

Title IX Compliance Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2019

7:30 – 9:00 am

Minutes:

The meeting began with an introduction of the new members, including Kyle McKenna, the District's new Athletic Coordinator. Some discussion ensued about McKenna's role in the District.

The Committee reviewed the 2018-19 Mid-Year Athletic Participation Numbers. Battersby, who was leading the meeting, noted the progress the District has achieved in terms of Title IX compliance over the years. Again, the District's mid-year participation numbers were quite positive. Mercer Island students access MIHS and IMS sports and a very high rate regardless of gender.

Discussion ensued regarding participation numbers. Battersby noted that there had been a slight decline in the number of female participants in specific sports but that overall participation remains strong. Wrestling was highlighted as sport that had seen a decline with the departure of female champions of the sport. There was some discussion about the level of female participation in the middle school wrestling program and if there was a way to increase interest in the sport. The Committee looked at the disparity between baseball and softball and discussed why there was not a larger number of girls participating in softball. There was some discussion about the number of girls sports offered during the spring.

Concerns about continuity of coaching as well as the quality of uniforms were expressed. By way of example, members stated that the women's basketball team started the season with an inadequate number of uniforms that fit. All agreed that having matching and well-fitting uniforms can impact a student's experience of a sport.

Wold acknowledged the situation with the women's basketball uniforms and the difficulty in sourcing replacement uniform pieces in an expedited manner. Wold added that the lack of uniform inventory at the start of the season highlighted the need for the District to improve its uniform inventory practices as well as the program "hand off" when head coaches resign. This topic led to a discussion of uniform rotations as well as the purchasing of unanticipated uniforms e.g. a player is very small or very large.

After this discussion, the Committee delved into the difference between cut sports and comments were made about the rate students self-cut/drop out.

McKenna then led a discussion about the creation of a "Booster Club Summit." McKenna provided an overview of an experience he had recently had at booster club meeting in another District. The idea of bringing District booster clubs together sprung from past Committee discussion about the disparity in effectiveness between booster clubs as well as how to address the issues created by booster clubs waxing and waning as involved parents step out of the clubs when their student(s) graduates.

McKenna indicated that he and Wold had been meeting with individual booster clubs to discuss the concept of a Summit.

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would ideally occur after the Booster Club Summit.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 15, 2019, from 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.