

**Cooperative School Boards Work Session
RCW 43.30.080**

Wednesday, March 29, 2017
Endicott School Library 6:00-7:00 PM

St. John School Board Chair Janet Leifer, Endicott School Board Chair Marvin Schmick and LaCrosse Board Chair Terry Miller called their respective boards to order and jointly opened the work session at 6:00 PM.

Attendance:

| <u>Endicott School Board</u> | <u>St. John School Board</u> | <u>LaCrosse School Board</u> |
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| Debbie Schlomer | Janet Leifer | Terry Miller |
| Nancy Anderson | Alan Blumenshein | Harmon Smith |
| Jamie Misner | Val Brewer | Michael Stubbs |
| Greta White | Shantyl McGuire | Kara Harder |
| Marv Schmick | Jim Rogers | Tami Schwartz |

Others In Attendance: Doug Curtis, Suzanne Schmick, Bruce Porubek, Mark Purvine, Jeff Pietila, Dana Crider, Darrell Miller, Sandy Miller, Billy Ray and Gary Luft.

Marvin Schmick welcomed everyone to the work session of the LaCrosse, St John and Endicott School boards. Superintendent Curtis provided copies of the agenda; the SJE proposal; and SJE estimated high school and middle school athletics costs.

SJE Superintendent Schmick reviewed for the group where St John and Endicott schools are in the process of gathering information from patrons during the public forums along with updates of discussions held since the last meeting of the St John, Endicott and LaCrosse boards. The two main items that came from the public forums were 1.) Continue work with LaCrosse and 2.) Conduct a self-study of SJE/ESJ athletic programs. Superintendent Schmick announced that a committee has been formed to assess and make recommendations for SJE/ESJ athletics. She explained how the committee was formed and what their focus is for the coming weeks.

Superintendent Curtis reiterated that for the 2017-18 school year, Washtucna is out of the athletic tri-op with the exception of high school volleyball. He then went on to explain the decision-making process for keeping LWK intact for one more season of high school volleyball. LaCrosse board member Kara Harder also stated that accepting the demise of LaCrosse sports team has been an emotional and tough decision both as a parent and board member. Superintendent Curtis stated that is it hard to give up “Tigercats” as it has been such a large part of the LaCrosse community.

Discussion then moved the 6 points of the SJE proposal. Each item was discussed individually as described below:

1. ALL LaCrosse sports teams will combine with St John-Endicott high school and Endicott-St John middle school.

All LaCrosse middle school sports teams will be participating with ESJ middle school beginning with the 2017-18 school year. LaCrosse high school sports teams will join SJE for the 2018-19 school year. For clarification, LaCrosse students will continue to be welcomed to participate on all SJE HS teams but there will be no financial support from LaCrosse for the 2017-18 school year. LaCrosse board member Kara Harder stated that if SJE was not able to field a team for a particular sport during the 2017-18 school year, then LaCrosse would send their kids where they can participate. LaCrosse board member Mike Stubbs reiterated that they are here to be a part of SJE/ESJ. Endicott board member Greta White asked the LaCrosse board if they were to receive pressure from students/parents to continue with HS volleyball past the 2017-18 season, would they honor the request? LaCrosse board member Terry Miller stated they have had many discussions and have made the decision that 2017-18 is the last year. Superintendent Curtis appreciates St John and Endicott boards' willingness to separate MS and HS to allow MS to begin participation immediately.

2. All practices for high school teams will stay in St John with the exception of high school baseball, which will continue in Endicott. All practices for middle school teams will stay in Endicott.

From a coaching standpoint, LaCrosse board member Mike Stubbs would like to have some leniency on all MS practices in Endicott. He would appreciate the opportunity to hold some practices in LaCrosse before the game scheduled in LaCrosse. Other coaches within the SJE/ESJ coop have also requested this. Endicott board member Debbie Schlomer reminded everyone that the Endicott community was in favor of having some practices in LaCrosse. Superintendent Schmick stated that the boards had discussed this and it was suggested that our team(s) arrive earlier on game day. This would allow the athletes to get used to their surroundings before the game.

3. Colors for the SJEL and ESJL teams will stay the same as currently used.

Agreed and no discussion.

4. LaCrosse School District will continue to transport their athletes to practices and to ride SJE and ESJ buses to competitions.

LaCrosse will continue to take care of their own transportation however; they offered to take turns bussing to games. This will be an ongoing discussion.

5. LaCrosse School District's financial responsibilities will cap out at 35% based on number of LaCrosse participants for each sport.

LaCrosse board members asked for clarification of the 35% cap. St John board member Janet Leifer explained that the 35% was the maximum LaCrosse would pay for their

athletes to participate with SJE/ESJ. The SJE boards don't anticipate it being that much especially if there is only 1 LaCrosse athlete on the team. However, this item needs more discussion as to whether we continue with the per participant percentage or move to a flat rate for the year. Superintendent Schmick has heard of other schools in our area try the per athlete formula and it was a nightmare. The flat rate would be more satisfactory. LaCrosse board member Terry Miller stated LaCrosse is used to paying equal shares no matter how many LaCrosse participants. Based on the St John-Endicott Cooperative Agreement, St John pays for all high school sports and Endicott pays for all middle school sports. So, LaCrosse understands and is willing to pay 50% of all high school and middle school sports programs. LaCrosse board member Mike Stubbs asked if the percentage or number that is agreed upon commensurate with voting power? For example, in the scenario of sharing expenses 50/50, do we get to share in 50% of the decisions that are made about coaches, games, expenses, etc.? Is it 5 votes for LaCrosse and 5 votes for Endicott? With the LWK tri-op, there was a board made up of representatives from each school to make those decisions. Superintendent Curtis believes LaCrosse should be present to the hiring/firing of coaches and input for the athletic handbooks. Superintendent Schmick would like to see a flat rate put into place so it takes the number of participants out of the equation. Discussion will continue on this matter.

6. One game per sport for middle and high school will be held in LaCrosse.

Yes for MS; HS will begin 2018-19. It was agreed that season pass holders in each community will be honored at both St John and LaCrosse for high school sports beginning with the 2018-19 school year. Several high school coaches have requested that a non-league game be played at LaCrosse. St John board member Shantyl McGuire is concerned about the location of Senior Night. LaCrosse board member Mike Stubbs responded that until there is an equal amount of games in each location, then Senior Night would always be in St John. LaCrosse Athletic Director Sandy Martin is concerned about the cost of maintaining their facilities and equipment for one game in each sport per year. Superintendent Schmick stated that we need to do this for kids. All board members and Superintendents agreed that upkeep for facilities would be site-specific i.e. we each take care of our own.

Superintendent Curtis asked the group to set a date for another meeting in April. It was decided they would reconvene for a work session on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm in the Endicott School Library.

St. John, Endicott and LaCrosse board chairs closed the work session at 7:15 pm.