The other day I met with the Coordinator and head coach of Junction City Junior Jays football program, Vaughn Deguzman. Vaughn played ball in High School and is now in charge of our youth football program. He also is a juvenile probation officer. Vaughn has a great passion for Junction City High School Athletics. Being an alumni of Junction City H.S. he knows where the programs have been and his vision for where they want to go. I believe Vaughn has established a strong foundation for our football program.

The strength of the Youth Football program is second to none. The High School, coaches, and families put high priority on coaching kids. First, the athletic department provides opportunities for youth coaches to talk, learn, and get valuable information from all other football coaches at the high school level. The goal there is to learn and take back a few fundamental things for their teams. Secondly, at the beginning of the season, coach’s meet together to come up with some goals for their respective program and the athletic department. Coaches have the opportunity to attend coaching clinics. Thirdly, is the evaluation process the coaches go through. Coaches are evaluated and receive feedback in the process of his whole program including his assistants, student-athletes, and overall program. I believe this is the best opportunity for the program to strengthen itself. Coaches sit down with each player and ask questions to help strengthen their reflection process.

The second and third dimensions are a big weakness in the program. The coaches have a great foundation of skills but I feel that the other two dimensions are lacking. The coaches care for their athletes, but the first and foremost intention of the program is to develop athlete skills that will help them in football. The athletic department or the youth association doesn’t provide anything other than the first dimension of coaching. I suggest that the youth coordinator sits down with his coaches and make them all aware of the “why” we coach. There should be a meeting with student athletes that help with the dialog between coach and student athletes. This would provide the coordinator with information in each program from a student athlete perspective. You could reach into the 2nd and 3rd dimension for this activity. The professional development provided by athletic department hasn’t been great for coaches in the 2nd and 3rd dimensions. The opportunities that the athletic department provides or suggest are great however, there is nothing to hold the coach accountable. I feel they should provide information to all the coaches of what they learned and what was helpful. Purchasing of the 3D Dimensional Coaching is a start for young and even veteran coaches to learn the “why” in sports.

Overall, I believe Junction City provides good insights and ideas for becoming a better coach however, I feel they don’t get in depth to provide the foundation for ‘why’ we coach. Having the coaches brining in 3D Dimensional Coaching will bring more to our program than just X’s and O’s. It is about teaching kids life lessons and expanding relationships. We must do better job to find opportunities for coaches to learn more in 2nd and 3rd dimension. We have some very good coaches, but with a little more in the 2nd and 3rd dimension, we could have some great coaches.