

Browning Public Schools Board Agenda Request Meeting to Be Held: July ?, 2024

Recognit	ion:	□ Students		Staff		□ Parents
Information:		Building Report	□ Old Business			Superintendent's Report
Action:	🗆 Re	esignations		Hiring		Contract Service Agreements
	🗖 Tr	avel Out-of-State		Travel In State		Approvals
	🗆 Te	ermination		Legal Matters		Other:
		action request pertains to		• • • • /		⊠ High School/District Wide
Date:	07/8/25					
To:	Rebecca Rappold Superintendent of Schools					ellen Hall letic Director
Subject: Approval: Removal of Girls & Boys Tennis from BPS Athletic Department						
Description: Recommend the removal of High School Girls & Boys Tennis.						
Financial Impact: Funding Source (Budget/grant, etc.):						
Attachment(s):						
Superintendent Action: Approved Denied Deferred Initial & date:						
Comments:						
Board Action: N/A (Info) Approved Denied Tabled:						

As of now, Tennis is our only sport that is suffering to a degree of helplessness.

Due to lack of fundamental training and early introduction to certain sports at the lower levels, we are facing significant challenges at the high school level in tennis. Without proper foundational development including universal terminology, essential skills, and sports specific movements, our student-athletes are being placed into competition levels they are not adequately prepared for. Given these circumstances, I believe it would be in the best interest of both the school and our athletic program to consider eliminating tennis. Participation in tennis has been minimal, and those who do join often participate in other sports, which ultimately impacts their development and performance in those areas. Additionally, our current facilities do not adequately support a competitive tennis program, further limiting our ability to provide a meaningful experience for student-athletes. By making this adjustment, we can focus our resources on sports where we have both the necessary participation and infrastructure to develop our student-athletes effectively.

While things may look good on paper, we've seen that once we actually dive into the day-to-day operations of the program, trouble areas begin to surface. This reveals a disconnect between initial planning and actual execution. Unfortunately, when a program suffers due to this misalignment, it doesn't happen in isolation; it can create a ripple effect that negatively impacts other programs as well. This is an area we need to actively work on. It's important that we identify these gaps early and ensure that what we're building on paper truly translates into effective and sustainable real-world performance. Strengthening this alignment will not only benefit individual programs but also support the broader success of our school district and give our student athletes a reality of how sports work at all levels.

Not having feeder programs can seriously affect the success and sustainability of a high school athletic program. Feeder programs such as youth leagues, middle school teams, or summer camps are essential for introducing students to the fundamentals of a sport at an early age. Without them, athletes often enter high school with limited experience, skill development, and understanding of the game. This lack of early exposure leads to decreased competitiveness, as students are forced to learn the basic skills during a time when they should be refining and executing advanced techniques. Additionally, without feeder systems, coaches lose the opportunity to identify and mentor talent early, which results in weaker team performance and a lack of continuity. Ultimately, the absence of feeder programs creates a gap in player development, limits competition readiness, and puts the entire high school program at a disadvantage compared to schools with strong pipelines.