

Walter Johnson High School All-School Booster Club Meeting on September 19, 2007

Meeting opened: 7:38 p.m., A. Gradowski

Recorder: A. Fansler

Handouts: Agenda, June 2007 Minutes, Treasurer's Report

Members present: L. Weed, S. Gentilucci, R. Brown, D. Murdock, J. Witton, A. Swindale, L. Amsellem, J. Ellis, L. Morris, B. Fisher, A. Fansler, A. Gradowski, A. Chili, F. Dellelo, C. Merrill, T. Forline, S. Amos

Minutes for June 2007 – motioned by Ameer Fansler for approval, seconded by Ann Swindale, unanimously approved as written.

PR 9.07 President's Report – Ann Gradowski

We plan to email out all reports prior to each meeting to save paper. Also had a sign-up sheet for snacks to be provided at the beginning of each meeting.

AR 9.07 Administration Report – Chris Merrill

- A. We are having a sign made with a visual to direct people to the restrooms for events.
- B. Thank you for the Gator tractor.
- C. Blanton has provided us with a new id machine that we can use to print the different sports passes. Ms. Amos suggested different colors be used for the different booster club sports passes. Season passes are MCPS passes and we make no money off of them.
- D. Soccer game honored late Magruder soccer coach. The school will be donating the proceeds from the game to family to help children. 50% of the t-shirts proceeds will also go to family.
- E. Portables are going well. Smoothest opening in sometime. We feel really good.
- F. Homecoming is really early this year. Tickets are on sale and all guests who are not WJ students must be approved in advance. Have scouted out the Tilden facility to see how to set up. We will also be selling Homecoming Football tickets in advance. Booster to put this out on our list serv. Homecoming Court gets in free, volunteers for concessions will get tickets in advance to get into game free.
- G. Kensington 8k is Saturday of homecoming. Looking for a good staff and student showing.
- H. Interims are printed and mailed.
- I. Senior portraits, over 200 haven't taken them. Oct. 20 and 27 make-up days.
- J. We will host another "Bad Day to be a Pumpkin" day on October 31 with pie eating and pumpkin throwing.

- K. Thanks Sue Amos for her work this summer on the field. Watering all summer. Just bought a sweeper that goes on the back of the gator to pick up dead grass.
- L. The county wanted to take away all of our athletic spaces at the same time but the administration negotiated the change. The architects are not yet able to submit their final plans for all of our outdoor spaces. We will ultimately get an 8 lane track, 4 more tennis courts.

ADR 9.07 Athletic Director – Sue Amos

- A. We have girls soccer and volleyball at Tilden. Boys soccer, JV girls volleyball and varsity cheerleading at North Bethesda. Bus is available in the afternoon to take athletes to the different schools. Varsity basketball games will be at Tilden but practices will be at both Tilden and NB.
- B. Working on the placement of a banner at Tilden to show that this is the WJ home arena for now.
- C. Fall sports pictures have been taken. Blanton was our new sports photographer, a switch after our contract with Lifetouch expired.
- D. Already half way through the season. Maria Lamarzi has all scores up (win/loss) and it is current. She is fantastic.
- E. Need a big push is for additional volunteers. Soccer needs announcers and official clock keeper. Will have sports commissioners contacting each team looking for volunteers. They will get in free and they are paid about \$25 per game. Need for Varsity games. Would prefer them for JV as well but it is optional. Will also need these same positions filled for Lacrosse and Boys & Girls Varsity Basketball.
- F. Parking is tough. A. Chile suggested lot full signs.
- G. There has been some concern about trash under stairs following games. Ms. Amos spoke with building services about this.

TR 9.07 Treasurer Report

The loss of profits and balance sheets were provided by W. Gambrill who was unable to attend the meeting. Figures on Treasurer's Report that was handed out. Net income close to \$18,000.

MR 9.07 Membership Report – T. Forline

We are already over last year's membership numbers to date. Average giving last year was \$57.99 and to date the current give is \$83.26. We have sold a lot of sports season passes.

SCCR 9.07 Sports Commissioner Coordinator – J. Ellis

One vacancy for Poms commissioner. All other positions filled and confirmed. Will communicate with all the commissioners about the need for announcers. Now preparing for the fall sports banquet. Ann Gradowski brought up that we understand it is a hardship for individual team commissioners to attend the monthly meetings but it is in our bylaws that they should attend. Commissioners need to be booster members. We should notify

the commissioners to keep them aware of what is going on in booster. Sue Amos added that we need help collecting photos for slideshow at fall banquet.

CCR 9.07 Clubs Commissioner – Trying to improve our communication with clubs and sponsors. We have between 75 and 80 different clubs. Only 30 sponsors showed up to a recent meeting. Ann Gradowski is heading this up right now. She proposes that we should give each club a set amount of funds each year just as we give each sports club \$25 each year for their banquet. Chris Merrill tells all clubs requesting funds to contact booster club. Sue Amos suggested that the student leadership class do an announcement about requesting funds from booster. Ann will greet them at the upcoming SGA meeting. Teachers provide the clubs with a room and supervision for their meetings. The students are responsible for taking the leadership of the club. SGA already give \$25 to all new established clubs.

CR 9.07 Concessions Report – A. Swindale

Confirming when to open for homecoming. Homecoming parade is at 5 on the track. Booster club can have school store stuff for sale at homecoming game. Booster now owns two tents. Everything needs to be set up in advance so the volunteers can go straight to work. Chris Merrill will make sure it is taken care of. Amos suggested that we set up school store on the tennis courts. Homecoming is a half day of school.

SSR 9.07 School Store Report – D. Murdock

Everything is selling beautifully. Planning to get more “whose house” t-shirts. Ann Gradowski suggested that we consider reprinting the shirts to correspond with each different season and/or sport. Maybe with presales. School store can coordinate team purchases to help with costs.

PTSA Liason 9.07 – L. Amsellem

What does the booster want for this monthly report? Booster and PTSA are suppose to be working together. They did not receive the booster support for The Big Train for 2007.

Old Business

6.07-1 Wildcat Weekend – We did not make a dime. The craft and flea market was poorly attended. We spent \$3500 on the concert and brought in \$2500. Ann brought up “why do we do this if we don’t make money.” It is a community building event. Golf tournament was a lot of fun.

6.07 -6 Senior Grad Photos and DVD’s will be completed in two to three weeks. Leanne Euler is asking to be replaced for this task. The work takes place during the summer and the booster clubs makes between 6 and 7 thousand dollars.

6.07-2 The Pitch had made a request form for \$4,000. According to our June minutes we agreed that we would give them \$4,000 and request \$2,000 worth of advertisement space in return to promote booster.

6.07-3 Maryland tax exempt form – we don't have free sales tax but we officially don't have that status.

6.07-4 We need to file a request to allow us to fundraise in the state of Maryland.

New Business

9.07-5 Used Book Sale – Bonnie and Lisa

Could we make this a two day event and also sell concessions? People are looking forward to the sale. Mr. Merrill suggested that we do a Friday evening and Saturday. Without the use of the old media center we are renting a POD for book storage. Need to figure out where it can be placed. Mr. Dellelo suggested that we contact Charles Smith, he is the leasor for Georgetown Square, to see if we can make arrangements for it to be placed in the Giant parking lot. A number of parents have already been contacting Giant about renting parking spaces. They weren't interested in that but they might give us a space for a few months. Ann to send a letter of donation for fundraising purposes 501C3.

9.07-6 New Club Presentation – Alex Chile and Fred Delello.

The Mad Cow Organization. Mad Cows started last year. They use Facebook to spread the word about activities. Through leadership decided to make it more organized. Want to charge an annual fee and give a t-shirt to each member. Want to consider selling different apparel and offer student cards with perks to help get more people to athletic events and increase school spirit. They send out emails to encourage attendance. Want to help sports teams that don't have a big following to increase attendance of fans. Also want to give out prizes and raffles. Considering providing spirit noise makers – possibly start a sacred horn or cow sound. Very interested in starting new traditions. Ms. Amos will found out what noise makers are aloud at games. All want to make sure that the cheering is appropriate. Leanne Euler had a problem with the group not respecting the cheerleaders at a recent game. Want to encourage students to stay for double headers. Booster Club representatives at the different events we should hold feel comfortable holding youth accountable for their behavior. Hope to develop an award for the most spirited fan. Class officers from each grade to be involved. Can boosters donate prizes for away games or play-offs? A formal request must be made. Look into providing more transportation to away games.

9.07-1 Funding Requests

- A NHS- funding for Freshman Picnic
Motions – T. Forline, C. Merrill
Approved unanimously
- B Athletics – Gator vehicle \$6,000
Motion – approve up to \$6,000- S. Gentilucci, T. Forline
Approved unanimously
- C Athletics – Wind Screens for tennis courts
Motion – Approve up to \$800, T. Forline, A. Swindale
Approved unanimously

- D JV Soccer jersey fix
Motion – no need to vote, athletics will cover it per Amos
- E Horticulture – improvement of boxwood topiary, plantings
Motion – Approve up to \$400- A. Swindale, C. Merrill
Approved unanimously
- F General Use – grass cutting attachment for Gator
Motion – Approve up to \$280-J. Ellis, A. Swindale
Approved unanimously

9.07-2 Keys for Indoor Concession and School Store – Dorothy and Suja need two. Booster presidents need one. There is one kept in the school office. Sue needs one for the indoor concession stand to get to the ice machine. Additional key for storage 190, the booster closet.

9.07-3 Club Funding guidelines – parameters for non-request funding of clubs

9.07-4 Sport passes – We now have a new machine to create them given to us by Blanton Studios.

Additional Business

Request from football and field hockey say that it takes them about 9 hours to line the fields. Want to know if booster can help pay for this. Chris says we will be asking the county to purchase a paint machine for us. Amos said that it is the responsibility of the coaches to get their parent volunteers to help with this job.

S. Gentilucci brought up that we need to renew our insurance. This is a continuous and ongoing expense that we do not need to approve. **Scott will get a check from W. Gambrell.**

C. Merrill requested that Booster put same amount of funds as last year into the principal discretionary fund. Ann Gradowski will put out an email vote if additional funds are needed.

Not on the original agenda, special guest, Ron Brown. His organization allows parents to register their children. They are given a parent/teen driver contract and bumper sticker that has a number that other drivers can call if they witness bad driving by the student and it is reported to the parents. There is a website and telephone numbers that operate 24 hours a day for incident reporting. He reports that teens feel like it makes them be more responsible. Statistics show that the bumper stickers for the commercial fleet trucks that ask “how’s my driving” have helped reduce accidents by 50%. 1 in 4 16 year olds will be in an accident. He presented flyers and business cards to the group. How do you control false reports? The central line does have caller id. Scott Gentilucci added that he feels the booster could get a sales commission in the form of a donation from any memberships that he gets from us generating business at WJ.

Ann moved that we adjourn, L. Morris seconded. Approved and adjourned at 9:51.

Addendum to September 2007 minutes:

September 23, 2007 at 11:02 p.m.

A. Gradowski moved that we reimburse Joe Thompson and the senior class for the leftover food from the senior picnic in the amount of \$95 (check to be issued by W. Gambrill).

Seconded by A. Swindale

Motion carried via email with yes votes from: J. Ellis, L. Euler, L. Amsellem, T. Forline, L. Weed.