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January 9, 2014

As you know, for several years the Board of Education has established expectations for "no contact" times in the summer for athletics and fine arts. Some years have been more successful than others, and rarely if ever, have we been able to have one consistent time period for both athletics and fine arts.

The Activities/Arts/Athletics Leadership Team (A-3) has studied this issue and solicited feedback from many different coaches, sponsors and directors. On December 2, 2013 I received the following recommendation from the A-3 Team:

"After all of our considerations, A-3 recommends June 30 through July 6 for 2014, which does not conflict with Middle School Summer Band. After the summer of 2014, we recommend running "shutdown" from the Monday through Sunday of the week of the Fourth of July. For example: 2015=June 29-July 5 (which does conflict with MS Summer Band), 2016= July 4-July 10."

The MS Band has been scheduled as part of the summer concert series in the Park, and Mr. Versluis will try to find another evening when they can play. This could create an issue for some parents and community members who have an expectation that the MS students play at this concert. The question is whether or not this exceeds the Board's expectation that we have a coincidental "no contact time". The A-3 Team also supports the concept of a "shutdown" where the District does not rent out facilities or open them to athletic or artistic groups during this particular week. The exception to this would be the softball fields at Millikin who may already be scheduled for non-school activities and July 4 tournaments. This would then be a parental choice.

There is also a proposal from the Illinois High School Association to add another week of high school athletic "no contact" and it may fall around this July 4th week also, but that has not been approved. Keep in mind that the August week for IHSA "no contact" is when HS Marching Band Rehearsal occurs.

We look forward to your feedback at the meeting regarding the A-3 Proposal.