

## **AGENDA**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW GLARUS  
CURRICULUM, SPORTS & CO-CURRICULAR COMMITTEE MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022  
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER, ROOM 183 JOIN ZOOM MEETING USING  
LINK  
HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/88517672731?PWD=ZZBNQZN2YTNGNETNDHH  
AVGKVRDZWZZ09 BY PHONE USING 1-646-568-7788 MEETING ID 885 1767 2731  
& PASSWORD 974471  
1701 2ND STREET  
NEW GLARUS, WISCONSIN 53574  
6:30 PM**

- I. Call to Order - Cari Ann Muggenburg, Chair**
- II. Football - Co-op with Monticello and Conference Realignment 2**

## ***Football Co-op and Conference Realignment Background Information***

Over the years it has regularly come up about whether we should continue to co-op with Monticello for football. The challenge has been that Monticello's numbers have continued to decline over the years and they are contributing very few players to our co-op program. At the same time, our enrollments are combined to determine conference and playoff placement, which gives us a significant disadvantage. Many conversations have occurred with Monticello administration, staff, parents, and students about strategies to try to improve participation, but the numbers continue to decline. What is bringing this to a head right now is that two years ago NGM Football was placed in a challenging conference, in large part due to our combined enrollment, and this year we were moved to a brutal conference with many state championship teams including Edgewood, Lodi, Lake Mills, Lakeside Lutheran, Columbus, and others. Below shows enrollment sizes for the conference we are currently in:

### **Capitol Conference:**

Big Foot - 503

Edgewood - 485

Turner - 460

Lodi - 458

Lake Mills - 453

**New Glarus/Monticello - 426**

Columbus - 420

Lakeside Lutheran - 406

Although on the surface the Capitol Conference seems like an appropriate conference due to NGM's combined enrollment size as well as location and distance from other Capitol Conference schools, it is definitely a safety issue for our students to be playing in this conference because we do not have the strength in numbers that these programs do and we get so few students from Monticello. Additionally, we believe that if we continue in this conference, our football numbers may continue to decline, possibly rapidly, because of safety concerns.

Our New Glarus High School enrollment, without Monticello, is typically in the range of 300-325, which would put us in a much better position to move conferences and play against similar teams.

Discussions have been happening for the past few months, and the deadline to make a decision about our co-op for the 2024-25 school year is October 1st. In researching the process for potentially moving conferences, we have found out that we need to get approval from the Capitol Conference to leave, and approval from another conference to join them. Based on our enrollment and geography, there is not a reason for the Capitol Conference to approve us leaving the conference unless New Glarus and Monticello dissolve the co-op. Because of this, we are recommending that the Board consider dissolving the co-op. That said we also know Monticello would like more time, ideally until 2026, to determine a future plan. We are currently continuing conversations with potential conferences to move into, as well as having a meeting with the Capitol Conference next week to discuss whether they will let us leave. No proposals are ready at this time, but we wanted to get this in front of the Board for discussion and to answer questions as we continue to work on a proposal for the September 26th Board meeting.



# School District of Monticello

334 South Main Monticello, WI 53570 Phone 608.938.4194

"MONTICELLO'S VALUES GROW WORLD READY CITIZENS"

September 1, 2022

Dear New Glarus Administration and School Board,

Earlier this summer Dr. Thayer and I had a healthy conversation about our football cooperative. Since then our athletic directors, Mr. Cernek and Ms. Schwartzlow, have followed up with similar and amicable conversations. This correspondence is meant to be both informative and requisite in nature.

As you know, the New Glarus-Monticello football coop began in 1983 while Mr. Duane Schober and Mr. Linn Lederman were athletic directors. It was one of the first coops in the area. At the time, the coop was started in order to boost participation numbers for New Glarus football and also to offer football as a fall sport option for Monticello students. During those almost 40 years the program has seen many ups and downs in success and participation, but has nonetheless been a solid partnership that has given many New Glarus and Monticello students the opportunity to participate in school sponsored football. We are proud of the cooperative and acknowledge the amazing efforts of coaches to bring the players from each community together as a cohesive unit. The school has always been appreciative of their inclusivity.

We are aware that conversations about New Glarus leaving the New Glarus-Monticello football coop after the 2023 season have begun. We believe these conversations to be based on concerns with participation numbers from Monticello and concerns that our combined enrollment leads to less conference re-alignments options for the program.

We understand that our current football conference, the Capitol Conference, is less than ideal for our football program due to concerns with competitive balance and equity playing against other traditionally very strong football teams. We also recognize that Monticello does at times struggle to provide a proportionate number of players to the program.

As the School District of New Glarus considers options for football into future years, we ask that you take into account this information: (Conference Teams and Enrollments Below)

1. It appears that the best conference to make a case to be placed in for football due to enrollment size and location would be the Southwest Wisconsin Conference ~ the conference that our football team played in the prior two seasons. Our combined school enrollment of approximately 425 students falls right in the middle of school sizes in this conference. It does not appear that Monticello High School's enrollment of approximately 100 students would make the case to be placed in the Southwest Wisconsin Conference any more difficult. Other options for conferences in our geographical region include the Southwest Wisconsin Activities and the Six Rivers. However, New Glarus' enrollment alone would make NGM football the largest school district participating in these conferences, lessening the chance of successfully moving to either of these conferences.
2. High school football participation numbers throughout Wisconsin are declining. This is not only a Monticello and a New Glarus issue. Schools across the state are struggling to field 11-man football teams at multiple levels. NGM currently has a JV and varsity team ~ with many players needing to play on both teams. We are not able to have a freshman team and some underclassmen are needing to play varsity football when possibly not yet ready for that level just to field a team on Friday nights. Questions are always asked as to why... Why are kids from Monticello not playing football? Why are kids from New Glarus not playing football in the numbers that they have in the past? Why are youth football participation numbers in both Monticello and New Glarus lessening? Most likely the reasons are multifactorial and



some out of our control~ students playing other offered fall sports, parental and student concerns for safety and worry of injury, length and timing of season, students drawn to work and other activities, and just overall lack of commitment and interest in football. Monticello's projections show that we will contribute 6-11 players per year over the next five years to the NGM football program. As football participation overall is very much trending downward, combining programs may in fact be necessary in order to continue to play 11-man football at multiple levels for both schools.

3. I have been a part of the Six Rivers Conference for fourteen years and in my role as secretary/commissioner for the last four years, I can assure you that conversations about cooperatives in southern Wisconsin have and will continue to be more prevalent and necessary than they ever have been.

As our discussions commenced this summer, we responded by investigating our options for football. Our best and quite frankly only viable option to date would be an attempt to coop with Argyle for 8-man football in 2026. It is 2026 because they have gained both conference and WIAA approval for their Pecatonica/Argyle coop through the 2025 season. We are not against continuing this conversation with the Six Rivers Conference and Argyle, but this obviously would need to be a few years down the road.

With that being said, we ask that after nearly 40 years of history that we don't rush to decisions based on short-term reasons. Instead, we remain together for the 2024 and 2025 seasons and collectively work diligently towards a more appropriate conference placement where our numbers allow us to be both competitive and successful, maintaining and increasing football participation at both schools, and continue to offer both Monticello and New Glarus students the opportunity and tradition of New Glarus-Monticello high school football.

If you would like to continue this conversation with athletic directors, administration, and/or school board members, we would be open to meeting at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Allen Brokopp, District Administrator & Carolyn Schwartzlow, Athletic Director




<u>Southwest Wisconsin (7 Team)</u>		<u>South Central (7 Team)</u>	
Brodhead/Juda	428	Mauston	
Dodgeville	420	Adams-Friendship	
Lancaster	281	Montello/Green Lake/Princeton	
Platteville	455	WI Dells	
Prairie du Chien	368	Wautoma	
Richland Center	437	Poynette	
River Valley	426	Westfield	
<i>Paired w/ South Central</i>		<i>Paired w/ SWC</i>	

### **III. Adjourn**

PURSUANT TO APPLICABLE LAW, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A QUORUM OR A MAJORITY OF THE NEW GLARUS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING. INFORMATION PRESENTED AT THIS MEETING MAY HELP FORM THE RATIONALE BEHIND FUTURE ACTIONS THAT MAY BE TAKEN BY THE NEW GLARUS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD.

UPON REQUEST TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE, SUBMITTED TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS IN ADVANCE, THE DISTRICT SHALL MAKE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL IN AN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT FOR A DISABLED PERSON TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND THIS MEETING.