

School Board Meeting/Workshop:

June 26, 2012

Subject:

Activity Programming/Fees

Presenter:

Tom Bauman

SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:

Recommend Board approval based on discussion at the June Board Workshop.

DESCRIPTION:

Background - History:

At the February Board Workshop a BHS activity report was given and a discussion ensued regarding self-funded activities and the long-term viability of self-funded activities. At the June Board Workshop, BHS self-funded activities were again discussed and a recommendation was made that the Board take action on the future direction for MSHSL activities that were formerly sponsored by the District at the June Board meeting.

Rationale for proposal:

Self-funded activities are difficult to track and hold accountable for timely receipt of funds raised for activities. The competition for fundraising is great for any program, but magnified with self-funded activities. Leadership within booster organizations is always changing and communication often breaks down.

Boys Swim and Dive has been self-funding for the past three years and is requesting that the District revisit the decision in 2009 that cut the program. Currently, the swim and dive team is paired with Girls Nordic Skiing to comply with Title IX requirements. The participation level in girls Nordic skiing is extremely low and fundraising is a concern to keep both programs viable.

A modest increase in student activity fees, gate revenues (family passes) and a realignment of district funded activities to pair Boys Swim and Dive with Girls Dance Team would meet Title IX guidelines and more than likely experience a higher participation rate.

Program implications:

Boys Swim and Dive is a strong activity in our Mississippi 8 Conference, the MSHSL and other surrounding communities and will most likely continue to have healthy participation rates. Additionally, a recent BHS survey reported that approximately 50 female students indicated interest in participating in a dance team if it were offered as an activity. The Dance Team is a Title IX recognized

sport offering and is strong in the Mississippi 8 Conference, the MSHSL and surrounding communities. Pairing these two activities will offer more opportunities for students than a pairing with Girls Nordic.

Dropping Girls Nordic will affect 3 students which is hard to do but in the long-term is unsustainable. The lack of a girls Title IX offering with a boys activity has an impact on both activities. The only way Girls Nordic can continue is through self-funding if it is not paired with Boys Swim and Dive.

Financial implications:

An activity participation fee increase of \$10 would partially offset the ongoing costs of reinstating Boys Swim and Dive and Dance Team. A donation of approximately \$10,000 from Boys Swim and Dive boosters would also offset the first year implementation costs. Gate fee revenue, in particular, the family activity pass, could be increased by \$25 to be more closely aligned with other districts in the Mississippi 8 Conference. The additional revenue could be as much as \$10,000 if the same numbers of families purchase the pass that have done so in past years. Activity fees do not cover the costs of activities in BHM nor do the fees in any district in Minnesota but the fees do supplement the cost of the activities.

Evaluation:

Participations rates, student surveys and annual activity reports to the School Board will continue to be the method in which programs will be evaluated.

Next steps:

If the School Board approves funding boys swimming and girl's dance team, and the fee and family pass increase, the information would be shared with coaches as soon as possible and with students and parents at the fall activities meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S):

none