

Hibbing Schools, VCA develop cooperative sports agreement

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HIBBING — Solomon Jacobson has played basketball through Hibbing Community Education since kindergarten.

This winter, he'll have the chance to try out for the Hibbing High School junior high basketball team with his former Community Education teammates.

Solomon, a seventh grader at Victory Christian Academy (VCA, is one of about a dozen students affected by an agreement approved Wednesday by the Hibbing School Board.

The board approved a Cooperative Sports Agreement with VCA that would allow the school's seventh through 12th students to participate in all of the district's athletic activities.

VCA students will be required to pay the regular student

activity fee along with an additional \$50 in order to participate in a sport. The agreement is for two years with an automatic renewal for an additional two years. The Hibbing School Board approved the agreement unanimously. Director Dave Cicmil was absent.

The VCA board will consider the agreement at its next meeting Tuesday, June 11, and VCA Board Director Craig Baron anticipates it will be passed without issue.

VCA has been working toward this agreement for two years, he said.

VCA is a private Christian school in Hibbing. It added education for grades seven through 12 during the 2010-2011 school year.

The school first sought a cooperative agreement in football with the public school district in September 2011 after a VCA high school student expressed an interest in the sport.

Representatives from both entities worked on an agreement that would allow a VCA student to play football at Hibbing High School after paying the regular student fee and an additional \$50 fee.

The Hibbing School board voted on the agreement in August 2012, but it failed on a 3 to 3 tie vote.

VCA and the district continued working together following the vote to develop the new agreement, Baron said.

He credits the board with showing good will in approving the new agreement, which will allow students to seek both a faith-based education and participate in sports.

“I think it’s a great opportunity for students to participate in sports. It’s something our small school can’t afford,” he said. “Hibbing School Board made it possible for our students’ dreams to be a reality.”

Solomon said he’s just excited to play ball.