



**Sanctioned Sports Workshop Minutes
Tuesday, November 14, 2006 – 4:00 p.m.
School Board Meeting Room
Stuart, FL 34994**

Members Present

Lorie Shekailo-Chair
Laurie Gaylord-Vice-Chair
Dr. David Anderson
Susan Hershey
Nancy Kline
Dr. Sara A. Wilcox, Superintendent
Doug Griffin, School Board Attorney

Members Absent

Staff Present

Hank Salzler, Ruth Pietruszewski, Cathleen Brennan, Marshall Skinner, Linda King, Greg Hendricks, R.J. Costello, Chad Garland

Public

Press PBPPost – Rachel Simonsen

Stuart News – Lisa Riddle

MCEA – No representation

AFSCME – Lisa Edwards

Call to order by the Chairman and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

1. Presentation on Current Status of Sports & Club Programs (COPY ATTACHED)

Hank Salzler, Assistant Superintendent, gave an update on club and sports team status. He reviewed the current high school clubs. He listed the recent team/club requests for high schools, which included: rodeo, water polo, boy's volleyball, girl's flag football, lacrosse, rugby, paintball, roller hockey, girl's field hockey, and judo/karate. Middle school requests included: baseball, football, and boy's volleyball. Hank addressed the issues that needed consideration before the Board approved a new sport or club, such as, equipment storage, bus transportation, additional administrative responsibilities, liability, and costs. He reviewed the athletic supplement costs at the three high schools and addressed insurance costs for liability. Hank explained Title IX compliance issues. He explained that if a boy's sport is offered, the girl's sport must be offered. However, a girl's sport can be offered, and the boy's sport does not have to be offered. He continued to explain that if a male sport is offered, a female may participate. On the other hand, if a female sport is offered, the males do not have to be offered participation. He discussed the problems and challenges in meeting Title IX compliance. He apprised the Board that if the district did not meet compliance, the federal dollars could be restricted. Hank discussed the use of fields, athletic field maintenance, how much play a field could withstand, scheduling issues, and the costs of these components. Hank apprised Board members that in the past the Board required a sport to be considered sanctioned by FHSAA to be considered vs. recognized. Bowling was the one sport that slipped under the radar and was approved that night at a Board meeting when people came forth. The people, unfortunately, never followed through with their commitment. Board members discussed the lacrosse request. If the sport was added as a club and not a team, the club would be responsible for raising money. It was suggested if lacrosse was added, it would be with the stipulation that the club not use district fields. With more traffic, the field turf declines and needs replenishing sooner, plus additional staff is needed for maintenance. The costs of lacrosse were discussed. Hank stated that the Principal of the school would decide if a supplement was paid or not paid. Nancy Kline asked if we had a School Board policy on how the Board determines approval. Doug Griffin, School Board Attorney, told Nancy that the Board had administrative guidelines to follow, but no formal policy on what could be approved and not approved. Nancy asked Doug if other districts had a policy covering this subject. Doug reported that larger districts usually do have a policy. Nancy felt it would behoove the Board to put a policy in place. Hank recommended putting a policy in place. Nancy proposed that a policy would promote fairness and equity. Sue Hershey stated that she was a minimalist. She asked if it could be covered under standard practices. Doug stated that is what the Board is doing now. Dr. David Anderson said he wanted to do what was fair to the kids. Lorie Shekailo, President of the Treasure Coast Soccer League, questioned why the lacrosse league wouldn't allow the kids to play. She felt it made no sense, since they were insured and all expenses were covered. She stated that in her

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1. Presentation on Current Status of Sports & Club Programs (Con't)

league, exceptions were made all the time. Sue Hershey stated that the School Board's mission was education, not recreation. She stated that the County was responsible for recreation. Lorie Shekailo expressed her concern about the kids not playing and wanted to know why the league couldn't accommodate them. Board members asked if girl's lacrosse would benefit the District with Title IX compliance issues. Hank explained that it would not help, since they would compete at the varsity level, and the problem existed at the JV level. Sue Hershey asked if clubs counted for equity. Hank replied that they neither helped or hurt. He continued to explain that the only expense to the District for a club was if the decision was made to pay a supplement. Some clubs do not pay supplements. Board members discussed liabilities. Hank stated that once you put your name on something you have liability. Lorie Shekailo reminded Board members that even with clubs the athletic director would be involved with such issues as scheduling, coaching problems, and parental problems. Hank stated that the additional liability insurance needed to add lacrosse would cost the District \$3400.00.

2. Open to the Public

- Craig Willert, local pediatrician, spoke from a medical point of view and asked the Board to consider the obesity epidemic and our lack of exercise for our youth. He distributed an informational handout. (COPY ATTACHED). He informed the Board that many of the elite schools in the northeast and Midwest had lacrosse. Being on a lacrosse team could help with a student's entrance into college. He explained that lacrosse starts in February and usually ends the middle of April. The County would make lacrosse a priority on their fields, if the School Board added the sport.
- Chris Anderson informed Board members that it had become dangerously close that the children would not be playing this Spring. He said that all programs needed to be affiliated with a high school, and they were adhering to FHSAA regulations to become sanctioned. This year lacrosse only missed being sanctioned by three votes.
- Dawn Johnson made a suggestion that parents could pay the \$3400.00 extra cost for liability insurance for the district, if they added lacrosse. She explained how her one son had played hockey at 7, and then there were no teams for him to play on. Her other son plays lacrosse, and there is no team for him play. She hoped the Board would make the decision to add lacrosse.
- Sue Hershey vocalized that the Board was not responsible if a child could not play sports. She stated that the School Board was in the business of educating students. She told lacrosse supporters to bring forth a plan with support in it, and the Board would look at it.
- Nancy Kline stated that she wanted a policy, so that a decision could be made based on policy, acting like a governing board.
- Kevin Johnson informed Board members that many clubs were on the high school list that were not being used. He stated that if the club failed, it would not hurt the school. He told Board members he had already written by-laws for lacrosse.
- Dr. David Anderson stated that he did not want the parents to pay, after all he said, they pay taxes.
- Nancy Kline felt that the Board could not ask one club to pay and not another.

3. Open to the Board

All Board members abstained from speaking.

There being no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

CHAIR (Lorie Shekailo)

SECRETARY (Sara A. Wilcox, Ph.D.)