

Minutes of East High Booster Club Meeting  
April 21, 2008

Present: Deb Amundson, Deb Cerra, Nancy Didion, JoAnne Nelson, Cheryl Parzych, Ann Halbach, Kris Holmes, Jill Jokela, Dan Wanke, Ruth Mathe, Kathy Monson, Peter Oppeneer, Karen Kennedy-Parker, Mike Park, Chris Ramsey, Steve Stephenson, David Krause, Kathy Scholl, Vern Scholl, Jean Schroeder, Jim Schuler, Mark Miner, Sherry Miner, Cathy Pierce, Sharon Redinger, Dan Halbach, Steve McKenzie, Paul Strommen, Faye Kubly

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Peter Oppeneer. The minutes of the March 31st meeting were approved.

**Principal's Report:**

David Krause reported that spring sports got off to a slow start due to the bad weather. Many contests were cancelled or postponed, but the season is now in full swing. Flyers for the PI Mile scheduled for May 17 were distributed.

David talked about the Papa John's pizza offer, which he is taking advantage of to raise money for various clubs and which the Booster Club may also be interested in using. Papa John's offers large 1-topping pizzas for \$6 and also offers flyers that provide .50 in donations per pizza purchased. Donations from Papa John's will be used to fund activities for clubs. Jim S. asked if we can get a PDF to put on the website. David will check on that. It was noted that Booster Club may be interested in doing business with Papa John's for concessions if it's the same price as Dominoes.

Jean asked if the garbage around the tennis court, in the gutter and on the sidewalk, can be cleaned up before the first home match on Thursday. David said he would follow up on that.

Interviews are scheduled for all day this Friday for the varsity soccer coach position. There are 5 applicants. David Krause, Dave Kapp, Chad Gunnelson and Jess Fenner will be doing the interviews. David didn't know if a parent had been asked to be on the interview committee, but will check with Dave Kapp.

**AD Report:**

Dave Kapp was not available to attend meeting.

**Spring Sports Reports:**

Baseball – Deb Amundson & Deb Cerra

- Varsity record is 3 – 3 so far
- The team played at Miller Park last Friday; lost to Verona 12 – 0, but had a lot of fun
- JV & Freshmen haven't won a game yet
- Freshmen haven't won a game in 5 years; last had a winning season in 2002
- Made \$28 selling concessions at Kelliher

Boys Golf – Stephen S

- Finally playing after a slow start due to the weather
- First match at Bridges was sloppy; came in 4<sup>th</sup>; played in windy conditions at Hawks
- JV team is having a good time; no results to report
- Participation numbers are good - 3 teams; 21 players; great enthusiasm

Girls Soccer – Barb on vacation in Hawaii – Faye & Peter reporting

- Doing okay so far. Record is about .500. Kids seem to be having fun.
- Big participation numbers – enough for 2 JV teams and a freshmen team

- Purple JV hasn't lost yet; very good freshmen class
- Jim Rodgers is coaching the freshmen team after Ricky V. declined to return from last year

#### Softball – Kathy

- 0 – 4 right now, but looking better every game
- Lost to Middleton by 1 run; Middleton coach was impressed with how our girls played together
- Jaysha struck out 11
- Very young team - 6 sophomores, 2 seniors, 1 freshman starting

#### Boys Tennis – Sherry

- Very strong this year; so far varsity and JV have won all their matches
- Varsity has played 4 matches; JV has played 3
- Varsity is ranked #2 in state by coaches poll
- Beat Homestead and Verona on Saturday
- Playing Marquette this week; Marquette is ranked #1, Homestead is #3
- Foreign exchange student, Yohan, from Brazil is playing really well at #4 singles
- New uniforms, purchased with last year's funding requests, look really good.

#### Boys Track – Colleen

- Indoor season has been going well; pretty much finishing in the middle at invites
- Had first triple dual, but lost to both teams
- Kids are progressing and doing well; strong core of kids looking to go to state
- Participation numbers are up; just less than 100 boys & girls are competing
- A lot more boys than girls are participating this year; would like to increase numbers even more
- Eric Moser, who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in pole vault at State last year, is unable to compete right now due to a knee injury, but is hoping to make it back for conference
- The team is having weekly team dinners; kids are having lots of fun
- Holding study tables on Wednesdays along with team dinners

#### Girls Track – Jill W

- Two outdoor meets so far
- Distance runners are doing well; Claire Brickson has been winning events
- Lindsay Parker doing well in pole vault
- About 20 girls went to a meet at DC Everest and had a great time; stayed at one of the coach's parents' house
- Had mock meet at Lussier in which parents and siblings also participated
- The girls are having fun; have some strong relays
- East hosting meet at Lussier on Wednesday with Sun Prairie/Middleton
- Will be selling concessions at Lussier; Colleen needs to get keys from Peter

### **Committee/Officer Reports:**

#### Treasurer's Report – Ruth

- Financial reports were distributed; No activity in the last month

#### Nominating Committee - Peter

- Looking for a treasurer – Ruth will hand over the books in outstanding condition.
- If you know anyone who has treasurer skills, please encourage them to consider this position; we have a new software system in place and better processes this year, so the job is not that difficult. The treasurer PO Box is set up and all vendors have the right address and email.
- Current vacancies – publicity committee chair, officer vacancies, spirit squad, boys tennis (Jean will talk to a few people), boys track (Brian Schwellingner may be a possibility), boys hockey (Chris will look for a replacement - Tom/Melody Lynch may be a possibility), wrestling

#### Field Improvement Committee - Peter

- Committee currently consists of Dan Halbach, Dan Lickel, Michael Maty, Eric Bertun, & Peter
- Jim S. wants to join the committee
- Have learned a lot in the past month
- \$150,000 from last maintenance referendum was allocated to do field renovation at Demetral for next summer (2009)
- Committee met with Doug Pearson tonight; walked around the fields and saw how abysmal they were; Doug thinks they can do some aeration, top dressing and slit seeding this summer
- Water is a problem. It's currently impossible to get water from the shed to the soccer fields, because it's too far a distance. There is a fire hydrant in front of the Unitarian church that may be a possibility, but that idea has not been well received by the maintenance staff. PDQ may also be a possibility due to proximity.
- Peter will send an email to Doug documenting their discussion from this evening. Doug said they might be able to run a water line over to the field using part of the \$150,000 that was allocated. Water is of the highest priority.
- The need to have the ability to restrict public access and use was also discussed with Doug, with the solution likely being to push the goals together and lock them up. Doug didn't like idea of fencing the field.
- We may need to find another field to play on while Demetral is being rehabbed next year. The teams used to play at Burr Jones, so that might be a possibility.
- Reseeding and re-crowning of Mansfield is being done this year.

#### Golf Outing Committee – Ann

- Looking for a committee to start working on the outing; a signup sheet was passed around
- Proposed dates for the outing are Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> or Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>
- Will attempt to get a committee together before the next Booster Club meeting

#### **New Business:**

#### Funding Policy Review – Peter

- Peter distributed a copy of the current booster club funding policy; it's pretty broad and not very restrictive; according to the policy, we can't spend money on trophies, awards or banquets
- We need to sit down with Dave Kapp and review budgets, spending and priorities.
- A new document needs to be developed that identifies booster club priorities and we need to discuss this further at a future meeting. How do we decide fairly what we fund and what we don't fund? Anyone interested in working on updating the funding policy should contact Peter.
- Other questions: Should we have goals for funding bigger ticket items? What do we see as possible capital budget items? How does Booster Club work cooperatively with the AD on these types of items? We need to look at both budgets and have both short term and long term goals.

#### Boys Basketball Summer Program – Jim S. and Mike P.

- Jim and Mike are working with other parents to take a hard look at the basketball program at East. They have met with the AD, principal, and parents and are looking at data. Mike distributed a basketball update report with some of the information they've gathered.
- They have been looking at all parts of the basketball program and the influence of the "tag sports" mindset that keeps kids playing year round in club sports.
- There are about 300 kids in the community playing basketball on eastside
- A high percentage of African American kids play basketball; a high number end up dropping out
- The philosophy has been once you hit junior year, you're either up on varsity or out, the way teams are currently structured. This is eliminating 10 – 15 kids every year from the program.
- They are working on developing the summer basketball opportunities for East students. There will be 9 – 11 graders playing together in MATC and Edgewood leagues. The idea is to have any interested East students be able to participate in order to improve skills and make the team. The

league is being organized this year to involve more students because the desire is to increase participation and accommodate kids who want to play but don't currently have opportunity. They have coordinated with both Badger Sporting Goods and the Y to schedule so kids can play on both AAU and East summer league teams. Chris Davis will be coaching varsity kids, with other community guys coaching and other graduating seniors helping out among the other teams.

- Fundraisers are being set up to pay for tournaments and coaches stipends. Examples include working Mallards games and holding car washes. The program will be hosting two tournaments – one in summer and one in winter. Money raised from the summer program could be used to fund the summer program for the next year or potentially contribute to basketball needs throughout year. They will be using Booster Club to pull the permits to host the basketball tournaments and will be doing concessions.
- It has been discussed that it is too limiting to have just one JV/Varsity team. The varsity reserve/JV schedule is currently an 8 game schedule. They are thinking about designating a specific JV team and supplementing the schedule to provide more opportunities for players. They already have an assistant coach who can work with that team.
- Additional updates on basketball will be presented to Booster Club as they work through their review of the program.
- Faye mentioned that she is interested in working on graduation issues for basketball and football players as a way to support the programs. There is a need to identify policies for following up with struggling students and come up with proposals to help those students, such as study tables, referrals to others for help, available student tutors, etc. Might want to pursue something like the track model, having study tables incorporated with the practice schedule. Faye volunteered to head that up effort and will talk to Dave Kapp and David Krause.

#### Boys Golf Funding – Steve S

- The boys' golf program in the district has been financially constrained. Participation fees have been increasing. Last year, a coach was cut from each team rather than consolidate teams at East/LaFollette and West/Memorial.
- East has 3 teams (Varsity and 2 JVs) and 3 coaches, but only 2 paid coaches. Mark Buffatt and Mark Nelson are in paid positions; Steve Bentin is a volunteer coach. Steve S. asked if the money that was allocated for the golf clinic last year (\$450) could be directed to pay Steve Bentin. Last year, the clinic was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. There was not consensus that this was an appropriate use of the funds that had been allocated.

#### **Old Business:**

Special Funding Requests – discussion tabled until Dave Kapp is in attendance at next meeting

- Bleacher
- Wind Screens
- Scoreboards

#### **For the Good of East Athletics:**

A question was asked as to whether anyone had looked into working Brat Fest as a fundraiser. Organizations are paid \$7/hour per volunteer. Booster reps haven't done it in the past, but individual teams may want to pursue the opportunity.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m. The next meeting will be held in the LMC on **Monday, May 19th, at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Jokela, Recording Secretary