



Barnstable Athletic Advisory Council – Meeting Minutes

Date: November 20, 2019

Location: Barnstable High School Library – Lower Level

Members Present:

Scott Thomas, Athletic Director
Katie Egan, Administrative Assistant Barnstable Athletic Department
Ashley Bishop, Administrative Assistant Operations/Head Field Hockey Coach
Meghan Fligg, English Teacher/Co-Head Girls Soccer Coach
Bonnie Stanley, Parent
Renee Dowling, Parent, Barnstable Recreation Commission Liaison
Greg Dowling, Parent, Quarterback Club President
Robin Vine, Parent
Morgan Dardia, Junior Student-Athlete
Bridget Botelho, Senior Student-Athlete

Members Not Present:

Scott Swaylik, Parent
Jenn Swaylik, Parent
Diahann Cordeiro, 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

5:30 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.

5:40 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 fall include the implementation of middle school sports programs at BIS (soccer, basketball,

track). One of the concerns is that athletic participation at BHS is under 30% of the total student body. How do we get more kids involved? One change we made this fall was hiring a Portuguese and Spanish speaking boy's soccer coach, which helped to increase numbers across multi-lingual families.

- A second enhancement was the addition of hall monitors at BHS. Monitors were on site until 3:30 pm in the fall, and will be on-site until 5:00 pm during the winter months, in order to accommodate various indoor practice times.
- There has also been a move to cap all future practices at 2-hours, and institute a no practice or game schedule for Sunday's, unless approved in advanced by the Athletic Director.
- Bridget: student-athletes need to be aware of their course load, so that they understand what they can handle during their athletic seasons.
- Morgan: the key to being a successful student-athlete at any level is understanding time management
- Scott: we need to look at the athletic experience at BHS with the "whole child" concept in mind. By capping practice times and restricting Sunday activities, we are freeing up time for student-athletes to have more opportunity for all of the other commitments in their lives. It is all about working smarter. How do we as coaches, parents and administrators understand the role that sports play, both positively and negatively in our student-athlete's life. Our goal is a "happy, healthy, whole child."
- An idea for the future is to limit athletic experiences to only one vacation over the course of the school year.
- By being a member of the Cape & Islands League, we will be afforded the luxury of playing many of our athletic contests closer to home, limiting overall travel time. Next year, we will make the move as an athletic department to reduce the overall number of games played during a season. The goal will be to play 16 in-season games as opposed to 20 for many of our sports programs. Making these adjustments will allow for more rest and recovery for our athletes.

6:15 pm – Field Project Update

- The expected Field of Dreams completion date is looking to be early 2020, with full use capability for the start of the spring athletic season in March of 2020. The field will serve as the home field for the BHS baseball team, as well as a soccer practice and playing facility. We will continue to use both the new baseball stadium and the football turf in an equitable manner for all sports, including games and practices.
- Phase II of the outside improvements will include a new turf in the stadium (summer 2020), all natural grass field improvements, an increase in outdoor storage facilities at Building M, and potentially new ticket booths at the stadium entrance.

6:30 pm – Fall Sports Report

- This was our first season in the revamped Cape & Islands League where we saw a tremendous amount of success. The volleyball, girls soccer and football teams all won league titles this fall. In addition, for the first time in BHS history, Barnstable soccer hosted the first round tournament games for both the boys and girls soccer teams. The boys cross country team brought home a significant amount of hardware, including a 1st place in the unseeded race at the Wickham Park Invitational. Girl's volleyball continued their winning ways advancing all the way to the State semis, losing in a tough 5 match contest to Winchester.
- Winter sports registration is open on FamilyId and will close at midnight on Monday, November 25th. Winter sports will commence on Monday, December 2, 2019.
- Greg Dowling, with the assistance of the BHS athletic department and BHS administration has created the BHS Powerlifting Club. The athletes will compete in 3 competitions over the course of the winter. Their first meeting was held on November 20, 2019, and they had over 30 kids in attendance. Final numbers are expected to be closer to 40 athletes. The sport is growing in popularity with the rise in Cross-Fit. There will be two coaches, and the kids will compete in their respective weight classes. The club is open to boys and girls. Athletes just need to be members of USA Powerlifting (\$35.00), and there will also be an additional dues membership (unknown at this time).

- Greg also wanted to mention that the Northeastern Study stated that the Quarterback Club did not buy jackets for the cheer team. He wanted to make sure that the information was accurate, in that all football and cheer jackets are purchased by the Quarterback Club for those athletes chosen by their respective coaches.

6:50 pm – Athletic Mission Statement

- The BAAC is open to additional members. We would like to have a committee comprised of individuals from various backgrounds and experiences so that we can represent the most diverse population. One of the objectives moving forward is to develop a BHS Athletics mission statement (including concepts like acceptance, community service, tradition, etc.) to align with the concept of the “Whole Child.”
- Scott – we need to develop a lettering policy at BHS.
- Ashley – we need to work on getting everyone at BHS to respect our spaces. We need to hold students and staff accountable, in an effort to maintain our facilities.
- Renee – alcohol policy – the poor decisions and actions of a few should not detrimentally impact those of the group. A small number of alcohol related incidences at home football games this fall has led to discussions about moving home BHS football games to Saturday mornings. The thought of losing “Friday Night Light Games” is concerning for many.
- Academic eligibility – currently student-athletes need to pass all but one of their classes, in order to be eligible to participate in practices or games. There is growing concern that an athlete can have 1 F, and 6 D-‘s and still participate. Should we look at a GPA eligibility based system?

7:30 pm – Conclusion

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 9, 2020 AT 5:30 PM

LOCATION: BHS LIBRARY

(Future meetings: March 5th and May 7th)