

## WCHS Booster Club Meeting Minutes

Wed, Oct 9, 2013 7:00pm

IN ATTENDANCE: Allyson Bergman, Diana Conway, Marlo Sims, Draga Dubick, Ariane Promisel, Fran Gloger, Larry Tanenbaum, Elaine Arndt, Barry Shapiro, Joe Muscarella, Scott Levenson, Erin Conley, Sugam Garg, Mary Ellen Mengucci, Karen Lipson, Elizabeth Howes, Paula Goldsmith, Orly Santos, Scott Rivinius, Scott Blackwood, Lynn Liss, Staci Weltmann, Wendy Wilson, Lynn Grody, Jim Edwards.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: VP Joe Muscarella called the meeting to order at 7:10pm in the absence of Larry T.

APPROVAL OF SEPT MINUTES: Ariane Promisel requested that the Sept minutes be revised before they were approved. Joe M approved her motion.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Scott Rivinius

\* TURF update – Scott thinks the long term plan by the county includes turf fields for all high schools. A turf field would give Churchill more usage, and the overall maintenance costs would be reduced. Also, if maintained properly an artificial field should result in a reduction in injuries over time. The current field is in good shape but maintenance costs are high. Scott and others from CHS have a meeting with Mr. James Song, Director of Mont County Public School Facilities, next week on 10/14. The project is by no means set in stone. If the County approves the project the next step would be for outside groups to be asked to come in and bid on providing funds for usage. If we don't have a partnership with an outside company willing to provide funding, this project will not happen. Bethesda Lacrosse has already expressed interest in this project and would enter - a field usage agreement in return for Bethesda Lacrosse providing a portion of the funding. . If maintained properly, it shows a reduction in injuries over time. -We are not at this stage yet. The actual installation of the field is relatively quick.

Diana Conway spoke more on Artificial Turf. She said she had information showing that the turf is made from the same substance that goes into car tires and contains zinc /lead. She said that the material is not intended to be used on surfaces that are utilized by children and can be very dangerous. She indicated that NIH has reported that this material becomes inhalable and there are no studies that show what it does to brains, etc. She also said that turf fields have to be replaced every 8-10 years. In addition, turf fields have to be sanitized because they don't break down bacteria that build up on the surface.

\* Larry/Joe recommended that this discussion be tabled until we know if the county decides to proceed with the project. This discussion was not on the agenda for tonight. Diana was invited to come back to the next meeting to present her findings and Larry suggested that we move on to the rest of the agenda.

FUTURE EVENT DATES: Scott provided the following dates: Winter Tryouts 11/15, Winter Sports Night - Dec 2, 3/1 Spring Tryouts begin. No date has been selected for Spring Sports Night.

NEW COACHES - Scott R indicated that the following new coaches had been hired: Boys Varsity basketball - Rob Bean; Boys JV basketball - Aaron Vactor; Girls JV basketball- Ellen Marshall; Varsity Softball - Sharon Morris; Boys Tennis – Megan Lee who will also coach the girls will now coach the boys. Still open: JV boys baseball.

FALL SPORTS UPDATE: Our teams are exceeding last year's stats for the most part, fan support is strong.

NEEDS FROM Athletic Director: Baseball/Softball complex area. Varsity baseball Coach Blackwood was at the meeting and reported that the dugouts are a safety hazard and they need to be redone immediately. The school charges BCC 40k/ year to lease the field and they're unhappy about the dugouts as well. Cost of new dugouts will recuperated by continuous usage of the field. The BCC contract ends in 2015. Coach Blackwood has obtained an estimate of approximately \$38k is the cost for 2 dugouts w/ storage (supplies are currently scattered in different parts of the school). This is the lowest estimate so far and he is still waiting on two more. Once the bidding process is complete and a decision has been made -it will take 2-3 weeks to complete the project. The company that has provided the current bid has done a lot of work with the other schools in the county and their dugouts. It will be built with cinderblock at ground level. Scott Rivinius is asking for the entire cost of the dugout construction to be provided by the Booster Club. Furnishing the dugout with benches etc is an additional cost -. To be ready by the beginning of the season on March 1st this project needs to begin as soon as possible. The MCPS system only pays for maintenance and repairs on the track and the tennis courts, they pay for nothing else. Scott Rivinius thinks this expense is exactly what should be a focus of the Booster Club. Larry asked for an estimate of the cost of everything the Athletic Department is - going to need from – the Booster Club so we can assess how our money should be allocated. Scott will come up with a budget and will meet with Scott Levenson to get the big picture. Mary Ellen M added that the maintenance near and in the baseball dugouts is done primarily by parents and players.

MEMBERSHIP - Jim Edwards handed out the total Booster Club membership for each Fall team – rosters for each team are on file. Boys Soccer had an amazing recruiting effort and reached 100% participation because the coach - makes –Booster Club a priority-. Cross Country and Football have the lowest numbers. We are losing fall sport families especially for the JV teams who are about to end their seasons. We have a total of 449 Fall athletes, which doesn't include ice hockey. 260 families are not members or 58%. Total number of athlete families is 244. Last year we had 262, so we are 18 members short off last year's total. Mary Ellen stressed that if the teams were even up to 50% the membership per team, membership could be our # 1 fundraiser. Teams that reach 100% participation are awarded with a pizza party. The team reps will distribute the membership gifts to their individual team participants.

FUNDRAISING – Larry spoke about considering more fundraisers; he said that right now we are living off of concessions. He’s asking the group to come up with ideas. Lynn Grody reported about the Pampered Chef event at Edwards home on Thurs, Dec 5. All profits go to Booster. Raised \$600 last year. Paula G suggested baseball kids walking around with collection for the dugout efforts at the football games.

GALA – Larry recapped last meeting’s discussion about moving the Gala event to Jan/ Feb. We are still looking for volunteers to work on the gala committee. . Larry said he is also looking for a chairperson. The Auction at last year’s gala earned the Boosters \$30k. There was discussion about whether or not to change the format of the Gala. Karen L proposed a new event that would be called: “A night at the races” The goal is to offer an inexpensive night, not held in a fancy space. A committee will be formed on this ASAP.

CONCESSIONS – Fran Gloger - Fran has been responsible for concessions during the Fall season and asked that someone else take over during the winter season. Larry asked Wendy if she would do this and but no definite decisions were made. Fran said she had enough volunteers for Friday’s Homecoming game. Fran needs to be there to open up the concession stand for soccer. Last Thursday’s game brought in \$385. Fran said she would like to get together with Wendy either to help her take over the concession stand or to help find someone to take over the concession stand during basketball season.

COMMUNITY NIGHT – Elaine Arndt discussed plans for the Oct. 25th Community Night football game where Middle School and Elementary school kids get in free. Elaine would like for everyone to post information about the event on their neighborhood list serve. Kids will get a free baseball cap and a coupon for a half priced Dawg Pound t-shirt. Draga D suggested that Elaine sends out the flyer to everyone on the board so that they can forward it to their email contacts.

Marlo Sims, Secretary, left at 8:15pm

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:30pm

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Marlo Sims