

SRR Activities Council
Fall Meeting, November 11, 2014
7:00 pm H.S. Board Room

Sauk Rapids-Rice Activities Mission Statement

"We are dedicated to encouraging students to participate in a variety of activities to explore and develop their full potential to learn, to lead, and to become productive citizens."

High School Building Goal III

Increase the percentage of students and staff involved in at least one activity by 10%.

Members Present: Jeff Hille, Robyn Holthaus, Jessica Messerich, Luke Lutterman, Richard Carriveau, Hannah Fyten, Jan Solarz, Sandra Murphy, Joan Frerich, Lisa Braun, Erich Martens, Loren Finlayson, LeeAnn Kothenbeutel, Brad Becker. Guest: Dr. Dan Bittman.

Review of Activities Council Practices and Norms - all opinions of the members are welcome with differing opinions being good. Reminded members of the confidentiality practice.

Reviewed Minutes from Summer 2014 Meeting – some discussion on the field house approval.

Fall Report –

1. Reviewed the new coaches and staff: Dave Anderson – Head Volleyball, Ken Karna – Head Boys Hockey, Ben Fuchs – Drumline and the vacancy of the Softball coaching staff.
2. Fall Season Summary:
 - a. Participation of our teams – Girls Swim & Dive Team at Section Meet in Duluth – 200 Medley Relay, Breaststroke and Backstroke members headed to State Meet.
 - b. Homecoming/Hall of Fame – Inducted six inductees – Don Hill, Denny Dushaw, John Waseka, Toni Neils, Greg Bemboom & Jim Worden. Added a new Friday Post-Game Social at Molitor's and did not have a golf tournament on Saturday.
 - c. CLC Leadership Conference – well attended.
 - d. CLC Jazz Festival
 - e. Choral Connections Concert
 - f. Fall Musical – Oklahoma! has three shows remaining.

Update on MSHSL Football Schedule – changed from conference to district – schools gave input – we are in the North Central District #22. Took Mississippi Eight conference and combined it with the Central Lakes Conference – Fergus Falls went to a different district. Not much has changed – still a crossover of games/schools. Moorhead and Fergus Falls are out and Brainerd and Princeton are in. We will have eight games starting earlier in the fall with less distance to travel.

Update on MSHSL Transgender Policy – Erich Martens sits on the MSHSL Board and gave an update – Eligibility starts at the local schools – appeals go to the MSHSL appeals policy – 32 other states, the NCAA and the Olympics committee are using. The policy is written as a guideline for schools. The policy will be tabled and reviewed in December – shared policy draft – reviewed bullet items – schools make determination – locker rooms and showers are not shared space.

Discussion Items –

1. Introduction by Dr. Bittman – The School Board wants equal access to opportunities – especially with the poverty increase. Some changes: State of MN now pays for all-day kindergarten. District now has free transportation for all students. Increased technology access for students. User fee rates are too high. Location Equity Aid – all districts get to the

- same point – average is \$1,062 with our district at \$380 after the passed levy. Now that the district has access to other dollars, how should that money be used?
2. Staff Survey Results and Priorities – Luke shared the information. User fees are \$200 at the high school and \$95 at the middle school – working to remove barriers. Discussion:
 - a. No equipment budget – will we fund? There has been some dollars brought back – still small – will we be sorry if we reduce it again?
 - b. Where do the fees go? General fund budget.
 3. Discussion on how to remove barriers and improve experiences for student participants.
 - a. User fees – looked at CLC fee comparisons. Why are we considering a fee reduction? Dr. Bittman said the Board hears our fees are too high – remove financial barriers – include sixth graders, but at what fee? Eliminating barriers. Could Booster groups fund? Assist with lower level fees. Have discussions with Booster groups and coaches. Would we see an increase in participation numbers if we reduced fees? We want families to see the value of activities. The 2009 budget removed supply budgets for teams – Should the school district provide uniforms? Fundraising takes a lot of time – same people always involved – more intrusive to families than higher fees. Luke mentioned if we reduce fees – will we increase fundraising? Erich Martens asked Richard and Hannah what they are hearing from students. Lower fees will not necessarily change the numbers of students who participate. Fine Arts fundraising is done individually, not for the entire group.
 - b. Sixth grade participation – framework. What do we have for sixth graders to feel connected? Do we offer full immersion in activities or offer camps or maybe a combination. Reviewed comments from Staff Survey. Some programs have 5th and 6th grade programs – football, etc. Possibly switch fall – spring seasons to fill coach and facilities needs. Sixth grade cannot participate in MSHSL teams – eligibility issues by their senior year. Would take creative scheduling. All districts are different. Intramural programs could be another option – lower costs. The options could be a good transition into sports along with transitioning into middle school. Should fee reduction at the middle school happen to increase participation?
 - c. Middle School Activities Director position – reviewed what this position is and the importance of it. It is a vital part of middle school activities. Ties up loose ends – not a definite model in any other district.
 - d. Middle School Activities Bus – discussed how it is offered with a possible expansion next year.
 4. Addition of Clay Target Team in the Spring of 2015 – recommendation from Activities Council to bring it to the School Board. Reviewed Program Expansion Form. Highest requested new activity – not a CLC event but a MSHSL tournament. Luke will bring the proposal to the Board. It was mentioned that students can still do their other spring sports.

Future Meeting Date: TBD

Submitted by: Tammy Weis