

WCHS BOOSTER CLUB GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Tues., Feb. 4, 2025 – 7:00 PM (Room 116)

Attendees: Marcy Kreindler, Bridget Calhoun, Jesse Smith, Ashleigh O'Brien, Steve Connaughton, Marie O'Connor, Chris Bugel, Andi Hedberg, Brian Dubin, Jenna Breitstein, Aby Filomeno, Wendy Feldman, Cheryl Sheer, Mitun Seguin

Welcome and President's Update

- The minutes from the 1/7/25 General Membership Meeting were unanimously approved.

Financial Report

- Through the end of January 2025, profit is up 16% because fewer expenses, but revenue is down.
- Membership revenue is 1% higher than last year at the same time.
- Banner sales are down 40% from last year at the same time.
- Bulldog Bash update: \$350 in sponsors, \$1500 in tickets sold to date.
- Concessions revenue is down 25% and expenses are down as well due to fewer playoff games (especially football) and somewhat lower attendance at games across the board.
- School Store revenue is down, but profit is higher because less inventory purchased this year.
- Athletics Funding: To date, we have funded just under \$19,000, but we still have another \$2,000 of approved funding requests to pay. Compared with same time last year, we had paid \$28,000. Last year we funded requests totalling approximately \$50,000.
- Net profit to date = \$52k (includes leftover \$ from prior years)

Athletic Department Update

- Discussion of better ways to publicize Home athletic events (e.g., basketball, volleyball, and wrestling) such as week-at-a-glance home game schedules on social media that can be reposted by the Booster Club and displayed on our website and prominent mention on the morning announcements (to the extent not already being done).
- Jesse Smith announced that he is working on organizing volunteer reading programs at the cluster elementary schools for WCHS athletes.
- Basketball Scheduling Update:
 - Friday, 2/7 - Varsity Boys and Girls basketball double header vs. B-CC

- Playoffs begin on 2/28. We will likely host at least the first or second round of the Girls playoff game, depending on whether they get a bye in the first round. Undetermined at this point whether we will host the Boys first round game. (Update as of 2/27: We will host the Boys first round game vs. WJ on 2/28 and the Girls second round game on 3/3 vs. either WJ or Gaithersburg, both at 6 pm.)
- New Flag Football Coach announced - Coach Leila True (currently the Girls JV Basketball coach)
- Spring sports registration is open; the first day of tryouts for most spring sports is March 1st.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT PENDING FUNDING REQUESTS:

1. Swim Caps - APPROVED \$1350
 - a. This is a yearly expense; we approved paying for the Athletic House swim caps invoice for \$1350; need further information from Carrie Begin regarding Cassel's swim caps invoice for \$500
 - b. The Booster Club is always looking for ways to support the swim team despite the fact that practice and meets are held off-site; swimmers have access to the athletic trainer and weight room. The Booster Club purchased Record Boards and a banner for the swim team last year yet membership numbers have not improved this year.
 - c. We discussed trying to incentivize Booster Club membership by the Swim Teams with the purchase of the swim caps for next year - i.e., the Booster Club will pay 100% of the swim cap cost if membership hits 50%. Currently, the Boys Team is at 14.71% and Girls Team is at 26.83%.
2. Gametime Music Station Subscription 2024-25 - APPROVED \$2,675
 - a. Gametime Music subscription has been purchased for this season.
 - b. It is basically like a radio station with approved music that the school can customize. We can include a few short "commercials" for our sponsors which Steve Connaughton has been using in his pitch to get new sponsors. It can be used in the gym and stadium and possibly on the portable speaker system for the field hockey and softball fields.
 - c. Next year a student will prepare a playlist so unlikely to subscribe again.
3. Wall Wraps - APPROVED \$2,575.56
 - a. Wall wraps have already been purchased and installed by Allegra, located near the trophy case, concession stand, and gym.
4. Shot Put Area - APPROVED \$8686.08 (Half to be paid back by the Track & Field Teams after their fundraiser)

- a. Game Day, the field maintenance contractor, will create a shot put area, level out the area, and install wood paneling and 55 tons of crushed stone; can be completed in 1-2 days.
 - b. The Track & Field Teams will fundraise with Schoolfundr for half of the cost to be paid back to the Booster Club this spring.
 - c. Discus area renovations will be paid by the Cross Country/Track & Field Teams' Booster funds.
 - d. The Track & Field Teams have prepared a wish list of needs for which they are fundraising:
 - i. Shotputs & discus area renovations
 - ii. High jump cover - \$1200-\$1800
 - iii. Concrete pads for discus
5. Main Gym Floor Refinishing
- a. Current quote is \$38,709.04 but the invoice may be more depending on a few additional options. Jesse is waiting for a revised quote.
 - b. Cost will be divided up amongst teams (Boys and Girls Basketball & Boys, Girls and Coed Volleyball) with each team raising approximately \$4,000-5,000 and the Booster Club to contribute approximately \$22,000
 - i. Boys basketball raised \$12,000 with a recent fundraiser with Schoolfundr and will contribute \$8,000 to the floor.
 - c. The floor will be completed over the summer but the approval process must be completed in the coming weeks to get on the schedule.
 - d. Original gym floor is from the 1964 build with resanding/painting last completed in 2011. The floor is slippery and the new finish will restore the grip.
 - e. A completely new floor is approximately \$300,000 and has been delayed by the County repeatedly so this is a much cheaper and more efficient way to get a new quality floor. The MCPS flooring contractors informed us that the Main Gym floor is actually in good shape and only requires resanding, refinishing, and repairing which would last for 12-15 years.
 - f. We raised the issue of a plaque in the Main Gym that would acknowledge the Booster Club's role in funding half of the refinished floor.
 - g. MCPS is paying for a new floor in the lower gym as well as new lighting and sound panels to be completed this summer.
 - h. MCPS is also paying for the entire interior of the school to be repainted.

- We also discussed the timing and sequence of approving Athletic Department funding requests. It was suggested that voting on expenditures that have already been made makes it harder to incentivize membership contributions and other donations from our Bulldog parents. We discussed having the Athletic Department present proposed expenditures for funding before they have been made where possible (like the gym floor refinishing and the shot put area requests). However, sometimes the Athletic Department will decide to request funding for a specific project from the Booster Club as a way to show the impact of the Booster Club on a specific team and the timing of that may be after the expenditure has been made rather than an upcoming expenditure that may be for a program for which the Booster Club has supported already that year.

Committee Updates

- Bulldog Bash
 - Bulldog Bash tickets are available for sale on the website.
 - Will post a QR code to donate directly to Booster Club at the event.
 - May create a “thermostat” to show how much \$ needs to be raised for projects like the new gym floor project. Chris Bugel will work with Jesse on this.
- Advertising/Sponsorship
 - There is a new realtor sponsor - banner is being designed
 - Colony Pizza - wants to advertise a student deal
- Spirit Committee
 - Have held 2 successful basketball community nights and had the highest gross receipts for concessions so community nights are revenue drivers.
- School Store
 - Selling new sweatpants with pockets per requests from students.
- Website
 - New content: Athletics Spring Mulch Sale & Bulldog Bash tickets

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.