Unatego-Franklin Shared Sports Committee: Spring Check In and Full Merger Next Steps.

May 12, 2026
Franklin Central School District Conference Room

Meeting called to order at 1:10 pm.

Members in attendance: Kingsbury, Davis, Trask, Costello, Beers, Hafele, Laing, Ayres, Ames; Absent—Johnson.

Final Forms: Following discussion, both schools agreed that it would be best to eliminate athletic sign ups using Aktivate and start using Final Forms in the fall. With Final Forms, coaches could send messages to students from both schools. Matt and Darryl said it was much more user-friendly that what we use now. Additional cost for both schools combined would be about $3500 for start up and less yearly. and will be fully BOCES aidable. Need to sign off that it is Ed Law 2D complaint.

Recap of Spring Sports mergers:

- **Transportation** went well with a few hiccups. Mod. Baseball players were unruly with no coach on the bus. Mr. Hafele has spoken to the boys and hopefully resolved the problem. Mod. Girl's coach rides the bus and there have been no problems with them. Unatego is having a difficult time finding enough drivers to do the shuttle run and is considering a dedicated driver for next year. Everything else went well.

- **Baseball and Track** also went well. Co-Coaching model in track was great—each coach had specific events knowledge and expertise and worked with athletes in their area of knowledge. In baseball it was noted that Franklin's fields were much better than in the past and Franklin's track athletes benefitted from practicing on an atual track. The members of the coaching staff in track got along well during the season. Both Varsity Track and Varsity Baseball are having very successful seasons.

Full Merger Issues/Concerns:

- **Hiring of Coaches:** For newly merged Varsity sports (Girls' Soccer, Girls' Basketball, and Softball) there were three possible options:
  --One Coach per team: this was considered prior to the meeting and the superintendents from both schools decided that in order to help ease the transition, a coach from each school was needed. This would result in one of two models:
  --**One Varsity Coach per team with one Varsity Assistant Coach per team or**
  --Two Head "Co-Coaches per team with no Varsity Assistant.
  Discussion ensued with a divided opinion. At least two of the coaching candidates had been in contact with each other and agreed they would be in favor of co-head coaching. Another coach would prefer to be a Varsity Assistant, while in a third sport, no preference has been expressed.

It was determined to speak with potential coaching candidates, determine their preference, and if needed, to interview all candidates in front of a hiring committee comprised of the superintendents from each school, the two high school principals, and a non-affiliated neutral party.

More to follow by the next meeting.

- **Summer Workouts/Leagues/open gyms, etc.**
  --Invitations will go out to students at both schools for open gyms. Girl's BB has already had a joint open gym at Unatego.
  --Plan is for merged teams to participate together in summer leagues.
  --Booster clubs or other voluntary associations will pay fees for summer league.
  --All activities will be open to student athletes from both schools.

- **Public Meeting/Kick off:** There was general discussion and consensus that it would be a good idea to have an event for athletes and parents, and sooner than later. Discussion seemed to favor a "neutral" location, such as the East Sidney Dam pavilion. The committee will follow up after the budget vote in May and a possible sports merger vote by the boards in early June.

- **Expansion of the Committee:** Following discussion, it was determined that wee need to expand the committee to include parents who are not board members and to add students again as well. This would necessitate changing the meeting times to accommodate.

- **Transparency:** The Committee came to an agreement to publish agendas and minutes on both District's websites.