

Small Schools' Cooperatives in Whitman County



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Cooperatives in Whitman County



- Garfield/Palouse-----full cooperative
- St. John/Endicott-----full cooperative
- Tekoa/Oakesdale---Athletic cooperative
 - Volleyball, basketball,
- Tekoa/Oakesdale/Rosalia---Athletic co-op
 - Football, track, baseball, softball, golf
- LaCrosse/Washtucna---Athletic co-op

Full Cooperatives

Academic and Extracurricular

- **Garfield/Palouse Gar/Pal**
Garfield S.D. and Palouse S.D.

- **At Garfield S.D.**
 - **Garfield/Palouse Middle School gr. 6-8**
 - **Garfield Elementary preschool-5**

Gar/Pal

- **At Palouse School District**
 - **Garfield/Palouse High School 9-12**
 - **Palouse Elementary K-5**
 - **In operation over 20 years**





Garfield/Palouse Transportation

- Main transportation facility at Palouse
- Transportation costs run through Garfield
- Costs reconciled between the districts
- One supervisor
- One dispatcher



Gar/Pal Co-ops within Co- op

- Transportation
- Food Service
- Technology
- Business Manager
- Staff Sharing- example: music
- One agreement/contract with groups-certificated, classified, coaches



Boards and Administration

- Palouse-Superintendent/Principal
- Garfield-Superintendent/Principal
- Separate Athletic Director
- Separate ASB/Activities Coordinator
- Two Boards-one from each district
 - One meeting monthly-example: alternate locations-in Palouse-meet at 7:00, Garfield meets at 7:15 and Joint Meeting at 7:30
 - The official chair is the Chair of the host site



Expenses and Cost Sharing

- Board Costs 50/50
- Motor Pool 50/50
- Transportation 50/50
- Business Office 50/50
- HS/MS Athletic Director 50/50
- Food Service partial share
- Traffic Safety Education partial share



Things to Consider

- Board Operating Procedures
- Keep reporting separate-funding, assessment
- How is communication handled?
 - Internal and external
- Decision making principles
- Conduct of Meetings
 - Spokesperson for the board
 - Visitors at board meetings
 - Evaluation of superintendents



Tekoa/Oakesdale Athletic Cooperative

- Established about 25 years ago
- Originally for all sports during each sport season grades 7-12
- Evolved into TOR-Tekoa-Oakesdale and Rosalia out of necessity for: (numbers)
 - Football
 - Track
 - Baseball/softball
 - Golf



T/O and T/O/R Administration

- Joint Board/Superintendent Meetings
- Joint Superintendent/Athletic Director
 - Oakesdale
 - Rosalia
 - Tekoa
 - **The Board/Supt./AD meetings were too cumbersome so during the last year superintendents keep the board informed and Supt./AD make decisions with board input.**



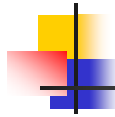
Business Operations

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- **Transportation**
 - Trips for games
 - Shuttle bus between schools
 - Keeping drivers working or happy
 - Expenses shared
 - Time is always a factor
 - Distance
 - Practice times
 - Athletes getting home late (practices and games)



Splitting District Expenses

- Reconciliation at the end of each season
- Coaching contracts
 - Which district pays coaches? (retirement is a factor)
- Equipment
- District and State Tournaments
- ASB -vs- District expense
- Where are games/matches played?
- Which business manager does the final reconciliation and billing to each member?



Benefits and Challenges

- Cost saving-split two or three ways
 - Going alone excessive \$ or no activity
- Opportunities for students
- Connections that students form
- Choosing location of games/facilities
- School Board-interactions
 - Coaching choices
 - Philosophy
 - One voice-not so easy



LaCrosse/Washtucna

- Athletic Cooperative
- Joint Board Meetings –Quarterly
- Business Managers-reconcile costs
shared expenses- one bills the other

Issues:

Distance, to offer sport or not (JH/HS)

Reaching agreement on the issues



St.John/Endicott

- Established in 1987





20 years later

- We are proud of our school system
- In the midst of declining enrollment we are financially accountable and fiscally responsible
- Statistical Information / Data



Middle & High Schools

- Class offerings Increase
- Certified Staff Increases
- Each district houses their own elementary





Cooperative

- Is it right for you? (Why form a cooperative?)
- Brochure and Surveys
- Financial advantages / Benefits
- Sacrifices
- OSPI application / Endicott request



Stumbling Blocks / Hurdles

- Traditions
- Town Pride / Power
- Self Reliance
- Facilities
- Rivals / Athletics
- Transportation (1 Hr Bus Ride)



Our Story

- SJE / Full Year of Planning
- The Board Listens
- Committee Planning
- Details Details
- An all county high school?
- Pine City & Ewan



2009 WSSDA Annual Conference

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