

Minutes

December 2, 2009

RM ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

Attendance:

Kevin Brooks	Cary Dimmick	Reid Miller
Cindi Brooks	Bob Tendrich	Bill Burchett
Brenda Dunham	Mary Ann Bliss	Bob Maxey
Helen Blankfeld	Monique Barber	Sandi Coleman
Chris Kelly	Elaine Knobloch	Ryan Fleming
Ed Spear	Michele Whaley	Jerry Kashatus
Barbara Cano	Paul Whaley	Bob Hamilton
Alan White	Patty College	
Marla Brannan	Judy Cline	

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm.

The Booster officers made introductions. Booster President Kevin Brooks welcomed new attendees and new members.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the November 4, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved with two changes. Under New Business, Black & Gold cards were changed to Gold Cards, and under Merchandise, a typo was changed to read spirit-wear.

President's Message – Kevin Brooks

Kevin thanked everyone for their involvement in the fall sports season, especially with concessions and spirit-wear sales. He stressed that now is the time to start recruiting members of the Booster Club for Board positions and committee chairs for next year. He reported that the RM Rocket has been painted and expressed his opinion that it is now the most impressive looking mascot in Montgomery County. He reminded everyone of the spring fundraisers coming up – the Mulch Sale and the Mike Curtis Golf Tournament.

Athletic Director's Report – Bob Maxey

Mr. Maxey gave an update on upcoming events, project updates and other items of interest.

- Mr. Maxey congratulated senior Skye Free for being selected for the 1st team all-county field hockey team, as well as the Gazette 1st team.
- The fall teams' awards night had over 225 attendees, thanks to the parents and coaches who got the word out to their athletes. It was the largest crowd for a fall ceremony. Only two award winners were unable to attend.

- The winter pot-luck was held on November 23. Mr. Maxey thanked the Booster Club for organizing the event and there was much positive feedback. The only suggestion for the future was to make sure there are enough drinks for attendees.
- There is a record-number of winter athletes this year – a little over 275, compared to 225 last year. The first winter games will be held this Friday and Saturday, December 4 & 5.
- Team and individual pictures will also be done this week.
- The scoreboard side panels for the main gym have been ordered and should be installed over the winter break. The plan is to have them ready to go by the New Year.
- Wall pads in the main gym have been covered in black. The RM logo will also be applied to the pads.
- Baseball and softball batting cages have been ordered and will need to be installed once they arrive. A baseball storage container has also been ordered.
- A banner has been ordered for the gym lobby that encourages respect by student athletes.
- During the winter season, the second set of school doors will be used for events in the gym, so as not to interfere with events going on in the auditorium and to keep better control of students coming & going from the school.
- The athletic department is getting closer to choosing a company to install the baseball and softball scoreboards. The athletic department and the school administration will be meeting to discuss the process and timeline.
- New lacrosse goals and a high-jump cover have also been ordered.
- Future projects include a cluster banner near the concession stand to acknowledge the elementary and middle schools within the RM cluster and a Hall-of-Fame area near the main gym. Mr. Maxey asked the Boosters to start thinking about who they should induct into the Hall-of-Fame.
- An upcoming event will be the Rocket Duels Wrestling Tournament in December. The athletic department is hoping to see the wrestling program grow, and this first tournament is a step in the right direction.
- Another upcoming event will be the Poms Competition in February. The school is also hoping to have the dance studio repaired after the water damage done in the early part of the school year.
- The athletic department is still attempting to have regional basketball games held at RM and will continue to pursue the issue. A cheerleading tournament will also be pursued.
- Discussion was held regarding transportation to away games for basketball players and other athletes. Mr. Maxey indicated that the school does not currently provide buses to transport athletes which saves the

school a significant amount of money. Parent and student car pools are encouraged because of the current county bus issues. It is very difficult for buses to complete the elementary and middle school routes and get back to RM in a timely manner in order to get the athletes to their games on time.

- The availability of the weight room was discussed. Currently there needs to be supervision by an MCPS employee for the room to be open. The room has not been open the last few weeks, but the athletic department is working on locating someone to staff the room. The anticipated hours will be from 2:30 – 4:00 pm.
- A request was made by the Boosters to the athletic department to provide team rosters so the Boosters can work on outreach to parents.

Treasurer's Report – Ryan Fleming

The reporting treasurer did not provide financial documents at the meeting but will post the information on the Booster website. A verbal report was given, indicating that we started the year with approximately \$80,000 and are now down to approximately \$55,000, due to extensive funding of projects, programs and equipment over the last few months. Spirit-wear sales have reached close to \$10,000 since the beginning of school and continue to do well.

Committee Updates/ Discussion Items:

- Membership – Chris Kelly reported there are currently around 120 Booster members. Most of the memberships came in the fall, but there were around 6 that joined at the winter pot-luck dinner. He will continue to encourage membership in the winter and will focus on contacting parents from the team rosters that will be provided to him.
- Merchandise: Helen Blankfeld reported that sales of spirit-wear merchandise are going well, as noted during the Treasurer's Report. Merchandise has been sold at Back-to-School night, Homecoming, all the pot-luck dinners, at lunch-time on Fridays and at other school events. A spirit-wear table will be open at the basketball games and other indoor sports in the winter.
- Events and Outreach: It was reported that there will be a budget created for Booster outreach events such as the potluck dinners and the awards ceremonies so the committee can plan for future events. Procedures for outreach events need to be fine-tuned and the committee will be working to lay out such procedures. There are also ongoing efforts to get parents of winter athletes involved in the Booster Club and the committee will be working with the Membership Chairman in these efforts.
- Website: Brenda Dunham reported that she continues to update the Booster website as people provide information to her. She will be posting the parent permission form on the site shortly, which was missing from the list of documents needed by coaches. It was also noted that the RM website needs to be updated

and does not contain the most current or correct information regarding athletics. There is a link to the Booster site on the main RM page and parents should be encouraged to go to that link for schedules and other information. New parents should be made aware of the Booster site when searching for information. Brenda is currently taking photos of winter athletes and has asked for help from team parents in organizing the athletes on picture day.

- Concessions: Mary Ann Bliss reported that the outdoor concession stand is now closed for the season. A clean-up, reorganization and posting of instructions will be underway soon. The concessions committee will also be talking to REAL Maryland soccer staff regarding their equipment and supplies currently stored in the stand. Jerry Kashatus stressed that help will be needed next year to run the outdoor stand.
- Banner Program: Kevin Brooks stressed that he needs someone to run the banner program next year, which consists mainly of contacting the current sponsors to renew and to seek out new sponsors. The Class of 2010 senior banner will be displayed in the gym during the winter season.
- Alumni Tailgate: The alumni tailgate was planned to coincide with the dedication of the RM Rocket. There were around 15 attendees with a few walk-ins, but the event did not turn a profit and took a great deal of planning and on-site effort. It will be decided next year whether to hold the event again, but it was the sense of the group that it probably would be best not to plan it again.

Old Business:

Rocket Installation: The Rocket installation is complete and has been painted black & gold by two RM Alumni. The base will be painted once the weather warms up and the black RM letters will be permanently secured to the base.

New Business:

Booster Bylaws: Discussion was held on updating the Booster bylaws, which are out-of-date and do not reflect the current responsibilities of the Booster Club. Paul Whaley offered to provide a bylaws template at the next meeting of a similar Booster Club for the RM Boosters to review and possibly adopt. Also, the Booster Board has decided to divide up the areas of responsibilities of the current two Vice-Presidents. Alan White will oversee **marketing** of Booster events and programs (Golf Tournament, Mulch Sale, Membership). Mary Ann Bliss will oversee **operations** (Concessions, Team-Parents, Events/Outreach). The spirit-wear committee will work with the Booster Treasurer.

Each Vice President will work with the committee chairs in an advisory role and will assist their respective committees where needed. This will free up the Booster President to work with the school administration and the Athletic Director and be available on an as-needed basis to all committees.

The Booster Treasurer will also be working on setting up the Booster Club as a 501c3 organization to make it a tax-deductible organization.

Volunteerism/Committee Sign-Ups: The Boosters need to prepare for the spring season of fundraising and events. Volunteers are needed to help with the spring Mulch Sale and the Mike Curtis Golf Tournament. Sign-up sheets will be available at the next Booster meeting and requests for volunteers will be sent out to the Booster mailing list.

Alumni Highlights It was suggested that the Booster Club post information on the website highlighting alumni who have gone on to play college athletics. This information would be provided by parents who contact the club. Notice would be sent out to the RM listserv asking parents to provide that information.

Team Parents: Some of the RM coaches and team parents don't recognize and support the Booster Club and don't know how the Boosters are there to help them. It was suggested that all coaches and team parents be provided information on the specific type of support we give the teams (equipment, tournament fees, team accounts), and strongly suggest to each team parent that they join the Booster Club or at the minimum come to at least two meetings during their sports season.

There was no additional new business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 6 at 7:00 pm in the RM cafeteria.