

Superintendent's Corner

It may seem hard to believe but we have already completed the first quarter of the 2014-2015 school year. I wanted to take a few minutes to bring to your attention an important topic that involves USD #386 Madison-Virgil and the City of Madison. This question will appear on your November election ballot and involves the creation of a Recreation Commission by the City of Madison and USD #386 Madison-Virgil. The exact wording of the question has been published in the Madison News in recent weeks and is as follows:

State of Kansas Official General Election Ballot Madison City and Virgil School District #386 Recreation Question

Should the governing bodies of the city of Madison and Madison/Virgil School District #386 establish a joint recreation system with authority to levy an annual tax not to exceed one mill for such recreation system. Wherein the city of Madison and Madison/Virgil School District #386 shall cooperate in providing property and facilities belonging to each entity for recreation purposes, pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1924M et et.

A little history on the topic

In recent months, the topic of establishing a Recreation Commission was brought to the USD #386 Board of Education as well as the City of Madison. Two members of each body, formed a committee to explore the possibility of establishing a Recreation Commission. The committee reported back to both boards with the following proposal:

- Establishing a Recreation Commission as a partnership between the City of Madison and USD #386 Madison-Virgil.
- The benefits of establishing the commission include expanding the youth athletic programs. Possibilities discussed include volleyball, wrestling, track, and indoor soccer. Current youth programs include football, basketball, and baseball. Additional benefits include lower insurance costs and lower participation costs thus allowing more students the opportunity to participate.
- The City of Madison would maintain all supervision, funding, etc. for the city pool. They would also continue to provide the same level of financial support for youth programs including maintenance of the baseball fields, etc..
- As required by law, the recreation commissions would consist of five members appointed in the following manner. In the case of a joint recreation system established by a city and a school district the school district selects two members and the city selects two members, with the final member being selected by the appointed members. The term of the members is different in a joint recreation system as well. Of the members selected by the school district, one shall serve for a term of one year and one for a term of four years. Of the members selected by the city, one shall serve a term of two years and the other member shall serve a term of three years. The fifth member to the commission will serve a four year term. After the commission has been established, it is the duty of the commission to set up the rules governing the recreation system. The school district merely becomes the taxing district for the commission, with the sole purpose of levying

the 1 mill tax every year. The recreation system is governed solely by the recreation commission and is not subordinate to the city or school district's governing bodies.

After hearing from the committee, both USD #386 Board of Education and City of Madison approved resolutions approving the formation of a Recreation Commission thus allowing the question to be taken to voters and placed on the November ballot. The main goal in establishing the Recreation Commission is to increase the athletic opportunities for our young people all while lowering the cost to the participants. This has the potential to bring new and exciting opportunities for the youth in our community.

Have a good week and remember, "It's A Great Day to Be a Bulldog!"