

## Status of Lacrosse at Sanderson High School

Position Statement as of May 4, 2009 and Updated January 6, 2011

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The Sanderson athletic department conducted a survey in March 2009 to assess the strength of interest among boys and girls for starting lacrosse teams at the school. The March 2009 survey revealed a greater level of interest than was shown in a similar survey in 2007. The March 2009 survey indicated that there is probably enough interest among young men to support having one men's team and that there is not enough interest among young ladies to support having a women's team.

The survey results lead the school and athletic department administration to the brink of a decision. Do we use the survey indicators by themselves and decide to go forward with men's lacrosse now or do we not go forward because of other circumstances? Although it will be disappointing to many who had high hopes to see lacrosse at Sanderson in 2010, Dr. Gregory Decker, the principal of Sanderson High School, has decided that the economic climate is not right to start sponsoring lacrosse right now.

The uncertain economic condition in which our state and local government, schools, and families find themselves is at the core of our reluctance to expand our athletic program right now. We did not anticipate these factors when we stated that we would take a lacrosse interest survey at the beginning of the school year. School funding is being cut and the cuts are affecting academic programs, teacher allotments, and the ability to hire new teachers, not to mention some who might be teacher/coaches. When the question of starting a new athletic program is considered within the big picture of the total school program, the administration's answer keeps coming back: now is not the time.

If and when we start a lacrosse program, we want to do it in a way that is consistent with how we operate the rest of the Sanderson athletic program - including the preference to seek a coach who might be a member of the faculty. On the financial side, even though lacrosse players will eventually have to provide some of their own personal equipment, a large capital outlay from the school will be required to jump start a lacrosse program. In the present economy, it would be unwise to assume that our sources of funding will support the additional expense.

Sanderson will inevitably have a lacrosse program in the not-so-distant future. The administration is committed to reassess the factors that affect when to start the program on a year-by-year basis.

Tony Lewis, Athletic Director

Updated January 6, 2011

Since the economic conditions that existed last May continue to affect our school and school system, Sanderson will not initiate a lacrosse program in the 2011-2012 school year.