

Activities Council Meeting Notes
March 25, 2014 | 7:00PM | School District Board Room

Members in attendance:

Brad Becker, Lisa Braun, Luke Lutterman, Russ Kath, Jan Solarz, Bonnie Raduns, Hannah Fyten, Jeff Hille, Richard Carriveau and Jessica Messerich.

Welcome and Introductions:

Introduction of all members.

Activities Council Practices:

Discussions in the meetings should remain between the council members. All members were encouraged to speak up and engage in the conversations which at times may not have all members in agreement about issues. This is the place for discussions.

Reviewed minutes from November meeting.

Winter Report:

1. New Staff and Coaching Vacancies:

- Matt Posch is returning to the head girls golf coach position. The numbers in girls golf have nearly doubled from last year.
- Loren Finlayson and Marie Zeilenga are splitting the track head coaching duties.
- The winterguard director, Sarah Erickson, needed to take a family emergency leave mid season. Assistant Rachel Dement is fulfilling the director position for the remainder of the season.

2. Winter Season Summary:

Luke thanked the students, coaches, fans and community for a good winter season. A goal for the 2014-15 school year is to create excitement and improve the promotion of our programs – encourage more fans and school spirit. One attempt next winter is to host back-to-back girls and boys basketball games on the same night. Incorporate the Magicians and Dance Team to perform. CLC standings and highlights were reviewed. Middle school participation numbers for winter increased from 112 participants to 148. Spring is looking favorable as well. The records/standings will improve. Lexi Holman was selected as the St. Cloud Times All-Area Girls Hockey Player of the Year. Participation numbers were down – alarming, but will get better. Speech is still in-season. Math League and Knowledge Bowl have finished. The spring musical, Aladdin will be running April 24-27. We are also hosting a couple of music festivals in April. Congratulations to the Culinary Team for taking 2nd place and the Culinary Management Team placing 1st for the 7th year in a row at their contest. There has been and continues to be discussion with students, parents, teams and community about sportsmanship and conduct during activities. There is a plan to have special sessions pre-season for the upcoming school year.

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3. Athletic Hall of Fame:

Nominations are currently being accepted for the 2014 class. Selections will take place in May. All were encouraged to seek nominations for this event.

4. Summer Planning:

- St. Cloud Orthopedics will be running the Strength and Conditioning program through the SRR Recreation Department. They are planning four to five sessions per day. In-house, Brady Roden was hired as the school-year strength coach. He is doing a great job to create a safe and welcoming environment for girls and boys before and after school.
- The High School main gym floor was resurfaced last summer and administration is not pleased with the project. The color was wrong and the job was pushed back and created delays for our fall sports using the gym. What assurance do we have that this project will be done correctly and timely by the same company (no cost) or is it a good idea to seek another company bid? Either way, the project is scheduled for completion during the July 4th week which is also the no-contact period for high school sports teams.
- The swimming pool is in need of repair in the NE corner. The pool will be drained and repaired with some lighting changes during the July 4th week.

Discussion Items:

- High School Goal #3 – trying to increase overall activity participation by ten percent. Brought winter and spring sign-up sheets into the cafeteria during lunch to encourage students to sign up. What are some reasons students do not participate? Fees too high, students don't know what is available? Students are never turned away due to inability to pay fees. Families work with Activities to set up payment alternatives. Suggestions made to display work of Art Club, continue with flyers for SADD, Project for Teens, etc. The fall showcases all activities on the first day of school for ninth grade students with an Activities Fair.
- How do we improve our programs and what process do we put in place? Setting goals for the 2014-15 school year. One goal is to improve the SRRHS culture. Should we survey students to see what they think of activities and what they might like to see added? There is a plan for a survey monkey at the high school and now looking at something similar for middle school students. Luke will also be conducting senior exits to talk about experiences and goals. There are other reasons for lack of participation – kids have jobs, too late to join, commitment and student attitude.
- There are two potential new programs being considered for high school students. One is Clay Target League sponsored by the SR Sportsmans Club (could include Rice Club). There has been an informational meeting with about 30 students in attendance. Now going back to the Sportsmans Club to see how they could help fund the program for 30-45 students

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(this group is a different population from those participating in other activities). The second program being reviewed is Sartell approaching our district about a co-op (boys) lacrosse program. There are many things to consider before any decision would be made on this one, but SRR would want the program to be available for both boys and girls. Discussed with the council the opinions of should we be looking to add more programs or work at program retention and growth with the activities we already have. Before either activity could be added, administration is concerned about missing school, academic checks, MSHSL rules, hiring coaches and officials.

- Discussed the school colors and school song. An Art Committee was developed with the building of the new high school to establish a common color choice. There are many versions of green and gold. Suggested to decide on the pantone colors and promote them with all activities. There is a group actively looking to make some changes to the school song. Is this necessary? The council feels many do not know or understand the etiquette of school song playing. Education could begin in elementary music with learning the song and what to do when you hear it played.

Items From the Committee:

- Banners in the gym – Luke is looking at digital banner updates to include one for each activity.
- We need to develop tradition at SRR.
- Bring branding to the gym – culture change.

Future Meeting Date:
June 10, 2014

Submitted by:
Tammy Weis