

# RM Minutes

Sept. 2, 2009

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## ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

### Attendance:

Kevin Brooks

Elaine Koubek

Cindi Brooks

Chuck Mansius

Brenda Dunham

Helen Blankfeld

Ryan Fleming

Chris Kelly

Ed Spear

Elaine Knobloch

Paul Lofgren

Patty College

Cheryl Hoover

Jerry Kashatus

Cathy Muha

Lisa Hill

Dolores Barnes

Lisa Fumai

Bob Maxey

Barbara Cano

Susan Burchett

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the August 7, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

### President's Message – Kevin Brooks

Kevin welcomed back previous members and again welcomed new attendees. He noted that the Boosters have a great team of organizers this year and there is unfinished business that hopefully will be resolved by the end of the school year. His five goals before leaving office are 1) grow the Booster membership; 2) get the Rocket installed in the stadium; 3) increase school spirit; 4) identify quality people to step up into leadership positions for next year; and 5) give the RM community a sense of pride and ownership in the school and the athletic programs by providing a more positive message about the program.

### Athletic Director's Report – Bob Maxey

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

- Gate revenue for sporting events was approximately \$23,000 two years ago and increased last year to approximately \$39,000, which is around the county average. The school is receiving increasing support from the community and is considered a showplace in the county. Other teams have had many positive things to say about our stadium. We are hoping to rise above the county average in gate revenue this coming school year.

- The fall sports teams pot-luck dinner was a success. Coaches, athletes and their parents enjoyed the evening and it was well attended. Mr. Maxey thanked the Boosters for their organization and support of the evening.
- There is an increase in the number of fall athletes this year – up from 294 last year to 387 this year.
- Project updates:
  - The state-of-the-art gym speaker system installation is complete and we will be getting an invoice shortly.
  - The stadium speakers will be installed this week and the sound will be enhanced. The project came to approximately \$9,000.00.
  - MCPS will be installing batting cages for baseball and softball shortly.
  - The flagpoles for the stadium have been purchased, but MCPS has refused to install them. The current estimate of \$6,200.00 to install them is more than the cost of the flagpoles, so the athletic department is looking into other options.
  - The baseball and softball scoreboards have been purchased, but MCPS also will not install them. An estimate of \$32,000.00 to install them has been rejected by the athletic department and they are seeking another contractor.
  - The turf maintenance contract was rejected by the Booster Club, and the athletic department will be maintaining the turf every six weeks. Three repairs on the field have been made so far. The athletic dept. has not been pressured by the turf company so far to purchase their maintenance contract.
  - Future projects for the Boosters to consider include an RM Hall of Fame and plaques recognizing MVP and Rocket award winners. The idea for the Hall of Fame is to induct 3 to 4 people every year. Approximate cost would be \$4,000 - \$5,000.
  - The athletic department is looking to enhance funding for the current athletic program. The current budget is \$170,000. Of that amount, \$80,000 to \$90,000 is provided by the county. To run the current program, an additional \$80,000 is needed.
  - Tournament Fees: All fall sports teams except football go to post-season tournaments. Many other teams also go to tournaments, and the athletic department does not want to deny any teams the opportunity to participate in tournaments. The Boosters were encouraged to help fund these fees.
  - Senior Day Expenses: The Booster officers will meet and decide on how expenses for team senior days should be handled – whether the Boosters, the athletic department, or individual teams should cover the costs. They will also discuss tournament fees and awards.
  - The practice field is in bad shape and needs to be watered regularly. Many athletes and coaches are complaining about the dust and rocks on the field.
  - RMHS has won the Battle for the Rockville Cup, an annual competition between RM and Rockville High School to see which school has the better record in all sports for the year.

- The coach's lunch on Aug. 14 went well and the Boosters had an opportunity to speak to the coaches about their support of the Booster Club.
- The wall pads in the main gym will be recovered in RM colors at the end of September.
- There are five new head coaches at RM this year – JV field hockey, JV boy's soccer, JV cheerleading, JV girl's soccer and JV football and one new assistant coach for Varsity football.

### **Treasurer's Report – Ryan Fleming**

Financial documents were provided to the attendees. The Booster Club's current balance is \$74,116.05 and approximately \$24,000 has been allocated for athletic department projects. The remaining funds are a combination of team funds and Booster earned income.

Each sport has its own team fund within the Booster main account. When the teams work the outside concession stand, they receive 20% of the total profits from the game or games they work. According to MCPS Booster Club Guidelines, Booster Club funds may not be used to purchase personal items for any teams or individuals. Items purchased through team funds must be things that stay at the school, such as equipment, uniforms, bags, etc. Any personalized clothing or gifts that leave with the athletes, as well as off-season camps or tournaments and parties or dinners can not be paid for with Booster funds. Teams can hold their own fundraisers or ask parents to pay for items that stay with the athletes.

### **Committee Updates/ Discussion Items:**

- Membership – Chris Kelly reported that at the time of the September meeting there were 60 Booster members. He is hoping there will be an increase in members once school gets in full swing. The hope is to get team parents more invested in the Booster club and for them to get the word out to the rest of the parents. Between now and the first football game, there will be a concentrated effort made with recruitment. He will be creating Booster talking points to help people get the word out.

Merchandise: Lisa Fumai reported that the merchandise committee has introduced new items this year and had the items on display for the Booster members to see. Older items from years past are still available and the Spirit Shack will be open in the school store every other Friday as well as every home football game. The Spirit Shack will also be open for Back-To-School night. On-line orders will be taken for merchandise and can be shipped to purchasers. All Booster members receive a merchandise discount and must bring their membership cards when purchasing. The member discount is also listed online. Booster shirts are also available to members and order forms were made available at the meeting.

- Events and Outreach: Dolores Barnes reported that there were close to 500 people at the fall potluck dinner. She is trying to establish a team parent for

every sport, and has every sport accounted for except girl's volleyball and tennis. Outreach is continuing with Julius West Middle school and the Boosters will announce upcoming events on the JW listserv.

- Website: Brenda Dunham reported that the website is currently up-to-date with all the fall sports schedules and photos are being taken of all the fall sports teams. The Booster website is currently very active and the on-line store for spirit wear is open and ready for business.
- Fall Concessions: Jerry Kashatus reported that the concessions stand has been cleaned up and he has determined what supplies and equipment need to be ordered. New booster aprons have been provided for concessions workers. Suggestions for new items were made as well as discussion on whether food can be donated to the concession stand. A suggestion was made that food be sold on the visitor's side of the stadium.
- Banner Program: The banners from the REAL Maryland soccer season have been taken down near the concession stand. Last year the banner program brought in between four and five thousand dollars. During summer two-a-day practices, Carmen's Italian Ice donated Italian Ice for various RM teams in exchange for a banner in the stadium. Kevin Brooks urged Booster members to reach out to vendors who might want to purchase a banner.
- Back-To-School Night: The RM PTSA declined the Booster's request to give a short video presentation on back-to-school night to pitch the club and make parents aware of all the club has done for the school. The PTSA will instead include a short mention of the club during the general presentation. The Boosters will have tables set up near the school store for spirit-wear and a table near the front of the school to encourage people to join. Brenda Dunham will display a DVD of sports photographs at the membership table.
- Alumni Tailgate: Lisa Hill is organizing the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Alumni Tailgate Event. Lisa needs volunteers to help with organizing and staffing the event. She would like to have spirit-wear sales open during the tailgate so alumni can purchase merchandise. She would also like to do a raffle for other RM items. She mentioned that a number of RM alumni may have a problem with the date of Sept. 25 and we will look into trying to change the date.

### **Old Business:**

- Update on RM Rocket, Plaque and Mural: The sports mural, currently being painted in the stadium on the wall directly below the concession stand, is almost completed. The mural is being created by two current IB art students and has been funded by the Booster Club.

The plaque depicting the history of the RM Rocket is completed and will be installed at the base of the Rocket. Quotes by the construction company to install the Rocket were approximately \$18,000 and included the concrete base, the

steel to support the Rocket and the labor. A site plan was provided to the construction company, and the Boosters are looking for additional funding or a company to provide either the concrete or the steel complimentary or at a reduced price. Gary Strand has volunteered his time to provide structural designs for the Rocket. The Boosters will be going out to the community for support to help install the Rocket.

- Ritchie Rocket: Auditions will be held for the RM mascot, "Ritchie Rocket" and a report will be given at the next Booster Meeting.

There was no new business. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

**Next meeting: Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at 7:00 pm in Room 156.**