



## **Barnstable Athletic Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes**

*Date:* March 5, 2020

*Location:* Barnstable High School Library – Bill Butler Conference Room

### *Members Present:*

Scott Thomas, Athletic Director  
Katie Egan, Administrative Assistant Barnstable Athletic Department  
Patrick Clark, Principal, Barnstable High School  
Dave Kanyock, Director of Facilities, Barnstable Public Schools  
John Gleason, Hyannis Recreation Department  
Patti Machado, Hyannis Recreation Department  
Meghan Fligg, English Teacher/Co-Head Girls Soccer Coach  
Ashley Bishop, Administrative Assistant Operations/Head Field Hockey Coach  
Ted Guazzaloco, Wellness Teacher/Girls JV Basketball Coach, Assistant Football Coach  
Bonnie Stanley, Parent  
Robin Vine, Parent  
Renee Dowling, Parent, Barnstable Recreation Commission Liaison  
Greg Dowling, Parent, Quarterback Club President  
Morgan Dardia, Junior Student-Athlete  
Colby Burke, Senior Student-Athlete  
Michael Martir, Senior Student-Athlete  
Harry Lanman, Senior Student-Athlete

### *Members Not Present:*

Jenn Swaylik, Parent  
Scott Swaylik, Parent  
Diahann Cordeiro, Parent  
Bridget Botelho, Senior Student-Athlete  
Abby Al-Asousi, 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

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### 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 – Stadium Turf

- Dave Kanyock – we were hoping to resurface the BHS stadium turf this year (\$1 million), but late last year, and early into this year (2020) there was concern that there could be a level of Pfos resulting from run off from the turf that could be contaminating water supply wells in the surrounding areas. There has been a large amount of contamination to water supply wells off of Mary Dunn Road, due to training activities by the Fire Department, which led to heightened concern about the possibility of a repeat event at BHS. Pfos is a known cancer causing agent.
- The Town of Barnstable has spent over \$20 million dollars on filtration units to address the water quality issue. With the EPA recently lowering the Pfos reportable limits, BHS fell below the minimum threshold for the first time.
- Pfos contains fluorine, which is used as a lubricant when the turf is being processed. It helps to prevent breaking of the fibers during the production process. Fluorine is found on everyday items such as dental floss and non-stick bakeware. As a community we need to look more closely at the possibility of Pfos in the groundwater. If reportable limits are determined to be at safe levels, then the stadium turf will be replaced in the future. Dave is testing water on the new baseball stadium through EPA testing protocol, in order to check Pfos levels there as well.
- The second issue with the stadium turf is its condition. Due to an average life expectancy of 10 years, the turf is in rough shape, and marginally passed the GMAX impact testing standard back last fall. GMAX testing addresses the hardness of the turf. Reducing turf based activities is absolutely necessary, in order to prolong the viability of the turf for another year. If the turf fails the GMAX testing at any point in time then the stadium will be shut down for all further use. Limiting stadium turf activities will be difficult to do, but absolutely necessary. Use will be for varsity games only. No sub-varsity games or practices. No outside rentals.
- Renee – expressed disappointment that we waited a few years too long to realize the condition of the turf, and the lack of time will make it extremely difficult in terms of scheduling if the failure were to happen over the summer. It also negates the opportunities for some students to not be afforded the opportunities that they waited years to experience. Greg – adequate time needs to be considered in terms of rescheduling both high school and youth sporting events that are planning on using the facility. John – the condition of the stadium turf is something that the HYCC is just hearing about as well.
- Any GMAX failure will result in the immediate closure of the BHS stadium turf. The turf will test better in warmer weather, and Dave is working diligently on doing everything in his power to get one more year out of the facility.
- Signage will be installed to designate the stadium turf as closed for public use.
- Patrick – how far away from failure are we? Dave – we have no way of really knowing that answer.
- Ashley – given the possibility of the closure of the stadium, what teams will have access to the new baseball stadium? The perception is that the stadium is a baseball stadium and what does that look like to our community as a whole when we relate that back to the Northeastern Study, the whole child, and gender equality.
- Dave – we are asking for \$3 million for Phase 2 outside grass improvements. \$1 million may need to be reallocated to the tennis courts given their condition. All grass fields will need irrigation, and we are planning on the installation of a few new scoreboards. We don't have the time, money or resources to do all of the outside upgrades at once. If the stadium does have to be converted to grass, it will take two years, in order for the surface to be playable. It would also only be able to be utilized as a varsity, game only facility. This isn't an easy decision, and certainly one that will be met with much resistance.

## 6:00 pm – Baseball Stadium Turf

- The first practice on the baseball stadium will be Monday, March 16, 2020. Saturday, April 11, 2020 there will be a community opening with a varsity game against Taunton at 1:00 pm.
- The stadium is scheduled for the installation of water and power this week, as well as the paving of the parking lot. Next week will see the hydro-seeding of the surrounding areas.

- Renee – what is the security for the new field?
- Dave – cameras were approved but have not yet been installed. With impending construction to the transportation office, we do not want to remove conduit that would then need to be replaced. In the short term, the poles have security lights, as do the dugouts and buildings. Signage will also be posted.
- Greg – do we have a timeframe for heat in Building M?
- Dave – the boiler for Building M is out to bid and we will have heat for next winter.

#### 6:10 pm – Saturday Football Games & Athletic Misconduct

- We are moving to Saturday home football games for the fall due to student, parent and spectator misconduct that has become so widespread, that it is causing great concern for the safety of our community, as well as taking tremendous amounts of time away from the important aspects of school teaching when we return from the weekend. We do not have the man power to clean-up or manage Friday night football games. Coaches and deans do not want to handle spectator behavior. Poor behavior has disrupted academic settings due to endless amounts of time spent on meetings pertaining to suspensions, police reports, discipline, etc. when staff return to the building on Monday morning.
- Educational leadership needs to take precedence over Friday night irresponsible behaviors.
- Saturday afternoon games have shown 2/3 less student attendance, but an increase in community involvement and support. This decision is not a budget issue; it has become a cultural concern.
- Greg – would like to be part of a group that discusses ways to maintain spectator behavior, in order to keep Friday night light games.
- Patti – we are missing parent support from this generation, but the nonsense from kids is the same nonsense we have seen and experienced in the past. How do we get parents to take a more active role in accountability?
- Ashley – the repercussions for inappropriate behaviors do not “fit the crime.”
- Patrick – we absolutely need to change the culture.
- Scott – is there a need to create a sub-committee, in order to address the culture and behaviors of athletes? Do we need to do a better job of making an example out of students who violate ethically appropriate school culture? Harry, Colby and Mike – making an example of a student might not help the first time, but it would definitely change the attitude of kids and their actions and behaviors if it was instilled more than once. Patrick – the MIAA hockey game was a 10 out of 10 and a much better experience than what we witnessed this fall. Harry, Colby and Mike – the behaviors were still the same, but the kids were better since they just didn’t get caught. Kate – the issue seems for me to be more about accountability from the top (parents, administrators, coaches, etc.) in order to instill a sense of accountability from the students. How do we help kids to understand the potential implications of their decisions if they feel little to no responsibility for their actions?
- Greg – could we consider a 4:00 pm game time for Friday night? Moving to Saturdays also puts the kids at a disadvantage due to recovery, less time for film and preparation, etc.
- Renee – would inviting younger athletes to athletic events help to instill a sense of responsibility for all to behave in a more responsible light?
- John – Springfield College had a Pride Athletic Council. Can we get a more diverse group of athletes on the BAAC? Can we take the culture that we would like to see at BHS to BIS so that kids are being instilled with appropriate behaviors prior to coming to the high school? This culture could and should, also be taken to the HYCC.

#### 6:20 pm – Recreation Department

- The implementation of middle school sport programs had a significant impact in the registration numbers for the 2019-2020 winter season, especially when it came to basketball. The 2018-2019 basketball numbers consisted of 64 boys and 48 girls. The 2019-2020 basketball numbers were decreased to 12 boys and 8 girls. The HYCC just wants to be in better communication with BIS so that they can come in and meet with all of the middle school athletes the day before tryouts, in order to let them know that if they don’t make a middle school team, there is always a spot for them in the

recreation department. This change in registration will have long term impacts for basketball programs within the community. Typically when a child is “cut” from a team, the recreation department does not see them return to that sport.

- Patti – we want to have a better relationship with BIS (Beth Deneen), and feel like we are in a better place in terms of our mutual understanding and approach on how to best serve the whole community.
- Patti – we need to be better at teaching basic skills and game concepts to the younger kids so that when they get to the high school they have a more solid foundation and have met the basic expectations expected by our coaches. Some high school coaches are great about getting involved with the recreation department, but we need to continue that level of involvement with all sports. Higher level varsity coaches need to educate the entry level coaches on the skills and knowledge that they would like to see be instilled in our younger athletes.
- John – the recreation department loses athletes to middle school sports teams, as well as to pay to play club teams. The focus has been set on the “A” level athlete, often times forgetting about the “B” players. We cannot lose sight of the whole group because we chose to focus on a select few.

#### 6:40 – Northeastern Study

- The development and adoption of the BHS Athletics Mission Statement was a great success.
- Lettering Policy – with the whole child centered approach focusing on the social and emotional growth of a teen through participation on a team, a student-athlete will receive their varsity letter if they are a member of the varsity squad for at least 50% of the season, and are in good standing. Lettering will not be based upon playing minutes.
- Greg – can we take a closer look at football as JV and varsity practice together?
- Scott – absolutely, as we may need to make slight adjustments for sports like football, track and wrestling.
- Morgan and Bridgette were asked to address the Behavioral Charts at BHS, in order to establish a column designated for athletics. The three themes they established were: respectful, responsible and safe.
  - Respectful: of officials, coaches, players...on buses, at games and at practices
  - Responsible: sportsmanship, behavior at venues; wearing a BHS uniform represents not just yourself and you school, but also your community.
  - Safe: proper use of equipment, following sports medicine and training room protocol, proper bus behavior, concussion and Impact testing.

#### 7:00 pm – Discussion Topics

- The BHS Athletic Department will be hosting its Spring Sports Symposium on Saturday, March 7, 2020 from 9:00 – 12:00 in the Knight Auditorium at Barnstable High School. Key note speakers from Children’s Hospital will be addressing knee injuries, as well as pain management and physical therapy, and their roles in prevention, diagnosis and return to play.
- The new MIAA playoff format will go into effect for the Fall of 2021. Max Preps will rank all teams, and based upon those rankings, 32 teams will be seeded in each Division for tournament play. There will be play-in opportunities as well. Although much concern was raised about the potential for long travel times and reduced fan base, the vote passed by 2/3.
- Academic Eligibility Policy – do we need to look at a “stronger” policy considering that we are focused on educational athletics? Much agreement was expressed over a GPA based system. We will need to take a closer look at this next time. Kate to obtain academic policies from other schools, as well as to run preliminary reports to see how GPA based standards may impact overall eligibility. If this were to be implemented, should this be a GPA based expectation for all extra-curriculars at BHS, not just athletics? Is there a need for extra tutoring, support hours, homework helpers, and possibly study tables?

- Scott – how do we feel about the chemical health policy? Breathalyzing, one and done concepts, following MIAA minimum standards, or establishing stricter guidelines? It is sad when the actions of a few ruin the experiences for the group. How can we move to change the BHS and community culture so that we can bring back Friday night football? We need to address culture, accountability, respect and consequences.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON May 7, 2020 AT 5:00 PM**  
**LOCATION: BHS LIBRARY**