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ATHLETIC COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

August 2, 2010
Central Office
7:00 P.M.

THOSE IN ATTENDANCE: Ed Strumello, Yashu Putorti; Jim Ward, Fred Stanek, MaryAnne Mascolo, Ed Rostowsky, Peter Kubik, David Willadsen, Paul Roy

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Putorti opened the meeting and Ms. Mascolo invited David Willadsen to speak regarding the proposal to add a Cross Country Program to the Middle School sports program. Mr. Willadsen is a track coach at the High School and a strong proponent of Cross Country. The proposal is for a Cross Country team that would be open to grade 6, 7, and 8 boys and girls. Mr. Olechna's proposal included a chart showing local districts that have a Cross Country team at the Middle School level. Students come to the high school with very little knowledge of Cross Country. Cross Country is a great sport for all students, there are no cuts and it is open to all students of any athletic ability. Great physical activity for the students and there is very little equipment needed; only a tee shirt, transportation, and a coach would be needed. If approved; Mr. Willadsen would resign from coaching the high school Cross Country team and apply to coach the Middle School Cross Country team. One concern that was voiced was about including 6th graders on this team since they do not participate in any other sport or school activity. Ms. Mascolo informed the board that the MS Volleyball coach has resigned and this proposal is for eliminating Volleyball and replacing it with Cross Country so no new sports would be added to the budget. Currently there are seventeen team members on the MS Volleyball team; concerned about backlash from parents of those athletes if we eliminate this sport. Ms. Mascolo pointed out that at this time we are not eliminating a sport; that this is only a discussion on the proposal. She said there are pros and cons to this proposal; Cross Country would serve more students but by eliminating Volleyball, we would be eliminating a feeder program to a very successful team at the High School. The cost of the sport would be the cost of bus transportation to meets, the cost of a tee shirt to be used as a uniform and the cost of the stipend for the coach. The stipend for the Middle school volleyball coach is currently \$1650. Mr. Willadsen indicated there would probably be only four or five meets and did not have an idea of how many students would be interested in joining the team. Mr. Strumello's feeling was there would never be a need for more than one bus.

Ms. Mascolo implored the committee to choose one or the other sport but not to add a sport to the budget because there are still many positions that still need to be reinstated. She voiced her concerns regarding parents' reaction at adding a sport after the struggle we went through with the past budget.

Mr. Stanek indicated he felt there must be some way that the necessary \$4000 to fund an additional sport could be found. He felt there should be some very serious consideration made to have both sports included in the budget.

Mr. Strumello voiced his concern on the safety of Cross County at the Middle School level since Cross County means running on roads. He feels middle school kids are more likely to not be safety minded while running on roads. Mr. Willadsen indicated that he would not have kids running on the roads that they would run on the Middle School campus only. Mr. Strumello also had some concerns about adding a sport after the cuts that we made during the budget process and we need to be very careful about adding things back into the budget.

There was a discussion of the budget as it is today and what personnel movement is being considered with the resignation of Dan Dunaj as a Physical Education/Health teacher at the high school and how the proposed personnel movement impacts the available funds in the budget. While discussing the budget, there was quite a bit of discussion regarding the Athletic Director position and other situations going on in the district. Ms. Mascolo indicated that her number one priority is to educate children and the budgets that have been passed over the last several years has made this district make very difficult decisions to allow us to just continue to operate. The impact of these decisions is being felt by all. The committee instructed Ms. Mascolo to hire a new volleyball coach for the Seymour Middle School to replace the coach who has resigned.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec. Mr. Ward) to recommend to the full board to institute a Cross Country Team at Seymour Middle School

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward, Mr. Putorti

After the discussion that was held during the discussion of the Cross Country Track team, it was agreed that this committee would like to reinstate the position of part time Athletic Director with Social Security benefits.

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec. Mr. Ward) to recommend to the full board to reinstate the part time Athletic Director position with Social Security benefits

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Stanek, Mr. Ward, Mr. Putorti

Mr. Putorti moved on to agenda item #2 – Seymour Hall of Fame. This was an idea of Mr. Jay Gesek's who is putting together a Seymour Sports Hall of Fame committee that would like to locate the Seymour Hall of Fame in the Seymour High School. He is looking for a sanction by the Seymour Board of Education to be recognized as the official and only committee to go forward with a Seymour Hall of Fame. The committee would handle all the associated activities (such as awards, trophy cases, etc.). The handling of funds has not been completely worked out. There was a question of whether there would be any cost to the school system. East Haven and Naugatuck have Hall of Fame programs and they are totally independent of the school.

There was talk of what the qualifications would be and the feeling would be that the inductee would be a graduate of Seymour High School. This committee also questioned whether we, as a district, would want to sanction the Seymour Sports Hall of Fame and it was decided that the request may be a little premature since the committee is not well formed yet.

This Seymour Sports Hall of Fame committee is in the very early stages of investigating if this would be a viable option. It was decided that the Seymour Sports Hall of Fame committee needs to be an official organization before it comes back to the Board of Education with their request. The feeling is the Seymour Sports Hall of Fame should be independent of the Board of Education and they could request what they may need from the high school as needs arise. The members of the Athletic Committee were uncomfortable with sanctioning this group as the sole committee to support a Hall of Fame. Mr. Stanek indicated he felt this was a wonderful idea and opportunity and he made note that the Athletic Committee encourages this endeavor. The committee took no action on this agenda item.

The Chairman had no report and the Superintendent had no report.

MOTION: (Mr. Ward, sec. Mr. Stanek) to adjourn the meeting.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Ward, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Putorti

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Submitted by:
MaryAnne Mascolo