

Athletic Reform Community Meeting #3—Reizenstein

November 30, 2010

Anonymous Note card feedback (unfiltered and unedited)

- Will suburban teams travel in to the city to compete? Would Fox Chapel come to The Hill for competition
- For 6-12 schools, who gets the rights to the facility? The HS or the middle school?
- Sarah Heinz House has academic study time as well as community service as standard requirements for participation in sports. Consider their model.
- Why is WPIAL the only choice? Could we change structure of District VIII—add small private schools and others who might be interested
- Why could you not have 3 city teams?? Co-op the teams—give them 1 name, but 3 distinct team colors—could still have school colors on shirts. They could still compete against each other for city champs.
- Please improve the facilities. Tired of city having a “certain reputation” when competing with suburban teams
- Kids who have transportation issues—establish parent carpool for each athletic team. This could work!!
- Recommendation: Try keeping schools separate and ↑ recruiting, coaching and all other facets of reform to ↑ participation. They can still play in the WPIAL.
- Concern that a near universal feeling against co-ops will be ignored, just as the almost universal feeling against 6-12 schools was ignored
- Where does the \$ come from—maybe the need for facilities is greater than the need for a school like Arlington to have a \$30 million renovation
- Is hiring coaches a union issue?
- Would like to see 2 day/week intramural programs. Question: Will there be an incentive to do this, even if it is best for the kids and female participation, if the intramurals don't help the district to meet Title IX requirements
- Re: audit on facilities—didn't the 500k facilities consultants look at this? If not for so much money, shouldn't they have looked at schools' athletic facilities as well?
- Why can't we just be Schenley again?
- There are not enough slots for all kids to participate (i.e. 50 kids try out for 20-25 spots on b-ball team). Is there going to be an opportunity for intramural sports?
- 9th grade developmental teams
- Booster funds. Who would decide how they are distributed?
- Mandatory study halls or activities: can teams “place out” of this by demonstrating academic performance is at a high level?
- Will WPIAL allow co-ops? They want to keep us out.

- Do all sports have to join WPIAL? How about doing it on a sport by sport basis
- Is there any data on combined schools, nationwide, that indicates combined schools could be successful?
- Where is the money going to come from to upgrade facilities—East End has a new track & soccer field—3 years later—still no storage facility
- You need to do more research on youth sports. Clear educational objectives should drive these decisions. How can you make these decisions without a clear vision/mission.
- Information on sports try-outs schedules, etc is very hard to get as a parent in middle school—principal, website. IM and extra cur.
- No co-ops!!
- How can kids participate in sports and other extra-cur activities?
- How can we get a snack bar at Schenley Oval?
- Athletics are an important part of a school’s culture—co-ops don’t work to create an identity for each school
- Co-operative teams do not benefit students or schools—forces PPS to compete with bigger schools. Will reduce participation
- Practice times relative to coaches outside work schedule
- Middle school and high school coaches? “Grass roots” = middle school. “Little League Coach”
- Fields and Equipment—separate facilities for athletes and students
- Transportation—return students to practice facility to accommodate coaches outside work schedule
- What about athletes at CAPA?
- Multiple schools for one team. ID which sports to facilitate participation.
- How long will these recommendations take effect? When will the programs meet to re-evaluate
- Transportation and Scheduling: Introduce new and different times for athletics. Form new and different relationships with bus companies
- Facilities—Positive: Create a standard & compliance policy for athletic fields and facilities, policy and process for dollars spent, raising money from outside sources to support facilities and equipment needs
- Coaching—positive: panel interview, scorecards based on performance, full time AD
- What about club sports—hockey, lacrosse?
- League structure—school rivalries, school pride
- Facilities and equipment—club teams responsible for equipment—concern regarding safety of equipment—concern with concussion rates—especially lack of middle school fields
- Coaching: what about continuing education and/or professional development for coaches? What about licensing for applicable sports?
- Transportation and Scheduling—club sports given no transportation assistance
- No WPIAL—Do not close Peabody
- Please don’t close Peabody
- Facilities have to happen first

- Something has to change for rules to WPIAL divisions (i.e. USC has 100 kids try out for bb team—Allderdice is lucky to have 20—yet we would both be AAAA)
- Connection to Academics—Are current grades going to be placed on the “Promise Report Cards” for the coaches of athletic teams?
- I hope your write up of our meeting indicates the overwhelming opposition to co-ops. Provide club sports for schools that can’t field their own team.
- Co-op agreements will not work well.
- What do I like? I like the athletics, team work
- Problem? Proper coaches, coaches telling kids they can’t play if they can’t afford \$80.00 tennis shoes the coach wants
- Consolidate H.S., join WPIAL, disband city league. Facilities—lack of baseball.
- Title IX changes—lack of female participation should not offset boys sports
- Coaching—hiring, evals positive
- Physicals can be done with the assistance of UPMC sports medicine and MD’s
- To be effective, sports medicine facilities for the schools need to be updated to reduce the chance of litigation due to injury
- Facilities need significant upgrade in terms of practice and game locations
- Support a single A.D. and Assistant A.D. to assist in all aspects of contacts, games, bussing, and marketing
- City needs to support and invest in youth sports to create feeder teams for the high schools
- Physicals—if they could get to Millions on Fri, I could do some. During school, though.
- Coaching: 1:10—seems a little unnecessary and not appropriate to all sports
- Standards and compliance policy—firm?
- Swim events can happen on weekends with Saturday and Sunday invites
- Academic resource center in facilities—give coaches keys to library
- Elementary intramurals all year—by a dedicated teacher
- Some great coaches exist
- Not a lot of community teams for younger girls. All do not want to do cheerleading
- Start more in elementary. No girls or few co-ed hoops. Girls want to do it in 4th and 5th.
- Emphasis on middle school sports. It is and has been fading away
- Principal support is ? Administration, staff too. Come out for games?
- Full time A.D.s are not the best way to link to feeder programs
- Lack of coaching education. No certification.
- Grassroots sports—like Dynamo soccer in the east end. Rogers, Sterrett, and Frick all had great soccer teams because Dynamo starts kids in early elementary. What other organizations exist for other sports in other areas of the city?

Participation: Female & Overall Breakout (Flip Chart Notes)

Positives

- Some great coaches

- “wake-up” series
- Grass—roots partnerships
- Intramurals—gives avenue to kids who are less competitive and want fun
- Changing the status quo
- Comprehensive
- More opportunities
- Scholarships available
- Boost morale
- Creates leadership skills
- Improves academics

Concerns

- Lack of coaching certification
- Emphases on middle school sports and elementary opportunities. Need girls only teams, not co-ed
- Community teams reach out to schools—lack of girls teams
- Lack of school support—administration/staff/students
- Commitment to emerging sports e.g. water polo, bowling. Lack of financial commitment to club sports. Money for team.
- Intramurals for all elementary schools—before and after
- District wide policy on boosters i.e. can help pay for sneakers
- Getting girls to participate in sports (2)
- Lack of girls sports
- Booster fund \$. If one team raises more \$, how will the money be fairly distributed?
- Not convinced that these recommendations will ↑ female participation
- Not addressing controversial issues—facilities at middle/HS and combining teams
- What is available
- Who do you talk to
- Parental involvement
- Keeping them engaged
- Qualified coaches and educational opportunities

Questions

- Facilities and staffing conflicts because develops kids to competitive levels
- How will we partner with youth organizations?
- When will specific/concrete recommendation be ready for community input?
- What will be done to improve hiring and accountability of coaches?
- Why has it taken so long!

Miscellaneous

- Quality of coaching
- Facility needs
- Coaching is union based—not always the best candidate
- Not enough space for all the teams at a school—especially 6-12
- Need to capture enthusiasm early and keep them going
- Create a culture of exercise and fitness (Play 60)
- 2 levels in the community—athletes and non-athletes. Need to focus equally on this group and get them moving (lack of gym class)
- Coaching—should have played sport. Do you have to be a PPS employee?

League Structure Breakout (Flip Chart Notes)

Positives

- Going to WPIAL (3)
- Develop full time Ads (4)
- Improve facilities (3)
- You may increase athletic participation

Concerns

- Being competitive and being funded
- School pride problem with co-op
- Joining WPIAL without AD's and Facilities
- Identity of co-ops (3)
- Ending time for co-op teams vary by place, games
- Co-ops playing against 4A and 3A teams
- WPIAL co-ops—facilities, transportation; kids will have conflicts across schools; suburban fear; developing “teams” and “team spirit”
- Co-ops are not working now—what will be different?
- Money! We are laying off social workers, yet we'll be hiring ADs?
- Paradox—how will combining schools increase participation when you go from 2 teams to 1?
- How and where do you practice?
- Safety—rival schools

Questions

- Daily transportation issues
- Creative approach to WPIAL membership—sport, co-op

- Structure of competition for city league to play 4A, 3A rather than 2A, 1A
- Can joining WPIAL be based sport by sport
- Can co-op school field a separate team
- How can you call it “city championship” when schools are combined?
- Will co-ops be required to play for larger schools in WPIAL?
- What is the timeline?