

Written by Marcus Amos

Wednesday, 19 March 2014 00:00 -

The Scott County School District 2 Board of Trustees held a board work session on Monday, March 10, to talk football.

The meeting was called to order with President Jason Kendall.

Superintendent Dr. Marc Slaton presented two options for the Board's consideration regarding the future of the middle school football program, if it is to continue, and outlined the specifics of each option.

* SCYFL Controlled Program. (same as last year).

* SCSD2 Controlled Program. Slaton outlined related expenses and potential sources of revenue. The SCYFL officers stated that they were not certain that a middle school program could be sustained if there was no interest in ever starting a high school program.

The Board asked Dr. Slaton to continue with the rest of the presentation prior to opening the floor for discussion.

High school football was voted down as presented at the Board meeting on Tuesday, February 25. The work session was scheduled by the Board to discuss other possible options for the program.)

Dr. Slaton provided a new financial look and options for a possible high school program.

* High school team operated by SCYFL similar to 2013-14 middle school program. He listed requirements that would have to be met in order for a program of this type to be sanctioned by the IHSAA.

* School Controlled Program. He outlined estimated expenses for this type of program and explained which school funds would be used for each type of expense. Dr. Slaton stated that Scottsburg High School Principal Ric Manns and Athletic Director Al. Rabe had been working on getting sponsors and to date had a \$15,000 scoreboard donated by Slam Dunk along with commitments for \$21,000 in sponsorships from outside sources, some of which committed for more than one year. Ric Manns added that there are several businesses that have shown an interest in sponsoring but are awaiting corporate approval prior to committing an amount and several businesses that have not yet been contacted. It was noted that these sponsorships would only be for a school operated program.

The floor was opened for discussion at this time. Several people were on hand to speak in favor of a school controlled middle and high school football program, including members/officers of the SCYFL, parents of students who want to play football, SHS Principal Ric Manns and Athletic Director Al Rabe.

Some issues mentioned were:

* Enrollment SCSD2 needs to offer programs that are not available nearby in order to draw students;

* Football would be good for students behavior issues, grades, attendance, and overall success;

* SCYFL willing to strongly support and assist;

* Timing is right momentum, interest and community support (i.e. sponsorships) is here now.

Board President Jason Kendall asked if any of the Board members had concerns or questions they would like to have addressed that had not been covered. Concerns listed by the Board included:

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* The fear that if a program was started there would be an outcry for major money to be spent in a couple of years for a football facility at SHS.

* The need to have a clear plan to evaluate the success of the program and its ability to sustain itself financially; and;

* The need for guidelines/timelines on how to go to the next step.

The administration team will provided a draft of a such a plan at the Board meeting on Tuesday, March 11. The board then decided to move the meeting in April to Tuesday, April 1, at 6 p.m. to make a decision on the fate of football at Scottsburg.