

RM Minutes

Dec. 10, 2008

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

Attendance:

Kevin Brooks
Cindi Brooks
Brenda Dunham
Ed Spear
Bob Maxey
Bob Tendrich
Arnold Lee
Lisa Hill

Donna Fuqua
Liz Stoff
Chuck Mansius
Patty College
Cheryl Hoover
Kate Savage
Cary Dimmick
Elaine Koubek

Elaine Knobloch
Matthew Swanson
Ron Kronthal
Carolyn Cox
Carol Maguire
Paul Lofgren

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the November 5, 2008 meeting were amended to reflect the current cash on hand for the Booster Club at \$82,000 and that a new freezer was one of the items purchased for the concession stand. The minutes were then unanimously approved upon those amendments.

The Booster officers made introductions.

President's Message – Kevin Brooks

Kevin reported that he is working with the school to become more involved in creating school spirit. He has talked to the SGA and the art and music departments to get them involved in the efforts. The Boosters still face challenges to get students and parents involved and will continue their efforts in the winter and spring seasons. He would like Booster members to e-mail the officers with suggestions and ideas.

Principal's Report – Nelson McLeod

Dr. McLeod greeted the group and thanked everyone for their support. He distributed a handout that gave an overview of his presentation:

- Congratulations went out to the RM cheerleading squad who came in second place in the countywide cheerleading competition.
- MCPS has created a new process for facility enhancements to existing school buildings and the process has been shared with Bob Maxey and Kevin Brooks. There is a form to fill out and the process must be followed for all new initiatives at RM.
- MCPS has secured a structural engineer to assist with the installation of the center court logo from the old building. It will need to be installed over winter break because of the size and safety hazard to students.

- The MCPS Department of Facilities Management has requested that RM secure a yearly artificial turf maintenance contract, estimated at approximately \$7,000 per year.
- Dr. McLeod is currently working with Dr. Duke Beattie, Director of System Wide Athletics to resolve the matter of RM's athletic budget being reduced by \$12,000 due to the installation of artificial turf. The rationale behind the cut was that no additional money was needed for field upkeep. Dr. McLeod noted that the school is charting new territory with the turf field and he will keep the Booster Club posed on his efforts.
- The athletic department has purchased five portable bleachers for the track area which will accommodate 500 spectators.
- RM is currently working with the Dept. of School Safety to install additional security cameras in the stadium area. Dr. McLeod met with the director of the department to get his support for funding of the security cameras.
- Remaining unresolved facilities issues include: fencing around the baseball/softball fields, cementing the bases, foundation for the baseball/softball scoreboards, and installation of the safety net in the discus area. Dr. McLeod has met with Dennis Cross, project manager for the division on construction on these issues and to develop a long range plan. Dr. McLeod will continue to update the school community.

Dr. McLeod also noted that the school building will be closed on Inauguration Day and there will be no winter sports team practices that day.

Athletic Director's Report – Bob Maxey

- There were approximately 150 people at the fall sports award assembly. Discussion was held regarding getting better attendance at the awards assemblies in the future. Some suggestions were to do a raffle for spirit-wear and other incentives.
- A list of 17 current and future items related to ongoing field construction was given to Dr. McLeod and he will be addressing those issues.
- The dedication of the new baseball field will be held on April 18 at 1:30 pm.
- Along with the center court installation in the gym lobby Mr. Maxey is hoping to include the installation of various plaques on the walls for individual state champions for basketball, swimming and other sports as a 'showpiece'. The cost of installation for plaques has not been budgeted as of yet.
- Attendance at the winter sports potluck dinner was light.
- The student government association (SGA) is working on student fan shirts. Voting has been going on for the best slogan and the shirts will be available soon.
- Ms. Nicki Ma has been hired as the new girl's varsity lacrosse coach. There are currently five candidates for the position of head baseball coach. Interviews will be held either before or right after the winter break.
- Cluster Games will be held on January 23 (Girls/Boys basketball) and January 28 (Wrestling). Discussion was held regarding making the cluster games free to all RM Students (or the first 100 students) and having the Boosters reimburse the athletic department the cost of the student tickets. A \$300 cap was suggested. Also a suggestion was made to hang a cluster banner listing all the schools in the

RM cluster. The cluster issue was tabled until the next Booster meeting in January, when a decision will be made at that time.

- The Battle for the Rockville Cup will be held on February 24 (Girl's Basketball). This is the yearly rivalry between Richard Montgomery and Rockville High School.
- Thanks were given to Brenda Dunham from *Eye on the Ball Photography* for photos of the winter sports teams.
- The Inter-County Board (ICB) is now in control of the school and the gymnasium usage during non-school hours and any groups wanting to use either must pay a fee. The RM athletic department has been piggy-backing on other groups using the school to be able to use the gym on the weekends for sports team practices. The Boosters expressed concern over this new policy and feel that a team should not have to pay for using its own school for practice time.

Treasurer's Report:

A balance sheet was provided to members and an overview of income and expenses was shared. The current net income of the Booster Club is \$11,393.61 and total current assets are \$83,762.30

Committee Updates/ Discussion Items:

- Merchandise: The school store will be open every Friday in December to sell spirit-wear. New this year will be gift certificates. A new merchandise item for 2009 will be long sleeve t-shirts.
- Membership: The Boosters picked up a few new members at the winter potluck dinner.
- On-line auction: The online auction fundraiser grossed a few thousand dollars.
- Real Maryland: The head of the professional soccer team, *Real Maryland*, Ron Kronthal addressed the Boosters, giving background and history of his organization. He is happy to be a part of the RM school community and feels the RM stadium is the crown jewel of the county. He looks at the school as a partner and stressed the financial and educational opportunities for the Booster club and students. Some ways students can get involved are to write about the games, film them, and to involve the cheerleaders and the pep band. The Boosters will benefit from working the concessions. The head coach of Real Maryland will be meeting with the head soccer coaches from RM. Current RM soccer players may be able to be counselors in clinics run by the professional team. The team will begin practices at the beginning of April and will have practices three nights a week, Saturdays and Sundays on the RM turf field. The team has their own security team and cleaning crew and the lights will always be out on the field by 9:00 pm. The team will be meeting with the Boosters soon to work out the profit percentage from concessions.
- RM Ice Hockey: The coach of the RM Ice Hockey team, Paul Lofgren introduced himself and addressed the group. He stressed the great relationship the team had with RM for 6 years as a club team and gave an overview of the current team of 13 players. He introduced the team manager, Carol MaGuire and thanked the Boosters for their support of the team.

- Mulch Update: The tentative date for the RM mulch sale is March 28, before the spring break holiday. Pricing and truck rentals are currently being looked into and will be reported back at the next meeting. A mulch committee will be established to help run the event.

Old Business:

- Kevin Brooks gave an update on the irrigation system that was proposed for the current practice field. The project was started and pipes were installed under the field, but the project was put on hold by MCPS. Eventually the project will be completed, but the school currently needs to pay a \$4,500 bill for work that has been completed. A motion was made and passed to approve paying the bill for work completed. Treasurer Donna Fuqua proposed in discussion that the estimated total cost of the project should be paid by Boosters and whether money should be "set-aside" in an escrow account for when the time comes to finish the project. The total cost of the project is approximately \$18,700 and with the amount already paid, the balance would be approximately \$14,200. The group discussed "setting-aside" the funds and decided to table the decision until the June 2009 meeting so the topic can be brought up again before school ends when elections are held for Booster executives for next year.

New Business:

- Discussion was held regarding increasing the amount of scholarships given by the Booster Club to student athletes. A suggestion was made to increase the amount from \$750 per student to \$1,000. It was the sense of the group that the amount not be increased at this point and that the number of scholarships awarded also not be increased this year.
- Discussion was held regarding spring concessions for RM teams and Real Maryland soccer games. It was decided that a committee should be formed to work on planning, staffing, and other issues and that a request for committee members be sent out to the entire Booster membership.
- A question regarding who should provide snacks and beverages for RM teams who practice late was brought before the committee. Discussion was held and a motion was made that the Boosters provide snacks and drinks. The motion failed to pass and it was decided that team parents or the coaches should provide such items for teams, not the Boosters.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the RM Cafeteria