

The Westhope School and Newburg United School Boards met in joint session on January 29, 2020 at the Newburg United School. Newburg Superintendent Jason Kersten called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Introductions were made. Board Members Present: Bryan Pease, Nathan Boll, Karlene Wyman, Sommer Zimmer, TJ Streich, Ken Radtke, Chuck Kveum, Ben Cartwright, Lane Berentson, Katie Ogaard, Lyndsi Engstrom, and Liz Tofteland. Also present: Newburg's Superintendent Jason Kersten, Principal & Athletic Director Bob Beaudrie and Business Manager Darcy Lamoureux; Westhope's Superintendent Marty Bratrud, Athletic Director Garrett Wible and Business Manager Saige Feilmeier; Glenburn's Superintendent Mike Ehinger, Athletic Director Larry Derr, Board Member James Peters and Elem Principal Layne Fluhrer; Guests: Jerry Long.

Sports programs shared with Glenburn:

- a. **Football (Westhope Host)** – Wible reported the football program (11-man) ran smoothly this year with 58 students participating. This year the state will be looking at realignments for the 2021 season. Wible reported that the state hasn't made any final decisions on realignment yet so he will not speculate as to the division we might fall into. The State's realignment deadline is September 18, 2020. Supt. Bratrud presented the 2019 Football Revenue & Expenses. Westhope hosted 3 homes games & Glenburn hosted only 1 rather than 2, due to weather related issues. 2019 had total revenue of \$4,162.00 and total expenses of \$47,854.20. The net cost of \$43,692.23 was split on a participation percentage between Westhope (36.84%), Newburg (10.53%) and Glenburn (52.63%). Supt. Bratrud reported that our two co-head coaches were paid different salaries for the same job because Westhope & Glenburn have two different extra-curricular pay schedules. This might have to be addressed down the road. Wible reported the maroon jerseys are okay but we can only go 1 more year before having to replace the white jerseys that will be 7 years old then. Supt. Bratrud reported that the football players have been fundraising over the last few years and have a balance of \$6,521.74 in their Activity Account. Bratrud asked for input as to what this should be spent on. Fluhrer reported it was previously used for equipment, but nothing has been spent from this account for a couple years to save the funds for a possible purchase of a play clock. This is no longer needed since NDHSAA voted this implementation down. Wible reported he would like to start purchasing 6 new helmets every year, so we don't get stuck one year with a huge replacement expense as the helmets expire in life. Fluhrer reported that new jerseys may run \$130-\$150 each with 45 varsity numbers needed.

- b. **Additional Coop(s) Update**

Supt. Kersten reported that over the last couple of years, we have looked at the possibility of a coop with Glenburn in other sports besides football. Two years ago, it was due to lack of volleyball participation numbers and last year it was due to the possibility of Bottineau backing out of our coop. Beaudrie reported that he had a meeting with Derr, Fluhrer and Wible to discuss the possibility of a coop in all sports between the three schools for 7th – 12th grades. The pros and cons were listed with the main goal of building a program where we would be able to field a team for all age categories and our kids would be able to play opponents of their own age. Currently all of us could only play one junior high game due to the lack of players and some players being moved up to junior varsity or varsity to build those teams. Wible said a coop is the best way to build a program and we will have a larger pool of coaches to choose from seeing that they are getting so hard to find. Discussion followed. Supt. Kersten and Bratrud asked the Athletic Directors to compile enrollment numbers and participation numbers that can be presented at each regular board meeting in February. The individual boards will review and decide if there is a need to coop and go from there. The soonest a coop could go into effect would be the 2021-2022 school year but that might not even be possible due to all the factors that go into it.

- c. **Baseball (Mohall is the host)**

The NDHSAA has approved a coop for Westhope & Newburg to join Mohall-Glenburn for the 2019-20 school year for 7-12 grades. Westhope projects to have 9 kids out and Newburg 2 kids. All practices will be held in Lansford.

Glenburn attendees left the meeting at 7:55 pm.

Activity Ticket Prices – Wible presented data from area schools comparing activity pass prices and activity sports fees. He would like to increase the family and adult passes, add a senior citizen pass and implement a student sports fee per sport. Both schools are losing money at games due to the increased rates for officials. Discussion followed with several board members against implementing a sports fee. Wible & Beaudrie will discuss and present to the boards at their regular meetings.

Gate Prices – Wible suggested we leave our gate prices at \$7 for adults and \$4 for students because that is the rate that most schools have.

Academic Programs Shared – Supt. Kersten reported we are currently sharing teachers for Ag. Ed, Phy Ed and Pre-Kindergarten. The year has gone very well so far. Supt. Kersten reported that Mr. Werner will possibly be back from his deployment at the beginning of March so we will no longer need Mr. Wible for Phy Ed. Both boards will discuss sharing staff for the upcoming school year at their February meetings.

Possible Future Academic Programs to Share – Supt. Kersten and Supt. Bratrud said both schools should keep the possibility open for sharing a Superintendent, Principal or Teaching position in the future as staff retire or move on to help cut costs.

Sports Programs Shared - Supt. Kersten went over how coaching salaries were shared in the past. Discussion followed and it was agreed that all sports salaries & travel expenses will be paid on a player participation percentage going forward:

Volleyball (grades 6-12)	Newburg Host
Girls Basketball (grades 4-12)	Westhope Host
Boys Basketball (grades 4-12)	Westhope Host
Golf (grades 7-1)	Westhope Host
Girls Softball (grades 7-12)	Westhope Host
Track (grades 5-12)	Westhope Host
Hockey (grades 7-12) – W & N both coop with Bottineau (Host School)	
Cheerleading	Westhope Host

Number of Home Games – Supt. Kersten went over the number of homes games and pointed out that Westhope hosted 3 more VB games in 2019-20 due to the District Tourney being held in Westhope.

	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>
Volleyball	N-3 W-3	N-6 W-2
Girls Basketball	N-2 W-6	N-2 W-6
Boys Basketball	N-1 W-7	N-1 W-7

** Newburg hosts Boys Basketball B Squad Tourney **

Athletic Director – Wible is the Westhope Athletic Director and schedules all the games for football and varsity sports except for volleyball. Bob Beaudrie is the Newburg Athletic Director and schedules all the games for volleyball and junior high and peewee basketball.

Extra-Curricular Pay - Supt. Kersten reported that our pay schedules currently have the same salaries for shared sports except Newburg has higher Volleyball salaries. Wible & Beaudrie will communicate with each other so that this will be corrected for the July 2020 annual board meetings.

Substitute Teacher Pay - both schools currently pay substitute teachers \$125/day and offer a free lunch. We will communicate with each other to continue to keep this the same.

Speech Program – Allison Kirk is the Speech Coach. Each school will pay their own registration fees and the Coach Salary & driving will be shared on a participation percentage.

Drivers Education – Casey Mills will be the behind the wheel instructor for classes held June 1 – June 5, 2020 in Westhope. The salary will be shared on a participation percentage.

School Calendar – Supt. Kersten presented option 4 & option 5 of the 2020 – 2021 school calendars that he and Supt. Bratrud created. Most of the staff from both school preferred option 5. Discussion followed on a few possible changes. Changes will be brought back to the staff and new calendars will be presented at the regular board meetings to be voted on.

Storm Make Up Days – Supt. Kersten reported that the legislature changed the instructional requirement from the number of student contact days to hours for both the elementary and secondary students. Most schools will be over the hour requirement with the length of their school day and can bank these hours and use in place of a storm day. However, we were still required to build in two storm days into our school calendars and Supt. Kersten feels the state still wants us to use these two storm make up days rather than using the banked hours. Since we share teaching staff, he feels we should handle this the same way. Discussion followed. Bratrud said he has one grace day with his current calendar and doesn't feel they should make up the first storm day we had this year but will make up possible future ones. Kersten advised he uses his grace day to account for the early outs we have. Discussion followed. The individual boards will vote on at their regular board meetings.

Prom – will be held in Newburg on April 18, 2020. The location is alternated every year and all expenses are split 50/50.

Athletic Banquet – will be held in Newburg this year with the date to be determined.

Bus Driving to Games – We try to get everyone to ride on one bus to events to cut costs but because of the lack of licensed bus drivers who can drive the full-size buses, we usually must take two vehicles to events. Tofteland suggested advertising more for licensed drivers.

No further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 9:29 pm.



Darcy Lamoureux, Business Manager



Scott Hunsakor, Board President