

## PE Waiver Proposal Provides HS Students with Flexibility, Opportunities to Take Advanced Coursework

The School District of Menomonee Falls is considering giving juniors and seniors who excel in district sponsored athletic events an opportunity to waive the final semester of Physical Education in order to take a core academic course in English, math, social studies, science, or health. The idea behind the waiver is to give students in their junior and senior years the flexibility to take rigorous academic courses that will propel students to greater success post-high school.

Last year, the state of Wisconsin passed legislation, giving school boards the ability to put PE waiver policy in place. Specifically, the state law reads:

A school board may allow a pupil who participates in sports or in another organized physical activity, as determined by the school board, to complete an additional 0.5 credit in English, social studies, mathematics, science, or health education in lieu of 0.5 credit in physical education. (Act 105).

The proposal being considered by the Curriculum & Learning and the Policy committees of the Board would allow juniors and seniors who have successfully completed and earned a varsity letter in a district sponsored athletic team to opt out of the final semester of Physical Education. Students would still need to complete the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade physical education requirements.

In order to qualify, students must...

- Successfully complete a varsity sport season by earning a varsity letter on a district-sponsored athletic team.
- Submit to their counselor a verification form (draft attached) confirming regular attendance at practices and participation in competitions no later than two weeks after the conclusion of the season.
- Not have been out for more than two weeks for injury or illness during the sport season.
- Not have had any violation of the Athletic Code resulting in a suspension from practice for more than one week or a suspension from two or more competitions during the sport season.

At recent committee meetings, Board members received feedback from parents, coaches, and teachers related to the proposed policy. The committees will take final action in the next month with the hope that it goes to the full Board for approval in March. If parents have thoughts, questions, or concerns related to the policy, they can contact Gary Kiltz, Director of Curriculum and Learning at 262-250-3204 or [kiltgar@sdmfschools.org](mailto:kiltgar@sdmfschools.org).