

Athletic Reform Community Meeting #2—Oliver High School

November 18, 2010

Anonymous Note card feedback (unfiltered and unedited)

- One booster club is good
- North Allegheny booster club is a model for us to follow
- Intramurals and community sports
- Start sports teams in elementary schools
- Catholic schools have sports in elementary. Organize sports in elementary
- Use schools to get the word out about local programs
- We don't have good facilities to draw the interest
- PPS coaches aren't working with the communities
- Certain neighborhoods have more summer sport opportunities—overall less opportunities to develop interest at a young age
- Ownership—"this is my stadium"—turf pride
- Hiring coaches—just for coaching and mentoring kids
- Hire assistant coaches
- Invest in kids at the middle school level
- "Spirit of Sportsmanship"—is this alienating to girls? Why couldn't the concept be something about character or along those lines?
- Girls golf scholarships are fairly plentiful, but to make golf co-ed is a cop out—discourages girls from participating
- Need a district wide website devoted to sports and promoting sports + participation
- Start with middle school sports and work your way up—Jr. WPIAL (2-3 years)
- Right now city middle school wrestling is March, April, May. WPIAL runs HS and MS at same time!! As well as all their sports!
- Where is the money coming from for all this? Buses? Coaches?
- Preserve the City Teams—Have each school play in its classification in the WPIAL
- Invite nearby outside schools to become part of the city league—Wilkesburg, Sto-Rox, etc.

Participation: Female & Overall Breakout (Flip Chart Notes)

Positives

- Booster consolidation
- Intramurals (i.e. bowling, darts, ping pong)
- "Wake up" sports experience series

- Intramurals as an extra activity
- Youth sports organization outreach program
- Starting in elementary/middle school
- The issues are being addressed
- Bringing in outside organizations
- Bringing in outside groups
- Dedicated coaches who attract and inspire loyalty

Concerns

- The lack of neighborhood facilities—no place to play certain sports
- No “home turf” due to consolidation and shared facilities currently
- Mandating intramurals will require more staff
- The federal law around Booster organizations
- Mandated intramurals—harder to market than district wide sports
- Magnet programs
- Feeder patterns
- Times of games
- Lack of funding
- District support
- Equity amongst the schools
- Positive example of other women’s programs succeeding in PGH
- Getting girls involved
- Access to facilities
- Buy-in by the building administrator. Holding/having accountability once it’s there
- Not enough participation to have JV and varsity teams. Therefore, not enough spots on a single team for the youngest athletes

Questions

- How do we develop interest and opportunities earlier through elementary schools? Example: private schools
- How do we effectively use these partnerships (i.e. Play Rugby USA)?
- When are we going to bring back towel matrons?
- How will the makeup of boosters occur?
- Is the GPA requirement based on core classes only?

Miscellaneous

- Be like Shadyside Academy—require students to play two sports
- Make district website similar to West Allegheny football
- Women’s recreational leagues

- Have professional or college/local players come to the schools to speak with girls about participation in sports
- Women's organizations give presentations to female athletes/students

League Structure Breakout (Flip Chart Notes)

Positives

- The creation of the full time AD position (5 mentions)
- WPIAL competition
- Full schedules
- Kids get to play a sport if there's not a sport in the school
- Go to WPIAL—pull “fig leaf” off to show our shortcomings vs rest of the area
- PPS existing relationships with foundations could be used as a source of athletic funding

Concerns

- Co-ops—trying to stack teams? Recruiting the best players? Logistics?
- Practice times—transportation
- There will be a lot of recruiting of students
- The ability to compete in the WPIAL
- Smaller schools lost in the mix
- No home fields/courts
- No student/fan buses
- Co-op is a bad idea—no school identity, no community support, transportation, limits student involvement
- Student enrollment—magnet programs, feeder programs, feeder patterns
- Going to WPIAL will be athletic suicide
- Logistics of joining the WPIAL—we don't want to join the WPIAL

Questions

- How would you go about playing a city championship if you're in the WPIAL/WPIAL playoffs?
Maybe have tourney in the beginning of the season?
- Where is the money coming from for this? (3 mentions)

Miscellaneous

- Invite teams to join the city league
- Invest in US! Marketing, Improve facilities, websites, camps, qualified coaches