

Minutes of East High Booster Club Meeting
May 18, 2009

Present: Leigh Ellen Caro-Leverich, Deb Cerra, Pam Cotant, Kari Douglas, Ann Halbach, Jill Jokela, Dave Kapp, Chris Krueger, Barb Kyle, Jude Leimer, Cindy Maitland, Steve McKenzie, Sherry Miner, Cheryl Parzych, Cathy Pierce, Sharon Redinger, Vicki Ryan, Kathy Scholl, Verne Scholl, Jean Schroeder, Aimee Schwichtenberg, Judith Strand, Deb Tobin, Jill Wanke

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Ann Halbach. The minutes of the April 20th meeting were approved.

Principal's Report: No report – no principals in attendance.

AD Report:

Dave Kapp reported that the prospect of having a summer weight lifting program at East was nixed by the district in a meeting downtown with the assistant superintendent and ADs. There were legal questions about the arrangement since it would be contracting with an outside entity and apparently that isn't allowed for some reason. The football and wrestling summer programs will continue as usual.

Dave reported that sophomore football games will be back at Demetral next fall. A couple of games at the end of last season were moved, due to the poor condition of the Demetral fields, after coach Kevin Attaway sent a letter to the district reporting the unsafe conditions. One football field and one soccer field are being scraped down and redone over the summer.

Dave also reported that the district is requesting a commitment by June 1 for Booster Club to fund soccer games at Breese Stevens for the long term. Currently, games at Breese Stevens are scheduled for the current girls' season and next fall boys season, but after that all games will be at Lussier unless there is a funding commitment going forward. Scheduling at Lussier is currently two seasons out. Conversation on this issue has been ongoing for a long time and there appears to be no satisfactory resolution. The district will not pay for games to be played at Breese, since Lussier is East's home field. The district was not willing to consider a proposal to have the district pay the cost of Lussier toward Breese games, with Booster Club picking up the difference, and the city will not budge on Breese rental fees because they can get 120 dates/year filled with no difficulty. The district will not allow East to keep game receipts for games played at Breese and fundraising has dried up with the poor economy, so it isn't financially feasible for Booster Club or the soccer parents group to make a commitment to fund Breese going forward. Everyone agrees that it is a loss for East and a loss for the neighborhood to not have our games at Breese, and we should continue to look for ways to keep playing there, but we can't make a funding commitment. Cheryl suggested that the boys and girls soccer reps get together and come up with an approach and meet with Dan Nerad and Erik Kass to see if anything can be worked out. One potential idea is to join forces with West and look for a business sponsor to fund Breese games.

There was general discussion about the poor field conditions at Demetral, for both football and soccer, and poor conditions at Kelliher as well. The fields can be a safety issue and potential liability problem. It is not uncommon for parents from opposing teams to comment on the poor condition of the fields. It is positive that two of the fields will be redone this summer, but all of the playing fields at Demetral need adequate ongoing attention.

At this point in the meeting, there was a break for refreshments to honor our outgoing Senior Parents and President Ann and a few others departed for the Sinfonietta concert.

Spring Sports Reports:

Baseball – Deb C.

- Overall record is 5 - 11; conference record is 4-9; JV record is just under .500
- The team has been in all games for the most part; just a couple of blowouts
- Team having a pasta dinner tonight; banquet will be at Rocky's
- The demise of the freshman team has led to lack of playing time for some players. Several JV players don't see much playing time, as well as those JV guys who moved up to varsity due to the loss of the freshman team.
- There was a general question about the philosophy of kids sitting on the bench on varsity vs playing on JV. Football reps noted that parents are notified if a kid is being considered to move up to varsity football.

Boys Golf – Deb T. for Steve

- Golf team is still looking for a win; the banquet will be on 5/31

Girls Soccer – Judith

- Last week of conference play; ending with LaFollette at Lussier and Memorial at Breese
- Overall record is 8 – 8 – 3; by far the best in 3 years; conference record is 2 – 4 - 1
- Big 8 Conference is very tough this year; 5 of the top teams in the state are in the Big 8
- Fitness seems to be an issue for our girls as the season goes on
- Have a really good, talented group of younger players; looks good for next year
- Regionals start next Thursday; Banquet will be Tuesday, 6/2; City banquet is Monday, 6/1

Softball – Kathy absent - No report

Boys Tennis – Deb T.

- Varsity is 12 – 2 overall and 7 – 1 in conference; JV is 5 – 4 overall and 4 – 4 in conference
- Interesting year; roster is very deep; lots of movement of players between varsity and JV
- Should be strong for the next 3 years; number 3 and 4 singles are freshmen
- Big 8 conference tournament is on Thursday; Varsity at Nielsen; JV at Quann/Ahuska
- Won all three matches at recent Onalaska tournament
- Banquet is Saturday, 5/30, at Maple Bluff Beach
- Connor Gilmore signed to play at Iowa next year

Boys/Girls Track – Jill W.

- Doing pretty well; Danny Aquayo won shot put, Alex Douglas won pole vault/triple jump, Gabe Heck won mile, and one of the relays won at the City meet; the Conference meet is tomorrow
- Lots of underclassmen on team this year; banquet will be on June 7

Committee/Officer Reports:

Treasurer's Report – Aimee

- Ruth Mathe won a gift certificate for CPA services and is donating it to Booster Club – Thanks Ruth!
- CDs were due; moved to MoneyMarket for now and seeking input on how to proceed; had 2 six month CDs of \$25,000 & \$10,000. 2.7% was best rate currently for a 6 month CD. (Anchor isn't charging service charges on our accounts.) A motion was made, seconded, and approved to authorize Aimee to set up new 6 mo CDs using her best judgment on rates, timing, and amounts, to be reported back at a future meeting.

Concessions – Cathy

- First 3 home football games will be on 8/28, 9/11, and 9/18; concessions sign up sheet passed around
- Need concessions workers for 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. and 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. shifts; split shifts between teams
- Will be working on a new Pepsi contract; waiting to hear back from LaFollette since we both worked with Pepsi last time and got a good rate

Spirit Wear – Cindy

- Cindy handed out reports for last two years of spirit wear sales
- Judith is doing a great job selling spirit wear out of the AD office; very grateful for her help
- Not much inventory left this year
- Vicki Ryan is taking over as spirit wear coordinator; please help her!! Football games take a lot of commitment and help is needed to staff spirit wear sales. Need at least 3 helpers for each game.
- Question was asked as to whether or not we should consider raising prices a little for next year.
- Vicki will shop around for vendors; suggestion to possibly look into sales on-line too
- All in attendance agreed that Cindy has done a fabulous job as spirit wear coordinator. Thank you Cindy!!

Golf Outing – Chris K.

- Outing will be on Monday, Aug 31, at Bridges; scramble format with shot gun start
- Entry fees paid before August 1 are \$95, after August 1 are \$110
- Need help with the committee; sign up sheet going around

New Business:

June meeting will be June 15th. Kari will check on availability of Maple Bluff Beach House for next meeting.

Dave said the All Sports Night date will be decided at the calendar meeting next week. It will probably be the week before the first football game in late August. He has been in contact with Outback. They won't do freebies anymore, but will do a meal at cost. They are interested in doing more with East, but want people to patronize their place of business, rather than coming to us. Sports night is in need of revamping. David Krause started to layout what it might look like – with a speaker to get some energy behind it – but has since changed positions, so Dave Kapp will be working on it. Dave will let us know if he needs assistance from Booster Club with the planning.

Old Business:

- Officers for next year –
 - Aimee will continue as treasurer
 - Have not had anybody step up for president, vice president or secretary
 - Leigh Ellen said she will contact Gay Thomas about a potential position
 - Suggestion was made to perhaps pursue co-presidents
 - Kari suggested Silvia Jackson as a potential secretary; Jill is willing to continue through winter sports season, but would like someone to step in for the last few months
 - There is a need to recruit among current and incoming 9th grade parents; Cheryl has contacted a few people, but no freshman parents are in attendance tonight
 - Sports reps should take the opportunity to make an appeal at spring sports banquets
 - Invite parents of younger athletes to the meeting in June
- Budget subcommittee
 - Didn't meet recently; will meet over the summer and report back in the fall

For the Good of East Athletics:

Thank you to graduating Senior Parents!! We are losing a stellar class of booster club parents to graduation this year and appreciate all they've done for us over the years! They will be missed!

Cathy noted that the annual teacher appreciation breakfast will be Tuesday, June 9th, in the LMC at 7:30 a.m. Food donations needed!

Graduating senior parent and vice president Barb Kyle gave personal thanks for being a part of Booster club for the past several years. Barb noted that Booster Club has done a lot of great things and, although circumstances may change over time, everybody brings the same passion and dedication to supporting our student-athletes. Jean Schroeder said she's been coming to Booster Club meetings for 8 years and has seen a lot of things change, but also appreciates the dedication and passion of Booster parents. We don't always agree, but everyone has the best interests of our student-athletes at heart.

There was a brief discussion of how to better publicize Booster Club to recruit members for next year. A suggestion was made to make there is something in the August newsletter, maybe including a Booster Club Q&A to better explain where the \$115 athletic fee goes and why Booster Club exists and needs to raise money to buy equipment and uniforms.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held at the Maple Bluff Beach, weather permitting, on **Monday, June 15th, at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Jokela, Recording Secretary