

**MILLERSBURG-UPPER DAUPHIN AREA
SPORTS COOPERATIVE PROPOSAL**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
July 23, 2018**

Source	Question	Explanation
6/28 Joint Board Workshop	When will the enrollment numbers bottom out?	It is unknown when the enrollment numbers in both districts may bottom out. However, according to the December 2016 Pennsylvania Department of Education's enrollment data, Upper Dauphin's total enrollment is projected at 1,050 students and Millersburg's total enrollment is projected at 650 students in the year 2025-2026; a steady decline in student enrollment.
6/28 Joint Board Workshop	What is the deadline for submitting the initial round of cooperative agreements to the PIAA?	While there is no firm deadline, administration is anticipating a PIAA District III meeting in November which becomes the target date for submission of the required paperwork for the cooperative agreements identified in Phase I.
6/28 Joint Board Workshop	How will the program be communicated to everyone?	Both districts posted information on their respective websites on July 2 as well as posts to social media (Twitter and Facebook). The administration plans to post additional FAQs information in a timely manner after each scheduled constituent meeting.
6/28 Joint Board Workshop	Will students from Halifax and Line Mountain be able to continue to participate in the sports that are currently co-oped, respectively?	Yes. The PIAA has an established "grandfather clause" for cooperative sports agreements. Accordingly, this clause applies to students in grades 9 through 11 who are currently participating in the cooperative sports program as of the date the existing agreements are dissolved. These students are able to continue their participation until they exhaust their eligibility, graduate from high school, or until such time their home district enters into a cooperative agreement with another district.

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6/28 Joint Board Workshop	If both schools go by their own rules, student-athletes on the same team would be operating under different standards. Would it be possible to explore developing common policies for eligibility, attendance, drugs and alcohol, etc. related to extracurricular activities?	Yes, at the direction of the Boards of Education.
6/28 Joint Board Workshop	Will salaries for coaches be set established by each district?	Yes. The current structure for coaches supplemental contracts will be utilized, respectively, in each district.
6/28 Joint Board Workshop	Since there is a gap in dismissal times, will there be time that the student-athletes have free after school and before practice starts.	Upper Dauphin Area dismisses first. The plan is to have the 'shuttle' bus leave Upper Dauphin Area, drop those students at Millersburg Area and then bring Millersburg's students to Upper Dauphin Area. This may create a gap of time for some teams. The Athletic Administrators for both schools will work with coaches to establish guidelines for these gaps in time.
6/28 Joint Board Workshop	Will transportation only occur after school? Will parents need to pick their child up from practice at the host school or the school of enrollment?	The 'shuttle' bus will transport students TO practice. Parents will be responsible for picking up their child at the HOST school. Students who drive will be able to drive to and from the host school similar to the existing cooperative agreements.
6/28 Joint Board Workshop	It appears that costs will increase when implementing each phase due to uniforms, equipment, etc. Will we know by October how much the costs will be for implementing each phase?	The administration will provide an estimated cost analysis of each implementation phase to the Boards of Education in September 2018.
6/28 Joint Board Workshop	How will this affect PIAA classifications for each sport?	There will be no change in classifications for Phase One. The classifications for other phases will be provided as estimates due to the anticipated decline in enrollments.
6/28 Joint Board Workshop	How will coaches be decided upon?	As part of the implementation plan, common criteria will be established to hire coaches (head and assistant) if current coaching staffs exist in both districts. If a coaching staff exists in one district, it is anticipated those coaches will be retained for the sport(s).

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6/28 Joint Board Workshop	Will Athletic Director positions at both schools be combined into a single Athletic Director?	Currently, both district Athletic Directors have multiple responsibilities affiliated with their respective positions/job duties in conjunction with their athletic director assignments. It is not anticipated that the Athletic Director positions would be combined.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	What would be the result for the track athletes if Halifax or Line Mountain were to enter into a different cooperative agreement for track?	By PIAA rules, the student-athletes would become part of that new cooperative and would no longer be eligible to participate on the MBG-UDA cooperative team.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	Is it possible to add more Junior High sports such as volleyball, soccer, etc. as part of this program?	Our first priority would be to put the agreements in place for varsity sports. Junior High sports would be taken into consideration after varsity sports are solidified.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	What would be the solution if the cooperative agreement results in 'too many' student-athletes on a particular team?	Our priority would be to solidify varsity and junior varsity programs. During the planning of each phase, opportunities for formulating additional competition levels will be evaluated.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	Could the roadmap be adjusted based on the needs of the schools?	Yes, at the direction of the Boards of Education.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	How can the districts ensure that enough JV games are scheduled given that the league will have fewer members?	We will continue to look outside of the league for opportunities as part of the overall detailed planning of the Sports Cooperative.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	Will youth sports programs still be allowed to use stadiums and other athletic facilities?	We anticipate no change in current practice. Both districts will continue to work with their respective youth organizations to assist with facility needs.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	Since football is not scheduled until 2020 and competitive cheer is scheduled earlier, would Millersburg have to go without cheerleading at its football games in 2019?	Cheerleading will continue in its current form in 2018-2019.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	Could Northern Dauphin Christian School be included in the cooperative program?	Northern Dauphin Christian School has formed a cooperative sports agreement with the Halifax Area School District beginning in 2018-19.

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7/17 Coaches Meeting	Would the schools consider providing transportation back to the school in which the person is enrolled after practice to reduce the impact on parents?	Several logistical issues have been identified related to this request. Consideration of this request is at the discretion of the Boards of Education.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	Has Millersburg considered adjusting its school day to accommodate the early start times for spring sports?	Millersburg has not considered adjusting its current school day schedule.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	It has been stated that freshmen teams could be added. Where would the freshmen teams be found to compete against?	Athletic Directors would investigate these opportunities within the league and surrounding areas.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	How were the host schools for each sport selected?	Several factors were considered including, but not limited to, existing facilities, athletic seasons and distribution of workload of athletic administrators for each season.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	Would it be possible to establish a single mascot and colors?	This has not been discussed. The participants would wear the host school's uniform, as is the current practice.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	Which Upper Dauphin Area sports are suffering at the junior varsity level?	Participation levels tend to be cyclical. Upper Dauphin Area has experienced challenges in several sports over the past five to ten years.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	If the numbers warrant, would you consider separating sports that have been cooperated?	Due to declining enrollments, we do not anticipate separation of sports once they are cooperated.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	How would homecoming and senior night be handled?	Further discussions will be held with marching band personnel in the future to address these questions.
7/17 Coaches Meeting	The football boosters and music association/boosters currently share the concession stand at football games. How would this occur in the future?	
7/17 Coaches Meeting	Is it possible not to combine marching band programs and allow each school to perform at five games each?	
7/17 Coaches Meeting	What impact would adding sports have on marching band participation?	

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7/17 Coaches Meeting	Will students who participate on the football team still be allowed to be members of the marching band?	