

**DW Athletic Combine Minutes**  
**Regular Combine Meeting- 6:00 p.m.**  
**October 21, 2019 - Dayton**  
**Committee Members Present**

X	Superintendent Dayton- Doug Johnson	X	Superintendent Waitsburg- Mark Pickel
X	Principal Dayton- Kristina Brown	X	Principal/AD Waitsburg- Stephanie Wooderchak
X	Dayton AD- Nicki Luper		
X	Board Member Dayton-Katie Leid	X	Board Member Waitsburg-Christy House
X	Dayton Alumni- Jason Mings	X	Waitsburg Alumni- Johnny Watts
X	Dayton Community- Steve Martin	X	Waitsburg Community- Charlie Barron
X	Fiscal Agent-Paula Moisio		

Non- Committee Members Present:

Nicki Luper called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and followed with the flag salute.

**Public Comments** (these are paraphrased and may not represent the exact verbiage):

- The first question asked was in regards to MS Boys Basketball. Nicki provided the update (as noted later in the minutes). It was suggested that the information be conveyed to the students and parents as soon as possible. Nicki indicated she would get the information out posthaste.
- Kathy Snyder brought up the topic of MS Volleyball. She noted the strong turnout in participants has led to limited playtime for the athletes. With the number of participants, there would have been enough for four teams. Mrs. Snyder indicated there is not a cohesive team feeling because of the combine and that she is not comfortable with the way the combine is going.
- Volleyball Coach Tara Brenner indicated that HS Volleyball has had many challenges and there has been quite a bit of negativity. She noted it has been a difficult season and the lack of comradery has been problematic.
- Valerie Benavides stated the teamwork has been brutal and it has be a very negative aspect of the season for her daughter who is a superior athlete and looking towards a likely future with athletic scholarship offers. Valerie indicated there are very diverse cultures between Waitsburg and Dayton and noted a negative situation that her daughter was faced with during the season.
- Lisa Morrow said that parents should not be separating the girls as Waitsburg and Dayton. They are all on the same team and it is up to the adults to help with the team building.
- Jason Mings added that the scheduling issues are a problem that need to be resolved.
- Valerie Benavides noted the coach did try to handle the teamwork situation but the problem is with the parents.
- Charlie Barron stated he did not agree with what was being said. He noted the MS girls are getting along well and have built strong relationships. Mr. Barron mentioned the coaches should be able to enforce the right behavior to build an environment conducive to team work and comradery. He also stated that the issues being discussed should be dealt with at the administrative level and it was out of the realm of the Athletic Combine Committee. Mr. Barron reminded attendees that it is only the second year of the DW Combine and we need to give it

time to succeed. He said initially he was not supportive of the combine but ended up getting behind it because it is what our communities need. He suggested that everyone look at all the issues- both good and bad. He reinforced the stance the MS teams seem to be embracing the change and the adults are the ones who are not getting along. Charlie also noted this group is not here for discipline.

- Valerie Benavides restated that her concerns remain with the different cultures. She noted that students should be able to play based on their abilities and should compete for the right to play.
- Johnny Watts noted that the culture in football and baseball at the HS level have not experienced the situations brought up for discussion that have HS Volleyball team is facing. He cautioned the use of the words “different culture”.
- Tara Brenner noted she has experienced a lot of negativity and that has been the primary issue with the season.
- Johnny Watts suggested working with other coaches who have experienced success with the DW Combine to see what is working for them.
- Seamus House noted that he was a freshman when the DW Combine started. He noted several positive aspects have come out of the combine and he feels the football team is a family and they are always there for each other. He noted there were some rough spots in the first year or two but many of those have worked out.
- Steve Martin suggested that we segue back to the issue of getting a survey out to be able to get a broad range of input. He also suggested we work on the list of milestones and success markers. He also noted that we need more input from coaches, students and parents to make sure we have a broad range of feedback regarding the DW Combine.
- Jeremy Trump noted that his daughter has been frustrated with the amount of playing time during MS Volleyball. He noted there are too many girls playing for everyone to get sufficient playing time and there were not enough games scheduled for the JV and C squad. He noted from his perspective, it is just not working because there are too many kids. He noted his frustration that the framework has been built for the athletes to succeed but now there are not getting enough playtime to advance their skills.
- Bradley Sandol noted he felt the football team is a brotherhood and he does not think it is right to strip them of that opportunity to forge relationships with the DW Combine.
- Seamus House noted that two years ago there were very limited HS boys showing up for basketball and the DW Combine brought the schools together and provided a much better playing experience. It provides the opportunity for better competition, more dedication and more opportunities to succeed. He gave several examples of student success because of the DW Combine and indicated that students who do not get the playing time are those that do not give 100%.
- One of the Volleyball girls noted she loves the sport and the team members.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Transportation:** Nicki Luper noted that the transportation provided by Columbia County Transit has been a good fit for the practice schedules. She asked about continuing with the transit bus for winter sports. Danon Griffen noted that at this point, he is maxed out on drivers and that if we can continue to use the transit, it would be the best solution. Nicki will follow up about the time schedules available through Columbia County Transit. Danon noted that he does not have enough drivers to cover regular routes, the Club and practice at this time for winter sports for the 3:00 run. He noted that the soonest a route driver would be available for practice transport is around 4:30. He indicated the practice route is

still the most challenging for scheduling. He noted that Dayton could cover all the games, but there are challenges when the practice routes are added to the mix.

Tamira Culley noted that transportation is the most frustrating part of the DW Combine. She noted that it is very difficult to build teams when it is a "hurry up and get on the bus", hurry up and go environment. She noted that transportation needs to work and that it made coaching suck. She said the coaches were frustrated, the kids were frustrated, and it did not work well last year. She noted that transportation has to be fixed or the DW Combine will not work. She listed several of the negative aspects of the time delays caused by transportation. She noted that she is super passionate about the topic and wants to have resolution. Steve Martin asked about the solutions, and Doug Johnson noted that the details would need to work out with Columbia Transit. Nicki will be talking with Columbia County Transit about time frames tomorrow.

#### **Site Supervisors:**

Dayton Site Supervisor: Job description developed and will have it posted soon and it should be in place for the Winter Sports.

Waitsburg Site Supervisor: Vickie Hamann

#### **Coaching Positions to be filled:**

Head Softball- 3 Applications have been received and Nicki indicated she would like to interview as soon as possible.

MS Head Boys Basketball- 1 application was received today- MS Boys Basketball starts on Thursday. Coach Ramirez will help at the beginning of the season until November 15. The interview will take place right away.

MS Assistant Boys Basketball-No applications received yet

MS Assistant Track & Field

**MS Basketball** -will start on time with the new hire and with the assistance of Roy Ramirez.

**Proposal to the school board regarding the continuation of the combine.** – It was noted that more input needs to be gathered in order to make recommendations to the school boards.

#### **New Business:**

- EWAC/ 2B/1B Classifications- Nicki provided information for the new classifications. The classification numbers for the next 4-year cycle with 1B totaling 0-104 Students, 2B would be 105-224 students. That is another aspect of the numbers game. Dayton's current HS enrollment is 83 and Waitsburg is at 62. If we remain combined, we will need to be in the 2B league. If we do not remain combined, both schools would be 1B. Superintendent Johnson gave additional input on the options now available through WIAA. For example, you could combine in football, play in the 2B level, have Volleyball separate, and play in the 1B level. He discussed mileage in each of the two levels, and the pluses and minuses of traveling. He noted the issues with the competition, having sufficient numbers for JV teams and the impact on players and teams with sufficient turnout. Superintendent Johnson noted that the enrollment for both schools is hard to predict long term. The future enrollment is another consideration point for the classification piece. Superintendent Johnson noted that some of the schools in the 1B league have more instability due to participation numbers of available students. Superintendent Johnson indicated there could be challenges with picking up extra JV and C squad games- adding additional transportation issues and cost. Superintendent Johnson noted that before a survey goes out, we need to make sure that the classification aspect is well known and understood by all constituents.

Stephanie Wooderchuk noted that the boards would be the ones to make the final decision so the combine committee needs to get the surveys out and get the results compiled prior to making a recommendation to the respective boards.

Nicki is working with Life Track on a survey for student athletes to complete. She provided a list of 21 possible question topics.

Lisa Morrow noted there needs to be one set of rules for the combine. It was also noted that the issue of the classifications need to be clearly conveyed to students, coaches and parents. Seamus House proposed that the survey target student athletes (as opposed to the entire student body). Lisa Morrow also suggested that we remember the initial reasons why the combine was formed.

Charlie Baron asked about the survey time frame, and pushed for the need to move forward asap. He noted the group needs to move quickly in order to have time to compile the information.

It was asked about having sufficient coaching for the A-Team, JV and C Squad if the numbers warrant the extra staffing. Charlie noted that it has been very difficult to get applicants to fill the coaching positions.

Katie Leid brought up the earlier guidelines that had been discussed for participation numbers and coaches.

Discussion ensued on the topic of finding more games for C Squads and specifically for Volleyball. There were several obstacles and issues that were discussed.

Jeremy Trump commented that he agrees with the idea of surveying student athletes but also thought it would be good to solicit input from students who are not athletes.

Nicki indicated that she will work on the survey asap and will get it out for the DW Combine Committee to review and then to students, parents, etc. soon.

Another student talked about the initial reason for having the combine, and the importance of continuing so students can have sports. The students spoke passionately about continuing with the DW Combine.

The discussions continued with input from Superintendent Pickel who noted that there is value in looking to the future and that our schools need each other and the DW Combine to succeed in the future. He offered several points about the value of the cooperative efforts, and noted all constituents need to have a voice. He discussed options for keeping MS separate if needed, but also the pros and cons of including the MS with the combine.

Nicki brought up the topic of event staff. She would like to be able to pay ticket takers. It was noted that was a board decision not a committee decision.

Nicki Luper adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Next meeting: November 18, 2019 **6:00 p.m. Waitsburg Elementary School Library:**

2019-2010 Meeting Schedule:

Meeting Dates:

October 21, 2019	Waitsburg
November 18, 2019	Dayton
December 16, 2019 (Tentative)	Waitsburg
January 27, 2020	Dayton
February 24, 2020	Waitsburg
March 16, 2020	Dayton
April 20, 2020	Waitsburg
May 18, 2020	Dayton
June 15, 2020 BBQ	Waitsburg
July 2020 NO MEETING	
August 17, 2020	Dayton