Boston Public Schools
Athletics Department

Presentation to School Committee
July 16, 2014
Summary

- The BPS Athletics Department is responsible for organizing and administering athletic programs for students in middle and high schools as well as sports for the Special Olympics.

- The Athletics Department issued a strategic plan that outlines its major efforts over the next few years, including expanding access to athletic opportunities, ensuring high-quality coaching and support, and offering safe and high-quality facilities and equipment.

- We will be implementing a process soon to identify opportunities for new sports teams while ensuring equity in resources and compliance with legal requirements (particularly Title IX).

- We are looking to increase the inclusivity of existing programming to offer increased opportunities for students with disabilities.

- Our partnerships are key to expanding access to athletics and providing support to student athletes.
Introduction to BPS Athletics

- **Mission:**

To provide the opportunity for all BPS students in grades 6-12 to participate in well-organized sports and athletic programs that support positive youth development, including social, emotional, physical, and academic growth.

- **Key responsibilities:**
  - Train and support coaches
  - Coordinate logistics for events (transportation, schedule, etc.)
  - Purchase and maintain uniforms and equipment
  - Lead BPS participation in Special Olympics
  - Ensure Title IX compliance
Introduction to BPS Athletics

The Athletics Department includes 6 full-time staff members who support thousands of student athletes across the city.

Avery Esdaile, Director

Wallace Johnson, Assistant Director
John Hillebrand, Equipment Manager
Darlene Knight-Vaughn, Athletic Coordinator/MS Programs
Mary Ellen Sheerin, Administrative Secretary
Mark Spilodoro, Adaptive PE/Special Olympics Coordinator
High School & Middle School Athletic Coaches*

Shawn Byrne, Custodian/Groundskeeper

* Coaches report both to the Director of Athletics and to their principals/headmasters
### Introduction to BPS Athletics

High school rosters contained a total of **4,339 athletes** in the 2013-2014 school year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Sports</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Winter Sports</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>Spring Sports</th>
<th>#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer (B)</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>Basketball (B)</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>366</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soccer (G)</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>Basketball (G)</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>Outdoor Track</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volleyball (G)</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>Indoor Track</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheerleading</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>Ice Hockey (G)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Volleyball (B)</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Ice Hockey (B)</td>
<td>73</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,740</td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,285</td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,314</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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Introduction to BPS Athletics

Congratulations to our 2013-2014 City Champions!

Fall
- Boys Soccer: Madison Park
- Girls Soccer: East Boston
- Volleyball: English
- Football:
  - North Division: Brighton
  - South Division: O'Bryant

Winter
- Boys Basketball: New Mission*
- Girls Basketball: Fenway
- Boys Indoor Track: Boston Latin
- Girls Indoor Track: Boston Latin
- Middle School Boys Basketball: Timilty

Spring
- Baseball: English
- Softball: Latin Academy
- Boys Track: Latin Academy
- Girls Track: Latin Academy
- Middle School Boys Track: Hernandez**
- Middle School Girl's Track: Timilty

* Division II State Champions
** Division III State Middle School Champions
The Athletics Strategic Plan (released in fall 2013) outlines the department’s goals

- To develop the plan, BPS officials visited a number of school districts and talked to Athletics Directors, coaches, and school staff

- The plan outlines six goals and numerous strategies to achieve these goals:

1. Offer access to high-quality athletic programming to every student in middle and high school
2. Complement and support the academic program
3. Increase opportunities for individuals and teams to improve performance
4. Attract, retain, and develop highly skilled coaches and support staff
5. Utilize high-quality, safe, and well-maintained equipment, facilities, and fields
6. Develop and benefit from wide community support within and beyond BPS
We will be introducing a sports application process this fall

- Will allow schools to apply for new sports teams
- Athletics department will review applications, considering equity of resources and distribution of programs
- Process will also allow us to plan more carefully the use of facilities, transportation, and budget
- We will announce changes for the start of the 2015-2016 school year
We will be working with schools to hire and place Athletics Coordinators

- Based on conversations with other districts, we identified this as a best practice
- Will help build capacity at schools by focusing on operational issues, allowing coaches to focus on coaching
- Continuing to look at how to standardize position across schools and encourage operational efficiency
We are increasing Athletic opportunities for students with disabilities

- We are working to make our existing programming more inclusive
  - Training and professional development for coaches
  - Ensuring compliance with regulation that all students have the opportunity to try out for sports teams

- As we consolidate or eliminate underutilized teams, we will be able to repurpose funding to increase opportunities for students with disabilities (including through adaptive sports leagues)

- We held two Special Olympics this year, both with more than 350 participants
We have also streamlined how we order equipment…

- Working with the Business Office, we have established a standard timeline for schools to submit their current inventory and describe additional needs.
- This timeline will allow us to secure needed equipment before seasons start.
- We continue to look at how to leverage existing resources to access additional resources.

…and expanded opportunities for middle school students

- Particularly through our work with Play Ball!, we have expanded sports opportunities for middle school students.
- Middle school sports now include baseball, basketball, double dutch, football, soccer, track/field, and volleyball.
We work closely with a variety of partners to expand access and support for student athletes

Our partners include:

- American Heart Association
- Babson College
- Boston Athletic Association
- Boston Bruins Foundation
- Boston Centers for Youth and Families
- Boston Red Sox
- Boston Neighborhood Network
- Boston Scholar
- BSN Sports
- Children’s Hospital
- Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Dream Big Foundation
- Play Ball! Foundation
- Red Auerback Foundation
- Reggie Lewis Center
- Sportsmen Tennis Club
Next steps

- Finalizing a new Athletics website (currently under construction)
- Encouraging participation of BPS athletes and coaches in statewide initiatives through MIAA
- Developing advisories of students and coaches (building on advisory group of coaches that was used throughout the strategic planning process)
- Moving toward a budgeting process that aligns with other district budget processes
- Clarifying district policies and procedures around calculating and using GPA for Athletics eligibility
Questions?