

RM Minutes

Oct. 1, 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
Larry Center
Steve Willer
Rhonda Gaynor
Cheryl Hoover
Lisa Fumai
Richard Brown

Laura Brown
Nnamdi Edukobi
Jeanne Jones
Kate Savage
Cary Dimmick
Carolyn Gorsky
Jeanette Winton
Chris Kelly
Dave Kindermann

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the September 3, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

The Booster officers made introductions.

President's Message – Kevin Brooks

Kevin thanked everyone for helping out at the concession stand over the past month. He reported there were many volunteers from a number of teams and organizations. He congratulated Chris Kelly for his efforts in recruiting new members, Cissy Palomares for selling record amounts of spirit-wear and Lisa Hill for organizing the first Alumni tailgate reception. He noted that the Booster Club's exposure is greater than it has been in the last few years and the club is working hard on reaching out to coaches to assess their needs. He reported on his meeting with the SGA and interview with the *Tide*. The Boosters are reaching out to help support SGA and other organizations within the school. He stressed that the club still needs to recruit new members now that the winter sports season is coming up, and should continue to show the value of membership.

Athletic Director's Report – Bob Maxey

- The new stadium still has a few issues that are being dealt with – gates to all the entrances to the field are being installed and will all be secured. Chains will be installed around the locks so there will be no access to the fields on the weekends.

The drainage from the baseball and softball fields is causing some problems but the problem will be resolved.

- Selling tickets to the stadium may be done by using the interior ticket booths in the main building, to speed up the process of the ticket-takers in the stadium.
- The softball and baseball fields are starting to take shape. They are being leveled out and there will be a meeting next week to check on the progress.
- A review of the proposed baseball scoreboard is underway and will be reported on at a later time.
- A mid-season update was given on the progress of the individual fall teams. It was noted that the football team is struggling with attendance at their games, which seems to be decreasing. Announcements will go out prior to games to encourage students to come out and support the team.
- There are openings for a new Varsity baseball coach and a girl's Varsity Lacrosse coach. The search is ongoing.
- In response to questions regarding why there is no American flag in the stadium, it was reported that the construction company that built the stadium does not include flags or flagpoles in stadiums that they construct. An effort will be made to place a temporary flag in the field to finish out the rest of the fall season. A permanent flag will eventually be erected, most likely on the hill facing the school.
- A tarp has been installed on the stadium fence near the parking lot to discourage people from standing at the fence and watching the games. Another tarp may be installed to read "Home of the Rockets".
- The RM Cluster Night football game is scheduled for October 3 vs. Seneca Valley. Students from cluster elementary schools and Julius West get in free with a paying adult.
- The Homecoming game is scheduled for October 17 vs. Whitman. There will be a number of activities at the school that day, including a picnic, floats, and the Homecoming Court at halftime of the game.
- The Rockville Football League (RFL) will be playing their Super Bowl game on December 3 on the new stadium. There will also be regional state semi-final soccer games played at the stadium on November 8. The Boosters will staff the concession stand for both events.
- The stadium will be dedicated on November 7, prior to the last home football game of the season.
- A request was made to provide the Athletic Director with the number of season tickets sold under the Black & Gold and Family Booster Memberships.
- Senior Day games have been scheduled. Tennis (Oct. 6), Boys Soccer (Oct. 20), Girls Soccer (Oct. 15), Field Hockey (Oct. 18), Volleyball (Oct. 24) and Football (Nov. 7).
- The school is mounting a camera on the press box in the stadium to monitor the field area. There are plans to hopefully install another camera near the concession stand.
- There have been complaints from residents in the nearby neighborhood regarding the level of music played in pre-game warm ups in the stadium. The athletic department is checking on the allowable decibel reading on noise in the city and will report back on the findings.
- The girl's basketball team has requested \$400 to cover the cost of its fall league. A discussion followed regarding whether the Booster Club and/or MCPS have a policy

regarding Booster funding of off-season training clinics or leagues. It was agreed that the Boosters look into the policy and report back at the next meeting.

- The athletic department will be receiving \$12,000 less from the MCPS central office for field maintenance because of the installation of the artificial turf in the stadium. The school received \$66,000 last year, but now will be receiving \$54,000. A letter from the Athletic Director will be sent to MCPS to point out that our current practice field is in poor shape and needs extensive maintenance. The letter will also argue that RM has the second lowest gate income in the county and we don't have the funds to make up the deficit from the county.

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 as of Oct. 1 is \$88,831.98. We also have a net income of \$4,750.92 from the concession stand and \$3,600 from banner sales in the new stadium.
- The Boosters will be receiving additional concession profits from the professional soccer team, REAL Maryland, once they begin playing in the new stadium. We are also opening up a portion of concession profits to other groups within RM, such as yearbook.
- An invoice for \$2,537.50 for the county school flags placed around the new stadium was presented to the Booster Club. Discussion was held on whether the club should pay for a portion of the bill or cover the entire cost. A motion was made and seconded that the Booster Club should cover the entire cost of the flags.

Committee Updates:

- Merchandise: The Booster Club made \$1,500 in spirit-wear sales at Back-To-School Night in September. Merchandise was also sold at a recent class reunion held in the school. Spirit-wear will also be offered through the school store on October 10 and 15, prior to the Homecoming Game.
- Membership: There are currently 100 Booster Club Members, including 44 Black and Gold members. An RM backpack was given to new members as they joined, and also sent in the mail with a thank-you letter to renewing members for the '08-'09 school year. The goal by the end of the year is 150 members. Outreach to the teams and team parents is essential, as well as to the alumni. A script was suggested as a marketing tool so all members can use the same sales strategy for new members.
- Concessions: There has been an outpouring of volunteers to work concessions for the fall sporting events. Thanks were given to all Booster members who have volunteered. New menu items such as pulled pork sandwiches have been a success.
- Banner Program: We currently have collected \$3,600 in banner sales and have also worked out a few barter (banners for services or products). New banners have been installed on the stadium fence.
- Alumni Tailgate: There are currently 30 people signed up for the alumni tailgate, and a number of people who will be paying at the door. There will be refreshments and heavy appetizers, and the \$20.00 cost includes a ticket to the football game.

The tailgate committee has been working on the food, decorations, giveaways, design of the ticket and last-minute marketing of the event.

- On-line auction: The online auction the Boosters are developing as a fundraiser has secured a number of items and services at this point and organizers are hoping to secure more. Discussion included whether to run the auction on the Booster website or on eBay. A decision will be made as to how best to run the auction and will be reported at the next meeting. Anyone with items or services to sell can contact Chris Kelly.
- Website: Action shots of the fall teams are currently being taken and posted on www.eyeball.com for purchase. Proceeds from the purchase of photos go towards the Booster Club.

Old Business:

- A plan is being developed to install the center court logo from the gym in the old RM building in the main hallway in the new building. A progress update will be given at the next meeting.

New Business:

- It was reported that the headsets used by the football team coaches disappeared when the move was made to the new building. A request was made on behalf of the football team to replace the headsets at a cost of \$3,500.00. The new package would include the headsets, five radios and a lockable carrying case. Discussion was held and a motion was approved for the purchase of the headsets by the Booster Club. The motion also stipulated that the football team would carry a negative balance in their team account until they were able to replenish some of the funds at a later date.
- A student representative from the new weightlifting club gave an overview of the club and expressed an interest in working with the Boosters for fundraising. The club will meet after school and will include a study hall. They are recruiting members and asked the Boosters to spread the word.
- A motion was approved to rent a Spirit Bus for students for the upcoming football game against Walter Johnson to be played at Whitman. The cost of the bus is \$200 and the Student Government Association will be selling tickets the week prior to the game.
- The new Assistant School Administrator, filling the position formerly held by Marlene Kenny, will be announced shortly. The Assistant School Administrator is the liaison between the Athletic Department and the Administration.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the RM Cafeteria