

**Spring-Ford Area School District
Extra-Curricular Committee
March 19, 2019**

Committee Members: Christina Melton (Chair), Linda Fazzini, Dawn Heine

Purpose: The extra-curricular Committee reviews and makes recommendations to the School Board regarding the offerings in athletics, fine arts, clubs, intramurals and other student programs. The committee meets with athletic directors, intramural coordinators, club advisors, fine arts directors and participating students to gain insight on the variety and quality of the current offerings. The committee makes recommendations to the School Board for changes, deletions or additions to the extra-curricular program.

Meeting Location: District Office Conference Room, 6:30 PM

Attendees: Linda Fazzini, Christina Melton, Allyn Roche PhD, Will Cromley, Rick Harrison, Kathy Drennan, Lorelei Spletzer, Reghan Sweeny, Isabelle Vaishd, Elizabeth Ferko, Melinda Borgnis, Heather Nuneviller, Mary Ann Group, Erin McAnallen, Christopher Lambert, Sam Burns, Sidd Charan, Mickey McDaniel, Doug Reigner

Acceptance of Minutes

January 17, 2019 – Accepted by Fazzini and Melton

Old Business: Fine Arts Coordinator Update – Dr. Roche indicated that the position is still posted.

New Business: Presentations

- **Middle School Club/Activity: 7th Grade Crafting Club**
Ms. Borgnis and Ms. Ferko, accompanied by students Lorelei Spletzer, Reghan Sweeny and Isabelle Vaishd, shared an overview of the crafting club with the Committee. The students presented works completed in crafting club, including string art, crayon art, and button art. The club meets approximately every 2 weeks, and announcements are made as to the projects to be completed, so students may sign-up on a week-by-week basis. There is usually a structured project, and then a “free” activity, and students are encouraged to recommend projects. Most supplies have been donated. The girls shared that they enjoy Crafting Club because it is relaxing and different from their normal sports activities. A few of the girls have begun completing crafts at home as well. The committee was impressed with the various projects that were shared. There is an average of ten students who participate, but the numbers can fluctuate depending on the project.

- **High School Club/Activity: Academic Decathlon (Academic Team/Quiz Bowl)**

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Ms. Group and Ms. McAnallen, along with students Christopher Lambert (Sr), Sam Burns(Fr) and Sidd Charan (Jr) provided the committee with an overview of the academic team, its schedule and the types of activities they engage in. The Academic Team is considered a winter sport and has both Varsity and JV teams.. They begin practice three days a week in November. Beginning in January, they practice Tuesday and Thursday, with Wednesday being competition days. The team is a member of a league, consisting of Spring-Ford, Pottsgrove, Souderton, Pope John Paul II and Lansdale Catholic. There are 3 rounds in the competition. The first is 15 toss up questions – with the correct answer, the team gets a bonus question. The second round is a lightning round. The team with the lower score after the first round selects a topic from 3 offered. They then have 60 seconds to answer as many questions as possible. The other team then selects from the remaining two topics and participates in the lightning round. The third round is similar to the first, but there are no bonus questions.

In an effort to show the committee the types of questions and the quickness necessary to compete, Ms. Group and Ms. McAnallen quizzed the attendees. Even with doubling the allotted time, the group was unable to fully answer any of the four questions. When the boys returned, they answered the same questions with lightning speed! The committee was very impressed!

This year, the team was the League Runner-Up. They also competed in a post-season competition at the MCIU, and came in 5th of 19 participating districts. Finally there was a post-season PCTV event held at Pottsgrove High-School. The Team earned the Highest Math Score of the season, and came in 3rd place. PCTV will air the competition on Channel 22 – Wednesday @4:30 PM and Thursday @ 9:00 PM; Channel 28 – Friday @ 4:30 PM and Saturday @ 5:30 PM.

- **Middle School Athletics: Winter Wrap-Up/Spring Pre-View:**

Boys Basketball – 8th grade (16-3); Earned 2nd place in the Spring-Ford Invitational; 7th grade blue (10-4); 7th grade gold (11-2)

Girls Basketball – 8th grade (14-1), earned 1st place in the Spring-Ford Invitational; 7th grade blue (11-2); 7th grade gold (12-1)

Wrestling 7th/8th/9th – 15-4 overall; 10-0 PAC; 3rd place at Whitehall Tournament; 2nd place at Wilson Tournament

Discussion regarding expanded scheduling to out of conference districts to accommodate the number of wrestlers. Specifically, there are times when in-conference teams may only have 8-10 wrestlers, so the rest of the team is awarded forfeits. Would like the wrestlers to get more on-the-mat opportunities.

7th/8th Cheerleading – 24 members on the team. Very engaged with the teams – reached out to coaches for rosters. Was a great year!

Other Business:

- **Consider Boys Varsity Volleyball (Spring)**

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- Cost to implement would be approximately \$35,000 (at least \$27.5 of which would be recurring)
 - Team would be up to 36 roster spots.
 - While they would be recognized by PAC, they would be the only PAC team- requiring all non-conference play.
 - PIAA allows up to 22 contests, but we would begin with 13-16 in the first year.
 - No additional Girls Teams would be required under title ix as we are within the range required.
 - Administration suggested this could be looked at for the 2020-2021 academic year.
- **Middle School Expansion Pilot Update:**
 - Expansion for Boys and Girls Soccer, Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys Baseball and Girls Softball was implemented for the 7th grade teams in 2018-19 school year. Preliminary results have been positive – increasing roster spots to accommodate a larger portion of 7th grade students. But there have been challenges that need to be further reviewed. Specifically,
 - Scheduling – It has been difficult to get multiple teams scheduled for the same sport. Some schools are cutting back their sports offerings, and others just don't have the capacity to field multiple teams. There have been cancellations and no-shows, further reducing competitive opportunities.
 - Facilities – There are limited district facilities – and they are currently close to capacity. For example – the 7th and 8th grade basketball teams (boys or girls) practice together. There are nearly 40 students in the gym practicing at one time.
 - Transportation – (cost and capacity concerns)
 - Administration has recommended a second year of the pilot program before any additional expansion be implemented (e.g., to other sports or to 8th grade).
 - Administration will focus on making sure the majority of roster spots are filled, as to meet the objectives of this initiative.

Adjournment: The Meeting Adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Next Extracurricular Meeting will be held on Monday May 13, 2019 at 6:30 PM in the District Office Conference Room.