Brimfield CUSD #309 – Extra Curricular Committee

Tuesday, June 30, 2020 8:00 am

Present: Brent Graham, Steve Updyke, John Thompson, Patrick Meyer, Jason Sunderland, Melissa Kenney, Josh Johnson, Brandon Porter, Kenny Bizosky, and Tony Shinall

Call to order 7:57 am by Steve Updyke.

Updyke gave a brief introduction and synopsis. The committee previously met and asked the grade school principal and athletic director to come up with a plan and protocol and bring back to the committee, hence today’s meeting.

Albritton explained the draft of the plan she and Sunderland drafted. She explained the process she used by looking at other county schools to see how they handle athletic programs. She mentioned looking for a common ground between competitiveness and growing programs and students.

Sunderland mentioned previous changes in administration over previous years has made this process unclear.

Updyke mentioned allowing sixth graders to play on the varsity level. He expressed that coaches should have discretion on who should be allowed to play. A discussion of the eighth graders being told they can dress varsity.

Thompson asked about the number of 25 players in the program. Albritton explained that they felt they had to come up with a number for discussion sakes. He was in favor of allowing sixth graders to play up if they are that good, but was not in favor of having sixth graders pulled up to the varsity just to sit the bench.

Porter explained that comparing Brimfield to other schools in the area due to enrollment issues. Porter felt that if cutting is the issue, he would be willing to not cut. He explained that this is the point of junior high, development of kids. Porter did express the issue with supervision with B games and length of B games.

A discussion was held between coaches and administration about playing multiple sports and how Varsity and Junior Varsity allows kids to play multiple sports.

Johnson asked what issues necessitated this conversation. Thompson and Updyke mentioned the frequent changes and confusion over cut policies.

Bizosky talked about his experiences with cuts and athletics.

Meyer detailed the difference between philosophies of athletics.

Several voices around the table expressed concern with eighth graders making the varsity automatically.

Bizosky asked why we are having this conversation this year. Thompson and Updyke stated this issue should have been addressed years ago. Albritton added that consistency across this board and being able to address the questions of the community.

A discussion of the co-op at the high school was held.

Porter detailed issues with cuts and said he would be willing to keep kids.

Bizosky explained that there is a difference between 5th and 8th graders. He also expressed that there is the opportunity for kids to try out again the following year.

Updyke and Thompson asked Albritton, Sunderland, Juerjens, and Porter to work out the policy. This is not an issue for administrators and the Board to ultimately decide.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.