



# Greeley Sports Boosters

## Horace Greeley High School

Chappaqua, New York

### Minutes

October 23, 2018, 7:30pm  
Physical Education Classroom

#### ATTENDANCE

##### **Board Members**

Laura Brail  
Jennifer Bergin  
Cindy Greenstein  
Amanda Goodstadt  
Heather Lafortezza  
Karen Yarasavage  
Mike Hutchings

##### **Committee Chairs, Team Liaisons, Members & Guests**

Lori Townsend, Julia Burton, Ari Lindner, Lisa Dunleavy, Stu Tainsky, Ken Silverman, Gary Abrams, Wendi Silverman, Rob Catarella

#### WELCOME

- The September 2018 minutes were approved.

#### UPDATE

- **Gifts to Athletic Trainers** Two training tables have been ordered and seven water coolers have been delivered.
- **Athletic Building & Field C Construction** In the main gym, curtain dividers and the two main basket systems are up. Side baskets will go up later. Scoreboard installation is scheduled for November 12. In the fitness center, flooring is scheduled to be installed on December 3 and equipment will be delivered on December 5. Flooring will be installed in the yoga/dance studio on December 5. New nets are up on Field C. The dirt needs to dry before work can progress.

- **Student Booster Club** The Club's focus is sports journalism, as well as spreading the word about sports events to the Greeley student body. Forty-five students signed up at the Activity Fair. Currently there are twenty active members. Kids have been writing articles and taking photographs. Some of the content is already on the Boosters website. Laura and Jeff are working on procuring camera equipment.
- **Web-Store Fundraising Program; Coach Apparel** Difficult to get this up and running for the fall. Process is as follows: Jason informs coaches about Rainbow Lettering. Coach decides whether to work with them directly or whether to involve a parent. Team can ask Rainbow Lettering for a sales report in order to confirm numbers. Team funds raised correlated with communication to team from coaches and parents, and was not related the size of the particular program. There was conversation about the inconsistency with communication from different coaches in general, not just with respect to the web-stores. Quarter zips have been delivered. Teams can use money earned from the stores at their discretion. There were questions about whether monies remaining in team accounts at the end of the year can/should be rolled over into the following year and who makes these decisions. Sports Boosters feels it is up to the teams to decide and it is so written in our Financial Guidelines Document. 501c3 regulations allow for a minimal carried balance (relative to an organization's annual budget) while still maintaining a not-for-profit status.
- **Technology/Website/Social Media** Laura read Jeff's update. There was a strong social media presence for fall sports. Looking to have a parent who attends all games and matches cover each team for the winter season. Exploring opportunity/ability to stream games, including ice hockey. Developing a policy/procedure to be put in front of the Board of Education to allow social media over CCSD WiFi (which includes streaming video). CCSD WiFi on campus currently blocks social media.
- **Membership** Lori provided an update. We have a new batch of members and hope to have more after winter modified registration. We have 251 members right now (versus 298 at the end of last year), however, we still want to reach a greater percentage of athletes' families.
- **Financials** Cindy distributed financial reports via email.

## DISCUSSION

- **NCYBA – Looking to Farm Out Concessions for MLK Weekend Tournament** NCYBA wants to “get rid of the headache.” The tournament is Friday through Sunday. NCYBA had 85 volunteers for three days of games. They previously broke even. There isn't a huge crowd at the games, but there is a potential opportunity. Gary said that the NCYBA wants to continue with the tournament so they are lowering the entry fees and will not charge admission. Alex Cohen is looking for a vendor to come in and run refreshments.

Consensus was that this is not something the Boosters will do, but people gave Gary some ideas to pursue.

- **Coaches Gifts & Compensation for Off-Season League Coaching** The CCSD gift policy needs clarification. Right now, the policy says gifts are capped at a maximum of \$75 per family. The policy doesn't appear to consider group gifts, nor does it address whether the \$75 is per family, per coach. Laura asked whether people agree that we should bring this topic up with the Board of Education and people agreed. Heather noted that this relates to the dues conversation, i.e., should gifts come from dues or should they be an additional request? There was conversation about whether there should be uniformity around how much money a team can raise from town merchant solicitation. Heather also asked whether there should be uniformity about what teams are allowed to do with their money. Laura will bring all of this up with Jane Shepardson. Julia suggested that the Boosters consider playing a role in Senior Day. She shared that Somers has a banner and provides flowers to both their own seniors and visiting seniors. Lori suggested that Boosters consider providing posters so that every team is able to have one.

## **YOUTH AND MODIFIED SPORTS OUTREACH**

- ***CCSD Modified Sports: What 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Families Need to Know***
  - Compiled Information – Laura received contributions to the document she previously circulated from parents, coaches and administrators. The main topic areas are relevant to all sports; however, details may vary by sport. There were four main categories of comments/items that need to be addressed:
    - (1) Define the Program. What is modified sports? Who runs it? What's the philosophy behind it? Needs to be defined by the district/athletic department with input from the community. Boosters is gathering this input through post-season Modified Sports surveys, conversations and the document that was just circulated. May differ by sport.
    - (2) Nuts & Bolts. When are games and practices held? What is the transportation situation? How does someone register? What are the eligibility rules to play (10 practices, etc.)?
    - (3) Expectations. Need to be set up front. Coaches, parents, players and the district. Attendance requirements. Communication is on a coach-by-coach basis and should be more uniform. Expectations around skills, regardless of whether the program is more recreational or competitive. Modified should bridge youth sports and high school, a "Pre-JV" experience, and not a step backwards.
    - (4) Troubleshooting/Miscellaneous. Buses are an issue. District looked into additional buses, whether from Chappaqua Transportation or another company, but there aren't enough drivers. How to manage when a child stays for after-school help and their team practice is held at the other middle school.

- **Vertical Linking – From varsity down to youth** This should come from the varsity coaches, but there have been mixed experiences.
  - Basketball Gary said that this must start with Jason and the varsity coaches. Youth Basketball has brought the Greeley coaches into their program and it's been great.
  - Field Hockey Ken shared that the town Youth field hockey coaches are also the Greeley varsity coaches and varsity players assist the younger kids. While the coaches are working with the third and fourth graders, varsity captains run the first half of their practice so the younger kids can see their playing skills and leadership. However, modified field hockey is a disaster. CCSD won't allow non-CCSD kids on its fields so the varsity coaches run clinics elsewhere, at other schools, as an alternative to modified. The clinics are just practices, no games. They are costly and far away. This is a potential subject to address with the Board of Education.
  - Lacrosse Stu shared that boys lacrosse has a connection with Greeley, but girls lacrosse does not. The youth league drove the connection and strategized how to structure the relationship. On the girls side, it's never been discussed. There is almost no involvement with the girls varsity program, although a couple of girls have come in to coach. The boys modified program is great at Bell and weaker at Seven Bridges. The girls modified program is poor. A lot comes down to personal relationships in terms of vertical linking from varsity through youth .
  - Track & Field Ari shared that the track & field modified program is not well-run. There is nowhere to practice and insufficient supervision.
  
- **Next steps**
  - Once we complete the document geared towards parents of sixth graders, the district should distribute. We hope the youth organizations will also distribute it to ensure all bases are covered, and perhaps linking to it when it's up on the Boosters website.
  - An additional modified sports survey will be sent out for feedback about this fall's programs. We plan to compile what we receive with what we already have.
  - Boosters will share feedback with Jason, Dr. Ackerman and the Board of Education. We will prepare a statement with supporting research. Perhaps we should invite Board of Education members to a meeting and have a direct conversation. Lori suggested highlighting the actionable pieces of what we've learned, as well as things that are fundamental. There was conversation about the impediments to finding coaches such as: the time and money required of coaches to get necessary certifications prior to being hired; district employee contract stipulations; coaching salary levels and whether these factors are making it difficult for Greeley to find coaches. There was also conversation about whether coaches should be responsible for recruiting their own assistants.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.