

JOHNSTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Interscholastic Athletics Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Notes
Thursday, December 8, 2022, 3:30 p.m.
The Knox Building, Board Room (Old Band Room)

- I. Introduction of purpose and charge of the committee by Dr. Crankshaw.
- *Dr. Crankshaw reviewed what previously occurred in the GJSD regarding league affiliation*
 - *He included background information on options discussed prior to the Board of Education vote to postpone the decision on athletics. It was acknowledged that the discussed change included:*
 - *WAC for most teams*
 - *Wasaren League, Colonial Council or independent schedule for field hockey and lacrosse. It was confirmed that the suburban Council has no interest in Johnstown for field hockey.*
 - *Clearly stated the charge of the group was to provide a recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools by April 30, 2023. This is the date the GJSD must notify the Foothills Council if a change is planned.*
- II. Introduction of members of the committee facilitated by Mark Fish
- *Members shared their names, background, and their interest in service to the committee*
 - *Facilitator Fish asked for volunteers to serve the important roles of official attendance taker, official notetaker, and time keeper as needed in the process.*
 - *Emily Cox volunteered to take notes*
 - *Emily Cheney volunteered to monitor attendance*
 - *A timekeeper was not needed in this meeting.*
 - *The group agreed to keep meetings to between 60 and 90 minutes*
- III. Accepting the charge of the committee facilitated by Mark Fish
- *Facilitator Fish stressed the need for:*
 - *open , honest, and respectful conversation*
 - *equal voice for participation of members*
 - *Dedication to act in the best interest of the student athletes in a fiscally responsive manner for the community*
 - *A focus in working toward consensus for a thoughtful, data driven recommendation to the Superintendent of Schools*

- *Facilitator Fish stated the goal for the remainder of the meeting was to brainstorm thoughts and ideas on the essential issues facing the committee.*
- *Initially, members of the committee asked clarifying questions to discern more details of the background.*
 - *Is a classification system similar to football going to occur in the near future?*
 - *While Section 2 has its own Ad Hoc committee exploring many of these issues (Principal Hale is a member) action will not occur anytime soon. At least two years is the stated goal.*
 - *Is the WAC still an option to join?*
 - *Brainstorming and data needed for the next meeting:*
- *Enrollment in GJSD sports over the last 5 years, by sport, by season. Trend lines with the data.*
 - *Sports/Programs that have youth sports/youth programs (feeders). Is this an indicator of success?*
 - *Does every school in the foothills have field hockey? Many of the games were scrimmages for modified field hockey - some due to lack of players (illness/ lack of enrollment), busing.*
 - *Have any sports been eliminated in the GJSD? It was noted that the district has eliminated tennis (boys/girls) and has combined for swimming. Are there other sports the committee should be looking at due to lack of participation? Has the district lost any other sports?*
 - *For comparison, Glens Falls is the only school with more sports offered for a Class B district.*
 - *Enrollment (student population) and enrollment of the sports in both Foothills and WAC (visual needed) and do they have competition at all levels? (ex. Do they have a JV team?)*
 - *Beds numbers/sport enrollment/program offering/season records*
 - *Boys Lax played in the Wasaren - what were their records for each season played in a different league*
 - *Very new for girls golf, can declare that they want to go to the sectionals*
 - *Why is mod football a foothills council but JV/Varsity is classification - across the board what is the delineation from Modified -Varsity of councils/leagues/classifications*
 - *Merged with Fonda for wrestling and swim looking at merging with Lax*

- *Prospect of classification - does the State Ed level drive that timeline, is it driven by section? Mr. Fish doesn't believe that will be an option for the recent*
- *Travel time, distance for each sport (if we were to move to the WAC) and cost*
- *Is there a mission statement for the athletic program? How do we define success?*
- *Records of each sport for the last 5 years*
- *Slideshow with data on league and sectional results*
- *How will we share information with the public? Process of refinery then distributed to the public from Parent Square and also on to the website by the Superintendent. Full transparency is the goal. Meetings are open to the public.*
- *What does it entail to merge sports programs? (Easier option - can be done within a season, agreement, board approval, submit paperwork, each season has a deadline.) Mergers do change the classification based on numbers - 100% of the largest school 40% of the second school and if there is a 3rd school maybe 40%*
- *Merger process and their impact on section classification. Should the GJSD consider or pursue any mergers?*
- *What is best for the student population- options for field hockey in particular.*
- *The only league that is sustaining field hockey and lacrosse is the Suburban - Wasaren and the Colonial are looking to merge for a field hockey league.*
- *Why would the Suburban Council not consider GFSD for field hockey? Speculation of travel, not wanting to play schools in a lower classification. It does not help their league in any way.*
- *Is there any talk of the WAC adding sports they don't already have?*
- *A list of all the schools in each council (Foothills, WAC, Wasaren, Suburban).*
- *Facilitator Fish closed the activity by asking if any member of the group had additional questions or comments for consideration.*
- *Facilitator Fish noted the next meeting would be on 1/19/23. The agenda would be dedicated to:*
 - *A review and analysis of data collected*

- *Dialogue to drafting a future recommendation*

IV. Next Meeting 1/19/23 3:30 pm. In the Knox Board Room (Old Band Room)