WATERLOO SCHOOLS NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Emily Frederick, Director of School & Community Relations
FrederickE@WaterlooSchools.org | (319) 433-1803 ext. 10103

Waterloo Board of Education Approves Expansion of Waterloo United Athletics for 2026-27 School Year

WATERLOO, IA- April 29, 2026- At Monday night's meeting, the Waterloo Community School District Board of Education officially approved the Superintendent's recommendation to unify several additional athletic programs under the Waterloo United Titans umbrella. Starting with the 2026-27 school year, East and West High Schools will combine efforts in Volleyball, Boys Wrestling, Boys and Girls Cross Country, and Boys and Girls Bowling.

This decision follows months of comprehensive dialogue involving staff, students, parents, and board members. The move is designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the district's athletic offerings and to provide a robust, competitive environment for all student-athletes. The newly unified teams will compete in the Mississippi Valley Conference (MVC) as the Waterloo United Titans.

The expansion builds upon the successful existing combinations of Swimming, Tennis, Girls Soccer, Girls Wrestling, and Girls Golf. District leadership identified three primary factors necessitating this shift:

- **Participation Levels:** Programs such as Wrestling and Bowling have seen participation numbers reach levels that impact competitive depth and the ability to field full varsity rosters.
- **Coaching Shortages:** The district currently faces critical vacancies, including a lack of volleyball coaches at East High and head coaching vacancies in wrestling and girls' cross country at West High.
- **Student-Athlete Development:** Consolidation ensures students are not forced into varsity-level competition before they are developmentally ready, protecting their growth and safety.

“We’re excited about what this means for the future of these programs,” said Superintendent Dr. Jared Smith. “It allows our students to compete at a high level while being part of something bigger as Waterloo United.”

The implementation will be tailored specifically to each sport:

- **Volleyball:** To preserve each school’s identity, 9th-grade teams will remain separate at both East and West. Sophomore, JV, and Varsity teams will combine, utilizing rotating practice and game locations.
- **Wrestling & Cross Country:** These programs will use a shared practice calendar and rotating schedules to maximize the use of facilities on both campuses.
- **Bowling:** The transition will be seamless, as both programs already utilize Cadillac Lanes as their home venue.

The district is committed to a smooth transition and will provide a daily shuttle service to transport students between campuses for practices. To ensure equity, the district will maintain a strict balance in practice schedules and competition opportunities. Special focus will be placed on supporting current sophomores and juniors to ensure a meaningful and cohesive conclusion to their high school athletic careers.

###

Contact Persons: Josh Payton, Director of Secondary Education and Athletics, Tim Moses, East High Athletic Director, Tom Ulses, West High Athletic Director, Curtis Wright, District Athletics Coordinator

###