

Board of School Directors Committee Meetings Minutes

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Thursday, October 12, 2017

Members present: Jill Basile, Nicholas Braccio, Bill Brong, Janet Flisak, Matt Holliday, Scott Jelinski, Ken Keith, Donna Scheuren

Members absent: Thomas Kwiatkowski

Others present: Tamara Callahan, Sharon Fuhrman, Frank Gallagher, Laura Heineck, Christopher Hey, Raymond Kase, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Dennis Stanton, William Stone, Sam Varano, and Geri Wilkocz

1. Education-Personnel Committee

Mr. Brong called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

1.1 High School Athletics Presentation

Mr. Gallagher noted that the presentation this evening is a state of the high school athletic program and introduced Athletic Director Mr. Dennis Stanton.

Mr. Stanton began his presentation with a review of the previous years' athletic accomplishments. Mr. Stanton was very clear in the athletic departments' philosophy that a season is not just measured in wins and losses, but measured by the experience, the response to failure and the ability to lead. Mr. Stanton discussed the cultivating of experience for student athletes, citing leadership seminars with a focus on strategies and accountability.

Mr. Stanton used an acronym to describe high school athletic values: **S**: servant leadership, **A**: all in, **H**: humility, and **S**: skillfulness. He discussed the Athletic Leadership Council, comprised of student athletes responsible for coordinating school spirit, tournaments and resources for each team. Mr. Stanton expressed the importance of each athletic team supporting each other and explained the expectation of attendance at other teams competitions. Mr. Stanton also reiterated the importance of communication to student athletes and cited use of Twitter as a very useful platform.

Mr. Stanton discussed the development of interactive events at athletic competitions which have proven to be a boost to the crowd. Mr. Stanton discussed the field goal competition and the "Bearsketball" fundraiser held during half time at a recent football game, where teddy bears were collected for donation to CHOP patients.

Mr. Stanton also shared information about the Unified Sports team, explaining that it is made up of Special Ed and Regular Ed students. Currently, the high school has two teams which participate in this unique athletic offering. Both the bocce ball team and the track and field team achieved State recognition, winning a State title in Track & Field. Mr. Stanton praised the student athletes for their participation as well as the momentum that seems to be growing for this program. Other area schools are now seeking advice from Souderton on how to begin putting their own Unified Sports teams in place. Mr. Stanton concluded his presentation noting that the success of the Souderton Unified Sports Team has been acknowledged by Special Olympics at the national level and a school-wide ceremony is scheduled for November 30th where Souderton will be recognized for its exceptional commitment to inclusion as a Unified Champion School.

The committee unanimously praised Mr. Stanton for the presentation. Mr. Holliday asked if there were plans to restore some of the sports that had previously been eliminated due to budget cuts. Mr. Stanton said that winter track has been reinstated and is hopeful to add freshman baseball and softball in the future. Mr. Jelinski asked about the philosophy of the athletic department regarding participation awards. Mr. Stanton commented that it is not the practice to recognize participation, as the goal of Souderton Athletics is for the student to engage into the experience and learn through it.

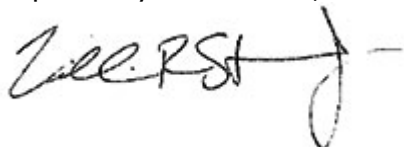
Mr. Keith asked about the current challenges of the department and Mr. Stanton responded that the hiring and retaining of quality coaches is a challenge. Mr. Stanton commented that many of our coaches are involved because they genuinely enjoy coaching. Mr. Keith also inquired about a wish list for the department going forward and Mr. Stanton replied that he would like to continue to build upon the success of the program by reaching out into the community and building relationships with the local community teams.

Mrs. Scheuren commented on the details contained in the presentation and her own new awareness to the activities of the athletic department. Mrs. Scheuren also suggested that the presentation and ideals be shared with the public.

Mr. Brong praised Mr. Stanton for his efforts in making athletic facilities available to the community for public use.

Mr. Brong adjourned the Education-Personnel Committee Meeting at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.R. Stone", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William R. Stone
Board Secretary