

To USD 289 BOE Members:

After much consideration and thought, I propose we add an additional baseball and softball coach if our numbers warrant additional supervision and coaching this spring. We've had tremendous success in both programs, and have many students wanting to participate in baseball and softball. Last season, our baseball team cut 6 players down to 28. It's difficult for both coaches and players. I believe we can find additional junior varsity games to accommodate a larger roster. Also, with the WJRC adding an additional field, we now have more practice space to accommodate more players. After Coach Rose's preseason meeting, it is unlikely we'll need to hire an additional softball coach this season.

I propose if we have more than 28 players on each team, we can bring a recommendation for a 3rd coach to the February board meeting. Half of the teams in the Pioneer League employ a third coach. In addition, I believe there is a competitive disadvantage for our non-league games with us having a player coach first base versus Piper, Louisburg, and Baldwin, teams which employ three coaches. This can put both the coach and athlete in a difficult situation.

I am extremely pleased with the work ethic, both in-season and out-of-season of our baseball and softball coaches and players. This proposal will not only do what's best for our students, but help our coaches who work extremely hard for their success. The cost of this proposal would be \$3280.55 per coach. This supports our athletics department mission of getting more students involved, and I believe our BOE vision of financial responsibility won't be compromised as we are doing what's best for more students. I'd be happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Thanks for your consideration.

Brad Burkdoll