



Barnstable Athletic Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes

Date: January 9, 2020

Location: Barnstable High School Library – Bill Butler Conference Room

Members Present:

Scott Thomas, Athletic Director
Katie Egan, Administrative Assistant Barnstable Athletic Department
Meghan Fligg, English Teacher/Co-Head Girls Soccer Coach
Ted Guazzaloco, Wellness Teacher/Girls JV Basketball Coach, Assistant Football Coach
Scott Swaylik, Parent
Bonnie Stanley, Parent
Diahann Cordeiro, Parent
Renee Dowling, Parent, Barnstable Recreation Commission Liaison
Greg Dowling, Parent, Quarterback Club President
Morgan Dardia, Junior Student-Athlete
Bridget Botelho, Senior Student-Athlete

Members Not Present:

Ashley Bishop, Administrative Assistant Operations/Head Field Hockey Coach
Jenn Swaylik, Parent
Robin Vine, Parent
Abby Al-Asousi, Senior Student-Athlete
Colby Burke, Senior Student-Athlete
Michael Martir, Senior Student-Athlete
Harry Lanman, Senior Student-Athlete
Tabitha Thomas, BHS School Psychologist
Julia Ryan, Physical Education Teacher, Varsity Softball Head Coach, Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball Coach, Freshman Girls Soccer Coach

5:00 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.

5:10 pm – Northeastern Study/Conclusions/Improvements

- The Northeastern Report is complete and located on the BHS website. The report gives recommendations for improvements to BHS athletics. Some of the improvements that we have seen so

far this year include alterations to reduced two-hour practice times, no Sunday practice, games or playdates, as well as the implementation of the exploratory phase of a Unified Sports Program.

- The Unified Sports Program would compete with other schools under the direction and guidance of the MIAA. The goal would be to start with a track program at the beginning of the 2020 fall school year. There is a lot of excitement surrounding this opportunity for our BHS students. Kathy Bent is one of the main contacts on the project.
- The Intramural Sport Survey is still awaiting the breakdown of data. This survey was designed and implemented in order to look at the level of interest in after-school sporting opportunities at BHS outside of the varsity, JV and freshman athletic programs.
- It is important to look at the role of the recreation department, when it comes to offering middle school, and other high school sporting opportunities, as it can have consequences on the numbers of available participants for the recreation department, and therefore impact revenue. There needs to be a better attempt in making sure that the recreation department is aware, and maybe even involved in the public schools' decisions so that between the two entities, the best opportunities are clearly conveyed to the residents of the Town of Barnstable. The goal is not to reinvent the wheel, and to have as many students involved and participating as possible.
- Scott suggested to Renee Dowling that both Patty Machado and John Gleason be invited to our next Advisory Council meeting. Renee agreed to extend the invitation for March 5, 2020 at 5:00 pm in the library.
- The concept of an athletic late bus was discussed. There is concern that students without adequate transportation may be forgoing after school opportunities due to their inability to have a ride back home. Morgan and Bridget both agreed that the lack of transportation definitely plays a role in some students' decisions to participate in after school programs

5:30 pm – Field Project Update

- The expected Field of Dreams completion date is on schedule for the start of the spring season (March 2020). Building structures are scheduled to be completed by the middle of February 2020.
- Phase II of the outside improvements is asking for \$3.5 million.
- Scott Thomas would like to see the school address the condition of the softball field next. The addition of a turf softball field would give us three turf surfaces on the BHS campus reducing the inconvenience for travelling to outside venues, in order to accommodate our needs.
- The overall feel from the BHS community is positivity and excitement in seeing the results that are being displayed. The hope is that the Field of Dreams will be a destination for students and families to support our local athletic teams.
- The one concern right now surrounds Verizon and their inability to respond to an electrical component that seems to be holding up the project.
- Greg Dowling: do we have an update on the timeframe for making improvements to Building M, as there is currently no heat or hot water running to the building. Scott was going to check with Dave Kanyock and report back. There are currently 50 plus kids participating in Building M in the powerlifting club, so having adequate access to heat and water are a central area of focus.

5:35 pm – Cape & Islands League

- This was our first season in the revamped Cape & Islands League where we saw a tremendous amount of success. Students, athletes, coaches, and parents all echoed the same sentiment that the reduction in travel times, and the renewed sense of rivalries were all positives in rejoining the league. Increases in attendance were also noted as a positive factor in the support of all of our athletic programs.
- One concern was the lack of freshman football programs (Greg Dowling), and a second was the distance to Wheaton College for indoor winter track meets, and the inability for working parents to attend any of those events.

5:40 pm – Athletic Mission Statement

- Meghan Fligg took the sentiments from the BAAC members from last meeting, and researched other athletic mission statements, and came up with one for BHS that was met with a resounding amount of acceptance and excitement. Scott is going to bring it to the next level of administrative personnel for approval, and then we will hopefully be able to implement the BHS athletic vision throughout our athletic department for all to see.

The Barnstable High School athletic program supports the school's core values of commitment, collaboration and community. The priority of Barnstable Athletics is to give student-athletes the opportunity to excel in academic achievement and athletic accomplishments.

Our athletic programs are dedicated to fostering a positive and healthy culture, which centers around respect, sportsmanship, commitment to inclusiveness and diversity, hard work, self-discipline, humility, and social and emotional growth.

The athletic program plays an essential role in teaching student-athletes that they are ambassadors and role models for both their school and their community. We teach student-athletes that it is crucial to conduct themselves with honesty and integrity, make sacrifices, strive for excellence, persevere through adversity, compete with pride and dignity, and to give back to others.

Barnstable high School strives to instill an awareness of, and appreciation for, the importance of lifetime health and wellness, and to involve the full community as both participants and supporters of our Athletic Program.

5:50 pm – Lettering Policy

- Much of the lettering policy at BHS centers around a few different views and visions. Some coaches award letters to anyone that makes the varsity, regardless of playing time, some coaches require points to be earned and met, while other's require certain playing time requirements. There was a lot of discussion on coming up with a universal lettering policy to address areas of equity, equality and understanding for students and parents on what is required to earn a varsity letter. There is a notion that a "one size fits all approach" to earning a varsity letter may not be possible, and Scott asked that people go home to think about what direction they think is best for the BHS culture. We will continue, as an athletic advisory board to research and address this topic.

6:00 pm – Conclusion

- Address the notion of AED's on all outside fields and Building M (Scott to ask Dave Kanyock).

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON March 5, 2020 AT 5:00 PM

LOCATION: BHS LIBRARY

(Future meetings: May 7th)