

Middle School Athletics Task Force Report

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ISSAQUAH
SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Purpose

- To share the work and recommendations of the middle school athletics task force.
- To present next steps in implementation of recommendations.

Task Force Charge

- Increase access, equity, and opportunity.
 - Title IX findings showed inequitable athletic opportunities
 - Significant community outreach requesting the addition of Boys Soccer
 - Challenges with recruiting/retaining coaches – leading to less opportunities for kids
 - Large number of students trying out for programs and not being able to participate



Process

- District-wide recruitment of participants (via district and school bulletins).
- 60 applicants from across the district (students, staff, parents, community members).
- 21 selected members that included representation from all six middle schools and all sports offered.

Process Continued

- Reviewed current middle school programming
 - Sports offered, # of students participating, and budgets
- Evaluated options for the addition of sports
 - Reviewed Title IX interest survey results, participation numbers across current programs
- Researched middle school sports programming in neighboring districts

Final Recommendations

1. Add boys soccer, remove slow-pitch
2. Enhance coaching development
3. Explore intramural sports expansion

Boys Soccer

- In our most recent Title IX interest survey 967 boys selected soccer as a “sport you are interested in playing at school”, the highest number of respondents out of all sports.
 - Conversely, Slow Pitch had a total of 25 boys selecting it.
- Administrators and students shared continuous feedback from students and families requesting Boys Soccer as a middle school sport.



Coaching Development

- Review coaches pay rates and consider a coaches pay scale that honors years of experience and continued education in coaching.
- Fund workshops and coaching development opportunities to further support coaches growth.
- Offer a “Coaching 101” program to help support parents and community members feel confident to take on middle school coaching roles.



Intramural Expansion

- Consider intramural seasons in between competitive sport seasons to offer students more opportunities to participate
- Coaches may be more open to coach an intramural program with a shorter schedule and less competitions
- Needs more exploration to understand impact to other programs and possible formats for scheduling.



Next Steps

- Consult with district departments to assess budget, facilities, staffing, and regulatory impacts/needs.
- Establish a timeline for team formation, including recruitment of coaches and notification to families.
- Identify partners in the area of professional coaching development.
- Gather a small work group to continue exploring intramural program expansion.

Questions from the board?