

## **Q & A document regarding the ICC Football Program**

### **Q. How was the recommendation for football developed?**

After continued and sustained requests over multiple years by members of the community, the Board authorized the creation of an Ad-Hoc Athletics Committee. The committee was comprised of representatives from the following constituencies: community members, coaches, students, Booster Club, Board of Education, and Ichabod Crane District staff. The committee was charged to examine the District's current athletic program, and, if warranted, make recommendations about the structure of the program. The committee presented its findings at multiple Board of Education meetings. The Ad-Hoc Committee's report recommended the implementation of a football team on a pilot basis, and that the funding for the pilot, inclusive of all costs (i.e. uniforms, equipment, referee fees, field maintenance, transportation etc.), be provided by the Ichabod Crane Sports Booster Club.

### **Q. What did the Board of Education Approve?**

The Board of Education authorized a junior-varsity and varsity football team to play in the fall of 2009. The approval was provided **only after** the Booster Club provided the District with a donation to cover all costs, including equipment, coaches salaries, field maintenance, transportation, insurance rider and other costs associated with the operation of the program.

### **Q. Why did the Board choose to approve a "pilot program?"**

Although interest in the football program appears to be strong, a great number of questions remain about the long-term sustainability of the program from a fiscal and facilities standpoint. The pilot will allow the children an opportunity for the program, while providing the District with the opportunity to determine the long-term viability and costs to sustain the program.

### **Q. What will the impact of the football program be on the tax levy?**

The District is in receipt of \$42,689.00 from the Booster Club and offsetting revenue in this amount is part of the budget. The continuance of the pilot program **will not have any impact on the tax levy.**

### **Q. After the pilot period is over, will the Booster Club always have to financially support the football program?**

The current Board of Education can only vote to continue the program on an annual basis. The initial recommendation from the committee was to allow the Booster Club to fund the program for three years. If the Board approves the program for three successive years, at the end of the third year, the Board will need to make a determination about the continuation of the program.

**Q. If the District does have to finance the program after the pilot period, will the community vote on keeping football?**

The Commissioner of Education has made it clear that individual programs normally funded through the general fund can not be proposed as a separate proposition. The current approval in place does not provide for any facilities upgrades. If it was determined in the future that facilities upgrades are needed, upgrades requiring the District to borrow monies would need to be brought to the voters for approval.

**Q. How will the maintenance of the football program at Ichabod affect my taxes long-term?**

In the future, if the Board chooses to incorporate football into the budget, the costs would need to be included in the general fund. The money being raised by the Booster Club will pay for the start up and maintenance costs for the first three years. The exact costs for the maintenance of the program in three years are not known, but estimated to be approximately \$35,000 to \$45,000 per year, which equates to about .23 of one (1) percent on the District proposed levy.

**Q. Will the voters have to approve an update to the facilities for a playing field?**

Yes, if the Board decides to update the District facilities, any proposed capital project requiring the District to borrow monies would need to be brought forth to the voters

**Q. Are there enough students to field two football teams along with the other Fall sports teams?**

Based upon participation last fall, participation in other Fall sports remained strong, and the total number of students participating in Fall athletics increased.

**Q. Who should I contact if I have questions that were not addressed?**

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Paul Thompson, Athletic Director, at 758-7577, ext. 4006 or James Dexter, Superintendent of Schools, at 758-7575, ext. 3002.