

Cooperative School Boards Work Session  
RCW 43.30.080

Monday, April 24, 2017  
St John-Endicott High School HFL Room 6:00-7:00 PM

St. John School Board Chair Janet Leifer and Endicott School Board Vice Chair Nancy Anderson called their respective boards to order and jointly opened the work session at 6:08 PM.

Attendance:

Endicott School Board

Marv Schmick  
Nancy Anderson  
Jamie Misner  
Greta White  
Debbie Schlomer

St. John School Board

Janet Leifer  
Alan Blumenshein  
Val Brewer  
Shantyl McGuire  
Jim Rogers

Others In Attendance: Suzanne Schmick, Mark Purvine and Dana Crider

Discussion was held in regards to moving forward with high school sports with LaCrosse beginning with the 2017-18 school year. Community members have asked some board members why we are not moving forward in 2017-18 even though volleyball will not be in SJE. SJE's original proposal of ALL sports was drafted prior to LWK meetings and the agreement to keep LWK high school volleyball for one more year along with the assurance from LaCrosse that 2017-18 is the last year. After that, Washtucna is completely out of the tri-op. However, at both public forums, LaCrosse board member Michael Stubbs told the groups that this was the case but patrons that were not in attendance did not hear this assurance. Shantyl McGuire would like to take this option back to the patrons for their input. Alan Blumenshein is concerned about the potential of financial assistance that could be lost by not moving forward with high school athletics for the 2017-18 school year. The St John School District has lost 17 students to date since the beginning of the school year. He feels the potential income would be very beneficial to our budget and why would we say no just because of one sport.

At one point, the LaCrosse board stated they would be willing to pay 50% of athletics expenses at both SJE and ESJ. Shantyl McGuire does not want to give away more voting power by allowing them to pay 50%. That is why the 35% cap was proposed. Superintendent Schmick encouraged the boards to discuss further, their feelings about voting control and decision making with LaCrosse. She further encouraged the group to work together for the kids and do what's best for them. Valerie Brewer stated that she is not in favor of a formal tri-op arrangement of equal responsibility sharing. In further discussion amongst the boards, it was mentioned that Colfax is preparing to take more students/athletes in the future. Concerns were expressed that we should not shoot

ourselves in the foot by alienating LaCrosse at this time. Marvin Schmick encouraged the boards to be flexible because we are not in a position to dictate everything. Marvin expressed that, in terms of fielding teams in the near future, losing an opportunity to work with Lacrosse, could have deep reaching consequences.

The idea of a “Sports Board” was brought up. Discussion was held around “would it be possible to form a board with 2 representatives from each board that would oversee athletics?”. Majority would rule because there would not be a quorum of any boards. This is an option that the SJE boards would like to explore and discuss with LaCrosse.

The St John and Endicott boards directed Superintendent Schmick to prepare a mailer asking for input from patrons regarding the “ALL Sports” clause that was listed in the boards’ original proposal with LaCrosse. Would they public be in favor of moving forward with high school athletics in 2017-18 without volleyball or should we wait until 2018-19 when all sports will be combined with LaCrosse.

St. John Board Chair Janet Leifer and Endicott School Board Chair Marvin Schmick closed the work session of the SJE Cooperative Boards at 7:05 PM.