

Activities Council Meeting Notes

November 12, 2013 | 7:00 PM | School District Board Room

Members in attendance: Brad Becker, Sandi Murphy, Jessica Messerich, Lisa Braun, Russ Kath, LeeAnn Kothenbeutel, Hannah Fyten, Erich Martens, Luke Lutterman

Welcome and Introductions:

Introduction of all members, Ryan Mohr joined us as an intern working with Luke from the Sports and Recreation Management program at SCSU.

Activities Council Practices:

Discussed the direction of the council - to strive for improvement of the activities offered to our students. The council should work together and come to a consensus with disagreements by discussions and resolving issues. All council members are encouraged to voice opinions needed to address problems and ideas. Discussions in the meetings should remain between the council members.

Reviewed minutes from June meeting:

Summarized the summer projects at the high school. The main gym floor resurfacing was completed with flexed timelines. The finished product is well done – lighter finish with side courts regulation size. The soccer field access has not been completed. The softball batting cages are up with nets going in next Spring. The summer speed and strength program run through Orthopedic Sports was highly attended. Attempts to extend the program into the school year were not possible due to lack of staffing available from OrthoSports. The Italy Choir Trip is scheduled to happen in December. Most of the students are moving forward with plans to participate.

Fall Report:

1. New Staff and Coaching Vacancies:

Joey Waters – Girls Basketball Head Coach
Nikki Seguin – Gymnastics Head Coach
John Kothenbeutel – Boys Hockey Head Coach
Alex Euteneuer – Drumline Advisor
Steven Mick – Vocal Music Director

2. Fall Season Summary:

CLC Standings were discussed. The Boys Soccer team earned the Sportsmanship Award. There were great strides made in this area with the boys team. Overall participation numbers were discussed. The district goal to increase participation by 10% was shared with the council. The CLC Leadership Conference was attended by 38 of our high school students at Sartell High School in August. Focus of the event was appropriate use of social media. The CLC Jazz Festival was held in the middle school CAC and was hosted by SRRHS with six of our students participating. The Choral Connections Concert was held at SCSU with area schools participating in this non-competitive event. SRR had the largest group in attendance. Our students represented SRR well. Scott Campbell facilitated the first Pep Band Concert and it was well done with the potential to do annually. SRR hosted the Girls Swimming and Diving Section 5A Meet. We experienced some technical problems with the diving score system but otherwise a very well run meet. The Activities Fair held on the first day of school for the ninth graders was well attended with activity sign up opportunities during lunch. Staff appreciated the event. Students are looking for information on all activities offered at SRRHS. Hannah stated that offering JV2 teams gives

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more students an opportunity to play in games and helps program growth. The coop with Apollo in Girls Tennis was challenging to manage. Added Trisha Bemboom to the coaching staff as a link for program communication.

3. Athletic Hall of Fame:

The second annual induction with seven inductees was held at the end of homecoming weekend. Inductees were invited to attend the pepfest, football game, brunch and golf tournament. Roughly 150 people were in attendance at the brunch and ceremony.

Discussion Items:

1. Sixth Grade Participation – continued discussion from last year regarding sixth graders participating in middle school activities. It is crucial for us to increase participation numbers for growth of our high school teams. Would our numbers improve? CLC schools are starting to include 6th graders in girls swim/dive and cross country. How do we connect 6th graders to activities? Space, funding (coach salaries) are some obstacles. Maybe consider the programs that do not have opportunities through the Rec Department – gymnastics, cross country, swim & dive. Seasons could be created during activity off-seasons to avoid participation issues.
2. Acceleration Practices – much discussion on accelerating middle school students to high school sports. The policy was put into place with input from the council a few years ago. The policy has good meaning, but some diversions may need to apply with current team structures at the high school. Discretion should be left to the Activities Director for individual situations.
3. Not Cutting Ninth Grade Participants – can be challenging for scheduling conference tournaments – typically geared toward “A” teams. There are roster limits and skill levels to look at when determining the “no cutting” guidelines. The decision should be at the discretion of the Activities Director.
4. Activity fee amounts were discussed. Some fees are high, but it was stressed that students are not discouraged from participation due to inability to pay fees. Scholarships are available. Could we look at tiered activity fees? Willmar High School has a similar model.
5. Student support at events has been outstanding this fall. Looking for ways to fill the bleachers and increase fan support. Options were brought up - \$10 fee with Storm shirt – wear shirt and get in free. Continue to promote events and make visible announcements to students and staff. Not many CLC schools have cheerleading squads. How do we promote good sportsmanship and have positive fan support? Our fans need leadership. The CLC is considering promoting Super Fans at schools to develop fan support. Promote the school song and pep band. Maybe the Week Day News could air a game etiquette segment.
6. Trap Shooting Team – there is discussion with the Sportsmans Club on this activity. There are no district dollars available. It is not a MSHSL activity. Open to males and females. There would be a fall and spring season. Del Tone would be a location for the team – they have enough firearms for participants. This would need School Board approval with alignment of practice time separate from school day hours. Student survey responses will be interesting. The culture of this community would support this activity.

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7. The Fall Musical – Beauty and The Beast has had wonderful reviews and attendance. The second weekend run is coming up.

Items From the Committee:

1. Status of softball field scoreboards – one of many needed. A representative from Daktronics is scheduled for an on-site visit to address the needs of scoreboards for softball, soccer, football and the swimming pool.
2. Power has been brought out to the high school fields (garage) as of this fall.

Future Meeting Date:

March 18, 2014

Submitted by:

Tammy Weis