

06-10-2025 Meeting Summary: Athletics Program Management, Team Recruitment, and Facility Planning

Date & Time: 06-10-2025

Location: St. Veronica Parish Ministry Center

Overview

This document consolidates and organizes meeting notes from multiple sessions related to athletics and booster activities at St. Veronica, as of June 10, 2025. It covers topics including team composition, player recruitment and retention, league structure, registration and scheduling, coaching and player development, communication strategies, financial and facility management, and leadership transitions. The notes reflect ongoing efforts to balance competitiveness and inclusivity, manage logistics for multiple sports, enhance community engagement, and ensure smooth administrative operations. All action items from the meetings have been grouped and standardized at the end for clarity and follow-up.

Topics

- Opening and General Announcements
- Coed Athletics
- Girls Volleyball
- Uniforms and Equipment
- Facilities and Clean-Up
- Team Composition and Player Retention
- Recruitment and Team Formation Strategies
- League Structure and Leveling
- Registration, Booster Fees, and Scheduling
- Festival Sign-Up and Volunteer Coordination
- Coaching, Practice, and Player Development
- Communication, Website, and Social Media Management
- Financials and Facilities
- Booster Roles, Handover, and Apparel
- Evolution of Communication and Roles
- Administrative and Operational Updates

- Festival and Community Engagement
 - Facilities and Locker Room Project
-

Opening and General Announcements

- The meeting began with a prayer, focusing on the betterment of the parish, school, kids, and athletic programs, and asking for guidance during position transitions.
 - The agenda was set to address business items first, with position discussions scheduled for the end.
-

Coed Athletics

1. Golf
 - Current registration stands at approximately 21 students, with St. Louis potentially bringing the total to 22.
 - Last year's participation was between 20 and 25.
 - The team is weighted towards 8th and 5th graders, with a few 6th and 7th graders, which is seen as positive for long-term team prospects.
 - Registration remains open until June 15, 2025 (previously thought to close on the 1st).
 - Efforts are ongoing to recruit more 6th and 7th graders.
 - Coaches are in place, with regular communication and scheduling of matches underway.
 - Tee times for golf are being coordinated, with a push to schedule more, including midweek slots.
 - Assistant coaches are expected to return, and there is openness to involving more parents, especially from the 5th grade.
 - Cross Country
 - 21 students are currently registered.
 - The majority (about 16) are 8th graders, with only four 7th graders, raising concerns about future team sustainability.
 - The team is intended for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders; 5th graders are not the target group.
 - A marketing campaign is suggested to attract more 6th graders.
-

Girls Volleyball

1. Volleyball Program Status and Team Formation

- The league decided to maintain a competitive structure, with a caveat from the diocese requiring minimum playing time for 5th grade.
 - This is a compromise to balance competitiveness with inclusivity, as other competitive divisions do not have playing time requirements except for balanced teams.
 - Team Registration and Coaching by Grade
 - 4th Grade
 - 18 girls registered; originally aimed for three teams of six, but settled on two teams of nine.
 - One player is considering withdrawing due to a wrist injury.
 - Need to confirm and collect the coach's contact information for communication about playing time.
 - 5th Grade
 - 14 girls registered.
 - Angie will coach the A-team; the B-team coach position is unclear.
 - Team splits have been communicated to families.
 - 6th Grade
 - 11 girls registered, not enough for two teams; no tryouts held.
 - One player attends St. Bernadette.
 - Outreach to St. Thomas More, St. Bernadette, Elizabeth Ann Seton, and St. Louis for additional players has not yielded results.
 - Discussion about recruiting REP (Religious Education Program) students, though this is rare for volleyball.
 - Consideration of combining 6th-grade B-team players with 7th-grade players to form a viable team, with concerns about appropriate competitive placement.
 - 7th Grade
 - 15 girls registered and attended tryouts.
 - The A-team consists of eight players.
 - No major issues reported; coaching assignments are being finalized.
 - 8th Grade
 - 15 girls registered; A-team selection was clear based on evaluations.
 - Derrick Rahe will coach the A-team; Carrie Hill coached the B-team last year and is expected to continue.
-

Uniforms and Equipment

- There is interest in upgrading golf uniforms, particularly providing visors for girls.
- Last year, players could choose between hats and visors, and there were separate shirt cuts for boys and girls.

- This year, the plan is to simplify and not offer the girls' cut shirt due to design issues.
 - Old basketball shorts are to be sold or donated.
-

Facilities and Clean-Up

- A summer clean-out of the serverly and locker room is proposed, with acknowledgment of the current mess and the need to schedule a clean-up.
 - Coordination with Mark is needed for scheduling.
-

Team Composition and Player Retention

- The group discussed strategies for maintaining team numbers and ensuring player satisfaction, particularly regarding the option to combine teams.
 - There is concern that if only one team of ten is formed, some players may quit and join competitive teams at West Clermont.
 - The group acknowledged that keeping all players is challenging due to varying skill levels.
 - Challenges with Team Levels and Player Experience
 - A teams have previously played at the rec level through West Claremont and found it unchallenging.
 - Returning to a lower, non-competitive level is not appealing for these players.
 - Significant skill gaps among players make it difficult to ensure fair playing time and satisfaction for all.
 - The group agreed that while minimum playing time is required, it is hard to balance competitiveness and fairness.
 - Player Development and Competitive Balance
 - It was discussed that most skill development occurs during club volleyball season, and the school league is more for fun and showcasing skills.
 - Competitive players can still excel and potentially help less experienced teammates improve.
 - The group recognized the recurring issue of talented players being drawn to more competitive environments each year.
 - The example of previous student athletes was mentioned, highlighting concerns about players developing bad habits or missing out on appropriate competition, but also the desire to keep them playing with their school.
-

Recruitment and Team Formation Strategies

- The group emphasized the importance of proactive recruitment to maintain viable teams.
 - "Always Be Recruiting" (ABR) was mentioned as a guiding principle, suggesting ongoing outreach at rec leagues and other venues.
 - The process for joining the A team requires participation in tryouts; missing tryouts disqualifies a player from the A team.
 - The "family of faith" approach was referenced as a way to attract players from REP and other networks, with the dual goal of team building and community outreach.
 - Next Steps and Planning
 - The group agreed on the need to reach out to REP to gauge interest in joining and potentially splitting teams, as this is considered the ideal solution.
 - Before meeting with parents, the group wants to explore all recruitment options to present clear choices.
 - A meeting with all parents will be scheduled after initial outreach to potential new players.
-

League Structure and Leveling

1. Team Rankings and Level Placement
 - The group considered whether teams would move up or stay at their current level based on performance, referencing a standard: "If you win more than 80% of your games, at least in basketball, the school, the parish, expects you to bump up a level."
-

Registration, Booster Fees, and Scheduling

1. Registration and Booster Fees
 - There is a list of unpaid booster fees; approximately "eight people" need to be contacted.
 - The process for following up on unpaid fees includes sending emails and invoices.
 - The booster fee cycle now starts over each fall, no longer on a calendar year basis.
- Scheduling and Availability
 - No school conflicts have been identified yet for scheduling.
 - Efforts are underway to finalize schedule availability over the next month.

- Coaches' meeting and practice schedules are being coordinated, with outreach to Nick and other coaches for input.
-

Festival Sign-Up and Volunteer Coordination

- The group is responsible for festival parking coverage on Saturday, with shifts typically split into early and late.
 - Festival sign-up covers from 3:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
 - Shift hours are usually four hours each, and the group will coordinate internally to cover all shifts.
 - The athletic boosters enjoy this responsibility, describing it as "the fun part of this job."
-

Coaching, Practice, and Player Development

1. Coaching Assignments and Practice Structure
 - The need for a coaches' meeting and ensuring good coaches for uniform distribution was highlighted.
 - Joint practices were cited as beneficial for player development, with evidence that "kids are just there when you're playing next to somebody who's maybe a little bit better skill set wise."
 - The group discussed the positive impact of joint practices and the potential for summer volleyball camps for both boys and girls to aid recruitment and skill development.
 - Player Experience and Team Dynamics
 - There was feedback from parents regarding team separation and coaching quality, particularly for B teams.
 - Concerns were raised about the fairness of team assignments and the impact on player morale.
 - The group acknowledged the challenge of balancing team composition, especially when numbers are low for certain grades or teams.
-

Communication, Website, and Social Media Management

- There was discussion about receiving and forwarding league emails, including voting issues.
- The need to update the school website and manage Facebook groups for communication was identified.
- Access to various communication platforms (e.g., website logins, Facebook groups) is being transferred to new secretaries.

- Suggestions were made to compile a list of all relevant Facebook groups to streamline communication.
-

Financials and Facilities

- The gym inspection was completed, and payment needs to be confirmed.
 - The festival requires access to facilities, and coordination with the finance committee is ongoing.
 - There is an ongoing effort to consolidate banking.
 - The group is reviewing financials to ensure all sports are self-sustaining and that booster fees cover facility upgrades.
 - Suggestions for facility upgrades were solicited.
-

Booster Roles, Handover, and Apparel

- Bryan is taking over as secretary, with the handover of logins and responsibilities from Sarah Norton.
 - There is a need to update and manage access to the school website and other communication tools.
 - New booster members are encouraged to bring their own style and ideas to their roles.
-

Evolution of Communication and Roles

1. Newsletter and Contact Updates
 - Initially, communication was managed through a newsletter.
 - The format shifted to a contact update, requiring the team to ensure all new arrivals at St. Veronica were included in the contact list.
 - The school became hesitant to continue this approach, leading to further changes.
 - Role Assignments and Transitions
 - There is an ongoing effort to find a replacement for the current president, with a preference for a female candidate.
 - The president's role is described as not labor-intensive but can be stressful, mainly involving oversight and conflict resolution.
 - The outgoing president offered to provide all files and support to the successor, emphasizing a smooth transition.
-

Administrative and Operational Updates

1. Scholarships
 - Scholarships have been awarded.
 - Vendor and Sports Equipment
 - A new vendor is being considered for sports supplies.
 - Outreach has been made to St. Gertrude to identify their supplier, aiming to fulfill the requirement of three quotes.
 - There is an intention to initiate a gym inspection and replace all padding, referencing a previously distributed report.
 - Team Organization
 - SVTM will have two teams: a banded team and another, but there are not enough reserve players, so those students will join IHM.
 - Kindergarten through second grade will have their own group for the remainder of the year.
 - There is a call for interest in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.
-

Festival and Community Engagement

- The festival is highlighted as a valuable opportunity for community engagement, with positive experiences shared, such as meeting new people and connecting.
-

Facilities and Locker Room Project

- Discussion centered on improving the locker room by building new shelving and a platform along the back wall where the tarp is currently located.
 - The proposed structure would be approximately 8 to 10 feet wide and 20 feet long, featuring aluminum fencing, a gate, and a ladder for storage access.
 - The goal is to maximize vertical space, address wasted space, and improve safety, possibly by blocking the ladder.
 - Suggestions included using freestanding posts and possibly suspending the structure, but concerns were raised about building codes and maintenance preferences.
 - The basement is described as moldy and undesirable for storage, motivating the push to relocate items.
 - Collaboration is encouraged, with offers to sketch designs and coordinate with the school for approval and consultation.
-