

August 23, 2018

To: Dr. Anderson, Superintendent
Boulder Valley School District Board of Education

From: Michele DeBerry

RE: Summary Athletic Review Committee

At the June 20, 2017 Board of Education work session, the Board requested a review of the high school athletic programs. The committee work focused on soliciting feedback, reviewing programs and providing recommendations regarding strengths, needs, and direction of the district's high school athletic programming.

Committee. The principals of the six BVSD high schools with athletic programs, recommended individuals to serve on the committee who (1) represented their community (2) would challenge the system and (3) would advocate for improving the student-athlete's experience. Representation from each school included a coach, a parent, and a school administrator. In the fall of 2017, an application was posted on the BVSD website for community representation; from the twelve applications, three individuals were selected to serve on the Athletic Review Committee. The committee convened on January 29, 2018 and met monthly through June 2018. At the committee's recommendation, they will meet three times this year to receive updates from the schools.

Programs. Six neighborhood high schools offer interscholastic sports: Boulder, Broomfield, Centaurus, Fairview, Monarch and Nederland. Peak to Peak and Justice HS also offer athletic programs. As charter schools, they independently fund and manage their athletic programs. During the 2017-18 school year, 5,100 athletes participated in twenty-two sport offerings. Click here to view [Athletic Review Committee](#)

Colorado High School Activities Association governs interscholastic high school sports in the state. There are five athletic classifications determined by school size. The smallest schools being in the 1A class thru 5A, which is composed of the largest schools. Football is different and includes 6-man, 8-man followed by 1A-5A. Boulder and Fairview are classified 5A in all sports including football. Broomfield and Monarch are in the 5A schools in all sports except football in which they are 4A. Centaurus is 4A in all sports; Nederland is 2A in all sports.

Survey. At the February meeting, the group identified three elements for feedback: parent's experience, athlete's experience, and school staff support for athletic programs. The final survey was composed of twenty-five questions and five open response questions. Click here to view the [Athletic Review Survey Prompts](#). In April, surveys were sent out to the parents of student athletes. In May, surveys were sent to student-athletes. If a student participated in more than one sport, they and their parents received a survey for each sport. LifeTrack Services, Inc. collected survey results.

At the committee's April meeting they reviewed the **parent survey data**. Click here to view the [Parent Survey](#) results. The committee's observations of the parent survey results included: click here to view the committee's comments on the [parent survey data](#).

Highlights:

- Parents believe participation encourages good choices for time management, academics, and citizenship
- 83% of respondents indicated participation in programs is positive

- Over 90% believe athletes are able to balance academics and sports
- 86% believe coaches promote safety
- and 83% shared their athlete has fun participating on the team

Areas for growth:

- Only 62% agreed or strongly agreed administration is helpful with the needs and concerns about the program
- Approximately 1 in 4 parents did not feel like they can, or the school encourages them to give candid feedback
- 20% of parents feel coaches do not treat their kids as individuals
- A high percentage, 26%, of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with the prompt coaches clearly communicate
- The number of respondents, as well as, the high rate of N/A responses makes the data hard to generalize

During the June meeting, the committee reviewed and commented on the [student-athlete survey data](#). Click here to view the [Athlete Survey results](#). The committee's observations of the student survey results included: click here to view the committee's comments on the [athlete survey data](#).

Highlights:

- 88% of athletes stated they have fun participating in their sports programs
- 87% indicated they learn life skills through participation
- 85% reported being able to balance academics and athletics participation
- 81% shared their coaches build a climate of respect, and
- 83% believed their coaches model appropriate behavior

Areas for growth:

- 22% do not feel the school administration equitably supports boys and girls programs
- 19% disagree with the prompt the school staff works to establish and consistently implement school policies
- 24% report they do not feel coaches clearly communicate
- 30% feel administration does not have open communication and share feedback with coaches
- There is less participation by male athletes and athletes in 11th and 12th grade

Recommendations

The committee recommended their work continue into the 2018-19 school year, as well as, have school teams work closely with their school teams use their data to pinpoint a plan for improvement. Other recommendations include:

- Administer post-season, instead of end of year survey to improve participation
- Conduct parent and athlete focus groups
- Solicit perceptions on concussion management, parents as coaches and athletic trainers
- Facilitate senior exit interviews
- School share an update report of their areas of focus, provide feedback and ask questions of each other in January
- Generate final report include comparison data in June for presentation to the Board of Education in August 2019