

# Make Your High School League Meetings Count

*From Athletics and WIAA to a Robust PLN*



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## PRINCIPAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

*Engaging the Community, Improving Instruction*

If you are a high school principal, you have undoubtedly been to league meetings with your athletic director. For some of you, it is once a month, or once a quarter, or maybe twice a year. You sit around talking about WIAA amendments with your athletic directors, who should host districts, inevitably someone brings up how they want the 16-team state basketball tournament back – which dominates the next hour – and you spend the rest of the meeting wishing you were in your building getting stuff done.

It does not have to be that way!

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## DEVELOPING A PLN

In the Northeast “A” (NEA) we do it differently. We created a Principal Leadership Network (PLN): A collaborative group of school leaders who understand we can learn and grow from each other. Six years ago, we branched off from our ADs and met at an adjacent table at our

meetings. At first, we still talked athletics, but added topics we were dealing with in our buildings. That quickly grew to a group of principals who are just a phone call or a text away at all times to deal with the complexities of principalship.

Now, we are in our second year where we do not even meet with the

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Principal Brent Osborn shares some thoughts with Sen. Wellman during an AWSP Board Meeting.

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ADs at all. We meet as a league of principals six times throughout the year, separate from athletics, and we collaborate. We have taken an interest in helping each other be the best we can be, for the success of all kids in our communities.

What we gained is amazing.

We are all single high school districts, so we get to lean on each other for advice. Here are just a few items we have discussed this year already:

- Colville is using a positive attendance system school-wide and has leveraged that power to add focused intervention time into the school day.
- Riverside has a highly functional lunchtime homework intervention eliminating ninth- grade failures.

“ I truly cannot imagine not having this amazing group of principals to collaborate with. We all learned and improved because of our work together.”

- Medical Lake fired up an incentive-based attendance program that is significantly reducing absenteeism.
- Newport adopted and implemented a mental health curriculum to allow all kids access to this vital information.
- Freeman reduced lost class time by implementing a simple first 10/ last 10 policy that is also reducing student vaping.

- Deer Park shared with us their large College in the High School program and how they sustain it.
- Lakeside shared how we are tracking and intervening within our MTSS program.

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### A CHALLENGE

So, high school principals, I challenge you: next time you meet with each other, the agenda should be academic heavy. Maybe spend some time on each of the SQSS Indicators. The principalship is a difficult profession. However, it is made easier if we do not work in silos. So reach out to your colleagues and start a PLN today! ■



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