

Meeting of the Athletics Subcommittee

Tuesday, November 28, 2017

6:00PM

Room 101, Phillips Administration Building

30 Common Street, Watertown, MA 02472

Attendees: Kendra Foley; chair, Lindsey Mosca; member, Michael Lahiff; Athletic Director, member of the Town Council, coaches, parents, members of the community.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Discussion and/or Action Items
 - a. Field Use
 - i. This discussion centered on the needs of student athletes and the student athlete experience. Currently, student athletes are consistently practicing late on many school evenings (13 evening practices in September 2017 and 14 evening practices in October 2017 ended between 7pm and 9pm). There was discussion about the current use of fields and how we are overutilizing some fields and underutilizing others, creating a scheduling challenge for our teams. The school start time changes, being implemented in the upcoming 2018/2019 academic year, will exacerbate this issue, giving it urgency. This discussion ended with a 2-0 vote on the two following motions:
 1. Request that the Town of Watertown address current athletic field constraints to enable student-athletes to complete practice by 6:30pm.
 2. Request that the Town of Watertown, for the 2018/2019 academic year, allow the football program to practice on the oval at Victory field and build a varsity baseball field at Filippello Grove for the baseball program.
 - b. Banners
 - i. This discussion centered on the need for consistency and equity in how we celebrate and honor our student athletic achievements. Currently, team sports are honored with a banner, but individual athletes are inconsistently honored (there remains one banner in the gym honoring individual athletes, while other individual athletes are honored on a board outside the gym). We asked that the Athletic Director

implement and follow a policy to honor athletic achievement consistently and appropriately.

- c. Athletic Fees: Discussion about creating the option for families to pay a single season fee rather than the full year
 - i. Currently, families of high school students pay a \$320 yearly fee for access to athletics. The discussion centered on allowing an option for a family to pay a per sport fee instead. This idea will be brought up again during FY19 budget discussions this winter, since it could have budget implications.

- d. IV. Reports
 - i. There was an update given on the fall season as well as the upcoming winter season.

Meeting Adjourned at 9pm.