

**Student Activities/Athletics Committee Minutes**  
**6/14/2017**  
**6:00 PM in Board Room**

**In attendance:**

Doug Berry: Assistant Superintendent  
Lisa Brady: Superintendent  
Andrew Klaich: Athletic Director  
Rita Kennedy: Board Member  
Jean Lucasey: Board Member  
Bob Reiser: Board Member  
John Falino: Principal

**Agenda:**

**High School Clubs:**

John Falino joined the committee to discuss proposed HS clubs and the process that has been used at the HS, at least over the past six years. We are unsure what might have been done prior to that time.

**The Process for Club Approvals**

- Students come to me with an initial proposal. We discuss the idea, general student interest, potential faculty advisors, connection to the vision and mission of an IB World School.
- Following this screening, the students formally bring the club idea to the Legislative Branch. The Legislative Branch then “vets” the idea, asks questions, may ask for more information, etc. before moving it “forward.”
- If the Legislative Branch moves it forward, it is then brought to the principal as a formal “bill” for the following school year. This happens in an administrative/student cabinet meeting. The Principal may also attend a Legislative Branch meeting.
- Upon presentation of the bill, the principal will either sign the bill to approve the proposal, ask for additional information, or deny the bill.
- If signed, any club is contingent upon the following:
  - Student interest
  - Budget
  - Current club offerings as they relate to budget and student participation

- Proposals are discussed with the Assistant Superintendent/Superintendent and stipends are allotted via personnel and the business office.

John also discussed the following that he believes should always be considered when vetting clubs and activities at the HS.

### **Vision and Mission of DFHS as An IB World School**

- Guided by the IB mission of “creating a better and more peaceful world.” In doing so, we aim to create a school that promotes:
  - Unity, togetherness, and community
  - Inclusion: “IB for ALL.”
  - An environment where all students feel welcome, feel they are valued, feel that they can participate in everything without being judged or made to feel marginalized or different.
  - A mindset that promotes local change within a global context. One in which we all work together. **non-partisan.**

**Three clubs were introduced for discussion as presented by John.**

### **Club Proposal #1**

#### **1) Gender Equality Club**

##### Background Points

- Vetted through each phase of the club approval process.
- Was presented as a “Bill” by the Legislative Branch.
- Comes out of the previous “Feminist Club” that we had at DFHS. There were issues with the club in terms of students feeling isolated and left out.
- The new title, “Gender Equality,” supports and promotes both genders. It’s fully inclusive. The students came with this idea.
- The club has a faculty advisor (Confalone).

### Big Ideas and Mission

- Assess, evaluate, and discuss literature, art, and current events as gender issues and equality are depicted.
- Promote gender equality throughout the community (“think global act local”). Get involved with local or larger humanitarian organizations.
- Fully inclusive. For all students at DFHS. Not gender specific.
- Promote unity and togetherness as per the IB Mission.

### **Club Proposal #2**

#### **2) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)**

##### Background Points

- We have expanded our academic program in 2016-17 to include two business electives (Product Development and Sports Management/Media/Marketing).
- The first chapter of FBLA was in Dobbs Ferry. The chapter has not been active in many years.
- Student driven. We currently have 41 students in grades 10-12 (rising) who are interested in joining.
- The club has not brought a proposal to the Legislative Branch. Needs to do this.
- The club has a faculty advisor (Patrillo).

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##### Big Ideas and Mission

- To bring global perspective and an international mindset to explore how business and education can create innovative leadership and career development programs.
- In keeping with the IB Mission of “thinking globally and acting locally” through an approach that is fully inclusive of all students. Other highlights include:
  - Leadership Development
  - Academic Competitions
  - Community Service Component
  - Awards and Recognitions

## Club Proposal #3

### 3) High School Democrats of Dobbs Ferry Club

#### Background Points

- This was brought to the principal after the presidential election at a time when there was a tremendous amount of division and dissent among students.
- Was brought to the principal as an initial concept by a student after an email was sent to the entire student body. Several students came to him upset by the email and several parents contacted him.
- The club proposal was brought to the Legislative Branch and was brought to the principal by the group soon after. Was discussed at the student cabinet meeting. No bill was written by the Legislative Branch.
- There is currently no potential faculty advisor in place.

#### Big Ideas and Mission

- “Our mission is to elect Democrats, advocate for progressive issues, and train the next generation of progressive leaders.”
- “The Young Democrats of America mobilizes young people under the age of 36 to participate in the electoral process to elect Democrats, influence the ideals of the Democratic Party, advocate for progressive issues, and train the next generation of progressive leaders.”
- Founded in 1932, this is a **partisan**, youth-led political organization in America. It is the “youth arm of the Democratic Party.”

#### Concerns and Recommendations (as related to the Committee by the Principal)

- Runs contrary to the vision and mission of what it means to be an IB School. It promote separation, division, and will be detrimental to our culture.
- It is not fully inclusive. It is for some, not all. Runs contrary to the very fabric of “IB for All.”

- Is certain to cause an “us vs. them” mentality. There will then need to be a Republican Club, a Socialist Club, a Libertarian Club, etc.
- It is not designed as a vehicle for appreciating differences. In fact, it’s the very opposite. An alternative “Political Issues Club” or “Bi Partisan Club” was offered as an idea. The students who brought the idea did not want that because they specifically want to back Democratic candidates as a school.
- We can not have a branch of our school backing certain candidates and political views using the school’s name. It is as “un IB” it comes.

**Committee Discussion:**

Have any other political affinity groups asked to be recognized since this was proposed?

Is it appropriate for the school to be linked to a specific political party?

Do we have a responsibility to help students work out differences in a respectful manner and discuss ideas that are unacceptable/repugnant to them?

Was the past practice for the development of clubs for the school district followed?

**We do not have a policy or formal regulations that address the situation at hand, and the committee recommends that the board act to create one.**

Were all of the steps of the past process followed? The BOE role is to ensure that the process was followed not the merits of the club.

The club has the right to organize as a non-affiliated organization (not a school club) as a matter of law and BOE Policy 5200 - Student Organizations. They are permitted to use school facilities and hold meetings. They would not be recognized as a “school” club or have a paid school advisor under these circumstances.

**Varsity Football Games:**

The Committee discussed whether there is an expectation that football games will be played at the new field at Springhurst. Although it would be great if at least one game was played on the new field, games will continue to be played at Gould.

**Cheerleading Overnight Camp:**

The Varsity Cheer team would like to attend an overnight camp from **August 25 - August 28, 2017**. Coach Rancier and Coach Francis will be chaperoning the team. This camp will be taking the place of the Long Island/Hofstra camp.

Here is a [link](#) to the cheerleading camp. It is located in Honesdale, PA.

#### **Committee Discussion:**

There is a BOE policy on the agenda for field trips that includes a provision that at least three months “lead time” must be given to the BOE for approval of overnight trips. The reason why the trip is just now coming to the BOE is because the coach was not sure that she would continue coaching in the District so earlier plans were not made. This overnight trip is replacing a trip for training that the girls have been taking to Hofstra each summer but the traffic has been very problematic and they are looking for a more “advanced” training camp experience.

This trip will appear on the Agenda for June 20th.

#### **Varsity Softball/Florida Spring Break Trip:**

The Varsity Softball team is looking to travel to Orlando, Florida for Disney High School Spring Training.

- April 2 - 6 (4 nights, 5 Days)

See link below for all information related to the camp.

<https://www.espnwos.com/events/competitive-sports/disney-high-school-spring-training/>

#### **Ski team:**

One student is looking to ski competitively on a Varsity Ski team. Multiple options were discussed with the family.