

Minutes of East High Booster Club Meeting
August 18, 2008

Present: Shel Gross, Ann Halbach, Alan Harris, Jill Jokela, David Kapp, David Krause, Chris Krueger, Barb Kyle, Kathy Last, Cindy Maitland, Connie Martin, Ruth Mathe, Cheryl McCollum, Sherry Miner, Peter Oppeneer, Steve Ottelien, Cheryl Parzych, Cathy Pierce, Chris Ramsey, Kathy Scholl, Verne Scholl, Jean Schroeder, Aimee Schwichtenberg, Steve Stephenson, Judith Strand, Deb Tobin, Jill Wanke

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Ann Halbach. Since there were several new attendees, introductions were done around the table. The minutes of the June 16th meeting were approved.

Principal's Report:

Mr. Harris announced that athletic secretary Mary Niebuhr will be moving into a position in the attendance office this year. Dave Kapp will be recruiting for a new athletic secretary. The position should be posted in the next few weeks. Dave will be getting assistance from the LaFollette athletic secretary and an admin support person from downtown until the position is filled as Mary transitions to her new job.

The district was awarded a \$5.5 million Smaller Learning Communities (SLC) grant over the summer. The money will be used primarily for staff training and core curriculum development. The district also received a Boys & Girls Club grant of \$3 million to support AVID with a tutoring program. AVID training is being provided for all staff, including those who work as athlete tutors. The AVID program was implemented at East last year and is planned to be expanded to the other city high schools next year.

East's projected student enrollment for this year is 1570, down from 1710 last year. Staffing allocations are determined based on projected enrollment, so allocations may need to be adjusted based on actual enrollment after school starts.

Following up a question from the previous meeting, the money paid for lost jerseys or other equipment goes into the East school general fund, but hasn't been segregated into the sports fund.

AD Report:

Football and girls' tennis, swim, and golf started practices last week. Tennis won their first invite. There was a great turnout for the first boys' soccer practice this morning of 78 kids. We have a new boys' cross country coach. Her name is Nancy Gritt and she just got a teaching position at Sherman for this year. All fall sports will be practicing by next week.

Mr. Harris reported that the AD situation in the district is still in flux. There is still a possibility that there will be a half-time assistant AD assigned to each of the two athletic directors. Some of David Krause's current responsibilities are being moved to Bea Bonet-Lueck, so that David can focus more on athletics. We want to do a better job of tracking eligibility for athletes and David will be concentrating on that. We have always been in compliance with WIAA requirements, but want to go beyond that and do a better job with kids who may be having academic difficulties.

Mr. Harris also mentioned some facility updates. New purple and gold bleachers were installed in the spec gym over the summer. We lost about 150 seats due to the need to meet new fire code specs. A new intercom was installed over the summer that projects both inside and outside the building. Every classroom also has cable now.

Fall Sports Reports:

Football – Cathy

- Numbers are lower than coaches would like, but the kids are quick and strong
- The roster numbers are: 40 varsity; 27 JV; 28 freshman
- There will be an effort to recruit more players at registration to try and get enough players for two freshman teams.
- There was an intersquad game and family cookout at Warner; had a nice turnout for that
- Scrimmage with Beaver Dam this week and open at Middleton on Friday.
- The team is again selling "gold cards" as a fundraiser.

Boys Soccer – Ann

- Tryouts started today; 78 kids showed up for the first day
- We have a new coach. His name is David Harris and he is also the LaFollette girls varsity coach. Eric Bertun is the assistant coach. Wes Braga and Serigne Sarr are helping with JV.
- Varsity scrimmages this weekend in Waunakee
- First game is against Hartland Arrowhead, who is ranked #1 in the state in pre-season.
- Home games will be back at Breese Stevens Field.
- A big “thanks” to Dave Kapp for helping with admin details and sorting out the uniform inventory over the summer.
- Eric Bertun reported to Ann that the kids look good; many participated over the summer in captain’s practices and attended the pre-season camp. We have two very strong foreign exchange students from Germany and Brazil.

Girls Golf – Steve (in Kari’s absence)

- First meet was held already – East came in 6th out of 8 or 9 teams.
- The team will be strong this year, with Angelina Parinello and Alex Douglas leading the way.

Boys Cross Country – Kathy

- The team has 20-25 boys.
- The new coach is from Green Bay; she is an alumna of St Norbert and also coached there.
- Adam Olson is assistant coach.
- Boys cross country will be doing Sept 5 football concessions.
- Started practice today and have 10 meets on the schedule
- There will be a picnic on August 28th for the boys and girls teams

Girls Cross Country – no report

Boy Volleyball – Shel/Cheryl

- The new coach is Tyler Cleveland.
- Practice starts next week with tryouts.
- Several kids attended open gyms over the summer and had a lot of fun.
- Trying to get enough numbers to have both varsity and jv teams this year.
- Dave Kapp gave Tyler a 4 year plan to build up the program.
- Tyler is really enthusiastic and has a volleyball webpage already set up.
- They play in Kenosha the first week of the season.

Girls Volleyball – no report (practice started today)

Girls Tennis – Jean

- Small numbers again this year with 15 total players.
- 10 varsity; 5 jv (4 players are seniors, 3 freshmen are on varsity).
- Middleton has 67 girls out for tennis.
- Won the Dane County Invite, without one regular varsity player available.
- Brookfield Invite is tomorrow; many of the top Milwaukee-area teams participate.
- Match against Whitefish Bay, then conference season starts. The team will be good.
- Tennis in general has had decreasing participation numbers in recent years but that now seems to be starting to change. Cherokee recently had to turn some kids away in their youth programs.

Girls Swimming – Connie

- 15 swimmers; 4 seniors this year; “quality over quantity” once again this year.
- Hoping that the Olympic hype will generate more interest in swimming for future years.
- First meet is at Middleton on August 28.
- All 3 coaches are back from last year. Two a day practices are starting.
- Have the first team sleepover this weekend; everything is great; excited about new season.

Spirit Squad – no rep

- We still need a booster rep for this sport. Any recommendations?
- Laura Harrington continues as the coach.

Dance Team has been discontinued until further notice.

Committee/Officer Reports:

Treasurer's Report – Ruth/Aimee

- Aimee Schwichtenberg has volunteered to be our new treasurer. Thanks Aimee!
- It needs to be emphasized with coaches that every purchase of equipment or uniforms needs to go through the district or the bill may end up floating around unpaid. Dave Kapp said he has spelled out to coaches that they need a purchase order from the district in order to get anything. Ruth suggested also telling vendors not to take orders without a district purchase order.
- It was noted that the biggest issue with going through the district is the timing for getting uniforms soon enough, primarily for spring sports. Coaches have gone through the district in the past, but requests have not always been processed timely.
- Ruth has been working on cleaning up discrepancies with PO's and bills from the past two fiscal years. Dave Kapp explained that the athletic secretary can input the order directly into the system now; Pam Nash approves; and the purchase order goes out. This should be able to happen quickly if all pertinent information about the order is available upfront.
- Ruth's only remaining open item to clear up is the soccer field rental issue, where there is a \$500 old bill still outstanding. Ruth would like to have authority to pay that. Also, the handling of the Breese soccer funds account need to be discussed. There is much confusion about this fund and the amount of money that should be in it. The money is to be used to pay for rental of Breese Stevens field and was generated from a fund raising effort two school years ago. Prior to the last two years, the school activity fund paid for soccer rental, but the teams assumed responsibility after that. Ann has the letter from when the school stopped paying for the fields. There was a \$450 bill for Breese from 2006. Ruth suggested it would be best to maintain a separate account for soccer funds, so there is no question about the co-mingling of funds and paying for fields. Ann will follow up on this and report back at the next meeting.
- Ruth and Aimee suggested that the booster club tax return ought to be blessed by an accountant, for liability purposes. This would probably be a cost of about \$200 -\$400/year. It was suggested that we hire a firm to do it every year, so there is consistency when the booster secretary position turns over. Taxes are about to be done in next month. Ruth will research and bring a proposal to the next meeting as to which accounting firm to use.
- Aimee suggested that we acquire a laptop for the booster club treasurer to use and pass along to the next treasurer. She was the Warner Park Youth Football treasurer and that is what they did. Perhaps we could get someone to donate an old laptop. It doesn't have to be super powerful, just something that can run 2007 QuickBooks. Warner Park uses a basic \$400 Dell laptop for their treasurer.
- Jean will follow up on the billing error for digitizing our logo for clothing. That was a mistake.
- A huge "THANKS" to Ruth for all the great work she has done as treasurer this year!

Concessions – Verne/Peter

- Verne is still reconciling inventory and hasn't finished itemizing earnings from the summer basketball tournament yet.
- Football concessions are coming up.
- Currently starting to order inventory and getting more organized; this year, we will have a system for keeping better track so we can tell how much we're selling.
- Sept 5 – boys cross country/girls track are working; Peter will send the reps info on the schedule.
- Sept 26 – is homecoming against Verona; need teams to sign up to work for that game.
- Verne will respond to the LaFollette booster club about our needs for their building during football season.
- We need to update our Sam's Club membership.
- Concessions committee meeting is next week, Tuesday, 8/26, 6:30 LMC.
- Anyone is welcome to join the concessions committee! We could use more participation.

- Pam Cross-Leone used to pretty much do concessions by herself; now there are written instructions and team reps can take care of most things; it is pretty straightforward and a lot of fun; anybody can do it - no experience necessary.
- Colleen O'Meara has the key to Lussier and Peter will pick it up after the meeting.

Spirit Wear – Cindy

- Will be selling at registration on August 21 and August 25.
- Cindy is looking for volunteers to help; will pass sheet around.
- New purple baseball caps ordered this year; will sell some at golf outing.

Golf Outing Committee – Ann

- The donations list was handed out; thanks to everyone for helping get prizes.
- Any additional prizes should go to Ann or Cheryl by Wednesday.
- We're still looking for golfers; golfers can email entries to Jill and pay on Monday.
- Need a few more volunteers to help run event; sign up sheet passed around.
- Checking on getting the girls golf team to do clean up after dinner.

Membership – Cheryl

- Membership brochures are available for those who want some to pass out to parents within their respective teams.
- 80 memberships so far; 2 business memberships so far; one at \$250 level and one at \$500
- Ann or Peter will put in a plug at Sports Night and we'll hand out brochures there.
- Will also have brochures available at the registration spirit wear table.

New Business:

Sports Rep Duties

- Ann distributed a handout outlining the sports rep duties, which will be posted on our website. Our primary goal is to raise funds for East athletics and support our teams.

Ice machines – Dave Kapp

- The LaFollette ice machine died recently; it came back to life, but is leaking oil. East's is on its last legs too. We may need to replace it and that may be sooner rather than later. It costs about \$8000 for a new ice machine and \$900 for an upgrade to electricity. The ice machine is in the trainer's area; used by almost all sports. Dave can probably get some funding, but may need booster help when the time comes.

Old Business:

- No old business.

For the Good of East Athletics:

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held in the East LMC on **Monday, September 15th, at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Jokela, Recording Secretary