

Rockville High School Booster Club Meeting
September 5, 2007

MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

In attendance: Pam Angelis, Phil Barnes, Maria Bloom, Eileen Boyd, Kathy Carey, Sheila Carmines, Pam Denion, Ann English, Don English, Jennifer Forrest, Paul Fahrner, Karen Guffin, Brenda Hartman, Howard Hartman, Linda Higueros (Higueios?), Patty Kane Carol Kennedy, R. Kitsoulis, Joan Lane, Thomas McTighe (student – representing student newspaper – Rampage), Lennie Melvin, Dr. Debra Munk, Donna Nichols, Richard Nichols, Duke Owen, Karen Phillips, Martiza Portocarrero, Amy Rick, Selene Robinson, Donna Shelly, Sharon Strand (Kemper), Phyllis Taylor, Stan Thomas, Cheryl Trefzger, John Vlahakis, Susan Weinstein, Ilene Weiss, Lisa Wolf

President Ann English opened the meeting by recognizing new people and the BC Executive Committee introduced ourselves to the group.

Minutes of August were accepted as summarized.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Duke Owen

- Review of year to date – freshman night, back to school night, health evaluations
- Almost no expenditures to date
- Net for July approximately \$4,400; almost \$5,000 in August
- Have about \$10,000 in bank so far this year.
- Duke asked for assistance from someone to learn the process and take over as Treasurer next year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dr. Debra Munk (SBO report)

- Thanked for all past work, welcomed new people to “this fun and valuable group” and thanked Ann’s generosity of time and commitment as new president of BC.
- Feels that BC is a litmus test to the community health of a school and really thinks the RHS BC shows how healthy the school is and how much support there is from our community.
- Dr. Munk explained a little bit about how donations are distributed to SBOs at RHS.
- She indicated that the incoming 9th grade is very smart, talented, good athletes.
- Dr. Munk opened the floor to questions even if not BC related
- Question on tailgating starting at 4:30 for football games? This is an activity started by the class of 2007 – games start at 6:30 so tailgate party starts earlier & takes place in front of parking lot by electronic sign, and then kids all enter stadium together.
- If advance ticket sale goes well for Fri. football (Friday at lunchtime) will continue each week.
- Dr. Munk informed the group that on Friday, 9/5, there would be a pep rally for all fall sports so there would be a shortened schedule for the day.
- Dr. Munk reiterated that the school is cracking down on tardy both to school and to each class.
- She shared good news – RHS SATs up 65 points, up on HAS passage, going well.
- She invited all to the monthly Principal’s breakfast, first of the year this Friday.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR REPORT – Paul Fahrner

- Mr. Fahrner introduced himself and let new BC members know that he oversees all RHS athletics.
- Nice to see so many new faces – that’s a good thing.
- All fall teams have begun play.
- Some new hires this year
- Program overall is going in a positive directions and staff is trying to get as many students involved as possible, and RHS has many students who are involved with multiple team sports

- Seasons' passes available
 - \$70 (adult, \$40 student) for full year sports for entire year (except state playoffs)
 - fall season pass \$30 (\$18 student)
- Ready to answer questions about athletics.
 - Girl's lacrosse coach – still looking. Because of the way the girl's lacrosse program has advanced, really want to keep it moving.
 - Still looking for JV lacrosse coaches as well.

MEMBERSHIP – Donna Nichols

- Back to school night was earlier so at this early part of the year BC now has 107 members, which is really good for this time of year.
- Forms were given to volunteers to pass out at JV games.
- 20 music families have joined BC and ½ are brand new to BC.
- Corporate memberships
 - Outback is a comp corporate member; others pay \$500. On motion – comp Outback membership was voted in
 - 2 new corporate members – Potomac Pizza; and Oasis Salon & Spa at Wintergreen Plaza (a new freshman parent who manages).
- Last year BC had 131 members and 4 corporate; little short right now
 - 44 last year members still at RHS not joined yet
 - several staff and coaches have joined
 - 21 seniors' members are gone
 - 21 new freshman members
 - 29 new members

ACTION ITEM:

Looking for a membership committee to call those who didn't renew, and recruit new members.

HEALTH EVALUATIONS – Pam Angelis

- BC netted \$1500 this year and did 62 evaluations
- Evaluations really do provide a good service to the RHS community: one boy was discovered to have high blood pressure – previously unknown to the family – and was referred for treatment
- Great for the kids who are interested in sports but don't get docs visits in time.
- Ideas for next year
 - Send a postcard right after school gets out to mark the date to try for a better turnout.
 - Move date to BEFORE boys' football camp so they can have their physicals before camp.
 - Add in all communications: notice to BRING GLASSES or wear contacts – for eye test.
- Use Fahrner's digital scale next year that's used for the wrestlers. (Let Pat Gamage know the scale provided is off.)

CONCESSIONS – Lennie Melvin

- Snack bar is cleaned and is up and running and took in \$1,000 for first football scrimmage.
- Encouraged everyone to sign up for sessions at the snack bar.
- Really need a "shadow" for Lennie for next year and beyond.
- Has contacted with Potomac Pizza to sell pizza at snack bar. They deliver and give at almost cost.
- Grill is fixed except wheel. Snack bar start-up time is 3:30pm for football games.
- Volunteers need to arrive between 5:30-6:00. Need 10-15 volunteers for a football snack bar.
- Volunteers for alternative game boys/girls or JV/varsity.
- Donna Shelly announced that 2 marching band families will be there for all home football games.
- Sheila Carmines is the football parent rep will get parents and names of volunteers to Lennie (and Pam Angelis, volunteer coordinator).

SPIRIT WEAR – Susan Weinstein

- Did very well on back to school night
- Need to re-inventory and see what to reorder.
- Kids want a new tee shirt; student rep was asked to see if/what kids would like, not gender specific or sport specific – and we will see what we can do.
- Sold lots of fleece blankets at back-to-school night
- Anyone who thinks of something new should let Susan know.

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – John Vlahakis

- Reviewed parent rep role – education to parents, liaison between coaches and parents.
- Don't have a confirmation on JV or Varsity boys' soccer parent reps; or cheerleading (Kelly to let John know). Question: Do cheerleading and pom parents help at snack bar? YES – they do and can and would be more than welcome.
 - Joan Lane will tell pom parents to volunteer for snack bar, as well as cheerleading parents.
- In years past, snack bar was open for soccer, wrestling, lacrosse, basketball and football so now that it's open for more sports, we'll need more people. Field hockey is now at stadium so we could use parents for snack bar for that as well. Interest in opening for JV-JV soccer games as well (not just JV-Varsity days).
- John will email BC membership forms to all parent reps. Can leave BC membership forms for parent reps in BC envelopes in mailbox with names.

PTSA REPORT – Donna Shelly

- Donna Shelly is programs person for PTSA.
- New program has been introduced at RHS: Sharp program (instituted at Sherwood HS) for kids who have been suspended. Rather than spending the day at home, the Methodist church will host suspended kids during the day. 3 schools will share this facility (which schools?).

OUTBACK BOWL – Susan Weinstein & Donna Nichols

- Donna spoke with Doug Plain of Aspen Hill Outback and he's looking forward to working with RHS again this year.
- This is the 10th year anniversary
- Outback donates everything, doesn't keep their costs; BC usually makes under \$5,000 [note from Treasurer: \$3,500-4,000 are the actual numbers from past several years].
- Susan will get trophy and Spirit Wear ready.
- Meals need to be set aside for marching band for afterward since they can't eat in uniforms. Phil Barnes will take pre-orders so we know how many to set aside.
- The way Outback Bowl works is that instead of the RHS snack bar selling hotdogs and hamburgers, they just sell candy, nachos, popcorn and accompaniments. We will need additional volunteers to sell tickets for food (package is sandwich, chips and canned drink of choice). Outback people make the sandwiches and RHS parents do rest of it.
- Next meeting Donna will have a sign-up sheet for that.

NEW WEB SITE PRESENTATION – Brenda Hartman

- Link will be via the main RHS web site
- Individual pages for spirit wear, snack bar, mulch sale, etc.
- Will go live on Sept. 6 as demoed with screen shots by Brenda at the meeting
- Link on magnets given out at back-to-school night will point you to new site but rhsboosterclub.org. can still be accessed through RHS main page pull-down menu.
- Accolades and kudos from all.

OLD BUSINESS

- No info on new school soda vendor except there is no main vendor for county schools

- Cheaper to purchase at Costco or wherever. Lennie has names of vendors we've used.
- Need spirit wear volunteers.
- Need homecoming dance volunteers.
- For football games 50/50 raffle – need a coordinator. Process: sell during game and toward end of 3rd quarter ticket is pulled and ticket given to announcer; ½ the money goes to BC and ½ goes to ticket winner. Last year netted \$620 which was slightly lower than previous year. Paul Fahrner indicated that other school organizations have asked him about taking it over; would hate to see BC lose this source of revenue. [NOTE: Bob Taylor, Don English and Sheila York sold tickets at September 7th game and took in \$195; the Oct. 5 game netted \$116 but this was not as well attended a game from the visitors. The Taylors will sell 50/50 raffle tickets for the homecoming game 10/26, but will be out of town for the 11/2 home game so will need volunteers.]

NEW BUSINESS

- Rampage ad proposal – Tom McTighe, RHS senior, sports managing editor for Rampage presented a proposal for BC to purchase ads for Rampage. 6 issues this year beginning Oct 5, and ending with the May 9 (senior issue).
 - Last year BC purchased a ½ page ad for the entire year; 1st one is Outback bowl (fulfills agreement with outback), and kids design it;
 - Price is \$700 for 7 - 1/2 page ads. Price structure – ½ page for 4 issues or more is \$95 plus \$25 for student ad creation assistance so \$120 for each issue.
 - Motion to purchase ads was carried. Mr. McTighe will provide due dates for ads and ad theme. Deadline is usually about a week in advance.
 - Treasurer Owen presented a check for \$690 for Rampage for ads.
- Mr. Dadone will take photos of all the teams for the varsity banquet slide show. Blanton – yearbook team photos – for banquet booklet; then need names identified properly.
- Sheila Carmines announced that SunTrust has an offer for new checking accounts whereby when a person opens a new checking acct they donate \$100 to a nonprofit fund so perhaps BC would qualify for these donations.

BUDGET PROPOSAL – Duke Owen

- Need to vote on proposed budget for the year.
- Budget is formulated based on past income/expense history. It is ultimately dependent upon fundraising so items change throughout the year and so budget proposed is flexible.
- Four year budget history was given
- Explained all projections, about 3% increase which will come mostly from spirit wear.
- Not projecting major leaps in income, but projecting modest income increase and hopefully we'll bring in more.
- Donations and support
 - Last year \$37000 donated to athletic dept.
 - Last 2 years have tried to increase tangible support to other SBO (about 50 clubs) in RHS – last year went through Dr. Munk [helpful because it was difficult for BC to evaluate the needs so it's coordinated through Dr. Munk with lump sum and people who know the clubs control it and give it away. Which groups get funds is tracked through BC minutes and reports from Dr. Munk]
 - Club sponsors need to know to ask Dr. Munk if there's a club need.
 - BC can give donations during the year if there's a specific need, but that would be in smaller amounts (e.g., rampage awards banquet of \$25 per student for attendance) – general donation given at end of year when fundraising for the year is finished.
- Separate line item donations are APP (which has been supported by BC in past) and Marching Band is a new line item. Explanation of why Marching Band was added as a line item donation included high start-up costs and little-to-no direct funding in MCPS-allowed school budgets. Doesn't commit this level of funding for future years, and can change based on actual fundraising at end of year.

- Explanations given on Model Ram award Barbara Rossi award fund, and discretionary funding.
- Proposed percentages:
 - 60% athletic
 - 15% SBOs
 - 20% non-funded school programs
 - 5% discretionary funding
- Budget has been prepared by Treasurer Duke Owen, BC XC has vetted and proposed this budget for the year. Final numbers are based on how successful we are in fundraising efforts for the year.
- Mr. Fahrner explained that each team does NOT have a percentage of the donation, but that it is used for major items that may be needed. BC cannot fund any individual sport due to Title IX rules.
- Stadium light fund – balance of approx. \$18,000 remains; being paid off at about \$2000 per year to be paid out over 10 years on this interest-free loan. \$2,000 minimum payment in the budgets; we will pay out any amount specifically tagged for light donations (membership form, mulch order form, Safeway jugs, etc). Collected about \$3000 for lights last year and paid that out. Thought about paying that off all at once but since interest free doesn't make sense to pay off when dollars can be used in other areas.

On motion, budget was passed

Discussion of Music permitted to be played in Stadium.

- Fahrner explained the new county policy that warm-up music played before games can no longer contain lyrics or words. County-wide there were problems of lyrics that were inappropriate, obscene, and MCPS Athletic Directors throughout the county decided they can't monitor that. He's tried to have coaches monitor it but a student can plop in a CD without coaches knowing since they're preparing for games. Coaches knew last year that this was coming. Rationale is that there are sites where music can be downloaded – same music but without words. Won't affect band but this is recorded music only. This policy is coming out of Dr. Beatty's office – supervisor at MC. The policy is being put in place slowly but within a few years Fahrner expects there will be county-wide mandate for no lyrics.
- Discussion ensued and Stan Thomas indicated that he personally reviewed and edited all songs for JV and varsity football games last year and personally cut songs that dealt with guns, drugs, sex, rape, etc., and none of it was aired at RHS football games last year. He is willing to do it again, and perhaps have pre-approved by Fahrner can we do it. Would require each team and each sport to comply.
- **[Follow-up note:** Subsequent to the BC meeting, Mr. Fahrner met with Dr. Munk and RHS administration has allowed music with lyrics that have been vetted by parent reps for the 2007-08 year. This policy will be re-addressed by the administration later in the year, and MAY have to be rescinded if the county passes a mandate.]

Ann English thanked all new Booster Club members for coming to the meeting, and encouraged them to keep active. She indicated that the goal for BC meetings is to keep to just about one hour but that this first meeting of the year had more business than usual with the budget, principals' message, and music discussions.

The "Cup" was passed to Sheila Carmines for the October meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:57pm