

Minutes

January 6, 2010

RM ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

Attendance:

Kevin Brooks	Cary Dimmick	Bob Hamilton
Cindi Brooks	Mary Ann Bliss	Cheryl Hoover
Brenda Dunham	Monique Barber	Cathy Muha
Helen Blankfeld	Elaine Knobloch	Paul Lofgren
Chris Kelly	Paul Whaley	Gail Rothberg
Ed Spear	Bill Burchett	Jeanine Gould-Kostka
Barbara Cano	Bob Maxey	Tom Weimer
Alan White	Ryan Fleming	
Marla Brannan	Jerry Kashatus	

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the December 2, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

President's Message – Kevin Brooks

Kevin thanked everyone for their involvement in the fall sports season and into the current winter season so far. He noted that the Booster Club is financially sound and the membership numbers have been steady. He explained that the two current Vice President positions now have more defined roles which will help the various committee chairs. He also mentioned that in the spring the club will be soliciting candidates for the Treasurer and Secretary positions, which are very key positions to fill. As we move into the spring, the club will be focusing on its two major fundraisers – the mulch sale and the Mike Curtis golf tournament. Volunteers will be needed to help with both events.

Athletic Director's Report – Bob Maxey

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

- After a short delay, the winter sports schedules have arrived, in both poster and wallet-sizes. The athletic department will be looking for a new company to use in the future to produce the schedules.
- A run-down of the current sports team's records was given. The boy's basketball team won their holiday tournament. The girl's team also participated in a holiday tournament. Wrestling is improving greatly – they defeated Rockville and hosted a successful tournament over the holidays.

Indoor track is doing well and will be sending a select group of athletes to Virginia Tech in January for a meet. The swimming team has moved up to Division A and although they are doing well individually, are struggling a bit in the division. The Poms have two tournaments coming up, as well as the county championship held at RM on February 13. The cheerleaders are present at many of the winter sports.

- A number of projects have been completed, including the whiteboards in the locker rooms, a motivational banner on the gym lobby wall and the wall pads covered in the main gym. The remaining 26 pads will be completed through a company hired by the athletic department
- Winter team and individual photos have been completed except for the swim team.
- Pending projects include the scoreboard side panels in the main gym (installed by Daktronix) and the outdoor baseball & softball scoreboards. The City of Rockville has pledged their support in installing the scoreboards. A letter to the city will be drafted by the end of the week. The proposed contributors to the \$5,000 installation cost will be the RM Booster Club (\$2,500) and the school (\$2,500). The cost of the electrical work may be picked up by the county.
- Digging holes for the batting cages has been temporarily put on hold because of the recent snow. The nets will be delivered around March 1st.
- A seating diagram has been developed for the main gym for sporting events. The middle section of the home side has been designated for students and the side areas for parents and other fans.
- New lacrosse goals have been purchased, thanks to Elaine Knobloch for her assistance.
- There is a new scholarship available from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). Five RM athletes have been nominated for the scholarship.
- The RM Varsity football coach has resigned. The athletic department has posted the position internally and will also be going out to the rest of the county to announce the vacancy. There have been five candidates so far interested in the position and there will be a selection committee to help make the decision. Any interested parties who would like to be considered for the selection committee should contact Dr. McLeod. In early February, the top three candidates will be interviewed, and the school hopes to have a decision made by the middle of the month. Mr. Maxey explained that if a teaching position is open at the school, then the football coach candidate can apply for it. The committee looks internally first at existing RM teachers, then county teachers, then support staff and finally, anyone out of the school system. The selection committee will take its time to find the best candidate and will be more deliberate and selective in making its decision.
- The RM Varsity field hockey coach will also be officially resigning soon and the position will be posted.

- The storage containers for the baseball team have been ordered and the floor for the dance studio has been repaired.
- There will be make-up games for both wrestling and basketball this week, due to the snow over the holidays.
- The Booster Club plaque in the gym lobby need to be updated with current information.
- There is a leak in the concession stand and standing water has built up in the electrical room. Efforts will be made to determine where the water is coming from and to plug the leaks and also check the roll-up windows, which may be one of the sources of the water.
- The winter sports awards night will be on March 18 and the spring sports pot-luck dinner will also be sometime that same week.
- Some new potential purchases include a cluster banner and tarps for the baseball & softball fields. The tarps would cost approximately \$3,000.00 each.
- The SGA is trying to schedule Ritchie Rocket to appear at a number of upcoming events and will try to balance out the appearances between both boys and girls games. There are a number of black & gold nights scheduled, including Jan. 25, Feb. 2, Feb. 5 and February 12. February 5 will be a spirit night hosted by the Boosters with contests and prizes.

Treasurer's Report – Ryan Fleming

- It was reported that the Booster Club currently has \$60,000 in the bank and has spent \$20,000 more than what has been earned, Expenses include facilities maintenance, the gym speaker system, the stadium speaker system, the stadium mural, and the roll-up windows and storage cabinets in the outside Sprit Shack. The Boosters have committed \$6,000 to the athletic department for tournament fees & awards. Sprit wear sales have earned \$11,000 since the beginning of the school year.

Committee Updates/ Discussion Items:

- Membership – Chris Kelly reported there are currently around 120 Booster members. He will continue to encourage membership in the winter and will be working with Alan White to obtain team rosters so he can contact parents by doing a mass mailing. It has been difficult to obtain some of the rosters as some of the coaches are reluctant to make that information available or just don't have the information to share. The athletic department can not mandate coaches to share that information.
- Merchandise: As reported earlier, spirit wear sales have reached \$11,000. Selling merchandise at basketball games has not been successful, so merchandise will no longer be available at games. The school store will continue to be open two Fridays of every month for students.

- Events and Outreach: Events coming up include the winter sports awards ceremony, the spring sports potluck dinner and the spring awards ceremony. Planning will begin, including outreach to team parents. The events committee will be working with the athletic department in the spring on outreach to Julius West by showcasing sports at RM for the outgoing eighth graders and their parents.
- Website: The Rocket and MVP winners for the fall sports teams will be added to the Booster website once that information is provided from the athletic department. It was decided that Booster financial information should not be included on the site. All winter teams have had their team and individual photos taken (except for swimming) and now action shots will be added in the coming weeks. Generic e-mail addresses have replaced specific e-mail addresses on the Booster website so they can stay consistent. The programming will still have to be changed every year, though, as the club officers change.
- Concessions: As reported earlier, the water leakage in the concession stand will be addressed. The Booster Board decided to open the outdoor concession stand in the spring for lacrosse games only, since the baseball and softball games did not bring in enough business last spring to justify opening the stand again. Also, since the baseball and softball home games are at 3:30 pm, it is difficult for Booster members to be available to open and staff the stand. The lacrosse teams are able to provide the volunteers because the JV and Varsity teams play back-to-back and have a number of night games.

The Booster Club also agreed to continue working with Real Maryland soccer organization, but only during the official school year. Last year there was difficulty of finding volunteers to work the Real Maryland concession stand in the summer and also finding someone from the Booster Club to coordinate the volunteers.

- Mulch Sale: The date of the mulch sale is tentatively set for March 27. The price of mulch this year will stay the same as last year. An e-mail was sent out to coaches to inform them of the date and details of the event and asking them to respond whether their team will be participating. Information was also sent out to all team parents. Flyers will be created and distributed early this year and the information will also be available on the Booster website. There will also be a lot of signage and advertisement of the sale.
- Mike Curtis Golf Tournament: The tournament is set for the 1st week in May at Hampshire Greens Golf Club. There will be a push for more sponsors this year and volunteers are needed to help with the tournament. A sign-up sheet was made available at the meeting.

Old Business:

Vice President Duties: At the last meeting, the Booster Board 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, and Banner Program). Mary Ann Bliss will oversee **operations** (Concessions, Team-Parents, Events/Outreach). Mary Ann is also creating a concessions handbook. 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.

Booster Bylaws: Paul Whaley reviewed the current out-of-date Booster bylaws and will report back to the committee on ways to update them to reflect current responsibilities and duties. Paul will work with the Booster Treasurer on the project.

New Business:

Website Renewal: The Booster Club voted on the renewal of the Booster website domain names and the host site for 2010. The motion was approved to pay \$10 each for two domain names and \$83.40 to renew the hosting site.

Banner Removal: It was the opinion of the group that the banners in the stadium should be removed during the winter months to preserve them. This policy will go into effect during the 2010-2011 school year, since the winter season is almost over.

MCPS Budget: Discussion was held on the potential budget cuts to MCPS in the coming year and the effect on athletic budgets.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 3 at 7:00 pm in the RM cafeteria.