

December 7, 2020 Athletic Review Committee Notes

Members in Attendance: Jeri Crispe, Facilitator; Ginger Ramsey, principal Broomfield HS; Eddie Hartnett, AD Boulder HS; Steve Shelton, AD Broomfield High School; Emmy Murphy, AD Centaurus HS; Stacey Zis, BVSD Board member; Randy Herbstreit, Centaurus High School - Coach (football, basketball, baseball); and Erin Watson, parent; Karen Minniear, parent, David Callan, community member, Hardy Kalisher, coach and parent: Chuck Doudna AP/AD Nederland Middle-Senior High; Rod Beauchamp AP/AD and Girls' Basketball Coach Fairview High School.

Meeting Notes:

Miit Shah and Zachary Mund shared their presentation concerning the waiving of Athletic Credits that they presented to the School Board in September 2020.

In essence the students are asking to increase the amount of Athletic waiver from its current 2 credits to 5 credits for participation in a CHSAA sponsored sport per season. The requirement is P20 + 10 credits and health so they would waive the 10 elective credits and take P20 and health.

Several questions from the committee were asked and answered.

1. **Q-**Is this for CHSAA or Club sports? **A-**CHSAA sports only, the building principal makes the decision on outside approved sports.
2. **Q-**Is this for credits to be waived? **A-**Yes, it is for waiving the credits.
3. **Q-**Is this for Varsity and JV? **A-**Yes, both Varsity and JV.

The following considerations were raised by members of the committee.

1. This ask potentially opens up a slippery slope for other sports like ice skaters, equestrian riders, and/or other passion sports. It was clarified that we are not broadening or changing the current sports that would be covered by this waiver ask.
2. Non CHSAA sports require athletes to log 75 hours of sports activity to be eligible for waiver credit in addition to requiring principal approval.
3. It was shared that a prior request for a 2.5 credit waiver was submitted in past years by counselors, so student athletes would have the opportunity to reach the athletic credit waiver of 10 credits during their 4 years of sports participation.
4. One member felt that equity could be an issue since all students do not participate in CHSAA sports due to costs and other factors creating an equity gap as many students only have the option of participating in Physical Education (P.E.) classes.
5. In addition, a member raised concern for the potential loss of Physical Education courses/sections leading to a reduction in the number of P.E. teachers, yet several members stated that athletes like and still will take Physical Education courses.

6. If the credit waiver were to be raised some members felt that it might entice more students to participate in sports.
7. There was some discussion that sports do not cover all of the nutrition and P.E. standards that are part of the Colorado State Standards.
8. Zach and Miit shared that many injured athletes still stay with their sport and show up at every practice and should still be granted a waiver if the district decides to increase the credit waivers.
9. Members felt the need for caution as there is a Marching Band Policy that could possibly be pulled into question.
10. Another member proposed removing all waivers, stating that sports is a choice and should not have anything to do with waivers.
11. One member asked about the history of the athletic credit waivers and no member was quite sure of the history although one member state that as a student athlete in BVSD during the 1980's the athletic credit waiver was in place.
12. Members do believe there is educational value to playing sports.

Next Steps:

1. **Athletic Review Committee Members (specifically Athletic Directors and Principals) are going back to their buildings for further discussion with counselors and possibly teachers.**
2. **The committee needs guidance from Executive Director, Michele DeBerry to determine if they can have discussions with teachers.**
3. **Everyone will be bringing back their finding to the February 8, 2021 meeting.**

Survey Discussion

1. Our committee members would like to continue with an Athletic Survey for parent and athletes if we can improve our survey participation numbers, so the data is more meaningful. An example was shared that only two parents from a sport participated in a survey and the results canceled each other out as one was positive and one less so thus a preponderance of evidence was not evident for next step decisions.
2. The survey was developed 3 years ago, and it took 9 months to develop the survey. Several members of the committee participated in the development of the current survey.
3. A member of the group highlighted that we need to check our expectations around survey completion as 20% completion is the current national trend for survey response rates. Surveys are a sampling of parents, not all. [Jeri will research what is our past response rate for the athletic survey.](#)
4. For parents, the survey always felt late, so completing the survey is ideal.
5. This survey has been completed for 2 years, although due to COVID 19, it was not completed in the Spring of the 2019-2020 school year.

Survey Promotion/Marketing Discussion

1. Members suggested promoting the survey at practices and games.
2. Members mentioned creating a QR code for the survey, so parents could complete the survey at games and practices.
3. Members believe that coaches need to promote the value of and support the completion of the survey.
4. The question was posed, "Could the survey be a requirement for participating in a sport?"
5. Multiple members agreed that the survey should be given before the end of a sport. This would allow for changes/adjustments to be made based on survey data before the end of a sport's season.
6. Other discussion included how to solicit the assistance of parent groups to help with the distribution and encouragement of completion of the survey.
7. The committee agreed that we should offer the survey in multiple ways to meet the needs of the parents and athletes (paper, apps, e-mail, etc.)

January 11 Next Meeting

1. Review the Code of Conduct for athletes and coaches.
2. Determine what we want to learn from parent/athlete focus groups.
3. Determine if we should keep the survey as is or shorten it to potentially increase participation. Many members were leaning towards shortening the survey if only by a few questions that seem confusing to parents and athletes. [If we determine to shorten the survey, we will work on modifying the survey at the January 11, meeting.](#)