

No Hiawatha High School Baseball Next Year

(KNZA)-- The addition of a baseball program at Hiawatha High School is off the table for next school year.

After months of fund-raising, District Patron Paul Mendez told the USD 415 board of education Monday evening that he had raised \$15,500 of the required \$20,000, but had the possibility of an anonymous donor making up the difference.

The board had set a February 1st deadline for the raising of the funds. The deadline was set due to scheduling.

School board members were conflicted as to whether to allow Mendez a few more days to come up with the extra money, or follow the guidelines they had set last fall—not only for the baseball program but any other self-funded school programs.

Board member Pete Rosa praised Mendez for his single-handed efforts in raising money for the program, and said he was favor of giving Mendez until 4:30 Tuesday afternoon to come up with the additional \$4,500. However, other board members voiced concerns about deviating from the established guidelines and whether the numbers were there to support a baseball program.

No motion was made. Board President Matt Sprick said the sport can be proposed again for the 2015-2016 school year if Mendez wants to. If that happens, the money would have to be raised by February 1st, 2015 in order for baseball to be put on the schedule for the following spring.

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