



Barnstable Athletic Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes

Date: January 17, 2019

Location: Barnstable High School Main Office Conference Room

Members Present:

Scott Thomas, Athletic Director/Head Boys Soccer Coach
Katie Egan, Administrative Assistant Barnstable Athletic Department
Ashley Bishop, Administrative Assistant/Head Field Hockey Coach
Meghan Fligg, English Teacher/Co-Head Girls Soccer Coach
Tabitha Thomas, BHS School Psychologist
Greg Dowling, Parent
Lynda Everett, Parent
Carly Whiteside, Senior Student Athlete
Jose Suazo, Senior Student Athlete

Members Not Present:

Diahann Cordeiro
Jenn Swaylik
Scott Swaylik
Robin Vine

6:15 pm – Introductions

- Explanation of Council Objectives and goals by Scott Thomas
The Barnstable High School Athletic Advisory Council's objective is to support the enhancement of interscholastic athletics, while promoting a culture for BHS student-athletes, coaches and parents that will represent and enhance the core values of our school community. The Council will be comprised of student-athletes, coaches, teachers, parents, and administrators. This group has been assembled to provide insight on the student-athlete experience and also to offer feedback on the rules, regulations and policies that affect our athletes and teachers.
- Group Introductions
- Discussion regarding the meeting schedule with the upcoming meetings tentatively scheduled for 2/27/2019, 3/27/2019 and 5/22/2019. BHS is aiming to re-establish a higher level of pride, by providing, in part, equal access and opportunity for all athletes and sports, to the same experiences.

6:30 – Open Discussion

- The Center for the Study of Sport in Society at Northeastern University – the College of Education and Allied Studies at Bridgewater State University. The goal of the study is to better understand and ultimately improve the quality of student experiences at BHS as they relate to athletics.
- Focus groups will consist of parents, teachers, coaches, and both athletes, and non-athletes. Focus groups will meet 1/28, 1/29 and 1/30. Groups will consist of 10-12 individuals chosen at random. The

goal is to survey individuals, in order to gather the appropriate data required to measure the culture surrounding social, emotional, and varying learning needs, in order to be able to identify how athletics impacts students and their surrounding community. The goal of the focus groups is to give everyone a voice during the process.

- During the last meeting there was a sense that there was a lack of connection with the incoming 8th graders, possibly because of a lesser level of BHS pride within the building. With a much more diverse population, we need to reach out to the incoming classes, in order to unite kids and give them a sense of belonging, so that they feel comfortable joining teams and expressing themselves.
- More diversity is seen with the boys soccer program than the girls. We need to put support systems in place that bridge the diversity gap...and it doesn't have to be with someone involved with athletics.
- Kids are definitely intimidated to try out for sports teams...how do we fix that? Maybe look into B2B television...something that has had a positive effect in the past. Can we do something at open house night? Can we produce team based athletic segments on B2B? Can we run continuous loops? Another option...can we utilize Chromebooks to facilitate information?
- A separate topic was discussed surrounding the difficulty for kids regarding transportation to and from BHS. Can we coordinate with RTA to provide after school transportation at a reduced rate?
- Do we look to our captains to get more involved, not just recruiting athletes, but also helping kids to know and understand the opportunities that are available to them? Ideas included email and/or carpool hotlines that would be sent out before the season begins.
- 2nd Tuesday in February there is a meeting with BYSA to talk about the relationship with the recreation department and how we can form stronger foundations through our youth programs.
- A lot of concern was expressed surrounding the lack of athletic opportunities prior to coming to BHS. No middle school athletic programs causes the high school to act as the first stop in a youth's athletic experience. Can the schedule be overwhelming for those with little to no prior experience?

7:30 – Conclusion

- As we work to bridge the gap in overall population diversity, how also do we eliminate any gender inequality gaps that may still exist at BHS as well? How do we increase fan support at all athletic contests? Should we try and schedule more boys and girls double headers?
- As we move ahead in continuing to involve our student athletes, how can we create a more diverse unified sports program?
- The homework burden for our students is something that is visible in their attitude towards available free time and using it to come back to BHS to support their fellow student athletes. How do we take a closer look at how homework load is impacting our students for both the positive and the negative?

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 27, 2019 AT 6:00 PM IN THE MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM