

**Title IX Compliance Steering Committee Meeting
Minutes**

February 13, 2013

7:00 – 8:15 am

Members present: Dean Mack, Jamie Prescott, Brett Ogata, Mindy Blake, Traci Brandon, Carol Gullstad, Kris Brackmann and Karen Hubbert

Absent: Kathy Morrison, Marion Mohler, Erica Hill, Stacy Bjarnason, Charlene Steinhauer, Blair Rasmussen and Kyle Weiss

Review Athletic Participation numbers for 2011-12 and 2012-13

The meeting began with a review of the participation numbers for 2011-12 and 2012-13. If the spring sports season retains the same numbers as last year, it appears that we will be within approximately 50 girls of achieving equity. Four years ago we were short by 128 girls in achieving equity in participation numbers between boys and girls sports. During the intervening time the district has made steady progress in moving towards the goal of equity in participation numbers between boys and girls sports.

Discussion Regarding Goals to Retain Girls in Sports Programs

There was discussion regarding how to generate additional girls participation. The comment was made that when a team does better, such as in softball or basketball, that the success drives an increase in the number of girls that want to be part of that team. Also, strong advocates are needed to encourage sports for girls.

Traci Brandon was excited to share with the group a new sport called "Stunt". It is sweeping the country at the college level and designed specifically to assist in meeting Title IX goals. It involves two opposing teams that face off doing certain physical challenges involving strategy, gymnastics, dance and other movement skills. This is a competition sport, separate from drill and cheer, and open to all girls that are interested. Traci will be attending a conference in April and will report back to the group what she learns.

Review of the Self Assessment and timelines for 2012-13 Sports

Jamie reviewed the Self Assessment process currently being conducted for the 2012-13 school year. She reported on the success in implementing the Badminton Program and the increase in the number of districts participating in the sport. The sport has now moved from a partial season to a full season and we feel the Mercer Island will increase the number of girls participating in the sport.

Review Progress on Goals to Recruit and Retain Girls in Sports Programs

Traci Brandon asked if previous inequities in equipment etc. have been taken care of. Dean answered that the yes, the basketball hoops have been adjusted in the MIHS Gym and no longer interfere with the volleyball program, athletic trainer time have been added to the girl's program, girl's lacrosse lines have been added to the stadium, the softball field has been rebuilt, batting cages have been added and equipment needs have been addressed. The recognition of girl's sports and ability for girls to travel has all been enhanced.

Jamie expressed that sometimes there is an appearance that more desired practice times have not been available to the girls. In practice the girl's team has been offered the opportunity to rotate into a prime time practice and the coaches have chosen non-prime times that work better for the team.

There also was discussion on the culture of Booster Clubs. Parents have always been supportive of boys Booster Clubs. Traci asked how the district maintains fairness for girl's sports. Dean stated that the goal is to make it as "equitable" as possible. The Booster Clubs are separate and are not governed by the district. The district focuses on funding any deficiencies in girl's sports and supporting and encouraging the development of Booster Clubs for girls.

There are also concerns expressed regarding IMS facilities not being as available to girls as much as the boys. Dean pointed out that this is exactly why we have this committee. We need this kind of input and information. We can then go forward and try to solve these challenges. He assured the group that equity issues are top priority.

Item for Next Agenda: Stunting

Next Meeting:
May 22, 2013
7:00 – 9:00 am