

**School Board Meeting/Workshop:**

**June 14, 2021**

**Subject:**

BCMS Winter Board Report

**Presenter:**

**John Hayden,  
BCMS Asst. Principal/Act. Dir.**

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

None

**DESCRIPTION:**

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

This winter, like a lot of things this year, was different. We were coming off a great fall season and preparing for an equally positive winter season. However, we were put on shut down for a while. I spent time with ADs from other districts trying to put together a plan that would benefit our students. These meetings were frustrating at times as we really didn't know what we were going to be allowed to do. Finally, in mid-December, we were given the word that we would be allowed to begin winter activities after Winter Break. Our consortium of schools put together a plan to allow for all sports to be played in shorter five-week seasons between early January and Spring Break. One of the conditions we put on spectators was that parents and families were only allowed at home events. Parents were not allowed to attend away events.

Girls basketball started our winter season and set the tone for what we would see for the rest of the winter in regards to participation numbers. Twenty-two girls participated this year as opposed to the forty-five we had last year. The small numbers were common around the league. Instead of the normal 7th grade A & B teams and 8th grade A & B teams we combined the grades and made one A team and one B team. This was the standard around the league. This also was the first sport that had athletes wearing masks. I was unsure what would happen and how our students would handle wearing them. It really became a non-issue for our girls. I was proud of how they handled the situation. The best part of this season was seeing our girls competing hard and having what seemed like a pretty normal season during this COVID year.

Boys basketball numbers were also way down from last year. They were however, high enough to maintain four teams as we always do. Thirty-eight is a nice number for four teams. Our coaches were a little disappointed with a lower than normal turnout, but liked the size of their teams. Our numbers compared with others in the league and the level of competition was comparable. The schools that seemed to fare better than others were the ones that were able to get the most traveling kids out. Our coaching staff was led by Joel Gilmer again and he was able to make sure we had some consistency in the program.

Compared to other sports, wrestling numbers were not that far off from a year ago. Ten kids came out this year. We have never gotten over the hump in regards to our small participation numbers. We have great people involved in this sport at the youth level. Our high school coach has been engaged with the middle school, but for some reason we seem to lose kids at the middle school level. We have two great community people running our program, Paul Olson and Tyler Reiss. I can't say enough good things about the two of them and the way they work together to give the kids lucky enough to work with them a positive experience. We had a couple of kids wrestle up at the high school because that is where their skills lie. Even with those losses, we had some really good wrestlers competing all season. Our coaches report this was a great group to work with.

Part of the plan developed last fall when Volleyball and Football were not going to be allowed at the high school level, was to move Volleyball to the late winter/early spring. BCMS, STMA and Princeton stuck to this plan and even though the High School League opened up Volleyball, we waited until March to start that five-week season. This proved to be a bright spot in our winter as our numbers for Volleyball were actually very nice - only down three from last year. I believe this is because we had a large number of JO Volleyball players come out. It was a fun competitive season. The feedback we got was that the girls really enjoyed it and the time of the year was a good time. Parents were also very happy to be able to get their girls involved in an activity this spring as well as being able to get out of the house to watch them. We had nice, socially distanced attendance at these matches. We will however go back to the traditional fall season in 2021-2022.

Our numbers in activities were down this winter as well. It was hard to run activities when we were online learning with no real time line as to when we would come back to school. We did have speech and knowledge bowl, however, they were limited to online meets and practices so the experience was not what it could have been. We also did not offer as many intramural events this winter due to being online. I look forward to a more normal winter next year, when we have kids in the building all year and we are able to advertise with some certainty what we are doing.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Winter Participation Report