball players. We actually provide a lot of gym time for our athletes. We need to do a better job of getting that word out to our athletes. Another thought is that playing at the middle school isn't as "glamorous" as playing travelling ball. To combat this, we are making some improvements to our gym, and I have been meeting with the president of the travelling basketball association to purchase uniforms that might seem a little more appealing to our students. I think that this sport might have been hit the hardest, because it has the most competition outside of school. Some families were faced with the choice of playing either in school, or in community rec./traveling basketball. Many were not going to play both.

Wrestling also saw a decline in participation. I truly do not believe that had anything to do with bussing or activities fees. Athletes in this sport are passionate and will come out regardless of those factors. I have been working with our varsity wrestling coach to find a coach who will do the needling recruiting to get kids out.

While our athletic teams saw a considerable drop in participation, they were not alone. Activities also saw declines. Our after school music programs also saw a decline in participation. Again, we are trying to find some threads as to why this might have happened.

One area that saw a dramatic decline that I believe we can fix is our intramural offerings. Intramurals were down considerably. One reason is that it seems we did not offer as many academic type activities as we have in the past. While each one of these activities individually doesn't attract large numbers, they do add up if we offer a larger number. Also, I think the overall number of offerings needs to be increased. Finally, I believe that over time, kids lose interest in things if they are the same. I would like to get on a rotation of when we offer activities so we can create some demand for those offerings.

Overall, the winter numbers put a damper on the exciting fall numbers. I believe that they are not a trend, but a dip that with a little work will be corrected next year. Kids want things to do after school, and parents also see the value in these activities. We need to make sure we are promoting and making offerings attractive to our students.