

Conneaut School District Athletic Committee

February 28, 2019

The meeting of the Athletic Committee was called to order at 5:30 pm on February 28, 2019 as advertised in the CASH library. Present for the meeting were Directors Don Ellis, Kathy Klink and Dorothy Luckock; Superintendent Jarrin Sperry; Athletic Director John Acklin and CASH Principal Dave Maskrey. Also present were Assistant Athletic Director Jeff Hans as well as various coaches and interested persons from the public and media.

This being Mr. Acklin's birthday it was acknowledged by the persons in attendance and a delicious cake was enjoyed.

These topics were presented and discussed:

- Letters for Club Sports – a follow-up from the last meeting.
 - Scott Shannon and John Acklin both verified from the proposal those sports that fall under PIAA and which club sports we offer do not. At this time the following are PIAA sanctioned sports:
 - Cooperative agreements with other districts are Boys and Girls Swimming (Winter) and Boys and Girls Track (Spring)
 - Club Sport – Boys Lacrosse (Spring)
 - Those NOT PIAA sanctioned include Bowling, Indoor Track – both Winter sports
 - From the proposal included the following criterial/guidelines:
 - Only athletes in sports sanctioned by PIAA
 - Only athletes representing CASH – such as CASH colors, etc.
 - Must be competing at the Varsity level
 - All costs associated with letters, pins, etc. would be the responsibility of the associated program or athlete
 - Responsibility for reporting eligible athletes to the Athletic Director belongs to the coach of the program
 - Being a non-district sponsored sport (not school funded) then no association or responsibility falls on CASH All Sports Boosters, including discounted letter jackets.
 - All PIAA and school district academic guidelines for athletes apply.
 - Administration gave their support to the proposal and Mr. Acklin provided a draft of a policy update as follows:
 - Student Awards: Students involved in the PIAA cooperative agreement sport of swimming and those students that participate as an independent in track and field may earn a CASH varsity letter by qualifying for entry into the District X play-offs in these respective sports. Students in the

self-funded PIAA sport of boys' lacrosse may also earn a varsity letter in the same manner as all CASH sports teams by playing in half of the halves plus one during the regular season. However, these teams will not be considered part of the CASH All-Sports Boosters for acquiring funds or be permitted discounts on varsity jackets for working concession stands. These students who earn varsity letters may purchase a varsity jacket after earning one letter at the retail cost.

- The consensus of the committee was to forward this to the full board for consideration with our recommendation for approval. It was noted that any policy wording/handbook wording should first be reviewed by the district solicitor.
- Middle School Winter Cheerleading – a follow up from the last meeting.
 - The main drive on this request is that during the Winter Sports Season at the Middle School level the options for girls are minimal. The MS Athletic Directors reported that both principals supported the request; that the uniforms were used only a couple years since purchased so a lot of “life” left in them; other equipment like new; and that they would propose a MS Cheer Coach supplemental to be \$1,700 per building.
 - HS Coach Amanda Scott confirmed that when put in storage closet, all in excellent condition.
 - Proposed to have the cheer squad at Home events with possible of a couple away events – such as the other MS within our district or another close by. Basketball bus has space for cheer to ride with no additional transportation costs.
 - They confirmed that they would encourage this as a feeder program and felt numbers interested had been at least 17, and felt continued interest was there.
 - A question was raised if the committee/board would consider fall football cheer – home games only – would entail additional coach costs.
 - The consensus of the committee was to forward to the full board for consideration with our recommendation for approval MS Winter Cheer. Once again, this scenario would need to have a review by our district solicitor as this position (we believe) is not listed in the current CEA contract as a supplemental position.
- .500 rule for postseason play
 - Some brief history/recap was given which included the following – Conneaut policy put in place after District X created Open Tournaments in all sports; as stated in the policy concern about student injury (primarily in football) and costs to district and Sports Boosters.

- Since that time D10 has moved the Opt-Out deadline to one week before the end of the season. This creates additional complications for a team that is “close” to the .500 benchmark.
- Mr. Acklin proposed the following change to the existing policy “Finally, if the number of regular season game(s) remaining on the schedule when the “opt-out” date occurs, with wins would permit the team to reach .500 then that team would be permitted to enter the play-offs.
- Boys Basketball Head Coach Ben Sperry gave extensive testimony which included his questioning of the purpose of the policy in safety/competitive balance; questioned the logical nature of the policy; and if it produced fair results. He also noted that other districts are sending team with only a few wins. He also raised the question as to the possibility of hosting a first round game – which Mr. Acklin replied that in his past experience did not occur very frequently.
- Scott Shannon commented on maintaining integrity in play-offs.
- Coach Lohr (Soccer) requested that instead of the policy that the coach and Athletic Director be authorized. Coach Shannon added that he disagreed as it is more “fair” to have it in policy than being a judgement call every time – which can lead to misunderstandings by parents and the public.
- John Acklin mentioned that as recently as within the last week that other schools are now looking at adding the rule to restrict open post-season play.
- Assistant coach Derek Thomas questioned on evaluation if in a mixed region?
- Principal Maskrey commented on the possibility of hosting a post-season game – but Mr. Acklin reported that those opportunities are not know until after the opt-out date.
- The consensus of the board members and Mr. Sperry is to table this as most wanted more time to think on this.
- Other/Misc. topics.
 - A concern was raised about the need for a Cross-Country coach designated for Middle School athletes. Currently they are bused to the High School and waiting a long time before their practice can begin. Also, a safety concern with the Head Coach with the faster runners; leaving the assistant coach with a wide range of speed/skilled athletes. This is a topic that needs followed up. Mr. Acklin is to touch base with Head Coach Cornell.
 - Head Coach boys’ soccer Corey Lohr asked about the possibility of using the football field at CVMS for Home games. That would permit (hopefully) better field conditions, lights to be able to schedule later games and the ability to charge admission (as he has experienced at most venues). His intent is to have practices on the existing field at Linesville. It was noted that it has been the practice of the district to have Varsity/JV games/matches at the Linesville

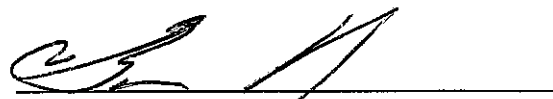
Campus. Yet, the committee asked the Athletic Directors (HS and MS) and principals to evaluate and report back.

- Scott Shannon, Girls Lacrosse Head Coach – want to remind everyone of the importance of the middle school programs as feeder programs for the high school. Asking for a review to ensure a bit more consistent structure. Also noted that with the increasing prevalence of year-round focus on a single sport, the benefits of being a multi-sport athlete. He challenged all coaches to be open minded regarding this. MS AD Jeff Hans reported that he had done some research on the topic and agreed that for our student athletes, at this age, could help avoid burn-out, repetitive injuries and the like.
- Superintendent Jarrin Sperry shared some initial information regarding “esports” gaining in popularity. The committee agreed that even though “gaming” doesn’t fall within athletics, yet an awareness and information was beneficial. A real concern was voiced about the draw of athletes from current existing sports to a gaming style only.

The board members went into an Executive Session immediately following adjournment to review and discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, might lead to disclosure of information protected by law, specifically to discuss a personnel matter.

The meeting was adjourned, and all thanked for attendance and input.


Dorothy Luckock, Board President


Greg Mayle, Board Secretary