

Lakota East Boosters  
Feb. 13, 2017

*What's working, in high school athletics?*

The way we're leveraging technology, for scholarships, peer support, community spirit, academic performance, and to boost family engagement.

The medical partnerships. The partnership with Beacon is great. Kids get swift individual attention to medical needs. It's really working under the new system.

Athletics creates accountability for students.

Preparation for life.

The boys teams support the girls teams and vice versa.

Our athletic programs make us a district of choice.

The way we celebrate athletics, like the ticker-tape parades for the kids.

After school we have no less than 350 athletes using every square inch of available space in the building.

Kids have opportunities year-round. But they are also moving toward specialization.

Over 70 percent of the kids are all-academic GMC. The girls soccer team, over 40 kids, has a GPA higher than 3.8.

The nonsense seen in other districts isn't seen here.

With kids, whether they're playing or watching, it's "we" instead of "me."

*What can we do to take things to the next level?*

We need to do more things like one coach, who found a way for my child, after an injury, to still stay involved with the program.

When my son couldn't play at the next level up, he turned to doing the filming, and his films are helping kids gets scholarships. We need to look to athletics for more career prep opportunities.

Kids could shadow the AD staff to learn about those career opportunities.

High school students could coach elementary level, and provide mentoring.

Devise a program that would teach kids when they're younger. Right now some don't start playing until they're in the seventh grade.

There is an after-school PTO program, but we need something that is more consistent and affordable.

Elementary schools get 45 minutes one day a week, half a year, for PE.

Kids need to move more. The health of students is an issue.

We could offer more intramural at the high school level.

The issue with more intramurals is facilities: would need more courts, more fields, more gyms.

We could have athletics that's not just sports...like a walking club, or an activity (fun) club.

On scheduling, all sports should have an opportunity for Friday night events. Girls go to guys sports, but not the reverse.

It's hard to play more than one sport. Each one is more high-stakes, with college scholarships.

I would like to see sports psychologists help kids learn to deal with all the pressures they face.

There's too much emphasis on winning at lower ages. Colleges aren't recruiting third-graders yet.

*Other comments:*

Coaches understand the human piece of it.

There's a mutually supportive atmosphere among the kids.

Right now we (the Boosters) are back to where we were five years ago.

In nine years (as the AD), I never been told "no" by the Boosters. It's as good now as it's ever been.

Six to seven years ago, we were a consistent sixth-place in the league. Now we're a consistent second-place.

