

April Booster Minutes

Attendance: Sandy Sherman, Jill King, Valerie McNamara, Betsy Hoehl, Laura Darden, Jefferson Goodrich, Joe Gonillo, Lisa Cray, Tim Gendron, Deborah Norris, Jay Austin, Leo LaBonte, Ed Hockenbury, Jeanne Barnes

Kate Cioffi and Gabe Nicasio were chosen, along with Rusmir Dzanko, to play on Vermont Challenge basketball teams. The games will be played at St. Joe's College in Rutland against a Massachusetts team. They each need to raise \$200 in ads for the program. They asked for our support. Each full page ad is \$200, each half page ad is \$100. These three have also been chosen for the TwinState game against New Hampshire. Only Kate and Gabe will play in that game. If we choose to support them, their ads are due by April 20.

Jeff Goodrich came to request our support for new gold uniforms to match the white ones they purchased three years ago. The old varsity gold uniforms would go to the freshmen who are currently wearing some very old uniforms. The JV team has matching gold and white uniforms which are still in good condition. They have some blue uniforms which have not been used much, but there is no longer a full set of 15 blue uniforms. He is requesting \$900 which is half the cost. The uniforms are \$125 each.

Joe Gonillo came to request \$1,000 for girls track for official pole vault helmets. They need 4 or 5 at \$99 each. They also would like to purchase 20 more uniforms. They purchased 60 last year with a donation from a team parent and currently have 78 girls on the roster this spring. They have handed out all the new uniforms and some of the old uniforms. He feels their fundraiser this year will fall short of their needs. Ed doesn't know yet if he has dollars available in his budget to contribute to this as Joe just discovered the need. We offered them the 50-50 at the Hershey Track Meet. Boys and girls basketball is doing the concession stand.

Leo LaBonte came to request for funds for a new hydroculator. It is used to hold moist hot pads. Over the last 12 years he has gotten three donated very used machines—one from Sports & Fitness Rehab Center, one from the Spine Institute, and one from a hair salon. Maintenance has helped him to doctor the machines to keep them usable, but the current one is rusting and leaking water. He thinks he can get through the spring season with it, but would like to purchase a new one for next year. He has no money in his budget. The cost is approx \$1210. The company doesn't charge us shipping because we buy from them regularly. He could wait until the summer and put out a bid for a lower price. Ed may provide funds for weight room purchases but has no priority list established yet for any remaining funds.

Two exchange students asked at the merchandise sale on Friday, April 4 if they were to receive free merchandise this year. (Last year we gave each exchange student a free hoody sweatshirt.) Sandy Sherman told the girls she

would ask the booster club at the meeting. Some of the exchange students have received their sweatshirts already this year. Jeanne will contact the two girls who did not to get them their sweatshirts.

There has been no request to provide the name of the winner of the Jean Robinson scholarship. The winner is nominated by the girls' basketball coach and voted on by Shaun, Jeff, Ed, and Valerie. If the girls' basketball nominee is not approved, then a nominee would be chosen from the boys basketball team, and finally from the girls field hockey team if necessary.

We discussed the future of the booster club. Last meeting, Betsy Hoehl expressed interest in being a co-president. We normally vote in May for new officers. We should come up with a list of people for Ed to call about being involved with the booster club. We also discussed the possibility of asking retired teachers to get involved—Steve Ferriera, Steve Dowd. We should talk about how boosters is going to spend their money. Ed has no money in his budget next year for additional trainers salaries. He felt that the captain's leadership training was very valuable. We discussed recruiting a PR person to publicize our activities and support and to put a meeting notice in the Essex Reporter. It was also suggested that we make announcements once in a while at games to try to get more people involved and let people know what we are doing. Ed mentioned the vintage hornet merchandise sale again. He thought it would be a good idea, perhaps for homecoming.

VOTES:

- Yes for \$50 per athlete toward an ad in the Vermont Challenge program.
- Table boys' basketball request until May.
- Yes for \$500 for helmets for girls track.
- Yes for up to \$1200 for hydroculator. Would like Leo to wait to submit a bid for a better price.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.