



Minutes
Sports Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 11, 2024; 4:00 p.m.
Nonnewaug High School
Library Media Center

Board Committee Members Present

Jim Crocker, ex-officio and presiding member
Caren Lipinski
Carol Ann Brown

Absent

Chris Griffin
Chris Matta

Also Present

Brian Murphy, Superintendent
Declan Curtin, Athletic Director
Bill Nemece, Principal, Woodbury Middle School
Chris McGrath, Coach, Woodbury Middle School
Students, Skylar Chung, Gianna Lodice, Juliette Nichols, Luke Cenatiempo

I. Call to Order

Jim Crocker called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. Middle School Girls' Volleyball Team Proposal/2024/2025

Previous discussions were had between Superintendent Murphy and Principal Nemece regarding the need for a Middle School Girls' Volley Ball team. A club team was organized with 23 girls participating.

A proposal was put forth for an official Volleyball Team beginning with the fall of 2024. The proposal included the number of participants and anticipated games, potential future opponents, coaching stipend, transportation costs, uniforms and equipment costs, and the fees for officials, all totaling \$7,321.90.

Motion

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Caren Lipinski to approve the Middle School Girls' Volleyball Team, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried unanimously.

III. **Review of Fall Sports**

Athletic Director Declan Curtin provided an overview of the Nonnewaug High School fall sports season. Of note, Nonnewaug has recently upgraded its sound system; live broadcasting and sports content will be produced by the students. A student Hype Video was shared with the committee.

Fall News Release

The Nonnewaug High School Fall Sports recognition included the names of Scholar Athletes (varsity level & 88 or above unweighted average) as well as league and state award recipients.

Fall Team Records

Boys soccer- 13-3-3

Girls soccer- 14-4-1

Field hockey- 2-10-3

Football- 9-2

Girls Cross Country- 8-0

Boys Cross Country- 7-1

Golf- 9-4

Total win percentage (Overall Varsity Record) 62-24-7= 72%

IV. **High School Student Athlete's Council Update**

The council members shared a slideshow of pictures and events that have occurred throughout the year.

Takeaways included:

- Fall CIAC Sportsmanship Conference
- Fred Balsamo Sportsmanship Award
- Appreciation of Game Officials
- Homecoming Week
- Fundraising Initiatives
- Baseball Team Ring Championship Ceremony
- Olympian Jess Davis Recognition

V. **Winter Sports Update/High School**

Increased winter student athlete enrollment from 151 in 2022-3 to 212 for 2023-4 (increase of 29%)

- Co-op hockey has 10 players on it from Nonnewaug (21 on team). They had a huge 4-3 victory over Staples last Friday
- Swimming/Diving- 19 athletes. They beat Wamogo in a close match-up last Friday
- Wrestling- 25 athletes. Team is undefeated in the BL and has done very well at invitational
- Unified sports- 14 athletes signed up with first home game on 2/27

- Cheerleading- 15 athletes. Bouncing back from not having a team during Covid. The team is entering competitions for the first time in three years. Numbers at the middle school are booming.
- Indoor track- huge increase in numbers. 17 girls and 29 boys joined. League is moving towards more recognition for BL athletes in indoor track by having a BL Showcase meet. Preliminary discussions and proposal put forth to accept indoor track as an official BL sport
- Girls basketball- 22 athletes with a 4-4 start. Boys basketball has 25 athletes and are off to a 5-2 start
- Packed the gym for the baseball state championship ring ceremony and Jess Davis' Olympic Recognition Night. Administration will be broadcasting games on 1/10 and 1/19. The Red-Out game to help fundraise for the Cancer and Lymphoma Association will be on 2/2
- Senior Night Dates:
 1. 2/6- Girls basketball game at 6:00 with a ceremony at 5:45
 2. 2/7- Wrestling match at 6:00 with ceremony at 5:45/6
 3. 2/9- Swimming meet at 7:00 with ceremony at 8:00
 4. 2/21- Hockey ceremony at 7:15 and game at 7:30
 5. 2/22- Boys basketball game 6:00 with ceremony at 5:45
 6. 2/22- Cheerleading at 5:45
 7. 3/14- Unified vs faculty game at 2:15

VI. High School Lacrosse Update

- The program began in 2022-3 as a co-op between Litchfield, Wamogo, Thomaston and Nonnewaug.
- Girls projected numbers for 2024 are 25 athletes with 19 from Nonnewaug
- Boys projected numbers for 2024 are 29 athletes with 14 from Nonnewaug
- An MOU was signed for 2022/2023 that did not require a fee to play due to a grant that Litchfield applied for and received.
- Litchfield is responsible for trainer services based on the MOU. Nonnewaug has requested at least 24 hours notice if we need to provide a trainer for game coverage when games are played at Nonnewaug. Based on MOU, 50% games will be scheduled at Nonnewaug

VII. New C.I.A.C. Rules-Out of Season Coaching

- 84 percent of schools participated in the survey, sent out by the CIAC in October. This was following the out-of-season coaching proposal being vetted by each school. 71% were in favor of the proposal

- The proposal now moves forward for ratification by the CAS-CIAC legislative body (member schools) in the spring. Assuming that goes off without a hitch, voluntary out-of-season coaching by head coaches with their entire team, including incoming freshmen, would begin in June.
- Teams will be able to practice for two days per week up to two hours per day, or the time it takes to complete a summer-league game. The 2-hour limit will allow for student-athletes playing multiple sports to be able to participate in that other sport, on a voluntary basis. That could also happen on the same day.

Areas of impact for Nonnewaug:

- Budget
- Facility usage
- Coaching contracts/out-of-season stipends/expectations
- Scheduling- Nonnewaug culture of not having athletes choose one sport over the other. Also, will need to temper coaching expectations as this will be optional for athletes
- Load Management- term used in athletics to monitor physical/mental strain on athletes
- Trainer contract/summer coverage/liabilities

VIII. **Update on future of Berkshire League**

- Lewis Mills left the BL in 2019. Litchfield and Wamogo will be joining together as Region 20 starting this fall
- The league existed with 10 teams in 2019 and will be down to 8 teams starting next fall
- JV programs have been decimated at other schools and have caused many games to be canceled (note- NVL in same situation)
- AD's have moved JV games to off days and have tried to schedule JV Jamborees on Saturdays to keep the interest of student-athletes
- Merger- exploratory conversations with the NVL occurred in 2022-3. At this time, both leagues plan on operating separately.
- Start dates for 2024 fall sports (PARENTS/FAMILIES TO BE NOTIFIED EARLY)
 1. Golf on 8/12
 2. Football on 8/15
 3. All other sports are on 8/19
 4. Note- school starts on 8/28 and athletes need 10 mandatory practice dates before they play in their first contest

IX. Adjourn

A motion was made by Jim Crocker and seconded by Caren Lipinski to adjourn the meeting, all in favor, none opposed, the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Paige". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

*Patricia Paige
Board Clerk*

Recorded and filed subject to Board of Education approval by: Patricia Paige, Board Clerk