

Title IX Compliance Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2018

7:30 – 9:00 am

Present Members: Erin Battersby, Tyrell Bergstrom, Katie Brodsky (new student member), Jennifer Merritt (new member), Aaron Miller, Fred Rundle, Becky Shaddle, Nick Wold.

Absent Members: Mindy Blakeslee, Craig Degginger, Carol Gullstad, Karen Hubbert, Chris Long, Natalie Robinson, and Alex Schwenke.

Minutes:

The meeting began with an introduction of the new members, including the new High School AP and Athletic Director, Nick Wold, and student representative, Katie Brodsky. A parent, Jennifer Merritt, attended the meeting and indicated a desire to have an ongoing involvement in committee.

The Committee then reviewed the Minutes of the May 17, 2017 Meeting. There were no suggested edits to these minutes.

The 2017-18 Mid-Year Athletic Participation Numbers were reviewed. Battersby, who was leading the meeting, noted the progress the District has achieved in terms of Title IX compliance over the past 10 years. Battersby highlighted the District's appreciation for the partnership of youth athletic programs offered by entities like the Mercer Island Boys & Girls Club that provide our younger students with opportunities to explore their athletic interest. Wold then discussed the changes in the survey distribution which resulted in a higher response rate.

After this introduction, discussion ensued regarding participation numbers.

The 2017-18 Mid-Year numbers revealed strong participation by all students, regardless of gender. A decline in the participation in the District's running sports, especially in the number of female athletes, was noted. Some of this decline was attributed to the loss of a beloved coach and former committee member, Erica Hill, who left the District at the end of the 2016/2017 school year. The District highlighted the inclusion of Unified Sports as a MIHS activity beginning in Fall 2017.

After reviewing the data, the Committee discussed the disparity between the promotion of women's sports and men's sports. Members of the Committee showed the group pictures of the quality of promotional material – specifically sandwich boards – the men's basketball booster club could afford versus those the women's basketball booster club could afford. Also discussed was the raising of certain girl sport banners in the gym which seemed to have lagged. This discussion ended with Wold committing to delve deeper into the disparity of signage as well as ensure the women's award banners were timely raised in the school gym.

The Committee also discussed the 2017-18 Student Athletic Interest Survey. Skiing, crew and fencing were the top three sports identified by the students as sports those students would like the high school to offer. A discussion ensued regarding the number of sports already offered by the District and participation in the same. There was a general understanding of and appreciation for the strain additional sports would place on the District's resources, fiscal, facility, and human capital.

The Committee desired more data on facility use by the different athletic teams. The District committed to bring such data to the next meeting.

Next meeting Scheduled:

May 16, 2017 from 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.