

The Westhope Public School (WPS) and Newburg United School (NUS) Boards met in joint session on January 10, 2024 at the NUS. Newburg Superintendent Hadlee Brandt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Introductions were made. Board Members Present: Nathan Boll, Jay Tonneson, Sommer Zimmer, Karlene Wyman, TJ Streich, Jason Blada, Ben Cartwright, Shane Bryans, Tyler Thompson, Jason Huber, Katie Ogaard, Lyndsi Engstrom, and Liz Tofteland. Also present: Westhope Superintendent Marty Bratrud, Athletic Director Garrett Wible and Business Manager Barry Trottier; Newburg Principal & Athletic Director Bob Beaudrie, Business Manager Darcy Lamoureux and Victoria Obergfell; Glenburn Superintendent Larry Derr, Athletic Director Layne Fluhrer and Board Member Jamee Hansen.

**Sports Programs Shared with Glenburn – Football** - Supt. Bratrud went over the football financials. The total expenses this year were \$38,471.46 and the cost/athlete was \$961.79. Wible reported we were short one JH coach this year and will be looking to fill that spot next year along with adding an additional varsity coach. **Baseball** - Derr reported the baseball co-op with Glenburn, Westhope & MLS went well last year. NUS did not have anyone participate.

Glenburn representatives left at 6:48 p.m.

**Activity Ticket Prices** – Current rates vs. proposed increases were discussed. Wible reported that the official fees will have a significant increase next year, so he is recommending increasing the rates to: Students \$40, Golden Age \$60, Adult \$85 and Family \$200.

**Activity Fees** – Current rates vs. proposed increases were discussed. Only Westhope currently charges these fees and is looking at increasing to: Grades 4-8 \$30, Grades 9-12 \$50 and Family Max \$200.

**Gate Prices** – We are currently charging students \$4 and adults \$7. Wible recommended not increasing these rates.

**Extra-Curricular Salary Schedule** – Bratrud reported the two-year salary freeze is over and recommended a 2% salary increase to the salary.

**Academic Programs Currently Shared: Ag. Ed** –Supt. Brandt & Bratrud reported this shared contract is going well and Mr. Odermann has done an excellent job with the program. **PK** – Supt. Brandt reported our PK enrollment will be up next year and asked if WHS is willing to share a teacher again. Both schools will continue to discuss this possibility.

**Possible Future Academic Programs to Share i.e., Business, Music** – Supt. Brandt reported NUS currently does not have a business teacher and is working with online instruction through Bottineau to fill our history position. Supt. Bratrud reported that Westhope might be looking for a Music position next year.

#### **Sports Programs Shared:**

Implementing a student participation minimum requirement was discussed for the sports programs who have small participation numbers. Speech was given as an example with high student participation costs because only two students participated. Supt. Bratrud asked Wible & Beaudrie to conduct a study and present a number for the participation minimum.

- a. Volleyball (grades 6-12)
- b. Girls Basketball (grades 4-12)

- c. Boys Basketball (grades 4-12)
- d. Track (grades 5-12)
- e. Golf (grades 6-12)
- f. Girls Softball (Grades 7-12) MLS is the host school for coop and all practices are in Mohall.
- g. Hockey (grades 7-12) Bottineau is host school for coop and parents are responsible for all transportation expenses.
- h. Cheerleading
- i. Speech

Now that coop agreements have been drafted, it was decided that all coop agreements be included in the joint meeting packet and be reviewed annually.

**Athletic Director(s)** – Wible reported we are changing our live stream from NFHS to Hudl where patrons can view all events free of charge. Wible schedules JH, JV and V Football and all other V games (except VB). Beaudrie schedules JH, JV and V Volleyball and all JH (except FB) & PW games.

**Substitute Teacher Pay** – We currently pay \$135/day plus a free meal. Consensus was to keep it the same for 2024-25.

**Drivers Education** – Brandt reported that NUS participation numbers have been decreasing because parents are choosing to drive to Minot for two days to complete the certification versus having to bring their kids in for multiple weeks. NUS will have to see if it is financially feasible to continue sharing this service with WHS. Bratrud reported WHS will continue to offer for \$225/student, as their participation numbers are high.

**School Calendar** – It was reported that the staff preferred Option 1. Discussion followed.

**Prom** – Will be held at WHS on April 6, 2024 and will be at NUS for 2024-25.

**Legislative Topics** – The Voucher Bill (HB 1532) and the Shared Administration bills were discussed and all board members were encouraged to contact our representatives to voice their concerns with these bills and how they will affect our public schools.

No further Discussion. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm

  
Darcy Lamoureux, Business Manager

  
Nathan Boll, Board President