

HBBC Board Meeting
Brookline Safety Complex
Sunday September 17th

Attendees:

- Board: Dave Leclerc, Ashley Seiger-Jones, Ryan Kelley, James Morrissey, Jamie Curran, Beau Beck (for Bethany Beck)
- Community: Eric Bell, Steven Stark, Alicia Costa, Matt Petrella, Paul Oetjens, Ben Mercuri

Not in Attendance:

- Board: Jon Pierce

Summary of Decisions and Action Items:

Travel:

- **Board Decision:** Board voted unanimously to assign Eric Bell as Travel Director
- **Board Decision:** we will combine 5/6 try-outs for both boys and girls
 - **Board Action Item:** Dave will update the open gym schedule to combine 5th and 6th grade tryouts
 - **Board Decision:** we will open up the discussion for having try-outs earlier in the fall at our Spring 2024 Board meeting.
- **Board Decision:** we will have an A/B/C team and we will tell parents that we are going to take this approach instead of having grade-based teams due to (number of players, hoping to have more teams; be more in-line with other towns)

Instructional:

- **Board Decision:** We will shorten the K and 1st grade programs to 45 minutes skills and drills, 15 minutes open gym. The 2nd grade program will be a little longer to allow instructional scrimmaging. We will utilize all 6 slots between RMMS and HUES (8 am – 12 pm)
- **Board Action Item:** Ashley to review coach materials and send to Ryan for review; discuss with Bethany requesting high school volunteers for Inst. program
- **Board Action Item:** Ashley to draft email to parents about drop off at gyms during practice time; send to Dave for review

Other:

- **Board Action Item:** Dave will look into SportsEngine and what they offer for background checks
- **Board Action Item:** Ryan will pick a date/time for the coaching clinic
- **Board Action Item:** Finalize registration page and add shorts as an option to purchase shorts

9/17/2023 Agenda:

- **Travel Director position**
 - Eric Bell – nominee for Travel Director
 - Dave spoke with Eric about program, expectations, etc.
 - **Board Decision:** Board voted unanimously to assign Eric Bell as Travel Director

- **Travel Formation**

- 5th and 6th grade travel had tough 2022-23 season; varying skill levels
- Suggestion/request is to combine grands and have two or three teams of both 5th and 6th graders
- HBBC 2022-23 5th grade was the only team in the league that didn't have 6th graders so there was a huge gap in skill level
- HBBC 6th grade team played against only 6th grade teams, there were no 5th graders
 - "A" team in other towns are typically only 6th graders where B team is likely 5/6th grade combination
- Concern with combining – "A" team could be heavy on the 5th side.
 - There would likely be half/half 5th/6th graders
- 2022 – 2023 Data points:
 - 3rd -4th grade: 10 boys total; 22-ish tried out and there were cuts
 - 5th grade: 10 boys on roster; all 5th one quit
 - 6th grade: 9 boys total; 8 were 6th graders
- We want to build players for the next team, for the next step up.
- What are we hoping for with the A/B teams – developing or winning?
- Practices were difficult because of the varying skill levels
- Are kids travel ready? Maybe it would have been better to have a bigger roster?
- Feeling across both 5th and 6th is that many of the kids were not travel ready when compared to opponents and previous seasons within HBBC
- Could this same issue apply to the girls side of things? Is there a benefit to having 5th grade cuts and pull in 6th grade?
- Because we've been grade based, we've had a balance however the town numbers are too small to guarantee Travel-competitive talent across two teams. We need to make decisions that are sustainable and can be made across the travel program.
- There are a lot of variables in play such as players, parents, skill levels...
- It seems like the other districts are doing A and B teams
- Dave: reviewed Travel Team Formation Guidelines for MSBL
 - HBBC defaulted to grade based and when that didn't work, we would change the default
 - MSBL allows an A/B team, 100%
 - We will never cut an HB for a player who wants to join from out of town
 - We will not and do not want to break up buckets of grades
 - Why did we decide to be grade based?
 - If we go A/B, and a 5th grader is on the A team, they're still a year and a size behind.
 - Coaches and facilities were also other reasons why we made this decision. Generally, parents of strong players typically coach so who is going to coach B team. We also may not have a second team.

- What are we trying to accomplish? Are we trying to solve a problem? Are we trying to match what other towns are doing?
 - Development, building teams, cohesion, making kids ready to move up to middle/high school
- MSBL has changed since 2016; we can consider changes
- Why do we have to do things consistent every year? Could we work with what we have?
- There are things out of our control, the number of teams in the league, etc. we could (HBBC) push for there to be two leagues.
- Is there a limit to the number of teams the town can submit?
 - No.
 - The limit is the coaches and facilities.
- Could be difficult to do different things across boys vs. girls.
 - We tried to pick coaches prior to try-outs but when players were moved across teams, again, we struggled with finding coaches.
 - A/B teams, 5th and 6th grade tryouts, with enough potential coaches to have a coach for each team
- Could we do travel assessments further in advance than what they have been typically scheduled?
- **Board Decision:** we will combine 5/6 try-outs for both boys and girls
 - Opening up 4th grade to play up?
 - Nope.
- **Board Action Item:** Dave will update the open gym schedule to combine
- **Board Decision:** we will have an A/B/C team and we will tell parents that we are going to take this approach instead of having grade based teams due to (number of players, hoping to have more teams; be more in-line with other towns)
- **Board Decision:** we will open up the discussion for having try-outs earlier in the fall at our Spring 2024 Board meeting.
- **Instructional Program (Ashley)**
 - Recap of 2022-23 Coach and Parent feedback
 - Proposal of 2023-24 changes
 - **Board Decision:** We will shorten the K and 1st grade programs to 45 minutes skills and drills, 15 minutes open gym. The 2nd grade program will be a little longer to allow instructional scrimmaging. We will utilize all 6 slots between RMMS and HUES (8 am – 12 pm)
 - **Board Action Item:** Ashley to review coach materials; discuss with Bethany requesting high school volunteers for Inst.
 - **Board Action Item:** Ashley to draft email to parents about drop off at gyms during practice time; send to Dave
- **Coach recruiting**
 - Prospective coaches document in Google Drive – available for those with access to edit/modify
- **Background check plan**

- Dave will look into SportsEngine and what they offer for background checks
- Are we comfortable with what we did last year? Yes, Jamie covered this and it was fairly easy.
- For this year we need to make sure we get the names over to Jamie soon since the coach meeting is not long before the season starts and we need the background checks to be completed
- Inputs for MSBL town meeting
- Book Travel Coaches Meeting (10/9 @ Brookline Fire Station) – in process
- Book Rec & Instructional Coaches Meeting (10/29 @ Brookline Fire Station) – in process
- **Coach Clinic scheduling**
 - **Board Action Item:** Ryan will pick a date/time
 - Dave suggests week 6 after the Rec and Inst coach meeting
- Communicate uniform dates to Local Pro Sports
- **Open Gym coverage**
 - Gym coverage section needs to be updated
 - **Board Action Item:** Jamie will update the gym coverage and recruit possible coaches to be in attendance
 - Action Item: first three weeks filled out with gym coverage
- SVBL contact
- **Confirm Mens League use of CSDA**
 - Insurance included this
- **Financials (Bo)**
 - Renewal of Insurance by 10/16/2023
 - Renewed and binders sent to facilities.
 - Action Item: Bo to put those on the drive.
 - Reviewed 2022-23 expenses
 - Back to back games is more financially viable; refs covering two games
 - League Athletics shutting down in September; moving to SportsEngine
 - \$2 per registration fee; increased cost for HBBC for 23-24
- Other?
 - Flyer went out
 - All gyms are booked for the season
 - New website review
 - Still in draft mode; reviewed
 - Registration – ready to go pending financial and active URL
 - All prior registration information will not be available on the new but it has been downloaded and is on the League Athletics transition in Drive
 - Board Action Item: Eric will look into how Cavs use the website and how we can incorporate a question about if they need a uniform (and how that re-calculates the cost)
 - **Board Action Item:** finalize registration page and add shorts as an option to purchase shorts