

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
EXTRACURRICULAR COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA
MEETING DATE MARCH 12, 2008 7:00 P.M.

Extracurricular Meeting

12 MARCH 2008

Board Members Present: Mary Homan, Julie Humphrey, and Kathy Mordovancey

Administration Present: Mike Ognosky, Jim Tallarico, Rickie Clapper and Joe Gilhool (Athletic Director)

Coaches Present: John Cherundolo and Eric Powers (Track), Todd Legg (Baseball), and Kim Forys (Softball). Jim Hinds (Boys' Tennis) was unable to attend due to practice commitments.

Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM

Old Business:

- There were no Old Business Items at this time.

New Business:

- **Principal's and Athletic Director's points of emphasis** – Mr. Gilhool and Mr. Tallarico reviewed the points of emphasis for the coaches and board members present as follows:
 - There will be two pay periods – the first on April 18th and the second at the completion of the season and all of the required paperwork.
 - Coaches were reminded to call in their scores to the Binghamton and Scranton newspapers and to provide updated information on the athletic section of the web page.
 - Coaches were reminded that players are not allowed to practice until all physicals and paperwork are complete and turned in.
 - Mr. Gilhool explained the clearance from an injury procedure and the fact that a player who is prohibited from playing by a physician needs a release from that physician before resuming activity.
 - It is the Head Coaches responsibility to give all materials distributed from the Athletic Director to his Assistant Coaches. Mr. Gilhool will provide all the materials to the Head Coach.

- Coaches need to submit their team rules and regulations to the Athletic Director ASAP.
- All varsity coaches' evaluations will be completed by Mr. Tallarico at the conclusion of the season. Varsity coaches will complete the evaluations of their assistants.
- All coaches should have a user name and password for access to the internet web page. If you have a problem contact Mr. Gilhool.
- The current league rules require games to be made up on the next available date. Saturday is an available date, Sunday is not.
- When school is cancelled due to weather, practice or a game may take place only with administrative approval.
- Students will be in school by 10 A.M. in order to compete or practice on that day.
- Mr. Gilhool informed the coaches that the trainer will supply all injury report forms to the nurse for all practices and home events. Coaches have that responsibility for away games.
- All Coaches should tell their students not to have any valuable items left in the locker room during games or practices and should have a procedure in place in order to secure those items.
- All Junior High athletes need to be out of the locker rooms by 5:10 p.m. on the night of home athletic events.
- Junior High coaches need to be especially mindful of communicating to their athletes all information regarding practice and game schedules.
- Contact hours for the A.D. are from 11:15-3:20, all other times are class time and he is not to be disturbed. Coaches who need announcements at that time should call the main office at 278-6224, or 278-6226.
- The Athletic Director will need a list of students eligible for Varsity Club jackets as soon as that information is available to the coach.
- There will be no Sunday activities unless approved by the Superintendent.
- Vans should be reserved at least two days in advance of the scheduled date of the event. Mr. Tallarico emphasized that school vans are available to athletic teams only during their season. They are not to be utilized for out of season activities and competitions.
- Supervision in locker rooms is an essential and required part of the responsibility of every coaching staff.
- Mr. Tallarico emphasized that the Varsity Coaches are responsible for their entire program. There is a chain of command with each athletic team and the Head Coach needs to be aware of all activities within his sport. His Assistant Coaches at all levels are to report directly to the Head Coach, who in turn will report to the Principal. It is "your program" as the head coach.

- **Coaches' Open Forum** – The following items were discussed during the coaches' open forum:

- Track (Eric Powers): Mr. Powers had the following concerns:
 - He has a concern about the coverage provided by the Binghamton paper. On many occasions he has supplied them with results and they have not run the full set of results in the newspaper. Mr. Gilhool will make the paper aware of that concern.
 - He emphasized that he would like to know immediately of any parent concerns that are brought to the attention of the administration. He was assured that would be the case.
 - A concern was brought up regarding in season athletes participating in “out of season” activities in other sports. For example, an athlete participating in AAU basketball during track season. Track currently has an athlete injured and unable to participate due to a basketball injury. All of the other coaches expressed the same concern and feel that the coaching staffs need to work together to promote multi-sport participation. Participation in the spring sports is below normal and one of the concerns is that athletes are participating in out of season activities in other sports at the expense of the spring sports. Mr. Tallarico will hold a meeting of all head coaches to discuss this situation and to emphasize that schools of our size need to have a collaborative effort on the part of coaches in order to ensure maximum participation of the athletes.
 - Students who are currently not involved in a spring sport are utilizing the team room lockers. For example, students who received a locker in football and/or wrestling maintained that locker and use it while weightlifting. There is currently a shortage of lockers for spring athletes. Mr. Gilhool will rectify the situation.
 - It was requested that the cardio room and the weight room be closed to student and public use during the time in which spring sports are unable to utilize their outdoor facilities. This would allow for an additional work out area for those athletes and would eliminate the congestion after school. Mr. Tallarico will put a plan in place to make that happen.

- Softball (Kim Forys): Miss Forys had the following concerns:
 - Miss Forys requested that the home dugout be repainted in just one color. Currently, the dugout has a purple and red color. The custodial staff will address this as soon as possible.
 - There is also a concern regarding the number of bees that inhabit the dugout areas once the weather begins to break. Mr. Clapper will put together a proactive plan to address this situation before the bee population begins to rise. The potential for the use of an outside contractor and regular spraying will be considered.

- There is a real need for an additional practice area with the use of the current field by three softball teams (Varsity, Junior Varsity and Junior High). That puts a tremendous strain on the field. Mr. Clapper and Mr. Gilhool will look at the potential of utilizing Lathrop Street's field a few nights a week for the Junior High program. It was requested that the board consider a long term solution of providing an additional field as they did for the soccer program.
- Baseball (Todd Legg): Mr. Legg had the following concerns:
 - A request was made of the administration to consider moving the late bus departure time to 6 p.m. in order to provide additional time for practice for spring sports. That would alleviate some of the strain on the fields as it would provide additional time to rotate teams in during the practice. Mr. Ognosky referenced the fact that years ago the late bus time was tied into daylight savings time – when daylight savings time was in effect the late buses left at 6 p.m.
 - Mr. Legg also inquired about the potential for an additional practice area. He had cleared and leveled an area near the practice football field and it was never seeded. Mr. Clapper explained that he had brought in Andre's to look at the field and they felt it was not ready to be seeded at that time. Money was then utilized for the upgrade of the current infield on both the softball and baseball fields. It was requested that the board consider allocating funds for the completion of the upper field practice area.
 - Mr. Legg also was concerned about the fencing in the left field area of the current field and related that in the past few years a few athletes have been injured on that older, lower fence. Rickie concurred and explained that he has plans to replace that section with a higher 6 foot fence.
 - Mr. Legg expressed concern about the drainage in certain areas of the field as well as the snow plowing that goes on in the center field area. Rickie explained that there is no where else to place that volume of snow from the parking lots and his staff takes care to rake out and manicure the field in that area when the fence is put back up.
 - Mr. Legg had questions regarding the coaches' salary and how they are developed. He sited that an associate in a neighboring school who is a first year varsity coach has a higher salary than his. Mr. Gilhool explained the salary schedule and, after discussion, it was decided that Mr. Gilhool and Mr. Tallarico will meet with the coaches, hear their concerns and ideas, and bring those ideas to the board for consideration.
 - Mr. Legg expressed concern with the current procedure in which student/athletes assist with the concession stand during football

and basketball season in order to assist in the raising of funds for Varsity jackets. He felt there was an inequity in current team assignments and responsibilities. Mr. Gilhool explained that sports teams are assigned in an equitable fashion across all seasons and every team participates in manning the stand.

- Mr. Tallarico and Mr. Gilhool concluded the meeting with a number of action items that they will be developing for board consideration in the near future based on tonight's discussion as well as previous discussion:
 - Potential Revisions of the current Athletic Policy Manual:
 - The administration is reviewing three portions of the current Athletic Policy Manual for potential revisions:
 - ❖ The inclusion of a "Parent Athletic Code of Conduct and Expectations" to be reviewed and signed in acknowledgement by all parents of student/athletes at the time the athlete receives their physical or recertification. A number of coaches' utilized the form this year with success. I have included a copy with the minutes.
 - ❖ Consideration be given once again for the regular posting of all varsity coaching positions in two year cycles. Mr. Tallarico and Mr. Gilhool feel strongly that this will benefit all of our programs.
 - ❖ The section of the policy that deals with coaches' ejections will be reviewed as there is a thought that it is inequitable from sport to sport. Currently, the policy calls for a one week suspension of the coach and/or player and in various sports that would result in different numbers of games affected.
 - ❖ Mr. Tallarico will meet with the current varsity coaches on these issues and make a presentation for consideration at the May board meeting, with approval of the revisions (if any) in June. That would be in ample time for the Fall sports season of 2008-2009.
 - Stadium Scoreboard: Mr. Gilhool presented his thoughts regarding the replacement of the stadium scoreboard that was destroyed during the winter. Mr. Clapper explained that the insurance will provide no relief in the replacement costs. Mr. Gilhool would like to purchase a new scoreboard that has the capability of running advertisements and announcements during games. He has visited high school sites in the area that have boards of that capability and feels it would be a great addition to our stadium. The cost would be higher than a simple replacement scoreboard, but in initial discussions with the Midget Football Program and local area businesses he feels that it would be possible to

secure the additional funding with local sponsors. The scoreboard itself costs approximately \$13,000 and the additional message board about \$9,000. The Midget Program has promised a \$3,000 donation and Joe is hoping to secure four local businesses at \$1,500 each as permanent sponsors for the board. He was asked to work out a proposal during the next month and report back at the April Work Session for board consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Submitted by *Mike Ognosky*

Date: March 12, 2008