

**Special Cooperative School Board Meeting
Cooperative Board Work Session
RCW 43.30.080**

**Wednesday, September 28, 2016
Endicott School Library**

Endicott School Board Chair Marv Schmick, and St. John School Board Chair Janet Leifer called their respective boards to order and jointly opened the work session at 7:30PM.

Attendance:

Lacrosse School Board

Harmon Smith
Mike Stubbs
Kara Harder
Tami Schwartz

Endicott School Board

Greta White
Jamie Misner
Marv Schmick

St. John School Board

Janet Leifer
Val Brewer
Jim Rogers
Shantyl McGuire
Alan Blumenshein

Others in attendance: Sandy Martin, Lacrosse Athletic Director, Lacrosse Principal Jeff Pietila, Doug Curtis and Suzanne Schmick.

Marv Schmick welcomed everyone to the work session of the Lacrosse, St. John and Endicott school boards. The three items for discussion were stated as follows:

1.) Introductions of all board members, 2.) Discussion of “Hopes” for future athletics, 3.) Discussion of the next meeting date and time. All members agreed to these items as the sole focus of the meeting.

Introductions - All board members took turns introducing themselves and telling those gathered about how they became interested in working on their respective boards and what continues to interest them.

Following the introductions, Lacrosse Board members Harmon Smith, Mike Stubbs and Kara Harder gave a brief history review of Lacrosse School districts journey as a member of the Lacrosse-Washtucna sports cooperative and the Lacrosse-Washtucna-Kahlotus sports cooperative. Mrs. Harder stressed that they, Lacrosse, had contacted the St. John-Endicott cooperative not because the LWK cooperative was a failed cooperative, but because their student athlete numbers were declining to a point that they could not field several sports teams.

Lacrosse board members further shared that in their early meetings with their community regarding sports cooperatives, the Lacrosse community valued three hopes for their student athletes: 1.) avoid sports waivers, 2.) keep the students together and 3.) look for opportunities to “turn the lights on” once in a while at the Lacrosse facility.

All board members present exchanged with one another in discussion regarding declining enrollment and declining numbers in all sports programs. Board members Schmick of Endicott and Schwartz of Lacrosse both commented on the changing demographics all around Whitman County and its impact on schools and sporting programs. Lacrosse Athletic Director, Sandy Martin, shared a handout documenting the history of Lacrosse combined athletic programs. Currently, Lacrosse-Washtucna-Kahlotus schools review their sports agreements with one another on an annual basis each year on March 1st of each year.

“Hopes” for Future Athletics and Athletic Programs – Following the introduction and history review, discussion was held on the “hopes” for future athletics.

All members engaged in this conversation and developed a listing of “hopes” that included:

- 1.) Advocate for the best athletic opportunities for all our students.
- 2.) Focus on the future and not just the here and now. Consider the changes potentially ahead for our farming communities and schools.
- 3.) Focus on creating positive sporting and social connections for our families and students.
- 4.) Keep open minds for creating ideas for dealing with our declining numbers.
- 5.) Keep focused on the reality of the large geographic location our schools represent.
- 6.) Focus on future options that focus on our strong survival and the creation of opportunities for all students and families.
- 7.) Create competitive teams with the combination of our student numbers.
- 8.) Focus the future on building off the successes of the current middle school program.

Next Meeting – Discussion was held amongst the three board groups as to the best plan for moving forward in this conversation. The consensus of the boards was to move forward with continued conversation regarding sports opportunities for all our students. A second meeting was set for Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 6PM in Endicott.

The joint school board work session was adjourned at 8:40 PM.