

# Chalkboard

By

Dr. Randy C. Barrett, Superintendent  
Gentry Public Schools

Last week the *Chalkboard* ventured into the area of high school sports. This week I want to follow up with a review of the first fruits of an idea I had a couple of months back. I alluded to this last week in mentioning that at the December 2002 school board meeting I had asked the board to create a committee that would review our athletic and activities programs at the secondary level. With the current debate raging then over educational equity and adequacy, I thought it would be a good time to do a self-inspection of the above-mentioned areas. The board agreed. They also agreed that Larry Cozens, our middle school principal and the district's athletic director, would orchestrate the first meeting.

The committee was slow getting underway. The slow start can be attributed to the busy sports season ending in basketball and the start-up of baseball, track, golf, and softball. No excuse; but the idea was to have a time the coaches of all sports could participate if they so chose.

At the first meeting, I volunteered to be the recording secretary. (I had contemplated that if I were writing, it would make me a better listener.) I thought you might be interested in reading the minutes of the first meeting, which was held at 7:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the new cafeteria.

“Present at inaugural meeting: Joni Wilson, GHS Cheerleader Sponsor; Marion Kilgore, GHS Girl's Softball Coach; Norman Mitchell, GHS Girl's Basketball Coach; Darla Wilson, Gentry Jr. High Cheerleader Sponsor-elect; Larry Cozens, Athletic Director & GMS Principal; Bobby King, GHS Principal; Candace Stafford, GHS Choir Director; Jim Wilson, Gentry Booster Club President; Kevin Martin, Board Member; Brenda Willet, Board Member; Merrill Reynolds, Board Member, Randy C. Barrett, Superintendent; and Mark Pierce, GYO President.

With Jim Wilson declining nomination, Mr. Cozens agreed to chair the committee. Dr. Barrett volunteered to be secretary.

Mr. Cozens announced the goal of the committee was to “See where we are, decide where we want to go, and decide how to get there.” Dr. Barrett echoed those sentiments and stated that was his only motive in asking the school board to create the committee.

Darla Wilson ventured the idea of having a girl's volleyball team as a fall sport. She noted an inquiry had been made to her from a Laotian family. After some discussion, no action was taken.

Mr. Cozens announced the school board had asked that the committee review the suggestion made to them that ticket prices be increased for the next school term. Joni Wilson also suggested the committee look at consistently charging admission prices for spring sports.

The discussion of this issue was at length with most of the members participating. A motion was made by Mr. Reynolds that admission prices for football and basketball be set at \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students for senior events and \$3.00 and \$2.00 for Junior high events. The motion was seconded by Brenda Willet and passed unanimously.

The next phase of the discussion regarded the Spring Sports of Baseball, Softball, & Track. Various pros and cons were discussed. Mr. Reynolds moved that admission prices for spring sports be set at \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. The motion was seconded by Brenda Willet and passed 15-1 with Mr. Pierce casting the dissenting vote.

By consensus of the group, it was decided that athletes would be given a pass to attend home events of any sport in which they were participating at another level.

Mr. Reynolds moved that season passes be sold for football and basketball with admission prices to be set at this year's, 2002-03, prices. The motion was seconded by Bobby King and passed unanimously.

Mr. Cozens set the next meeting date to be Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at the same time and same location.

Motion to adjourn at 8:09 a.m. by Dr. Barrett, seconded by Norman Mitchell, and passed without opposition."

Again you are invited to submit any ideas you have on how we might improve our programs to Mr. Cozens. His phone number at the middle school is 479-736-2251.