

Title IX Compliance Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2020

7:30 – 9:00 am

Minutes:

Battersby began by apologizing for having to reschedule the meeting due to a hearing. The Committee then reviewed the 2019-20 Mid-Year Athletic Participation Numbers. The District's mid-year participation numbers were quite positive. Mercer Island students access MIHS and IMS sports at a very high rate regardless of gender. The committee also re-reviewed the final numbers from 2018-19. This was done because there were some anomalies in the data the last time it was presented. The anomalies were largely the result of formula errors in the spreadsheet. Upon review, there was parody between the girls and boys participation in athletics during the 2018-19 school year.

Discussion turned to participation numbers for the 2019-20 school year. There was significant discussion about the difference between cut sports vs. no cut sports. Wold and McKenna addressed students self-cut/drop out. Girls soccer was a cut sport but no one had been cut between the three teams. The team noted that the softball numbers had increased. Battersby thanked Shaddle for her support of girls softball at the younger level.

Discussion turned to the potential impact of COVID on athletics. Wold and McKenna outlined the District's plans to ensure sanitizer at practices and events. There was also discussion of the cleaning procedures in place and the impact it would have on access to indoor areas like the locker room.

One member a concern that there may be lower student participation in spring sports because of COVID. Battersby noted and Wold confirmed that there were some families that were choosing to keep students out of school because of a fear of COVID and so it was unsurprising that there were fewer students signing up for sports. Battersby noted the importance of sharing with students that hate speech directed at our students of Asian descent because of COVID would not be tolerated. Wold said this was something that our coaches would help manage during competitions. COVID does not discriminate posters were posted in our schools, locker rooms and in the gym.

McKenna stated that, according to WIAA, sports will carry on as scheduled through the end of March. WIAA is planning for an uninterrupted season for spring sports. Battersby indicated that the District will participate in sporting events as long as permitted by our local health authorities.

Wold addressed that some schools, like Hazen, had been closed due to COVID. Wold explained that if the District has a COVID case, it will work with DOH as to the next steps. Most likely, a positive COVID case will lead to a school closure. Wold shared that the District will not host a game on any day the high school was closed. Any missed game would be made up similar to when games are cancelled due to weather or poor field conditions.

McKenna noted that WIAA is going to give a blanket waiver so that districts have the ability to practice 7 days a week, twice a day with a break, or on a game day, and they will count toward pre-practice requirements. McKenna shared that at WIAA/KingCo meetings there had been conversation about student athletes having to wear face masks when practicing or taking temperatures. The District would be following guidance from the WIAA and health authorities. .

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 20, 2019, from 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.