

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

May 14, 2018

Subject:

BCMS Winter Board Report

Presenter:

**Scott Thielman, Superintendent
For John Hayden,
BCMS Activities Director**

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Report only

DESCRIPTION:

This year's numbers while down from last year, were still higher than they have been in recent years. Overall we are very satisfied with our numbers and the success we saw this winter.

We had forty-seven girls out for basketball this winter. With three of four coaches new this year, it was a lot of fun to watch as new people with new ideas came in to add to our program. The one coach who remained with the program was Joel Gilmer. Joel has been a superstar since coming into our program a few years ago. As a girls basketball coach, Joel runs the show. He brings a calm and consistent presence to the program. Ryan Olson, Dom Gilmer and Brad Zrust made up the rest of the staff. Our girls may not have had a lot of numbers, but the team was competitive all season. Within our conference, we are always one of the stronger teams. Our numbers are low, but like I have been saying for a few years, that is consistent with the other schools around. We are able to put together four teams where other schools struggle with this. As the conference tries to find solutions, we have tried to keep the girls going first so that if a high school program wants to pull some middle schoolers up to round out their lower levels, they can do it after Winter Break when the boys start. We are also considering moving away from seventh and eighth grade teams to combined grade teams.

Boys basketball was second again this year and a lot of boys chose to participate. Ninety-two boys are a lot to try to fit in on four teams. At about 23 kids per team, it becomes difficult to find playing time. I usually reserve a coaching spot to add a fifth coach to help during practices and run intramural games on game days. This helps, but we are still limited with gym space and game time when it comes to creating a positive experience for our athletes. This year, for the first time, we took advantage of the nice gym space at Tatanka. Joel Gilmer was again a rock star for us. He has his bus license so he would leave his job a little early on practice days, pick up a bus and come pick up the boys and take them to Tatanka where they were able to have their own gym. This process will work as long as a driver is available and with Joel on the staff that works. I

have mentioned before that I would like to divide these boys up into two separate teams to allow for more playing time and a better experience. Look for more on this.

Paul Olson returned as our main wrestling coach. This year he was joined by Tyler Reiss. Tyler is a Buffalo graduate and works in town. He was a first-time coach and did a phenomenal job. I have always been impressed with the adults that help out in this sport. I always find they are quality people who are passionate about the sport and great with kids. Unfortunately, this has never lead to growing numbers. We continue to try to build the numbers in wrestling. We had a lot of support from the high school and our kids seemed to enjoy themselves this year. I will continue to hope this leads to a growth in our program. I know after watching a few matches, that the kids are getting better. Moving forward, a challenge I have for next year is to find a wrestling mat for our practice room. We have a nice one for competition, but we need to cover more of the floor in the wrestling room to make it safer for the kids. Mats are not cheap so I am working to find a good solution.

While our sports numbers were slightly down, our activities numbers were up and pushed us above the high overall numbers that we saw last year in our winter program. Winter activities included Speech, Knowledge Bowl, Drama, Yearbook, Chamber Choir, Jazz Band, Math Counts, Student Council, 6th Grade Singers, Guys Group, and Chamber Orchestra. We also added a chess club. That also lead to a Rubics Cube Club. These clubs represent the philosophy I have instilled in our program. Whatever is popular with kids and will get them to stay after school in a positive environment, we will offer. This year these two seemed popular. We have about fifty kids every Tuesday and Thursday in our Mall playing chess. With all of these activities, you can see it is a great time for kids to get involved. It is a busy place even in the “dead” of winter.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- BCMS Winter Participation Summary