



## ***North Monterey County Unified School District***

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**May 23, 2023**

### **Response to KION NEWS Report: North Monterey County High School Athletic Program to possibly scale back**

#### **Is the sports athletic program being scaled back in the local district's high school?**

- No, the sports athletic program is not and is not planning to be scaled back. The school is allocating the budget to support the athletic program at the same level as before. Additionally, the school is moving forward with summer conditioning with the same approach followed in previous years.

#### **What measures are in place to address the concerns of parents regarding the current state and future of the athletic department?**

- The athletic program is well-supported by a highly qualified certificated athletic director and a site assistant principal who oversees athletics and activities. They are responsible for hiring coaches, assistant coaches, and the athletic trainer, all of whom work together to develop and implement the athletic program. The school provides transportation, uniforms, and equipment for all league athletic teams. Moreover, there are various avenues for student engagement, including clubs and intramural activities facilitated by a Student Engagement Specialist and an Activities Director. The school also offers an after-school program called "The Nest," which provides tutoring, homework help, and a healthy snack and a supper, ensuring a safe and productive environment for athletes on campus.

#### **What is the response to parents' concerns about the lack of support for the athletics program?**

- The school values the input of parents, such as Mrs. Ruiz, and appreciates their recommendations to improve and sustain the athletic program. The administration looks forward to working with Mrs. Ruiz and other parents to establish a parent athletic "Booster/Club." This collaborative effort aims to maximize the collective

contributions of the school staff, coaches, parents, and community partners in order to sustain and enhance the athletic program.

**Is it true that the athletic director position will not be replaced due to a revolving door of principals and athletic directors?**

- No, that statement is inaccurate. The school has internally posted the athletic director position for certificated staff. The selection process will involve a stakeholder panel comprising students, staff, coaches, and other stakeholders. The current athletic director has chosen to accept an assistant principal position at an elementary school within the district for next school year, ensuring continuity in their role within the district and he is set to work with the new Athletic Director to support in the transition and readiness for next school year.

**Has there been a challenge in recruiting and retaining staff for the athletic program?**

Recruiting and maintaining staff, especially in Monterey County, has been challenging. However, the high school has been fortunate to have had stable leadership in recent years, including Dr. Chandalee Wood, who served as the principal for five years. Dr. Wood continues to support the high school secondary school programs in her new role. She actively collaborates with the athletic program, coordinating efforts and involving other administrators in the district as volunteers to support and supervise athletic events.

**How is the school addressing the concerns of parents regarding the unkempt athletic facilities?**

The district has benefited from the community investment in the new athletic field and stadium at the high school campus, which is frequently utilized and serves as a source of pride for the high school. These facilities are also shared with other groups, including Bulldogs football, North County Parks and Recreation, and the elementary and middle schools. Over the past years, the school has undertaken important updates to improve the athletic facilities, including the high school itself and its related areas. However, acknowledging the challenges faced during the pandemic and the need to address the school facilities, the Board has an outside agency, School Services, Inc., working to review the Facilities and Maintenance Department (FMOT) to meet the many needs in upgrading/upkeeping all of our facilities and grounds. This includes actively exploring improvements, training, and staffing to ensure cleaned, sanitized classrooms/work and learning spaces and well-maintained grounds based on the recommendations provided by the report.

**How does the school plan to address the outdated and disrepair issues in the weight room?**

The current weight room space is insufficient to accommodate the number of students who wish to use it. The disrepair issue stems from a previous renovation that an individual staff member made many, many years ago with the removal of a wall, over the years this has led to a designated area being compromised and is now fenced off due to safety concerns. Structural engineering approval from the state architect is required before that designated area of the weight room can be made usable again. However, there is a significant portion of the weight room that is functional and still used daily with weight equipment. Once the designated area structural repairs are completed this summer, the full space will be usable, However, the weight room's capacity will still be inadequate for the number of students who would like to use/train in the current weight room space. The school proposes a facilities concept plan that includes a Fitness Center building that would include an upgraded weight and spinbike room, and additional rooms to better serve the students. The district is open to discussing the proposed facility improvement plans, welcoming public input, and seeking funding support from community partners to help support these facility improvements.

**Why are the Pep Squad and Sideline Cheer Clubs currently seeking a Certified Advisor for the upcoming school year?**

The Pep Squad and Sideline Cheer Clubs are required to have a Certified Advisor in order to complete the approval process through the ASB Club Charter and Constitution. The school is actively seeking a qualified individual to fulfill this role for the upcoming school year, ensuring compliance with the necessary requirements for the clubs' operation. Please click the letter that was sent out to parents and additional information regarding the [ASB 2023-24 Charter Clubs: Pep Squad Sideline Cheer Clubs](#).