

RM Minutes

Nov. 5, 2008

ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

Attendance:

Kevin Brooks
Cindi Brooks
Brenda Dunham
Ed Spear
Bob Maxey
Bob Tendrich
Arnold Lee
Lisa Hill
Donna Fuqua
Jerry Kashatus
Liz Stoff
Chuck Mansius
Patty College

Bob Hamilton
Cheryl Hoover
Jeanne Jones
Kate Savage
Cary Dimmick
Jeanette Winton
Chris Kelly
Cissy Palomares
Marla Brannan
Helen Blankfeld
Elaine Koubek
Emily Tucker
Bob Khuen

John DeVries
Robin Temin
Mike Froehlich
Gloria Poole
Diane Yokum
Elaine Knobloch
Matt Perkins
Dolores Barnes
Cathy Muha
Lisa Vaughn
Debby Kennedy

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the October 1, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

The Booster officers made introductions.

President's Message – Kevin Brooks

Kevin thanked the many volunteers who helped out during the end of the fall season and the playoff games held in the RM stadium. He announced that the official "RM Rocket" has been located in a former PTSA President's garage and the Boosters and the school will make every effort to remove it and have it installed in the new stadium within the next few months. He reported that a number of different groups within the school and sports teams helped out this year and will get money in their accounts. He thanked Lisa Hill and her team for all their help in organizing the Alumni tailgate event. He mentioned that an announcement about the stadium dedication will be run in the Washington Post and the Rockville Gazette and a flyer will be placed in all teachers' mailboxes. Also, a page about Roy Lester will be inserted in the football programs for the dedication. Bob Maxey will be the Master of Ceremonies and a plaque and a sign will be presented at the dedication. Kevin expressed a concern about lack of school spirit – noting the cancellation of the spirit bus to away football games and reported that the principal will be meeting with the SGA to discuss this issue. He introduced PTSA

President Kate Savage who informed the group that she brought student directories with her for sale to the Booster members. She will be making the directories available at various venues around the school in the coming weeks.

Athletic Director's Report – Bob Maxey

- The new RM Assistant School Administrator, Cary Dimmick, was introduced to the group. Mr. Dimmick will be the liaison between the Athletic Department and the Administration.
- The girl's tennis team won the Division 2 championship. They may be moving up to Division 1 next year. The boy's cross-country team came in fifth in the county championship. The girl's cross-country team came in 8th or 9th. All other fall teams lost in the first round of playoffs.
- Only 30% of the total student body attended homecoming which was disappointing. Lack of attendance at sporting events is a real concern.
- There has been no one hired yet for girl's Varsity Lacrosse. There are three candidates for the Boy's baseball team. The interview process will begin in the first part of December.
- By the end of the fall season the gate revenue for the new stadium should be approximately \$36K.
- There are a number of county schools going through re-classification for sports teams based on school enrollment numbers. Some of the current schools classified as 4A with RM may not be in the same division next year. Mr. Maxey noted that there has been criticism from a number of people that RM is in the wrong division because the large number of IB students who make up RM's student body do not play sports and should not be counted when determining what division the school is placed in. He countered by noting that 44% of athletes from the recent fall season were either IB students or in the Middle Years program and that 18% of the current IB students play sports. The criticism regarding the 4A division applies mainly to football because there are less athletes to pull from in the student body since very few if any IB students play football.
- There are minor adjustments going on regarding field maintenance. Many of the drainage areas have been redone to re-direct the flow of water.
- Phone lines and computer jacks are going in the press box at the request of REAL Maryland, the semi-pro soccer team who will start play in the spring. An additional speaker will also be added to the press box. REAL Maryland is also working on plans to install a permanent flagpole on the field which would also include their team flag.
- The softball and baseball fields are close to being complete. The sod and trees have been delivered and the paths leading to the stands have been laid. The area for the infields has been cut out and the dirt will be delivered. The electrical work and the scoreboard hook ups have been installed. There are two companies in the running to install the new scoreboards – Daktronics and Fair-Play. Daktronics includes installation and is the manufacturer of the current scoreboard in the RM gymnasium. Fair-Play does not include installation. The cost for the scoreboard itself would be between \$8,000 and \$9,000. The installation should be complete by March 1 and there will be a dedication ceremony planned.

- The tennis courts are complete and will be open to the public. The gates are still being adjusted slightly.
- The EPA was called in to do a decimal reading of the sound in the new stadium, prompted by a few local neighborhood complaints, and it was determined that RM has a below average noise level reading.
- A meeting with MCPS is scheduled to discuss once again the irrigation situation with the practice field.
- The dedication of the new stadium to Roy Lester should be called a “re-dedication” since the old field was already dedicated. There has been outreach to the community and alumni for the event, scheduled for Nov. 7.
- RM is hosting the state semi-final girl’s soccer games in the new stadium on November 8.
- The pot-luck dinner for winter athletes and their parents is scheduled for Nov. 20.
- The fall awards assembly is currently schedule for Nov. 13 but may need to be rescheduled.
- The Rockville Football league would like to hold their championship game on December 6 in the new stadium.
- Attempts are still ongoing to have the old center basketball court installed in the lobby of the new school. MCPS structural engineers are working with the school, but the progress is slow because of their concerns over the weight and supports needed to install it. It was suggested that Cary Dimmick follow up with MCPS to expedite the situation.
- A new Rocket and RM logo will be painted in center court in the gym over winter break. There are also plans to install RM letters on the black wind screen on the stadium fence by the main parking lot.
- Discussion was held on the lack of maintenance in the stadium after events. The current school maintenance staff does not oversee the regular cleaning of the stadium and is paid extra for doing so. Students are not allowed to come in after events and clean up. It was suggested that the school purchase additional trash and recycle containers and announcements be made regarding trash disposal.
- Winter team tryouts begin on November 15.

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 \$82,000, which includes \$4,200 in banner sales and \$11,000 in membership fees. The tailgate event broke even, but was still considered a success because of the good will and outreach to alumni. There is currently \$10,000 available for scholarships.
- Teams working the concession stand during the fall season received 20% of sales for the games they worked and the money has been allocated to their team accounts.

Committee Updates:

- Merchandise: An ad in the school newspaper, *The Tide*, has been placed to encourage holiday sales. Hours to sell merchandise during the school year will be determined. Some of the new items being considered are long sleeve T-shirts and

black & gold scarves. A request was made for locking cabinets in the ticket-booth to store merchandise. There was a motion made, seconded and approved to spend up to \$750 to have custom made lockable cabinets built into the ticket booth.

- Membership: There are currently 100 Booster Club Members, including 44 Black and Gold members. Efforts to reach out to RM Alumni were encouraged, and the Boosters will have a sign-up table at the Winter Sports pot-luck dinner.
- On-line auction: The online auction fundraiser will be ready to go on-line on the Booster website starting on November 8 through the 15th. Reminders will go out to the RM listserv community and the Booster mailing list.
- Website: Action shots of the fall teams are posted on www.eyeball.com for purchase. Proceeds from the purchase of photos go towards the Booster Club. Winter team action shots will be taken during the season and also posted.
- Concessions: Much work has gone into making the concession stand run efficiently. There have been a number of big-ticket items purchased such as the new refrigerator, microwave and XXX, but the return on investment has paid off. There are still some issues regarding enough outlets and circuits blowing occasionally, but they are being addressed. Planning for the spring sports season is underway and the concession stand will be open for lacrosse, softball and baseball for the first time in many years.
- Banner Program: Plans to expand the program to have banners up all season are underway.

Old Business:

- As follow-up to the issue of administration gifts to Booster club members, a discussion was held on whether a policy needs to be in writing and added to the bylaws for accepting gifts. It was requested by the Booster President that Ed Spear come up with sample language that he would like to add to the Booster bylaws to address this issue. Mr. Spear declined the request to provide language and the issue was tabled.

New Business:

- A presentation was given on Health Promotion and Injury Prevention for Student Athletes. Suggestions on encouraging healthy habits and practices among the athletes, coaches and parents were given as well as injury prevention. It was agreed to provide links on the Booster website to resources that can aid in promoting health and safety, but not to include this information on the school website, since MCPS has specific guidelines regarding these issues.
- A representative from the Student Government Association informed the group that they would like to establish a school mascot. Tryouts were held and a student was selected to be the mascot – a Rocket. The Rocket costume is \$3,200, and the Booster club was asked if they could help contribute to the cost. A motion was made, seconded and approved to pay for half of the costume (\$1,600) for the SGA.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the RM Cafeteria