

SOUTH BORDER SPORTS CO-OP  
Ashley Public School & Wishek Public School  
October 27, 2020  
Ashley High School Gym

The South Border sports co-op held a joint board meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2020 at 6:34pm in the Ashley high school gym. Present: Lyle Fey, Kyle Thiery, Ross Litsey, Amy Schlepp, Kevin Nitschke (Ashley School Board), Melissa Wolf, Curt Meidinger, Bruce Herr, Rocky Brown (Wishek School Board), Jason Schmidt, Shawn Kuntz, Teresa Dockter, Chris Doane, Kary Lindgren, Darrel Peterson, Ashton Peterson, Connor Kosiak, Jasper Roth, Jeremiah Shockley, Eric Weisser, Chuck Brandner, Parker Salwei, Sonia Salwei, Rykan Salwei, Nathan Schauer, Quentin Schumacher, Gwyn Schumacher, James Schumacher, Daniel Schumacher, Colin Goettle, Brooke Kosiak, John Kosiak, Treyton Ruenz, Gavin Wolf, Kinda Hornbacher, Tucker Meidinger, Evan Mellmer, Betsy Vetter, Jeremy St. Aubin, Kara Salzer, Jackson Meidinger, Marisa Meidinger, Kelly Brown, Matt Gauss. Baseball program was the only item on the agenda.

Administrators said they have received some letters of support, however there are some considerations regarding starting another sports program: travel for practices/games, impact on track/golf programs, additional time away from school, numbers look good at this point but how long can they be sustained, boards have to consider the money invested in another program.

Brooke Kosiak presented the following regarding starting a South Border baseball program for 7-12 boys and girls:

- Current interest in 7-12<sup>th</sup> grades (boys & girls)--15 in Wishek, 10 in Ashley
- Current numbers in summer programs--Wishek little league=19, Ashley little league=7, Wishek T-ball (K-2)=25, Ashley T-ball (K-2)=10.
- 5 people have expressed interest in coaching the team--one currently has a CDL, others may be willing to get a bus license.
- Season runs from March 22 to end of May
- Both Ashley & Wishek fields meet current NDHSAA guidelines--equipment available that summer programs could share: batting cages, umpire gear, pitching machines, bases, chalk, rakes, field prep, sound system.
- Start-up costs for things that cannot be shared with the summer programs--uniforms-\$2,000, bats-\$600, baseballs-\$200, helmets-\$250, catcher's gear-\$250, catcher's & 1<sup>st</sup> base gloves-\$400 = \$3,700 total
- Annual program costs--coaches: current salaries are \$4,020 head & \$3,216 asst; transportation: busing practices & games-\$1,200; game officials (estimate 5 home games)-\$1,500 = \$9,936 total
- Annual income--gate admission, concessions, fundraising
- Pledged amounts for start-up costs--currently have \$6,000 in promised money for 2021 spring season.
- NDHSAA determines region we would be in--would likely be region 3 (Carrington, Kidder Co/Napoleon/G-S, Medina-Pingree/Buchanan, Midkota/Dakota Prairie/Lakota/Griggs Co, New Rockford-Sheyenne)
- 2021 season--estimate 5 home & 5 away games, including varsity and JV teams
- Dual athletes--most that have expressed interest do not participate in other spring sports. Possibility of dual sport athletes--would have to select a primary sport & if conflicting schedules, student attends the primary sport event.
- NDHSAA notification deadline is 1/1/21.

Points discussed: coaches/kids get the fields ready for games; things needed for indoor practices (balls, possible batting cages & mound down the road), Wishek armory a possible location for indoor because gyms aren't always available; shared equipment with summer programs--both Ashley Park Board and Wishek Baseball Boosters are on board to do that.

Board member comments:

- Melissa Wolf expressed concern about adding more cost when sports are already deficit spending.
- Curt Meidinger said from 2008-2020 the total loss for all sports programs was \$1,526,000.
- Kevin Nitschke commented we are better schools if we offer the most opportunities we can.
- Ross Litsey pointed out that if start-up costs are covered and the program folds down the road, we're no longer paying coaches, umpires, travel so we're only out the costs for those things during the life of the program, there's no other continued costs.
- Lyle Fey asked how many of the 25 interested are 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> graders--Brooke Kosiak replied there are 7. He also asked how many of the region 3 teams have JV and wondered about kids losing interest due to limited playing time--reply was all but Medina. Sometimes there is a JV schedule as well. Evan Mellmer commented that typically the games are double-headers--first one counts as region game and second game does not. It's common to play extra innings for additional playing time.
- Rocky Brown said we already have multiple sports with conflicting schedules all the time and we make it work. There's never a guarantee of numbers for any sport.
- Bruce Herr stated both boards have other pressures as well as sports and things like adding a program cost can become an issue when it comes time to negotiate with teachers.

Motion by Kevin Nitschke to start a South Border baseball program for 7-12 grade boys and girls, second by Ross Litsey. Roll call vote: Melissa Wolf-no, Bruce Herr-yes, Curt Meidinger-yes, Ross Litsey-yes, Amy Schlepp-yes, Kyle Thiery-yes, Rocky Brown-yes, Kevin Nitschke-yes, Lyle Fey-yes, motion carried.

Motion by Melissa Wolf to adjourn, second by Nitschke. Motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

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Lyle Fey, Ashley School Board President

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Curt Meidinger, Wishek School Board President

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Teresa Dockter, Business Manager  
Ashley School District

