



Oct 2, 2021

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Tim Hamilton – E-sports



Tim Hamilton, spoke today about E-sports in the Council Bluffs (CB) School District. Hamilton is Chief of Student & Family Services, Education Service Center, for the district. The son of two educators, Tim went into education and fell in

love with at-risk kids. His wife is Principal at Carter Lake. They have four kids, all in the CB School District.

The goal in the CB school district is for every student to graduate with a diploma and a second certificate toward an associates' degree at IWCC or a number of college credits. Hamilton said they looked at the data of those involved in organized activities outside of school – why they succeed when others don't. The thought was if they engage in organized activities outside of the school, they will more likely be engaged in school, increasing attendance and grade point averages.

This fall the Council Bluffs high schools – Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln – entered into E-sports, the world of competitive video gaming. Hamilton stated they met with the technical department and the Iowa High School E-sports Association and had no idea how many students would be interested. They decided to start small and bought 10 computers for each school. There were 130 kids that applied for this first year and only 10 were selected to play on the team at each school.

There are three seasons: fall, winter and spring. Each season brings a different game competition. During the spring season the CB Schools will expand to have a Varsity team, a JV team, and Minors that will play others. They will purchase another 10 computers for each school. The E athletes have a coach and act as a team, building relationships and various skills.

There was grant-funded money to help purchase the \$32,000 worth of equipment needed. E-sports competition is able to take

place at the school without transportation costs to play teams across the state. The two schools' teams practice 3 days a week and compete one day a week, Thursday. Leagues with other schools are comprised of six teams with ten on a team. Six play at a time in the current game and every player must play. Therefore, they have four rounds of competition.

The teams have their own E-sports uniforms – polos. Good grades and a code of ethics are part of the expectation. Hamilton said there is lots of pride in the teams, just as in other sports. The players are also called athletes, as in other sports.

E-sports is the fastest growing sport in colleges. 15 colleges and universities include it in their sports programs. Many colleges offer scholarships. Fans can come watch in person or livestream.

Leagues, at the college level, are sponsored by businesses such as McDonalds that appeal to the audience. Revenue has grown 5 times in the last 3 years. It was a \$3.5 billion business last year. ESPN features college level competition.

There is also an E-sports Hall of Fame. 62% of E-sports athletes are male. In CB, only one of the 130 youth who tried out for the teams was female.

Many good questions were asked and discussed: Do kids have a natural ability or can they be trained? Are kids being helped who didn't have a connection before at school? Have any traditional athletes switched? How does E-sports keep up with what game is "in"? Is there trash talk in this sport like other sports? Has the thought about an hour a day of screen time gone away? Are girls competing too? Did the WIFI service have to be beefed up? Some of these questions have not been answered, since they are only on week four of E-sports in Council Bluffs.

Next week's speaker will be Candace Gregory, CEO, Open Door Mission.

The public is invited to attend all meetings. The coffee is always on. Gary Funkhouser coins our club as "The best informed club in Treynor!"

"Don't just grab the first thing that comes by...know what to turn down."

Will Rogers

Meeting Minutes

Dale Willenborg, club President, called the meeting to order at the Treynor Community Building on October 2. Present were 14 members and guest, Tim Hamilton.

Dale Willenborg led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dee Gutttau gave the opening prayer. Dale Willenborg, Gary Gutttau, Keith Denton and Gary Funkhouser provided humor.

Dale Willenborg won the 50/50 drawing. Phil Waggoner won the attendance drawing, but was not present. Keith Denton won the football contest.

Birthdays/Anniversaries: None

Bragging Rights: (\$ are used for youth activities)

- Keith Denton stated that Relief Factor was helping his neck.
- Bill Vorthmann bragged on the band at the football game last night. Keith also donated.
- Ken Graham announced his grandson was offered a scholarship as he is rated in the top 10 in the E-sport of Rocket League
- Gary Gutttau contributed because his grandson, Chase Wells, built his own computer as a high school freshman.

COMMUNITY:

Chad Gutttau stated that cans were passed at the football game as a fundraiser for Nixon Quick.

John Klein stated that the Keep Kids Alive Committee and JOI Club will have a mock crash take place March 22.

John Klein passed a map showing an underground pipeline in our country from SIRE going east and then north to North Dakota. It is being pumped underground to be buried forever.

BUSINESS:

John Klein, Gary Gutttau and Gary Funkhouser helped with the Can Kennel.

Gary Gutttau announced that Optimist dues are due.

Dale Willenborg announced the Underwood Optimist Club will have a NOW event on Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. The Underwood Optimist 38th annual Awards Banquet will be held at the Twisted Tail on Sunday, October 17. 5:00 Social; 5:30 order meal from a short menu. If you want to attend, let Dale or Barb Robertson **know by October 12.**

Dale is aiming to have our NOW event on Tuesday, Oct. 26. We will invite potential new members.

The meeting was adjourned with members reciting the Optimist Creed.

HUMOR

"A Skeleton Crew"



Calendar

Events

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| Oct 4 | Pot Luck sponsored by Riverside Club Program: Child Safety |
| Oct 17 | Underwood Awards Banquet, Reservations due Oct. 12 |
| Oct 26 | Potential date for our NOW dinner. |

Birthdays

- | | |
|--------|------------------|
| Oct 17 | Marsha Underwood |
| Oct 29 | Bill Vorthmann |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------|--------------------------|
| Oct.13 | Dale & Dianne Willenborg |
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Oct 17 Dennis & Kay White

Oct 16 Casey Baragary, Treynor Waste Water Treatment Mgr – On-Site SEWER TOUR. Meet at ZION for tour.

Programs

Oct John Klein
Nov Jerry Hempel

Oct 23 Brenda Mainwaring, CEO, Iowa West Foundation

Oct 30 Bob Keysor, Army Veteran of Treynor Missile Base

Speakers

Oct 9 Candace Gregory, CEO, Open Door Mission

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Dues/Donations/Flag Money: Mail to Optimist Club of Treynor, PO Box 354, Treynor, IA 51575