

Athletic Reform Community Meeting #1—Oliver High School

Anonymous Note card feedback (unfiltered and unedited)

- Travel and time concern is B.S.
- There is nothing more flexible than transportation. Transportation flexibility is an asset
- Selecting coaches is a union contract/bidding issue. What does the contract say now?
- Athletic directors must be union members/experts in the contract and bidding issues
- Ignore the “perception problem”. Deal in reality
- Uniform policy—how we look when we’re on the road
- I like Allderdice/Westinghouse
- Booster organizations control funding streams for equity boys/girls
- Feeder system—what neighborhood do these kids really come from?
- Older generation has to understand how few kids there are now
- Need summer camps to be competitive
- Push to get female coaches?
- Integration of single-sex academy at Westinghouse. What are you doing for internal monitoring system to review the success of the co-op pairings and whether they will be changed if there are participation problems or large disparities in fundings?
- In the *New York Times*, there is an article about a large MA high school. In order to improve writing, they integrated writing into every class, including athletics. This article can be found online, but it could serve as a model for our programs in “connection to academics” section
- Kim Kissinder does basketball camps for girls. She is a WNBA pro
- Is there a publication or communication plan for getting sportsmanship into the dialogue of parents, students and community?
- The co-op teams would only combine if needed? Boys basketball and football would not co-op?
- Appearance of teams as they travel. Would this be funded by the district or would the kids have to put up the money? Who would catch?

League Structure Breakout

Positives

- Allows more kids to participate
- More student opportunities to participate (female)
- Higher level of competition
- Visibility=scholarships?
- Notoriety/media perception
- Play in better facilities with better equipment

- Attract higher level of quality play
- “Level” play—competitive balance
- Increased number of competitors increases competition and opportunities

Negatives

- Northside would be devastated by a co-op of Perry and Oliver
- Can't compete
- Co-op issues (unity, harmony, history) support
- Identity
- Travel time of students
- Must connect with neighborhood programs
- Loss of school pride

Questions

- Can we completely merge with WPIAL for 2011-2012?
- What would WPIAL think?
- Can co-ops be sport by sport?

Miscellaneous

- Wants to keep schools separate in big sports like football
- Difference between team and individual sports
- Tradition of strong football program at Perry
- Equity?
- What is the practicality of transportation?
- What is the personal interaction?

Participation: Female & Overall Breakout

Positives

- Leveraging partnerships (summer camps increase competitiveness)
- Recruiting—bridging adjustment between middle and high school
- The parent interaction policy along with the academic ineligibility policy
- Connection to the neighborhood
- Bringing back former student athletes to talk about success (women!)

- Booster program if run properly
- Recruiting female athletes
- Intramural and extramural are important year round and so are clinics—exposure to non-traditional sports

Negatives

- Need female coaches with females
- Addressing female issues like self esteem, body image, health subjects
- Booster clubs could disappear as we know them

Questions

- How are new sports (i.e. rugby) incorporated? By school or by district?

Miscellaneous

- Use physical education classes to increase participation
- Community involvement in sports. What is offered?
- Early involvement in sports
- Talk about college—mentor program