

TO: Walter Wallace

FROM: Susanna Sharpe, BJHS Athletic Director

RE: BJHS Wrestling Proposal

DATE: 11/1/16



For the past 2 years, Brunswick High School students interested in wrestling have been part of a Cooperative team with Mt. Ararat sanctioned by the MPA. Prior to that they participated as individuals with the Mt. Ararat team scoring points for BHS, but now that they are a cooperative team the points go towards the whole team, MTA/Brunswick. A feeder system at the junior high will hopefully increase numbers, so that one day BHS might be able to have their own team.

Last year, BJHS was approached by representatives from the Mt. Ararat program who wanted to provide an opportunity for middle school age kids in Brunswick to try wrestling. We held an interest meeting and had 20 boys attend. Five went to the first practice held at Mt. Ararat Middle school. By the end of the first week, two decided it wasn't for them and the other three couldn't get regular transportation. At the end of the season, I met with the Mt. Ararat people again and we discussed roadblocks for Brunswick students and ways to facilitate, encourage, and increase participation.

This fall, the Mt. Ararat reps returned with a plan that basically removed all roadblocks. They really want to be more inclusive, get kids involved, and boost their successful program.

At this time, we are requesting that Brunswick Jr. High Students be allowed to participate in the Mt. Ararat program this winter.

- The season runs from Feb. 1 to April 1. (Participation during February vacation is optional; practices would be at Mt. Ararat that week, not BJHS).
- The team participates in the Pine Tree League.
- This is a no-cut sport.
- Mt. Ararat's program will send a coach to BJHS each afternoon to work with our students. The coach is Rick Black. He is a Mt. Ararat assistant coach, he works at Bowdoin College, and his CHRC approved. Mike Taylor, will work with both middle school teams, he is another Mt. Ararat coach and is also CHRC approved. They are not asking for any financial assistance from us to subsidize the coaching stipend.

- BJHS needs to provide a space. The large gym is available, as is the small gym, which they preferred when we did a walk through.
- Mt. Ararat will provide wrestling mats, BJHS needs to provide a place to store them. The athletic closet in the gym will suffice. (The mats are in 7 sections, that fit together to make a 40x40 area.)
- Wrestlers wear a singlet. Mt. Ararat wrestling boosters will provide these for our wrestlers. Middle school wrestling is a combined grade six, seven, eight competition. Wrestlers are divided into weight classes from 75 to 240 pounds. Weight classes increase in six pound increments. Each student will compete in every meet he attends.
- There is a \$185 league fee that the Mt. Ararat boosters will pay.
- Meets are held on Wednesday evenings and on Saturdays. Parents are encouraged to watch, there is sometimes an entry fee (like basketball games). BJHS wrestlers would have to get to MAMS to catch the bus to go to meets. Mt. Ararat will provide the transportation for our students at no cost to us.
- They are interested in us hosting a meet at some point, not necessarily this year. I think this is reasonable and doable.
- Mark Novak is working with the Brunswick and Topsham recreation departments trying to develop a pee wee program. Both recreation departments are receptive to the initiative.
- The goal for this year is to have ten students participate five days a week for the two month season.

At the end of the season, we will assess the success of the program. At this time, Mt. Ararat is not expecting any financial support from BJHS. This may change should the program blossom, but I've made them aware that is several years away due to budget constraints. Future costs could include a coach stipend, mats, and transportation costs. A community member, who is a wrestling enthusiast, has offered to donate brand new mats to BJHS, if we get a program going down the road.

Based on last year's interest, this program would attract many boys who do not typically participate in organized athletics. The fact it is a no-cut sport is appealing and might be the sport for some of the boys who have struggled to make the soccer and basketball teams. It is also between basketball and baseball/lacrosse and may be of interest to some of those athletes.

Please let me know what needs to happen to make this a possibility for our students.

Brunswick School Board Goals 2015/16

Philosophy/Vision of the Brunswick Public Schools

The Brunswick School Board envisions that all students are part of a community of lifelong learners who are able to contribute positively to society. We provide a comprehensive and rigorous academic program so that all students attain their full potential and make significant contributions to their communities. We strive to ensure that all students will acquire and apply the skills necessary to communicate effectively, to think critically and creatively, and to become responsible citizens of our democratic and global society.

To achieve our vision, the Brunswick School Board focuses on educating students as individuals within a community of lifelong learners. We recognize the worth and dignity of every student in order to provide for maximum intellectual, physical, social and emotional development. In order to reach their full potential, all students will demonstrate proficiency in basic skills, exercise responsible and creative decision making, explore ideas, embrace the aesthetics of life, and be responsible, productive citizens.

Student Achievement

Goal: Review with Administration the effectiveness of programs and services within the district and act to make improvements when deficiencies are identified

Strategic Planning

Goal: Complete community visioning by December

Goal: Draft a facilities plan for the purpose of issuing a bond to improve existing education infrastructure

Fiscal Management

Goal: Develop and adopt a budget that reflects the priorities of the board, the operational plan of the BSD, and maximizes cost efficiency for Brunswick taxpayers

Regional Collaboration

Goal: Re-establish an SAD 75 Brunswick Task Force at the board level to evaluate opportunities for improved efficiencies

Compliance with State Mandates

Goal: Adopt a district wide teacher evaluation system according to state law

Goal: Adopt proficiency based graduation requirements in accordance with state law

Personnel

Goal: Approve a negotiated year extension of the teacher contract

Goal: Begin negotiations on a two year teacher contract as well as bus drivers and ed tech contracts

Evaluation

Goal: A review of standing committees and their work

Goal: Conduct mid-year and end year review of these goals to measure school board success

Goal: Review alternative education opportunities developed by the Superintendent's working group

Improve Community Outreach

- Goal:** Hold two regional workshops in different locations in town
- Goal:** Allot time at board meetings for presentations from our schools and or community organizations involved in our schools on programs serving our students
- Goal:** Improve information sharing between the Town Council and School Board