

# *Minico High School*

292 West 100 South  
Rupert, Idaho 83350  
(208) 436-4721  
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May 4, 2018

Dr. Ken Cox and Minidoka County School Board of Trustees

Request for stipend,

This letter is to request an additional 9<sup>th</sup> grade assistant basketball coaching stipend for both the boys and the girls programs.

Basketball is one of the hardest sports to coach. It is by far the toughest when it comes to cutting kids and determining playing time because of the number of kids that tryout and the subjectivity inherent in the game. Coaching basketball is highly visible and basketball coaches are some of the most criticized. Our coaches coach not only in the season but also out of season and open gyms throughout the year.

Currently we have one coach for each of our JV and freshmen teams. Running a practice all by themselves is a challenge to be effective. We want to always have two deep leadership and coaching during practice. We do this with volunteers and have done for a long time. These men come to practice every day and put in a great deal of time, including out of practice with game prep, game film breakdown, and scouting that most other sports don't put in a fraction of the time basketball does with the exception of football. Having a second coach in practice is vital for instruction, safety, and protection. Wrestling for example has all six of their coaches in practice at one time. In basketball we have 3 teams and our coaches' practice 3 to 4 times a week by themselves if it was not for volunteers as well as 3 games a week including weekends.

Wrestling's main request was so that parent/volunteers didn't have to cover in a match. We also do not want to have a volunteer doing a job that is absolutely mandatory for a program and liability with our coaches and players when they are alone throughout the season in practice with 10 to 12 players in a heated sport with many team dynamics. A coach can't put two guys on the track and have them race to see who competes or on the mat and see who wins. Basketball is much more subjective and requires constant evaluation and feedback in practice.

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In a given season we will practice 60 plus days. Awfully difficult to do that by yourself.

To the casual observer of the game of basketball you would think you would only need one coach, but that is far from the truth. There is constant game plans, in game adjustments, communications, stats, feedback, player bench control that cannot be done with one coach.

Basketball along with football is where the revenue comes from to pay officials and support the other sports. We are lucky to break even after paying officials often in other sports. Baseball and wrestling would be comparable to a freshmen basketball game gate money at best after officials. This is an important factor when taking into consideration how much officials cost. We pay their game fees and travel for every game.

I hope you would consider this request as it is a volunteer service we have had provided that should be a paid position. Under the circumstances of what has recently occurred with wrestling coaches' increase, this is a request I hope that would be honored.

Pay Scale: D-0

Thank you for your consideration,

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