

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

September 9, 2019

Subject:

BCMS Spring Activities Report

Presenter:

John Hayden, BCMS Activities Dir.

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Review

DESCRIPTION:

The Spring Activity season seems to go by quickly. It seems like as fast as it begins after Spring Break, it is over. This past spring was particularly quick. The long winter and lousy early spring aided in the speed that it flew by. It seems that we have had a few like this the last few years. It was very difficult to start the season for our kids. We were not outside for three weeks. The slow start meant that the end was accelerated as we tried to get contests in before it was over.

Baseball had a particularly odd spring due to the remaking of the BCMS Athletic Yard. We bussed the teams over to Bentfield Mills where they were able to practice and play games. The facility is nice, but it takes a lot of time away from our kids when they have to wait for a bus, then bus across town before every practice. Next year our teams will be playing on the best fields in the conference right outside our building. Our baseball numbers were down last spring. I am not sure what to attribute that to. It was a one year dip. I will be watching. Our staff was anchored by Tom Gould and Mark West. Both have coached for a number of years and are wonderful with our kids.

Softball again was out at Lions Park last spring. Joel Gilmer and Kristin Lahti were our coaches. Lions Park offers a great venue for our softball teams. The atmosphere is great and the City does an awesome job of taking care of the fields. Our numbers were a little down again last spring. Unfortunately this has been a trend. Our teams were coached well and were competitive in all their games. I still believe the success of the Varsity team the last few years will trickle down to us soon.

Our track numbers remained the same at ninety-seven. This is a huge number, and as I have said in the past, I believe helps contribute to the success of the varsity program. Our coaches do a great job of working with all of these kids and have really put us in a position of being a dominant team in the M8. Our success is a tribute to our great coaches. We hosted two meets, which can be taxing on our high school coaches.

Coach Palmer and his staff run them at the High School and provide a first class experience for our kids.

Tennis last year, was coached by Laura Elder. Laura was a first year teacher in our building. I asked her to take this on and she readily agreed and loved it. I can't say enough about how much I appreciated what Laura did and how well she did it. The boys loved playing for her and they quickly became a force. Our courts were redone recently and painted last year. The purple looks awesome. Again, this is a first class facility for our kids.

One place the weather had the greatest effect was on our golf program. As the weeks went by and the course was not open, parents began to call and question why their kids were not starting yet. We got to a point of being close to refunding money. However, for the amount that parents paid, their kids were still able to get a lot of time on the course. Our coaches went two weeks later than they were scheduled in order to give kids more opportunities. Mike Wedge and the Buffalo Heights staff were tremendous to work with and still love having our kids out there and provide them with a great facility and experience. They even offer up discounted rounds to parents and kids from our team in the summer.

The biggest reason for the decline in overall numbers last spring was the lower number of intramurals offered. With the bad spring, we were not able to offer as many opportunities for students as we normally do. That dropped our numbers.

Minnesota is a great state, but the weather can be very interesting. Running an activities department dependent on Minnesota weather can be so volatile, it is interesting to say the least. But, always fun and especially with the staff and kids in our building.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Participation Report