

Berne-Knox-Westerlo Central School District Jan. 25 community forum

Topic: Extra- and co-curricular activities

Facilitator: Kylie Pierce Administrator: Anette Landry

Table notes:

Inventory and leverage human resources

Participants had a list of “wishes” for extracurricular activities:

Increased modified opportunities

No cuts at the modified level

Better communication to parents regarding delays, cancellations and reschedule of games

Can we have more pictures of sports contests? There are many knowledgeable people in the community who could help with this.

Students should be able to participate in sports and music simultaneously

More activities for elementary school students. One community member wanted more non-sports activities for 3rd grade.

Can some sports have A and B teams? Other districts do this, so there would be competition.

Can the district host an “activities fair” top showcase offerings to parents and students?

Some participants feel that certain fields need more exposure than others: FFA, Medical Professions,

Several participants said they thought our athletic offerings were adequate for our student population.

Program mentoring by alumni

Use the school as a community center.

“We need room for everyone in everything”

School should be more open to outside groups like Kiwanis. There should be a clear procedure for outside groups to be part of the district – “A procedure that works for everyone.”

We need new tracks – for the elementary and high school kids

More after school programs would be great. But we must provide transportation for those with unreliable transportation. “level the playing field”

Another participant emphasized the need to provide transportation for students who may not have it.

The 7th grade field trip: Can there be 3 or 4 topics to consider, and can it be an actual field trip, rather than bringing people here.

Increase adult offerings at the district – continuing education courses, computer courses, etc. Can students “mentor” seniors?

The school needs a better system of announcing clubs, events, and opportunities.

Community members advocated for Masterminds, Science Olympiad.

Another community member noted that there always seems to good participation in Student Senate, but there is always room to grow. They hold lots of fundraisers.

Can we increase exposure between the elementary and secondary schools? Coordinate activities that provide the opportunity for the two schools to interact?

One participant recommended a ballroom dancing club and contest.

Many community members are interested in starting Future Farmers of America and 4H clubs at the elementary level. Overall, people expressed interest in environmental clubs, farming, and ecology.

A couple of community members suggested a competitive science fair.

Please make the extra-curricular offerings more well-rounded. “I challenge the school district to meet diverse interests.”

There should be elementary intramural offerings, including an art club for different age groups.

Please restore funding for the marching band. They should have better uniforms. This is a point of pride for the students, the school and the community.

We need to better communicate to parents the need for extra-curricular activities.

Not everyone gets SNN –please do not do away with paper schedules and course selection. There is limited internet access in the hilltowns.

Community members would like to see foreign language clubs and art classes restored.

Can we start music instruction in the elementary school? Can we use technology to teach music in a fun way?

Can we get kids exposed to technology earlier? There are network issues in the school buildings, and it seems that the available technology (laptop carts, desktops, computer labs) are always booked. Another community member suggested more computer lab space in the secondary school. Another community member brought up Guilderland central schools, where there is technology available outside of school at the community library, etc.

A community member suggested a “1,000-book club” that would start in elementary school and go through 12th grade.

Gardening club – we could sell the produce. We have the marketing and financial services right here in the Secondary School.

The district needs to offer more enrichment opportunities “across the board.”

If we do more after school activities, would it cut down on transportation costs?

A community member suggested a fall festival or spring fling for the elementary school.

Please keep the late bus.

Can we provide transportation for everything? How much would that cost?

One community member suggested a teen lounge on school grounds – someplace where they could gather and hang out safely on school property.

There needs to be more space in both buildings, but especially the elementary school.

Can we have an adventure or orienteering club?

Can the district tell us how many clubs and activities are currently offered?

The school has a good teacher-to-student ratio.

We should offer theatre trips for students and families. These could happen on weekends.