

**Minutes of the October 7, 2014  
CHS Athletic Booster Club Meeting**

**Members in Attendance:**

Paul Anello	Jeff Hale	Jennifer Mullen
Dawn Avallone	Christy Hartigan	Tracy Ness
Robert Barnett	Tracy Hickey	Anne Rendina
Ellen Blazoski	Todd Huffman	Mark Steward
Mike Blazoski	Mark Kellstrom	Lisa Tencic
Cathy Chin	Abigail Maddi	Jill Weber
Jennifer Cosgrove	Dan Marino	April Wingate
Kim Falone	Mimi Mehta	
Christine Gentile	Bernadette Mitchell	
Nora Graham		

**Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.**

Copies of the minutes of the September 16, 2014 meeting were provided for review. Paul Anello asked that everyone please sign the attendance sheet.

**Secretary's Report:** Dawn Avallone had nothing to report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mark Steward reported that, since the Community Pass transactions for September were not posted to our account until October 1<sup>st</sup>, none of these transactions are reported on this month's report, which only includes receipts through September 30<sup>th</sup>. The actual receipts on Community Pass through today are approximately \$17,200. Mark noted that another \$2,200 was received in website ad purchases in September. The Snack Shack collected \$1,114 in sales at the first home football game and \$141 in sales at the first home soccer game. The Snack Shack also collected \$573 at the second home football game, which was on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Thursday afternoon. Since that game took place in October, this collection will appear in next month's report. We collected \$4,800 in Spirit Wear sales on Back to School Night, which is more than the \$4,275 reflected on the report. This is because merchandise sales processed through Square are not deposited to our account until early October.

Copies of the Treasurer's Report were provided for review.

**Head Liaison's Report:** Celeste Stinson could not be present. Paul Anello stated on her behalf that the liaisons did not have anything to report.

**Concession's Report:** Lisa Tencic reported that the Snack Shack volunteers are all set for Cougar Weekend. The new freezer is in and working well.

**Athletic Director:** Bill Librera reported that the fall sports teams are posting great performances. Across sports, the fall varsity teams currently have a 49-20 record, and all varsity teams are now at or above 500. Girls tennis won the Morris County Tournament for the second year in a row. Boys cross country is competing in a conference championship. The football team is on a 2-game winning streak. Congratulations to Mike Colavita and his wife, who just delivered twin baby girls.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the September 16, 2014 meeting were approved.

**Board Approved Purchases/Funding:** The Board previously approved the following:

1. **Allocation of Fall Team Stipends.** Paul Anello reviewed the fall team stipends, and provided a detailed breakout of how the \$3,760 in funds were being allocated among teams on the second page of the agenda. In order to access stipend funds, a team coach must first email Bill Librera with a request. Bill will then email Paul Anello, who will advise the team liaison of the status of the request. If the expense is approved, the team liaison will provide Mark Steward with a receipt for the expenditure and Mark will then reimburse the team liaison.
2. **Cougar Weekend Lights.** The total cost for Cougar Weekend lights (16 lights in total) will likely be \$5,504. The lights will be delivered to the field on Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Cougar Weekend Decorations.** The Cougar Weekend decorations that were discussed at the last meeting are estimated to cost approximately \$900.

**Coaches'/AD's Requests:**

**Winter Team Coaching Stipends.** Bill is requesting \$7,000 to cover coaching stipends for a total of 6 coaches for the following 3 teams: indoor boys/girls track, ice hockey and girls basketball. This will be taken to a membership vote at the November meeting.

**Old Business:**

1. **Website Ads for 2014.** Mike Blazoski reported that the ABC website ads have generated \$5,950 so far this year, just slightly off from last year's \$6,000 total. The effort to sign sponsors for 2014-2015 is nearly done. Sixteen companies renewed their ads and 9 new advertisers were added. Mike asked for a volunteer to take over the appeal effort for web advertisers/sponsors next year.
2. **Haas Field Signage.** Joe Diaz-Saavedra could not be present. Paul Anello stated on his behalf that we are approximately 2 weeks away from having the signs completed and posted.
3. **Cougar Field and Baseball Field Maintenance.** Paul Anello reported that a number of ABC members attended the September 22<sup>nd</sup> BOE meeting to voice the Cougar Field and baseball field deficiencies that were addressed by our membership at the September ABC meeting. The need for improvements to the fields was acknowledged. The District has allocated substantial capital improvement funds to school expansion items in recent budgets, resulting in field improvement/maintenance projects receiving less attention. There is also a very limited maintenance staff (staff of 6-1/2) available to service all of the District's grounds and buildings. The Board will focus on the improvements needed to these fields in the 2015-2016 budget.

- a. **Cougar Field Follow Up.** Following the BOE meeting, John Cataldo and the SDOC maintenance crew began addressing some of the most glaring problems at Cougar Field. The following items have been taken care of (or will be taken care of prior to Cougar Weekend) by the District: replacement of missing Snack Shack roof and side shingles; painting of handrails on the bleachers; parking lot clean up; replacement of broken macadam in front of the Snack Shack; removal of weeds in cracked macadam near the entrance to the field; and removal of weeds and debris under the bleachers. Paul suggested that as a group, we should be sure to participate in the public forums at which the 2015-2016 budget is formulated and debated.
- b. **Baseball Fields Follow Up.** After a discussion at the BOE meeting about what needs to be done to improve the baseball fields, the District committed to doing everything necessary this fall to make the varsity field safe for play this coming spring (i.e., roll over outfield to remove dips, remove lips around the field, etc.) The District also plans to have the JV field usable (at least for practice) in the spring. More substantial items will have to be addressed in the 2015-2016 budget. The District has asked for the ABC's help in arranging for a new pitcher's mound to be built on the varsity field. John Cataldo is in the process of obtaining an estimate for this project, as it is not a project that he believes his staff or the DPW is qualified to undertake. John is hoping to have the estimate by this Friday. The varsity pitching mound is in terrible shape. In order to have it in proper form for the spring 2015 season, the work should be done prior to the winter months so that the mound can properly settle. A discussion followed. A motion was made for, and the membership approved, the expenditure of up to \$5,000 to build a new pitcher's mound on the varsity baseball field.
4. **Cougar Weekend Decorations.** Celeste Stinson could not be present. Paul Anello reported that Celeste has made some decorating purchases and has been coordinating decorating volunteers in preparation for Cougar Weekend. The total expense for the decorations amounts to approximately \$900. A balloon arch will be set up at the entrance to the field. The arch can be stored and reused. Balloon bouquets will also be posted in various locations around the field. Kiera Spadaro will be leading the Key Club members in their efforts to produce painted letters (made of lightweight pieces plywood) that spell out "Chatham Cougar Pride," which will be hung on the fence along Shunpike. The committee will also be providing blue and white fan poms to Chatham fans so that the players can see their fans' support in the stands.
5. **Concessions Lead Status.** Lisa Tencic noted that she may now have a candidate who is interested in taking over the concessions lead position. She will update us at the next meeting.

#### **New Business:**

1. **Sailing Team.** Dan Marino reported that the sailing team is now active in both the fall and spring. They started last March with 4 students and currently have 5 students actively participating. Another 25 students expressed an interest at the activity fair held in September, so they are hoping to grow to between 8 and 12 students for the spring season. The fall season will wrap up in November or December. The students will need to wear wetsuits as the temperatures drop. It is a coed program. So far the team is parent funded, with students paying the cost of participating in the regattas and purchasing the pinnies

worn at the regattas. The team sails in the Raritan Bay out of Perth Amboy, which is about a 35 minute drive from Chatham. Right now, there are no fees for the use of the boats. The students just need to have their own gear. The team races on Tuesdays and practices on Wednesdays.

2. **Shayna's Cup**. Lisa Tencic reported that the girls soccer team will be hosting the Shayna's Cup fundraiser again at the end of the fall season. As we did last year, we will allow the team to use the Snack Shack for the event and will contribute our supplies as well. Any profits received at the event will be evenly split between the ABC and the team. This is a good opportunity for us to clear out any remaining supplies in the Shack at the end of the fall season, while also assisting the girls soccer team in their support of a good cause.
3. **Annual Appeal Email Campaign**. Paul Anello reported that the board is considering undertaking an email campaign to remind past supporters that our Annual Appeal is underway. It was suggested that we ask Lori Girona to send out another blast email to the whole student body reminding them of the Appeal, since the first one went out at the beginning of the school year when most parents are overwhelmed with back to school communications.
4. **Request for Photos**. A request was made for liaisons to solicit new photos from parents for posting on the website.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the CHS Media Center.**