

## WCHS Booster Club Meeting Minutes

Wed, November 13, 2013 7:00pm

IN ATTENDANCE: Allyson Bergman, Diana Conway, Marlo Sims, Draga Dubick, Ariane Promisel, Larry Tanenbaum, Elaine Arndt, Nancy Shapiro, Joe Muscarella, Scott Levenson, Mary Ellen Mengucci, Karen Lipson, Paula Goldsmith, Scott Rivinius, Staci Weltmann, Jerry Zuckerman, Barry Shapiro, John Kwant, Nancy Fitzgerald, Scott Blackwood, Ari Storch, Tom Howes, Robyn Soloman, Jeff Fritz, Wayne Olan.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: Larry Tanenbaum, President, called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

APPROVAL OF SEPT/OCT MINUTES: There was a motion to approve September and October 2013 minutes by Larry, Joe M seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

RECAP OF COMMUNITY NIGHT: Students from the Churchill feeder schools-were invited to attend to the Varsity football game against Springbrook. Those students were granted free admission- along with a free baseball cap and half priced dawg pound t-shirt. The event was very successful. Larry indicated there were more younger kids than high school students. We will hold a similar event during the basketball season (target date is January 10<sup>th</sup>) and he will ask for help on that event down the road. Elaine Arndt was the coordinator of community night and she distributed flyers and coupons. Dr Benz personally distributed the flyers to the area feeder schools, which was a huge hit. The event was organized well. Scott R suggested a boy-girl basketball double header on January 10<sup>th</sup> for the next community spirit night and he will work with Elaine A on nailing down the date and events for the evening.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Scott Rivinius

\* We had success with the Fall teams: Cross Country did well with the girls in 5<sup>th</sup> place, the girls Volleyball team was in the regional final, the girls soccer team went to the regional semi finals, the field hockey team went to the regional semi finals, the golf team was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state, and the girls tennis team tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. The Varsity cheer team had their big competition at Blair on Saturday, November 16. All stadium events received help from many parent volunteers. The concession stand and spirit wear sales were successful as well. Winter sports team tryouts are 11/15 or 11/16 depending on the sport. Winter Sports Night is Monday December 2 at 7:00 pm. All parents of winter sports athletes are invited to attend the meeting to find out important information regarding their team sport. Finally, it is important to mention that the last home football game (Senior Night) was the 'Friday Night Lights' game of the week. We had US Army troops at the game with music, a tent and games for the students. Senior football player AJ Coleman was selected by the Army representatives to receive the STUDENT-ATHLETE SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD which was awarded to an athlete who embodies the 7 core army values of: LOYALTY, DUTY, RESPECT, SELFLESS SERVICE, HONOR, INTEGRITY and PERSONAL COURAGE. It was a great honor

for AJ and his family of supporters there at the game and nice for the Athletic Department to have one of our athletes recognized in a special way.

\* Dugouts Update – this will be our biggest purchase for the 2013-14 year. Coach Blackwood has done a lot of groundwork to solicit bids to complete the work. The best bid for the construction along with the storage units came in at \$38,000. The funds are not approved yet as the coaches are still seeking a few more bids. Coach Blackwood sees this as a huge need for the baseball program. The current dugouts are extremely dangerous for our students and the visiting teams and the county and school will not pay for repairs or renovation, therefore Coach Blackwood is asking for help from the Booster Club. Larry added that the school receives \$40,000 from BCC Baseball to rent the fields. Larry spoke to BCC Baseball and they may not continue renting the fields from us if we don't completely renovate the dugouts. The BCC Baseball contract expires next fall. Ari Storch reported that the current \$38K bid is from a county approved construction company and that it's well known. The Booster Club should feel confident that this company would provide a quality product. Scott R agreed that the testimonials reflect that this construction company is the best one to use as they have completed other area school baseball projects. Scott L raised the concern about the lack of construction management on some of our projects such as the 2012/13 gym floor project. Who will be the manager that will make sure this is done properly and correctly?

Scott R responded that the county is supposed to be the monitor of the project with site managers, inspections, and the school has to go through the county requirements for project management. Scott further explained that the gym floor project was completed with a product that was mandated by the county. The dugouts project is a much easier project and should go through without issue. There was some discussion on what type of construction - warranty we will get once the project is completed (1 year).

Feedback/Action on Dugouts: Draga – the county is telling us building methods, etc and then the defects are our responsibility. Joe – this is a proposal that we are considering and we are open to others but this is the best one. Larry – we need to vote now to get the green light that the Boosters will fund this. We talked about making use of the signage space which is a way to recoup some of the money. Ari will run fundraisers thru baseball and baseball is a huge contributor to the club. Joe M – the dugouts are really bad and need to be fixed. Nancy - has the county been asked to pay? Scott answered - this is not something they have ever paid for. Scott L –suggested that we approve to pay no more than \$38,000 and made a motion. Everyone unanimously agreed to pass the motion.

\* Practice wall update - this would have a wide range of usage. Will come in below \$10,000. Scott R explained that Athletics has a shortfall of \$46,000. There are 3 sources of revenue: BCC, gate rev, county. Unless he comes up with new ways to cut costs, there is a shortfall. This year it's up to \$96,000 before anything else. The booster club has to make sure these large ticket items are taken care of. Motion to pay for the wall by Ariane P proposed that the Booster Club commit funds of up \$10,000. Wall approved and passed.

MEMBERSHIP – Larry for Jim E (absent) – Thank you Staci W for all her help with field hockey and golf achieving 100% membership! Larry also mentioned that Ariane P got an early start for boys lacrosse membership.

CONCESSIONS REPORT – Larry - Thank you to Fran G (absent) for all her hard work throughout the fall sports season, she did a great job with everything! Fran and Larry are working on nailing down the winter season concession managers with the season fast approaching. Anyone that is willing to help out please contact Larry T.

SPIRITWEAR/ADVERTISING: Allyson B – Spirit wear sales have been steady, and we had a nice night at Community Night selling over \$1000 worth of gear. Allyson is working with the Hockey team and the arena to try and allow spirit wear sales at a few hockey games. She is getting ready to post the 2014 school store schedule online through [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com) and has added basketball games, lacrosse games, the SGA carnival and other special school events. Please visit the sign up and volunteer to work. In general, the advertising program is at a halt for now but we are working on the spring program with more details to follow.

HOCKEY: John K – The hockey team needs Booster Club support. The team is requesting \$5K, which is the same amount as the last 2 years, which covers rink fees and other team requirements. The motion to approve was made by Nancy F and was approved unanimously.

PAMPERED CHEF FUNDRAISER: Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm marks the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Pampered Chef Fundraiser at the home of Jim and Maria Edwards located at 11821 Prestwick Road, Potomac. All Booster Club members and spouses are invited to attend the event. Teachers, administrators and coaches will be in attendance and it is a great way to socialize, purchase great products and sample delicious food. Lynn Grody, our very own Booster Club parent and Pampered Chef rep, is graciously donating all the of profits to the Booster Club! If you have questions email Lynn at [legrody1chef@yahoo.com](mailto:legrody1chef@yahoo.com).

SPRING FUNDRAISER – Horse Racing Event: Karen L indicated the research team for the Spring gala needs Booster Board approval to proceed with planning the event. Instead of the annual Bowlmor gala event, we are trying something new with a Horse Racing Night that includes food, drinks and wagering play money on horse racing events shown on screens throughout the venue. The team may go to local businesses to request that they sponsor a race for an additional revenue stream. Instead of team baskets this year, we are asking the teams to purchase horses. There is no upfront cash request to approve this event to move forward. Dates are possibly in early May and not to conflict with spring sports, but the team needs to secure the full sports calendar (including meets) to ensure we do not plan the event during a Churchill sporting event. The Pony Express (Bolger Center) will close down the facility for us but would include a food minimum. The motion to move forward with the planning the Spring event is approved.

TURF FIELD : Scott R – Direction is that all county fields will be converted to Turf eventually. County will not pay and the school will fund this. Potomac Soccer and Bethesda LAX will pay for most of the funds. Combined they will contribute \$1 million and in return we give them 1000/hours per year. The school gets a lot more use out of a turf than a grass field and there would be a big savings in maintenance. Booster Club has to commit that we will do our best to raise \$225,000 and will also commit \$25k out of existing funds. Scott R and others met with James Song from the County and reported that 5 schools have turf fields now. The 1<sup>st</sup> 3 did it thru a partnership; Wootton is the closest one to our model. \$1.2 million is what it cost Wootton. The cost to maintain grass is \$45,000. Stadium is used by 10 sports. Advertising will grow, concessions will grow, local tourneys can be held here and we can use concessions for these as well to make money continuously.

Diana Conway – is a concerned Churchill parent who feels we should have complete info on turf fields before making any decisions. Doctors/experts offered to come but were not allowed per the Booster Club board officers. She passed around info on hidden costs, she passed out a handout, referenced at the meeting. Soccerplex has had to take games off the turf because of a lot of complications. Concern is both Cost and Environmental. There are reports of lead, zinc and other chemicals in turf fields. She passed out many handouts about this. The turf fields need to be sanitized and groomed. ACL injuries and staff infections have a much higher rate on these turf fields. All info can be found at: [www.safehealthyfields.org](http://www.safehealthyfields.org)

Wayne Olan and Jeff Fritz are coaches of the Boys Varsity Lacrosse teams. They both spoke on behalf of the importance of getting Turf for their kids asap. The LAX program suffers greatly all season because we don't have turf. Practices, scrimmages and tourneys have to be elsewhere and using the Turf for these would have great results. Nancy S– on behalf of track team – the track is junk and dangerous. Scott explained that if the county approves the turf field and we move forward, we'll have a strong chance to get the track fixed by the county at the same time. Joe M added that James Song will be a huge help, he can help us get the track fixed faster.

Scott L added that what Athletics is asking for is only 25k and this is a net wash for maintenance. \$1.25 million is the cost; we are still \$225,000 short and what happens if we are short. Booster is not on the hook. Larry explained that we are voting to give \$25,000 on existing funds and to make a commitment to raise \$225,000 thru fundraisers Larry explained that a lot of money could be raised through the purchase of pavers placed near the football field. He also explained that we cannot start to raise money for the field until we receive final approval from the county. Joe M: made a motion for Booster Club to write a letter which confirmed our willingness and best effort to raise the additional funds but commit \$25,000 at this point only. Larry passed out ballots for a private vote. Marlo S counted the results. There are 13 Yes votes, 3 No's and 2 Abstentions. Based on this, the Motion is passed.

The meeting adjourned 9:06pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Marlo Sims