

SPPS' Athletics Strategic Planning

Current Reality and Vision for the Future



September 25, 2017



Setting the Stage

Meeting #1 Agenda

- Welcome
- Norms and strategic planning process
- Check-In
- Current Reality: Athletics Overview and Sports Programming

Questions



Purpose and Outcomes

Purpose: To ensure that scholar/athletes receive a premiere experience through competitive and equitable athletic programs by utilizing the expertise and perspectives of a diverse stakeholder group.

- Share information about the current reality of athletic programming, assets and areas for improvement.
- Receive comments, questions and guidance from stakeholder groups to inform next steps.
- Develop a plan to determine 2017-2020 strategic plan for Athletics programming and support.

Norms (I Will)

- Speak truth with grace
- Be open-minded in listening
- Pay Attention to Self and Others
- Presume positive intentions
- Have difficult conversations in the room
- Be an ambassador for our work outside of the meetings
- Collaborate to advance the mission of SPPS



Courageous Conversations Protocol



PACIFIC EDUCATIONAL GROUP

Four Agreements

- Stay ENGAGED
- Experience DISCOMFORT
- Speak your TRUTH
- Expect / Accept NON-CLOSURE

Six Conditions

1. Focus on PERSONAL, local and immediate
2. ISOLATE race
3. Normalize SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION & multiple perspectives
4. Monitor agreements, conditions and ESTABLISH PARAMETERS
5. Use a "WORKING DEFINITION" for race
6. Examine the presence and role of "WHITENESS"

Courageous Conversation is utilizing the four agreements, six conditions, and compass in order to engage, sustain, deepen interracial dialogue about race!



Strategic Planning Process

A. Initial information gathering

- Series of three stakeholder meetings
 - Compile meeting information into strategic plan template. Add yearly goals and strategies to achieve. Identify cross departmental coordination for each action plan
- Share strategic plan draft with participants for accuracy



Strategic Planning Process

B. Next steps

- Share draft strategic plan with Supt. Joe Gothard to gather his feedback
- Share revised plan with broader group of stakeholders to gather feedback
- Submit any changes to Dr. Gothard for his review and share with senior leadership
- Integrate Athletic Strategic Plan into district strategic plan
- Plan finalized by the beginning of spring 2018 budget process



Facilitation Support

Lawanda Warren

Darren Ginther

Christina Babadjanian



Check-In

- Think about your best experience with athletic competition. What made it the best?
- What are three great aspects of Saint Paul Public Schools Athletics? What needs to improve? If we could do one thing to improve SPPS Athletics what would it be? Use sheets on table to record your thoughts.



dreamstime.com

CURRENT REALITY



Connection to Students' Academic Achievement and Social and Emotional Success

Research supports the value students receive from participation in athletics.

- Increases academic achievement (GPA), attendance
- Builds student's character
- Builds resilience, grit, self-confidence
- Provides a sense of belonging
- Instructs on how to achieve individual and team goals
- Promotes a healthy lifestyle
- Promotes physical fitness



Purpose of SPPS Athletics

The purpose of the SPPS athletic program is to promote lifelong personal growth and development. Student participation can encourage individual development by providing opportunities for leadership, sportsmanship, fellowship, teamwork, commitment to goal achievement, character building, communication skills, competition and school pride.



POLICY AND GOVERNANCE



Board of Education Policies Related to Athletics

102 Equal Opportunity/ Non-Discrimination (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Adapted sports)

500 Gender Inclusion

507.02 Athletics: District-Wide Athletic Council

710 Transportation: Athletics



Athletic Administrative Council Outcomes

- Unite and inspire our communities around athletics programming
- Leverage assets in our system and external to our system
- Ensure that we collaborate with the Facilities Management Process (FMP) to have possible programs and facilities for student participants that adhere to the FMP guiding principles
- Provide valuable advice on overseeing athletics programming
- Develop and recommend ideas to improve athletic programs



Minnesota State High School League

SPPS individual schools are members of the Minnesota State High School League (~\$5,000 fee). MSHSL:

- provides competitive, equitable and uniform opportunities for high school students to learn valuable lessons through participation in athletics and fine arts
- provides support for member schools with programs that address sportsmanship, chemical health, scholarship recognition
- oversees more than 4,500 registered contest officials and judges and
- provides educational programs for coaches.

College Readiness- NCAA

Freshman-Eligibility Requirements

Test Scores

Division I uses a sliding scale to match test scores and core grade point averages (GPA) Division II Requires a minimum SAT score of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68.

Grade Point Average -List of NCAA Courses on the NCAA Eligibility Center's website(www.eligibilitycenter.org). 2.3 GPA in core courses (Div I) & 2.20 (Div II) Only courses that appear on your school's List of NCAA Courses are used in the calculation of the core GPA

Core Courses

NCAA Division I requires 16 core courses NCAA Division II currently requires 14 core courses.

Division II requires 16 core courses for students enrolling on or after August 1, 2013.



ASSETS

HISTORY OF SUCCESS

PEOPLE

FACILITIES

- Storied History: 103 years of hockey, 2nd oldest football conference in Minnesota (1891)
- Competitive: Regional and state qualifiers, state champions, dominate in badminton
- Fantastic and committed Student athletes and their families, Athletic Directors, Coaches, Volunteers, Partners
- Facilities
Five turf fields, field houses, updated gyms at Como and Humboldt



7 High Schools

33 Programs

323 Teams

Girls' Nordic Ski 4

Baseball 18

Adaptive

Soccer, Softball,

Floor Hockey,

Bowling 18

Boys' Swimming 12

Wrestling 11

Boys' Tennis 14

Volleyball 20

Girls' Swimming 12

Softball 18

Girls' Track & Field 14

Girls' Tennis 12

Boys' Track & Field 14

Cheerleading 4

Boys' Golf 6 Badminton 14

Boys' & Girls' Lacrosse 2

Boys' Basketball 21

Girls' Basketball 20

Girls' Cross Country 7

Alpine Skiing 2 Football 16

Gymnastics 8 Girls' Golf 6

Boys' Hockey 5 Dance Line 1

Boys' Cross Country 7 Girls' Hockey 2 Boys' Nordic Ski 4

Boys' Soccer 22

Girls' Soccer 14

Athletics

12 Middle Schools

12 Programs

132 Teams

Wrestling 7

Baseball 11

Girls' Track & Field 11

Girls' Soccer 8

Boys' Track & Field
11

Flag Football 12

Badminton 12

Volleyball 12

Boys' Basketball 12

Girls' Basketball 12

Boys' Soccer 11

Softball 10



Athletics

Participation Numbers (middle and high) & Percentage

2011 - 2012

7940 Participants

42.85%

2012 - 2013

8016 Participants

42.84%

2013 - 2014

8376 Participants

45.25%

2014 - 2015

8668 Participants

46.80%

2015 - 2016

9012 Participants

48.89%

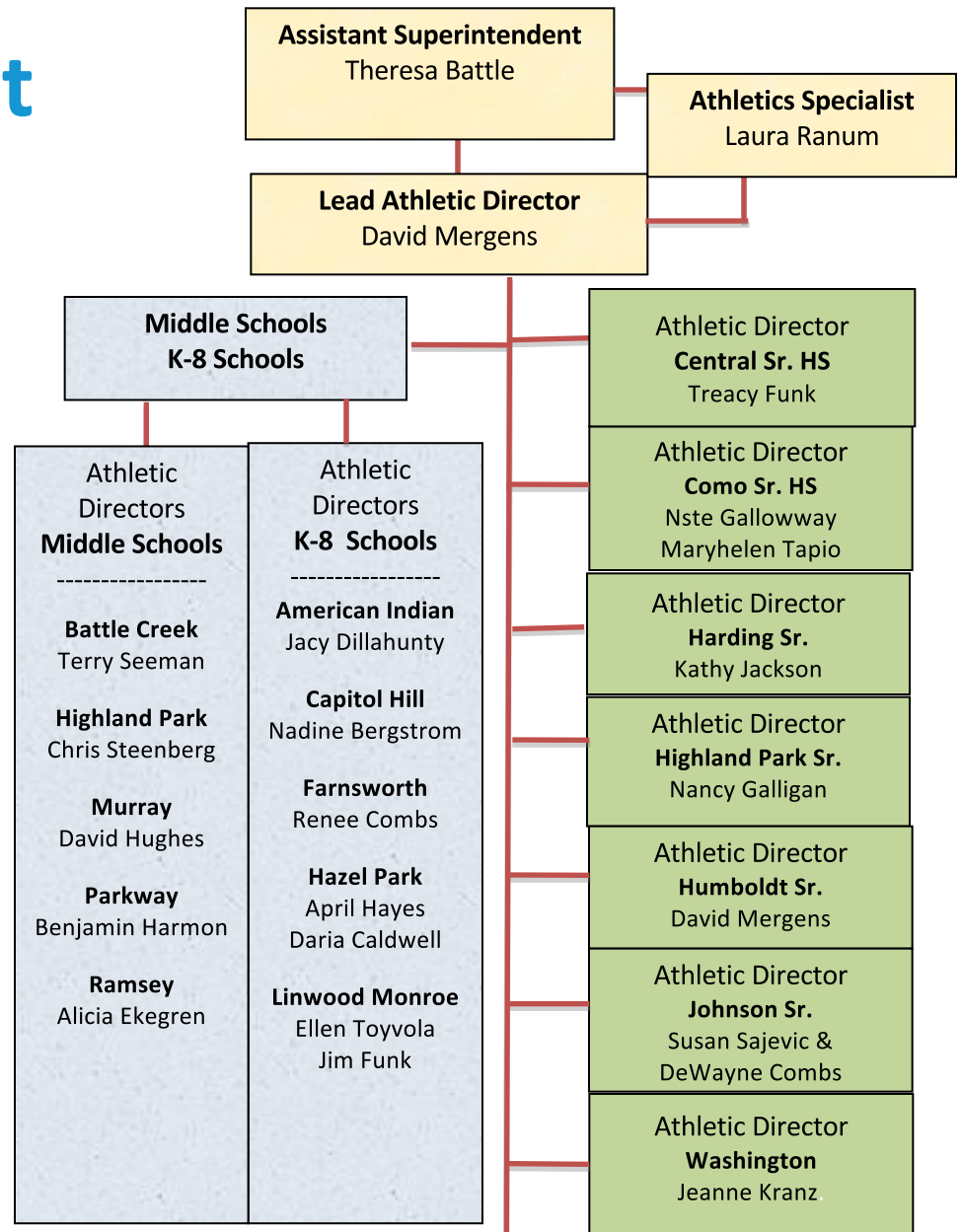
2016 - 2017

8320 Participants

45.90%



Organizational Chart



Assistant Superintendent
 Lead Athletic Director
 District Athletic Specialist
 High School Directors
 Middle School / K8 Directors
 High School Coaches
 High School Assistant Coaches
 Middle School Coaches



Major Challenges

- Budget constraints – participation and costs have increased, yet funding has been decreased
 - Centrally funded categories are coaches and athletic salaries, transportation and officials
 - School and externally funded: equipment, lower level teams and their coaching staff, tournament transportation, extra officials; fees for MSHSL; end of season banquets; sports: Alpine skiing, lacrosse, cheerleading, dance
- Facilities- FMP will address many issues, but gaps need to be reviewed



Athletics

Assets

Partnerships

1. Saint Paul Parks and Recreation
2. Ramsey County
3. Minnesota Vikings
4. The Dunkers
5. Community Organizations
6. Minnesota Twins
7. Saint Paul Public Golf Courses
8. Minneapolis Public Schools
9. Minnesota State High School League



Misc. Highlights 2014-2016

- Athletic Eligibility
- Added Trap and Skeet Shooting Club at Humboldt
- Revised Athletic Coach position, Athletic Specialist position
- Completed Athletic Director SET
- Updated SPPS Sports website
- Initiated Athletic portions of FMP
- Received TRIA and Vikings grant
- Added Lacrosse
- Reactivated Athletic Administrative Council
- Initiated Captains' Camp
- Piloted Fee Pay
- Facilities Management Plan initiated (Athletics included; NFL Turf grant received for Como Park High School)

FMP– Ranking of Priorities

1. SPPS will elevate its current athletic facilities to a consistent and high degree of performance.
2. SPPS will only build multi-sport, multi-season athletic facilities. The District should have the capacity to change lines / stripes and infrastructure (nets, etc) quickly and cost-effectively.
3. SPPS will seek to have consistently high quality athletic facilities, which also have the lowest life cycle cost.
4. SPPS will cease supporting athletic venues that are too small to be functional / efficient.
5. SPPS will plan for athletic space needs with partner organizations (Parks & Rec, private and public colleges) as a collective entity.
6. SPPS will be cognizant of the impact on athletic events (parking, noise, light pollution) on our adjacent neighborhoods.
7. SPPS will prioritize investments into athletic facilities that serve the greatest day-to-day impact of our learners and communities. More specialized facilities will be supported via public and private partners
8. SPPS does not need to acquire new property for the purpose of athletic facilities. For what shortfalls we have, creating / leveraging partnerships with public and private entities is the prudent course of action.



Questions Break



CURRENT REALITY Continued



Girls' Volleyball

Current Reality:

- offered at High school and middle school levels
- about 330+ participants
- high school has three levels-varsity, JV, and C squad
- budget covers officials, transportation and coaches' salaries

Vision:

- ensure college and career readiness
- adding 4th team at high school level to accommodate the increased interest
- adding 2nd team at middle school level to accommodate the increased interest



Girls' Volleyball

Strengths:

- draws an average about 30-80 students
- students and parents shown enthusiastic support
- junior high volleyball numbers have steadily increased

Challenges:

- many players start playing at a later age
- lack of programming
- cost of programming
- need for additional coaches
- some schools have more athletes than there are spots for, as a result athletes quit or don't make the team



Alpine Skiing

Current Reality:

- open to all middle and high schools
- program is self-funded
- a parent group assists the coach

Vision:

- alpine participation will increase
- all schools will provide a quality athletic program



Alpine Skiing

Strengths:

- participation has increased over the last two years
- have had State Tournament representation from the girls' team
- athletes and their parents are kept informed on what's occurring

Challenges:

- players pay \$650 to participate, \$300 is a lift ticket
- salary for the head coach is \$3309, does not include assistant coaches
- additional costs include pay for officials, transportation, equipment
- alpine ski expenses are not included in the current budget

Boys' and Girls' Nordic Ski

Current Reality:

- this sport is offered at Central, Como, and Highland
- both boys and girls teams offered, varsity and JV levels
- participation is consistently around 180-200 skiers each season
- budget covers meet transportation and coach's salaries
- looking at options to increase our conference competitive balance

Vision:

- provide quality athletics program
- ensure students are college and career ready
- build students' character, self-confidence, give them sense of belonging



Boys' and Girls' Nordic Ski

Strengths:

- Nordic Ski at the three high schools draws large number of participants
- St. Paul Public Schools students have been represented well at State Tournament every year

Challenges:

- our conference is not very strong
- finding better competition
- finding coaches who have the skill and technical knowledge is challenging
- need to start kids at younger ages through physical education and community programs
- transportation is not covered by district budget



Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse

Current Reality:

- Lacrosse was offered at the high school level in spring of SY 2014-2015
- St. Paul offers both a boys and girls varsity coop team
- these teams are open to middle and high school students
- the cost today is \$150
- program is self-funded
- play an independent schedule-we work to set up our own games



Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse

Strengths:

- Lacrosse has evolved at a tremendous pace
- off-season and year-around training exists
- St. Paul Lacrosse Association (SPLAX) has a 20-year history in the community
- we have enthusiastic support from students, parents, and community
- we are working to bring lacrosse into the schools and offer via physical education classes

Challenges:

- players pay \$150 in fees, plus around \$200 in equipment costs
- salary combined for both boys and girls teams is \$6,618 - just head coach
- additional expenses include uniforms, home game field staff, transportation, field lining, lights at fields/workers, officials, and start up equipment
- lacrosse expenses are not included in the district budget



Track and Field

Current Reality:

- offered at middle and high school levels for both girls and boys
- consistent high school participation round 270 for boys, around 175 for girls
- junior high participation, 255 boys and 170 girls
- all seven high schools and 12 middle schools support both a boys and girls track
- the district budget supports 1 head coach, 4 assistant coaches, and meet officials for high school meets, transportation to and from meets
- 1 head coach for middle schools
- individual schools are responsible for equipment, uniforms, extra coaches, meet workers, other team expenses

Track and Field

Strengths:

- track and field provides quality opportunities for a lot of participation at low cost to families
- we have 2 high quality stadiums with 8 lane tracks to run meets (Central and Harding) and 3 other quality tracks at Highland, Como Park and Johnson
- allows a diverse group of student to participate

Challenges:

- we have only 5 functional track facilities for 7 high schools and 12 middle schools
- Humboldt does not have one and Washington's running area needs safety upgrades
- 11/12 middle schools have to transport to a high school track to practice
- we need to fund workers to run middle school meets
- we need to secure a meet director for Conference meets and Conference Championship Meet



Boys' and Girls' Swimming and Diving

Current Reality:

- offered at each of the seven high schools and middle school students are encouraged to participate
- participation has been consistent the past 3 years - 120 for girls, 140 for boys
- we have 3 co-ops for the girls swimming program, 2 co-ops for boys
- Humboldt hosts all conference and non-conference home swimming meet competitions
- district budget supports 1 head coach, 1 assistant coach, the meet officials, and transportation to and from events

Boys' and Girls' Swimming and Diving

Strengths:

- swimming has a national movement to increase minority participation
- we are updating the conference pool equipment to meet the standards of other surrounding competition sites
- there is a strong parent and community support for the sport

Challenges:

- pools are only located in the senior high schools
- it's challenging to get middle school students interested and participating at the high schools
- transportation for middle school is a barrier
- pools need major repairs; only 2 pools are to code to run MSHSL swimming events
- participation numbers are low for both boys and girls



Adapted Athletics

Current Reality:

- support 19 adapted athletic teams
- fall sports include Humboldt CI and PI Adapted soccer and Johnson CI adapted soccer; participation is about 45 boys and girls
- winter sports include Humboldt CI and PI Adapted Floor Hockey; participation dropped from 40 to 24 boys and girls
- spring sports include Humboldt CI and PI Adapted softball, Central, Como, Highland, and Johnson Adapted Bowling; participation increased from 70 to 95 boys and girls
- new MSHSL Adapted Athletic division was added to include students with ASD
- the district budget supports 1 head coach, 1 assistant coach for PI Soccer, Floor Hockey and Softball team; 1 head coach and 2 assistant coaches for the CI Soccer, Floor Hockey and Softball teams; 1 head coach for each PI and CI Bowling teams, all game officials and transportation to and from game and practice sites



Adapted Athletics

Vision:

- ensure students are college and career ready
- provide quality athletics program

Strengths:

- we offer 2 co-ed competitive interscholastic divisions: Physically Impaired (PI) and Cognitively Impaired (CI)
- we have very successful team that advance to the MSHSL State tournaments
- we have very strong community and parent support for the Adapted Athletic Program
- Adapted Athletics is the crown jewel of the MSHSL. It's the first varsity athletic program sanctioned by a state athletic association to accommodate students with special needs



Adapted Athletics

Challenges:

- the Special Education programs in SPPS have been reassigned and spread around the district - many participants moved to other buildings and programs around the district
- transportation and availability of competitive playing sites is a barrier
- team numbers are low and competitive participation has dropped
- many athletes have special needs that require extra staff, supervision, and transportation needs
- no funding for the new ASD Bowling



Boys' Hockey

Current Reality:

- starting the 2016-17 season a cooperative agreement was formed between Highland High School and Central High School which has provided the program enough players to compete at the varsity and junior varsity levels
- the team plays in the Two Rivers conference-there is strong parent involvement that has been instrumental in building the team a beautiful locker room at Highland Arena (the participants to store their equipment at the arena)
- it is equipped with a monitor to provide the team a place to watch game film. There is a strong off season program for both high school and middle school participants that has helped development. We have developed a strong relationships with our feeder programs

Strengths: The program is growing in numbers and the skill level is improving - last year they won 16 games and a section game for the first time since the early 1981. The expectation is to continue this trend by providing a quality service to the players

Challenges: Keep the momentum moving forward. Ice time can sometimes be a challenge. The current parent group is very good at fundraising. Can we sustain what they have started?



Girls' Hockey

Current Reality:

- SPPS fields one program of girl's hockey called the St Paul Blades
- this program is open to girls from all of our SPPS Middle and High Schools
- we have girls from 4 different high schools and 3 middle schools
- the cooperative agreement with Nova Classic academy was recently dissolved
- the team is currently playing a varsity level only
- being in the mid to upper 20's in participants every year puts us right on the bubble for 2 full teams (Varsity and JV)
- budget: district funds cover coaching salaries, ice time, bussing and officials. The program is responsible for all other costs including but not limited to; uniforms, equipment and travel

Girls' Hockey

Vision:

- establish a "home" where the girls can practice and play games helping foster youth development and involvement in the program
- numbers and quality would grow - this would also enable us to host events, sell concessions thus reducing the cost to our students, their families and ultimately the district
- Girls' Hockey is vital program for a segment of our families - maintaining a strong program will keep these families from leaving the district

Strengths:

- we have a very dedicated group of kids and families that are vested in the success of Girls' Hockey
- they are willing to go above and beyond to help SPPS keep the program vital and growing
- there is a strong tradition of hockey in St Paul and will continue if given the facilities and programming



Girls' Hockey

Challenges:

- arena and ice time - mainly, the lack of both
- currently all the players come from the following schools: Como Park, Highland Park, Central, Johnson and 3 Middle schools; they have to practice at West Side arena at 3:00. This is nearly impossible logistically for kids that live across town which most of them do. It is impossible for Middle school kids because they are not out of school yet. Then they have to play "home" games at Phalen Arena. This means they transport their equipment from place to place. These many hurdles hinder recruitment to the sport and program. It also hinders SPPS ability to keep families in the district that want this as part of their children's programming. They simply go to neighboring communities where these obstacles don't exist
- In addition, not having a home limits our ability to fundraise, so we can keep costs down in what is a very expensive sport - this further limits our families of lesser financial means that might consider playing if not for the cost



Baseball

Current Reality:

- all seven SPPS schools have baseball programs
- in recent years, most schools have seen a decline in participation numbers and have just two levels
- SPPS provides funding for coaching, transportation and officials
- schools are responsible for team uniforms and all equipment

Vision:

- access to fields is the top priority in season and summer use
- main goal is to develop better working relationships with St. Paul Parks and Recreation Dept. for field use
- improve baseball field amenities for all schools
- inform all athletes annually of NCAA requirements and changes



Baseball

Strengths:

- we have developed cooperatives with the MN Twins and RBI League for off-season training
- the TWINS have provided some baseball equipment
- the St. Paul Saints have followed through with their CHS stadium agreement and provided our Varsity Teams an opportunity to play a game at their facility

Challenges:

- SPPS demographics led to lower participation numbers
- reduction of City Recreation Centers and VFW leagues
- more difficulty for our high schools to fielding competitive teams



Boys' and Girls' Basketball

Current Reality:

- all seven SPPS schools have basketball programs
- boys basketball teams have maintained competitive programs
- our girls' program has seen a decline
- SPPS provides funding for coaching, transportation and officials
- schools are responsible for team uniforms and all equipment

Vision:

- some floors need to be resurfaced or replaced
- provide supervised study areas for athletes waiting for practice session
- inform all athletes annually of NCAA requirements and changes



Boys' and Girls' Basketball

Strengths:

- expenses are manageable
- AAU programs are assisting SPPS programs in player development in the off-season

Challenges:

- the only sport that has more teams than practice space
- in more cases our athletes have no place to study or wait for their practice time
- our Girls programs have few options to learn the game before their middle school opportunity



Boys' and Girls' Tennis

Current Reality:

- all seven high schools have a varsity boys and girls tennis teams. Five of the seven high schools girls teams have Junior varsity teams as well
- all seven boys teams have varsity and junior varsity programs
- boys and girls tennis play in the St. Paul City Conference; the flexibility of the schedule allows them to play several matches outside the conference and a twin city championship against a Minneapolis school
- the participation is high and it meets the needs of many of our students
- It is a lifetime sport



Boys' and Girls' Tennis

Strengths:

- the school tennis program encourages experience players as well as beginners
- athletes can play at various indoor and outdoor courts throughout the city all year long
- the Urban Tennis Summer program has developed a nice feeder program for our high school teams

Challenges:

- courts - all school courts need extensive repair, not just resurfacing and line repainting
- the Tennis courts need to be maintained to prevent safety risks
- number of courts at each school include - Central 6 (parks and Recs), Como Park 8, Harding 7, Highland Park 7, Humboldt 4, Johnson 0, Washington 7
- need for additional courts, especially Johnson and the schools that do not have at least 7
- could have more students participate



Dance

Current Reality:

- Highland is the only school offering a competitive MSHSL dance team
- Highland Park athletic department pays for the coach, content fees, MSHSL fee
- team is self funded, members pay a participation fee \$45.00, \$150 for accessories and share in the cost for costumes ranging from \$800-\$1000 per dance
- dance has two divisions - Jazz and Kick

Dance

Strengths:

- the Dance Team is in their 2nd year of competing as a MSHSL sponsored sport
- the Dance Team performed for many years as a MSHSL sport until the funded from the district ended
- the Dance Team was revived in the SY 2013-2014
- Highland Park participant numbers have continued to grow
- 7-12 grade students are encouraged to try out
- non-competitive dance season in the fall performs for football games and school functions

Challenges:

- cost fee
- coaches' salary
- transportation
- costumes and accessories



Football

Current Reality:

- in 2016 the MSHSL restructured football from a conference structure to a “district” structure
- our district, comprised of 28 schools including six SPPS and 22 other metro schools is subdivided into four sub districts
- this system allows teams to be paired with teams of similar size and competitive ability level.



Football

Strengths:

- St. Paul football has a long, strong tradition dating back to the late 1800's
- there are good facilities with several artificial turf fields
- students love to play a sport that receives enormous worldwide recognition
- the sport can accommodate a large number of athletes with a wide variety of experience and ability regardless of size or other physical attributes
- multiple feeder programs include area youth tackle programs and flag football at the St. Paul Middle Schools

Challenges:

- many football players start playing at a later age compared to suburban area - some due to lack of programming and some is due to the cost
- St. Paul recreation centers that formerly offered football no longer do
- football is expensive - costs include staffing, facilities and equipment along with rapidly improving protective gear
- concussion concerns may also be a factor in participation
- not all six SPPS schools play each other under this new "district" structure



Girls' Softball

Current Reality:

- the St. Paul Schools girls softball program has enjoyed stability with participation numbers remaining level for the past ten years with a slight decline from 2016 to 2017.
- all seven high schools offer softball and most field three teams: varsity, junior varsity and C squad.

Girls' Softball

Strengths:

- softball has been strong for many decades in St. Paul
- we have good facilities both in the high schools and within St. Paul Parks & Recreation
- softball is accessible to many athletes and offers an excellent opportunity for girls whether highly experienced and skilled or just learning for the first time
- this sport accommodates a large number of athletes adding to its appeal
- we have multiple feeder programs including middle school programs, St. Paul Parks & Rec. programs and some higher-level area programs

Challenges:

- many softball players start playing at a later age compared to suburban area - some due to lack or cost of programming and some is due to lack of a historical tradition amongst some immigrant and refugee populations and the dissolution of formerly popular area softball programs
- some St. Paul Recreation Centers that formerly offered softball no longer do
- softball requires a substantial budget - field maintenance and upkeep



Cross Country

Current Reality:

- The Conference maintained participation numbers over the past 10 yrs
- Fees have maintained at an affordable level with some increases in fees for outside meets
- Paul Johnson is the District Meet Manager, he manages 3 cross country meets and Twin Cities Meet
- there was a district relay meet and St. Conference Championship Meet
- Salary includes \$500 for the Twin Cities and Conference Meets and \$100 for the relate meet.

Cross Country

Strengths:

- upper team have had respectable finishers in the regional and state competition
- six runners from SPPS participated in the State competition, with 5 of them making the top 10

Challenges:

- girls numbers are limited due to having five MSHSL female sports in the fall
- finding venue to compete
- students' motivation to train in the off season, with or without a coach
- coaches having a presence in the buildings to help optimize participation



Gymnastics

Current reality:

- offered at four of our high schools
- four years ago we merged with the four Minneapolis schools
- with 8 schools, we have quad meets at two sites each week
- participation has been consistent
- we have four sites; St. Paul Central is unable to host because of the position of the floor as well as space issues

Vision:

- continue to keep the cost to the athlete reasonable
- gymnastics is a unique sport



Gymnastics

Strengths:

- participation levels continue to support gymnastics in St. Paul
- two of our gyms are running community education program year-around
- with our St. Paul/Minneapolis schedule, we have built in non-conference meets with Minneapolis schools
- outstanding coaches run our gymnastics programs in St. Paul

Challenges:

- equipment becoming outdated or in needed of being replaced
- passing increases costs on to the student athlete such as: athletic fees, uniforms, equipment cost, etc.
- finding coaches is difficult if the current ones leave or retire



Golf

Current reality:

- golf is offered at six of our high schools for boys and girls
- the three city golf courses (Highland National/Como/Phalen), Cedarholm and Thompson Oaks are used for practices and matches
- Varsity and Junior Varsity competitions are offered for both boys and girls
- participation has been good with many players experiencing golf first time
- equipment needs have been provided for players with limited access to clubs/bags etc.

Vision:

- continued cooperation with the city and other golf course on the cost per round and tee times for our matches
- keeping the cost affordable
- for many of our students this is their first introduction to the great sport of golf



Golf

Strengths:

- the city and other golf courses working with us to allow our players access to their courses and driving ranges
- the cost of our program allows many students to participate
- participation supports both a varsity and a junior varsity schedule
- outstanding coaches promote the sport of golf in Saint Paul

Challenges:

- if the participation with the city or other golf courses is not workable any more or costs go up
- increased costs will result in increased athletic fees
- losing a close place to practice and play matches will result in increased transportation costs

Boys' Hockey

Current reality:

- Johnson hockey has a varsity and Junior varsity team
- the 2016-17 season a cooperative agreement was formed with Como High School
- Johnson/Como does not belong to a conference. They play an independent schedule.

Vision:

- restore the program to the competitive level it had once been
- the program has been a cornerstone for JHS since the 1950's
- Continue to support our students in the classroom as well as support the players to continue their hockey career beyond high school.

Boys' Hockey

Strengths:

- our numbers declined three years ago and our coaches have done an outstanding job of keep eastside students at JHS
- our hockey community still has deep ties with the youth program. This also is playing a role in the restoration or our participation numbers
- the off season training with the youth and high school players has given us great exposure as a first class operation
- we have been consistently has a team GPA that is top of our section. In our building they have been either first or second among male teams

Challenges:

- keeping the participation numbers up and fielding a competitive team on a State level
- maintain current district funding for ice time. In the near future changes in the ice arenas will raise the cost of maintaining ice. This will put more expense on the hockey programs



Wrestling

Current Reality:

- SPPS wrestling programs at both the high school and middle school levels are holding steady - in terms of number of participants and number of teams
- all seven high schools have Varsity programs with varying degrees of JV wrestling programs; and 7 out of 12 middle schools have viable programs
- wrestling is a co-ed sport and a handful of programs have female wrestlers
- budget: the District pays for buses, officials, Athletic Trainer and coaches' salaries Each school is responsible for uniforms, equipment, first aid supplies, etc.

Vision:

- wrestling rooms, or some type of designated space for mats to be permanently established
- this would accommodate off-season training and introduce Youth Clubs/feeder programs to the school as a step towards future enrollment

Wrestling

Strengths:

- SPPS has a proud/long history in the sport
- wrestling is both an individual and team sport. As such, individual wrestlers from several high schools continue to advance to the State Individual Tournament each year held in the Saint Paul.
- sport suits our demographic
- relatively inexpensive sport to offer, once wrestling mats are acquired.
- strong partnership with Advantage Wrestling. This non-profit offers a FREE camp to all St. Paul kids each summer, hosted by a SPPS high school.

Challenges:

- lack of practice space designated solely to the sport
- finding qualified coaches; wrestling is a bit of a “niche” sport, with a smaller pool of potential coaches



Boys' and Girls' Soccer

Current Reality:

- SPPS soccer programs continue an upwards trend; in terms of number of participants and number of teams
- it is the biggest program in SPPS Athletics
- SPPS offers both Boys and Girls Soccer at the Middle and High School levels
- budget: the District pays for buses, officials and most* of the coach's salaries. *NOTE- Current contract only covers \$1500 of third coach's salary and \$0 for a fourth team. Each school is responsible for uniforms, equipment, first aid supplies, etc.

Vision:

- soccer continues to grow in popularity at all levels
- MN United brings increased excitement for the sport and the new stadium. Ideally, each high school would have a multi-purpose artificial turf field with lights, seating and sound system to accommodate competition and draw fans. This would include routine maintenance to prolong the life of a facility's use.



Boys' and Girls' Soccer

Strengths:

- SPPS teams routinely advance far into respective Sectional play-offs and has annual representatives on the All-State 1st and 2nd teams for both Boys and Girls
- last year, SPPS had a finalist for Mr. Soccer

Challenges:

- field space – does not meet current demand, even with staggered practice schedules
- partnerships with SPPR for joint use of facilities – does not meet current demand
- facilities – inequity among schools
- funding – participation would increase IF fields/money existed to support additional teams

Badminton

Current Reality:

- began in 1978 – extremely popular
- MSHSL Associate Director Lisa Lissimore (and SPPS Graduate) oversees the advisory committee. Once 32 teams exist, the MSHSL will take over the State Tournament.
- currently, there are 26 schools participating in Badminton
- St. Paul has dominated this sport since it began; taking 17 of 22 State titles; 16 of these by Johnson and Harding
- inexpensive
- uniforms and equipment costs are minimal, compared to other sports
- transportation and coach's salaries take up the bulk of the budget
- no officials, girls officiate their own matches (similar to tennis)

Vision:

- add an Assistant coach at the Varsity level- the numbers support the addition; badminton has the highest player-to-coach ratio.
- continue to expand statewide, SPPS coaches are great ambassadors for this sport
- add boys' badminton, gym space can accommodate as basketball does



Badminton

Strengths:

- participation numbers exceed football programs, yet at a fraction of the cost
- although a Varsity and JV match consists of 10 players each squad (4 singles and 3 doubles apiece) it is not unheard of for teams to have 50-70 players on a team.
- the additional girls play “exhibition” matches following the Varsity and JV competition
- since 2001, a girls’ badminton “feeder” program exists at the Middle School level; currently 12 SPPS middle schools have a badminton team.

Challenges:

- has yet to catch on statewide
- MSHSL sponsors a State tournament each May, but does not yet run the tournament due to low number of teams



Questions



Thank You and Have a Good Night!

