

Cooperative School Boards Work Session
RCW 43.30.080

Tuesday, March 7, 2017
St. John-Endicott High School History Room 5:30-6:30 PM

St. John School Board Chair Janet Leifer and Endicott School Board Chair Marvin Schmick called their respective boards to order and jointly opened the work session at 5:30 PM.

Attendance:

Endicott School Board

Debbie Schlomer
Nancy Anderson
Jamie Misner
Greta White
Marv Schmick

St. John School Board

Janet Leifer
Alan Blumenshein
Val Brewer
Shantyl McGuire
Jim Rogers

Others In Attendance: Bruce Porubek, Mark Purvine, Dana Crider, Amanda Webb and Suzanne Schmick

Superintendent Schmick called for further conversation regarding the two recent forums. Schmick shared that there appeared to be two main outcomes or courses for future action as a result of the public forums: 1.) working with Lacrosse on specific details of a sports cooperative and 2.) beginning work on a MS/HS sports program review or self-study.

Superintendent Schmick reported that Principals Porubek and Purvine were working to form the SJE Cooperative Sports Program Self-Study committee made up of elementary, middle and high school parents from both the St. John and Endicott communities who had attended the recent public forums. Committee members will represent sporting programs other than just basketball. The Cooperative Sports Program Self-Study will include a full review of the current pros/cons of the existing program, which will include student survey input. Further the committee will look at other successful sporting programs and more specifically, what their programs consist of from student engagement, community support and participation to learning what are the components of their successes. Finally, the committee will review our current SJE Coaches Handbook, and make suggestions for document updates.

The work of the Cooperative Sports Program Self-Study Committee will culminate in a report of findings/recommendations that will be presented to the Superintendent for her review and discussion with the SJE Cooperative Boards. The self-study committee is expected to complete their work in May 2017.

Following the review of the survey and discussion of the Cooperative Sports Program Self-Study Committee work, Superintendent Schmick guided the board to focus on the survey results and its impact on the SJE Cooperative Boards next steps with Lacrosse. Also the boards need to look at setting a time to meet with Lacrosse regarding any further questions they would have regarding enrollment projections, participation percentages and the roll out of the plan of sporting cooperation at the middle school and high school levels.

St. John Board member Val Brewer shared with the group her further forum follow-up conversations and phone calls with patrons. She highlighted the fact that several patrons she had spoken with were more accepting of the idea of having a game in Lacrosse when they understood more of the possibilities around having a game in Lacrosse. Some of the patrons Director Brewer spoke with, encouraged the thought of having a non-league game held at Lacrosse, and contracting in some way with Lacrosse for more than one year at a time.

SJE Cooperative Board members discussed the further follow-up notes shared by Director Brewer. The discussion included the thought of beginning the work with Lacrosse in the fall of 2017, as all sports teams were in place with only the exception of high school volleyball. Active discussion continued on this topic. The SJE Cooperative Board members all engaged in the conversation and determined that it was best to follow the exact wording of their public proposal stating that the official cooperation would begin with "All" teams playing with SJE.

Director Schlomer suggested that for the 2017-2018 school year the middle school could move ahead on cooperation with Lacrosse as all their sporting teams would be ready for full participation. In the following year 2018-2019 the high school group would then begin their full cooperation with Lacrosse when all teams including high school volleyball would be included. The question of practicing or arriving early in Lacrosse on the day of a game was discussed. Following discussion the SJE Cooperative Boards decided that all practices would remain in St. John for high school athletics and all practices for middle school would remain in Endicott, however on game days in Lacrosse, departure times for Lacrosse would include time to do game run-throughs and extended warm-ups on the field or court at Lacrosse. Games should be played in Lacrosse even if they don't have any students participating. Games in Lacrosse would further help support the development of each sport and potentially increase participation numbers.

SJE Cooperative Board members moved their discussion to the topic of shared financial support, an area of comments/feedback from the forums that encouraged more discussion. Directors discussed the 35% cap on Lacrosse's financial support vs. the idea of paying a flat rate per year. The flat rate would greatly assist both schools in their budget planning work. The idea of a flat rate being paid, whether Lacrosse brought many or no students to a specific sport, was discussed. Following the discussion the SJE Cooperative Boards determined that they would like to discuss the topic with the Lacrosse board.

The idea of creating a contract of three years, with annual review was discussed. The SJE Cooperative board members determined that they would like to further discuss this idea with the Lacrosse board group.

The SJE Cooperative Board members discussed potential meeting dates for follow-up with the Lacrosse board. Suggestion was made that the SJE Cooperative Boards could meet with Lacrosse prior to the March 2017 regular monthly meeting. Superintendent Schmick will contact Lacrosse Superintendent Doug Curtis to finalize the meeting date.

St. John Board Chair Janet Leifer and Endicott School Board Chair Marvin Schmick closed the work session of the SJE Cooperative Boards at 6:40PM.