



Board of Directors Special Meeting

January 14th, 2021, at 6:00 pm

via Zoom

Board of Directors in Attendance: Greg Drew (GD), Curt Taylor (CT), Dick Pecor (DP), Dirk Reith (DR)

Staff in Attendance: Kevin Christopher (KC), Michael Wright (MW)

Public in Attendance: Marcel Choquette, Milton Town School District Athletic Director (MC)

1. Call to Order by DP at 6:18 PM.

2. Public / Board Member / Staff Comment

No comments

3. New Business

a. Discussion of Field Coverage & COVID-19 Protocols

Milton's Athletic Director Marcel Choquette (MC) spoke to the Board about coverage of sports by LCATV when/if public school sport competitions begin again. Streaming sporting events has been very popular.

There are currently no games or scrimmages being played. Schools are in a *skills and drills* phase in that participants are six feet from each other and have to wear masks. Schedules are in place for the upcoming season but scrimmages and games have not been approved by the Governor. However, MC would like to know LCATV's intentions, should games be approved, in order that he and other athletic directors can plan their events.

DP asked for a description of the gym environment. MC responded that no spectators are allowed. Players are spaced out into the bleachers. LCATV would be on the top bleachers where the wifi and electric power are. A fenced off area can be designated for the field producer. Every coach, referee and student must pass a health screening before being admitted into the gym. Everyone, players and observers, must be masked. Field producers would get a temperature check and health screen, the same as everyone else. Athletic directors are trying to minimize the number of people in the gym. They are only allowing official media in, rather than parents with camera's or outside papers. The buildings conform to state guidance regarding space and occupancy.

GD stated, and KC confirmed that we would not require a field producer to cover an event if they were uncomfortable about do so. LCATV did an informal survey of their field producers and there are those who will not go out, but there are three that are *raring to go*.

The agency of education and the Vermont Principal's Association have provided consistent guidelines to all schools regarding sports. This coverage would be only for home games in Milton, Colchester, and the Leddy Park Arena.

DP expressed concern that LCATV might *over promise and under deliver*. However, what is unique about this year's schedule is that it is set in stone, in that if a game is cancelled for some reason, it is not immediately rescheduled for different day with the expectation that LCATV will cover it. Instead, if another game cannot be quickly scheduled for the same time slot, the slot will not be used. There will only be games on the specific days of the predetermined schedule. The wild card is the season start date, which is dependent upon guidance from the state.

MC and KC stated that the coverage would be for both junior varsity and varsity games as they are played consecutively in the same gym.

The Board felt that if the field producers wanted to cover the event then they should be able to do so. If at any time they feel uncomfortable, they can leave or "push record and sit in their car" until the event is over. It will be up to them. Last fall Milton did a walk-through prior to the game so the venue could be reviewed by LCATV prior to the games. MC added that he attends all such events and will be available during the event if there are questions.

KC stated that LCATV has preparation work that needs to be done before coverage begins. MC confirmed that people want to be able to see their children compete, so if LCATV were not going to cover the events he would have to come up with alternatives.

Before he left the meeting MC reiterated that parents have responded very positively to LCATV's streaming of sporting events. Milton would like to continue doing so and may want to talk LCATV about continuing to stream sports even if the pandemic has subsided and audiences are back for events.

KC felt reassured by the description of what precautions are to be taken. The consensus of the Board was that we should cover sports if a field producer is willing and if the guidance from the State is that they should begin.

DP asked if there are technological constraints on how many games we can stream at one time. KC stated that we will soon have the ability stream six simultaneous streams. Our first commitment is for hockey games at the Leddy arena.

KC concluded by mentioning that if the streaming of sporting events were to continue in the fall we will have to discuss the cost to LCATV and ways of cost sharing with the districts.

4. Executive Session

Not needed

5. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:57 PM by DR, 2nd by GD, passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted on February 8th, 2021 (DRAFT) by Curt Taylor – Secretary
Draft approved February 8th 2021 meeting