

Attachment #2

Notice of Meeting

**** Rescheduled from an earlier date****

There will be a meeting of the Nonnewaug High School Football Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Education on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, Connecticut.

The purpose of the meeting is:

Further discussion of the NHS Football Program

Regional School District 14
Bethlehem and Woodbury, Connecticut

By *Stephen Sordi*
Stephen Sordi, Chairman

Date: February 17, 2010

Minutes of the Ad Hoc Nonnewaug High School Football Committee of the Board of Education Regional School District 14 www.ctreg14.org
February 24, 2010

A meeting of the Ad Hoc Nonnewaug High School Football Committee of the Board of Education Regional School District 14 Board of Education was held on Wednesday, February 24, 2010 in the Conference Room of the Central Office, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, CT

Present were Committee Members: **BOE**-Chuck Cosgriff, Deb Corsico, Stephen Sordi and Chairman Monica Gati. **Administration**: Superintendent Robert Cronin
Nonnewaug Football: Coach, John Oko. **Grid Iron**: Members Tim Drakely. **Pop Warner/Public**-John Dominello, Donna Munson and Jim Uberdi

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by the Chairperson Stephen Sordi.

Chairperson Stephen Sordi announced to the committee he had previously received a document titled "Summary of my viewpoints concerning football in 2010" from Athletic Director, Dan Scavone. In summary, the document reviewed what Dan had previously expressed to the committee. Contained within the document, Dan states, he "does not have anything further to add from our last meeting". That the document was a brief summary of his "last presentation" and what he thinks is "critical for the future of football in Region 14". See attached document.

Prior to discussing the Ad-hoc committee charge, Chairperson, Stephen Sordi explained to the committee, there were approximately (9) issues identified within the ad-hoc charge, for the committee to discuss and make recommendations. For the sake of responding to the individual questions, Mr. Sordi inquired if there were any objections from the committee members, to base their responses on the premise Nonnewaug football will exist for at least the near future (1-2 years). There were no objections noted. With that being said the following was discussed and determined.

The committee discussed the first charge asked of the ad-hoc committee: ***Determine the level of play (Varsity, Junior Varsity, and freshman) for the 2010-2011 season and future goals.*** Coach, John Oko stated he recommends Nonnewaug Football remain at the junior varsity level for at least (1) more year. Discussion by the committee on this issue followed, and there was consensus with Coach Oko's recommendation. In addition, the committee determined, after next year, the placement (varsity, junior varsity) of the program should be re-evaluated. Ultimately, the program needs to transition to a varsity level or face demise.

The committee discussed the second and third charges asked of the ad-hoc committee: ***Determine the number of student athletes necessary to maintain the various levels of play and identify the projected number of student athletes who may be interested in participating in football for the 2010-2011 season and beyond.*** Coach, John Oko stated he would need approximately 35-40 players to staff a junior varsity team. In addition, approximately 50-60 players would be necessary for both a junior varsity and varsity team. The coach stated he currently has 27 names of current high school students interested in playing. He is hoping to get 10-15 incoming freshman to play. Coach Oko added; he is optimistic he can recruit some incoming out of district Ag-students. The committee discussed Coach Oko's participation assessment and asked if he felt 35-40 is an adequate number, taking into consideration injuries. Coach Oko felt confident with the numbers he stated.

The committee discussed the fourth charge asked of the ad-hoc committee: ***Determine what resources the district would have to commit in order to assure a viable program.*** This issue was discussed in length, both short term and long term. Dan Scavone prepared an expenditure schedule for the committee to review. The summary included costs presently being paid for through the BOE budget and by the Grid Iron Club. The football operating cost to the region for the 2010-2011 season is \$37,685.00 The BOE would be responsible for \$15,890.00 and the Grid Iron organization would be responsible for the approximate \$21,000.00 balance. There was also discussion on exercise equipment to upgrade the weight room. This equipment totaled approximately \$32,700.00. See attached. There was conversation regarding the size of the current weight room and if all the equipment on the list was purchased, would it fit? There was also conversation if all the equipment is necessary to have the football program move forward. Coach Oko felt the answer was no, we would need to spend approximately \$5000.00 this year for the necessary weights required for his training program. Coach Oko stated we have plenty of blocking dummies, sleds and field equipment to move forward. Long term, Dan Scavone in his memo, felt the football program would require a sports referendum to pay for "adequate facilities" for football to survive. See attached summary of "Estimated Costs for Football".

The committee discussed the fifth charge asked of the ad-hoc committee: ***Identify what community and booster club resources are currently available and what funds have been committed for future years?*** Tim Drakely, representing the Grid Iron club, stated the club has committed to continue supporting football at Nonnewaug. They have agreed to a second five year commitment. There was also conversation about "pay for play" with mixed feelings from the members, regarding if this was an acceptable solution for raising funds to support athletics. Dr. Cronin questioned if there would be an expectation from parents; that their child would play if they paid. John Oko stated he believes Naugatuck High School is currently in the middle of a 3 million dollar renovation project, in which they received 2.5 million from a grant. Dr. Cronin stated he would telephone Naugatuck and find out what grant they had applied for. Deb Corsico stated the community could help rally voters when it comes time to support a referendum.

The committee discussed the sixth charge asked of the ad-hoc committee. *What relationship should the coaches have with Pop Warner and how should it be maintained?* Coach, John Oko stated the interaction is minimal at this time and has vowed to reach out to the Pop Warner folks in the future. John Dominello stated John Oko is the first coach willing to reach out to the coaching staff at the Pop Warner level. It appeared evident, the Nonnewaug High football coaches and Nonnewaug Pop Warner football folks were operating their programs independently rather than supporting each other's team. There was consensus this type of collaborative communication would be beneficial to both programs and both programs have the "right" personnel in place at this time for this interaction to occur.

The committee discussed the seventh charge asked of the ad-hoc committee. *Determine at what point the district should consider forming a football co-op.* Although Dan Scavone did not attend the meeting, I shared with the committee a portion of the conversation I had with Dan, earlier in the day. I informed the committee; Dan believed at this time, a co-op was not feasible, due to there not being a team willing to co-op with Nonnewaug. Dan related to me; when looking to co-op with a school, it is much more advantageous, to co-op with a school that can provide facilities not otherwise available to the soliciting party.

At the conclusion of the meeting each person in attendance was given the opportunity to comment on the football program at Nonnewaug High School and if and why it should continue to move forward:

- John Oko related the players and coaches are committed, enthusiastic and doing everything possible, including recruiting friends to play.
- Tim Drakely felt we have a strong Athletic Director.
- Donna Munson related, in the past the program was misguided and there was lack of communication. Donna believes these two problems no longer exist.
- Dr. Cronin related, the program is currently being done the right way. He believes John has fine ideas to move program forward.
- John Dominello related the difference between now and the last 5 years is Pop Warner-The program did not exist 5 years ago and now is the main feeder program for the Nonnewaug High School program. John stated for 5 years there has been no internal support-John believes the program was set up to fail by the past high school principal.
- Debbie Corsico related the program went to varsity too soon and initially joined the wrong league. Debbie believes the program did not get the right start, but now everything is in place- She asked, why kill it now?
- Chuck Cosgriff stated all the right ingredients are here.
- Jim Uberti related; long term, facility issues need to be addressed.

- Steve Sordi related the program seems to have all the right pieces in place; this was not previously the case. Over the next 2-3 years, it will become evident if football is a viable sports program for Nonnewaug.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm

**REGION 14 BUDGET PLANNING 2010-11
ESTIMATED COSTS FOR FOOTBALL**

Item	Cost	Estimated cost for Weight Room upgrade			
		Item	#	Cost	Total
Coaches	15,890				
Buses	6,800	Power Rack	2	4,000	8,000
Officials	1,995	Power Rack benches	2	1,400	2,800
Equipment reconditioning	5,000	Full body squat machines	1	4,200	4,200
Equipment Replacement	2,500	Dead lift platform	2	600	1,200
Uniform Replacement	1,000	Stationary bike	2	3,000	6,000
Other supplies	2,500	Treadmill - commercial	1	7,000	7,000
Players meals	1,000	Weight plates and other accessories	1	3,000	3,000
Weights	32,700	Moving out old equipment			?
Security for games	1,000	Mirror and other misc equipment			500
Total	70,385	Shipping			?
		Total			32,700
Estimated Revenue					
Gridiron Club	15,500				
Gate receipts	0				
Total	15,500				
Balance for General Fund	54,885				
Current Budget	15,890				
Budget Increase	38,995				

SUMMARY OF MY VEIWPOINTS CONCERNING FOOTBALL IN 2010

I apologize for not being able to attend the meeting. With the snow day yesterday, I had a prior commitment that was moved to tonight. I actually do not have anything further to add from our last meeting. Please accept this document as a brief summary of my last presentation and what I think is critical for the future of football in Region 14.

1. We cannot endure another year like we experienced last year. The morale of the team was at an all time low and we lost much credibility in our league. Our numbers made it very difficult to field just a JV team.
2. Immediate attention needs to be made with our weight room. Jay has minimum numbers we need now and that is only a temporary fix. A larger facility needs to be found or built to service all of our student athletes. This could be part of an athletic facility improvement referendum.
3. My power point presentation highlighted major capital improvements that need to be in place not only for football but for all our athletic teams. I understand, given the present economy, these improvements cannot be completed all at once, but their must be a firm plan in place to meet these needs in phases over a two to three year period. Any major delay would certainly impede our progress to ever become a varsity program. At that point we simply would not be fair to incoming students who more than likely would not compete at the varsity level during their high school career. Having said that, if that were the case, we would be better off postponing football until the facilities are in place. At least we would not be stringing along families who have to make decisions around football. In addition, who knows how long our league would allow us to be a part as a JV program. As it is we are going to have to play a game by game JV schedule with whomever we can get games with in or out of our league.
4. I think past history has showed very clearly that football is a sport that requires more financial support than most sports and this program has regressed the past four years. To think this program was going to move forward in the right direction without adequate facilities and funding, was a mistake. My presentation clearly outlined our needs based on comparisons with comparable sized schools, who also struggle in the same economy but value athletics to a high degree. I think it is time that our board of education has to make a difficult decision on whether or not it wants to invest the financial resources necessary for all our athletic teams. The only thing for certain is that football cannot survive without that support. Our other less costly programs can meander along but those student athletes also deserve better. I will respect and honor whatever they decide.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Scavone, athletic director