

# Cov. Athletic Hall of Fame approved

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COVENTRY — The School Committee approved the establishment of an Athletic Hall of Fame for the Coventry Public School districts after High School Athletic Director Chuck Jones presented the idea at the Nov. 22 meeting.

He explained to the committee that he realized that Coventry held an extensive history when it came to athletics, especially in the wrestling program.

"Since I've been in the committee this thought has come up," explained School Committee Chairperson Katherine Patenaude. "I think it's a great idea and I think it's something we should have."

He said that he has been working on a draft for more than a year to recommend putting an Athletic Hall of Fame in the school system.

Jones explained that he was presenting this idea to the committee and that items can be changed throughout the process.

He said that having a hall of fame is typical of other school districts in the state but that his draft follows a somewhat different format than those.

He told the committee that some other school districts have a waiting period to be inducted of 10 years, two years or five years, but that he chose five years for Coventry.

He also said that he included another award called the Red and White Award that will include people from the community.

He explained that somebody from the community who did not graduate from Coventry schools but contributes monetarily or gives support to the schools can be nominated for this award.

Jones told the committee that he included in the packet his ideas for what the Hall of Fame Committee would consist of.

He said that there would be a principal and their designee, which would be whoever the athletic director and the assistant athletic director are for that school.

Also, there would be three at large members of the committee who Jones said should come from the school committee's recommendations.

He said that this is an open idea however and that anything in this draft could be changed.

Jones said that the Hall of Fame Committee, once picked, will receive the nominations through the Coventry Public Schools Athletic Department.

The Hall of Fame Committee will then give these recommendations to the School Committee.

He said that nominations of candidates will date back to the beginning of the school up until today's athletes.

"There are people in the town who were excellent athletes after high school that still live in the community," said Vice-Chairperson Nancy Sprenelmeyer

Joe Fargnoli, assistant athletic director for the high school said that the committee will look through all the former coaches and players and proceed from there.

# Hall of Fame approved by school committee

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School Committee Member Thomas Hetherman explained that the Hall of Fame Committee could look at the Rhode Island Gridiron Hall of Fame for athletes that had been nominated from Coventry.

Hetherman also said that looking at the year books dating back to the opening of the schools can also help find candidates.

Jones told the committee that he wrote up some criteria that would help the Hall of Fame Committee find worthy candi-

dates.

He said that they are looking for an athlete that graduated from Coventry Public Schools, who has character, community involvement, College or Olympic accomplishments, who demonstrates integrity and sportsmanship.

He said that he was thinking of putting the plaques, pictures and frames on the outside walls of the schools.

It was brought up that woodworking students of the schools could possibly design the display case for these items.

Jones told the committee that there are some other things that have to be considered however, such as where the honor will be given out and if a ceremony will be held.

“There are also come communities that make this into a fund generator by having a kind of reception or banquet for families, friends and community to come,” said Sprengelmeyer.

Jones told the committee that he hopes to have this completed by the Fall of 2012.