Bennington Booster Board Meeting

Minutes for April 3, 2019

Prepared by Linda Persigehl

Present: Curt Bohn, pres., Tracy Behnken, VP; James Bartels, treas., Linda Persigehl, sec., Danita Diamond, Kairi Prososki, Kim Leuders, Brittanie Butterfield, Joni Schultz, Keo Jorgenson, at-large members, Greg Lamberty, AD. Absent: Chuck Oborny. (Several other general members attended this meeting.)

Curt Bohn called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. After two corrections were emailed to Linda this week, Curt motioned to have the revised minutes from March meeting approved.

James read the treasurer’s report: Clothing $29,291.34; Concessions $33,322.66; Savings $28,879.45 (Prior, he had incorrectly deposited $1,200 of concessions funds in clothing account. These new numbers reflect the transfer of funds/correction.)

Net income so far this school year is $12,863.21. Boosters has donated $27,233 to BHS programs in 2018-19 year to date. (This number includes both sports equipment/athlete apparel purchases we’ve made AND money paid to outside groups working concessions/helping with clothing sales.)

James said he’s working with Janet Finken, CPA, in preparation for the Boosters’ audit for 2016. He confirmed that Smith Slusky Law has refiled Bennington Athletic Boosters as a nonprofit organization for the coming year.

Curt shared a laminated page listing all the organizational purchases which are considered taxable OR tax-exempt, per a tax website he researched. The page will be a useful reference going forward.

Tracy said membership stayed at 153 members, for a total dues collected this year of $10,550.

Tracy looked into having booster club membership signup/dues paid through the My School Bucks online service (on the district website). Service fee is 3.95 percent per payment, a bit more than Paypal fee we currently pay. Signup at My School Bucks would provide more convenience to parents already using the service to pay other fees and provide additional functions, such as sorting by athlete’s year in school, by sport, etc. It would also help reduce registration mistakes and missed opportunities to get new members. The disadvantage would be not all people interested in booster membership have access to My School Bucks service (like grandparents, those without kids, businesses). Curt and Tracy will talk more and visit with Lynn Lurvey in district office about issues, making it happen in time for 2019-20 school year.

Brittanie said she’s made apparel order for spring sales.

Upcoming home events include Varsity Track meet on Tues., April 16, and Junior High Track on April 29.

Kim will find grillers for these home track meets, if possible.

Bennington Elementary is also holding a Movie Night on April 26th. They would like to have Benn. Elem. concessions open for the movie at 8pm. Curt will ask Student Senate, who is working stand during earlier soccer game, if they’d like to stay working another shift to cover movie. If not, another student group will be sought to work. (Two different cash boxes will be needed if this is case.)

Curt said Legion Baseball team has purchased a new grill and he suggested boosters make a monetary donation toward it, as we will have access to use it this spring. He will discuss cost with Legion and get back to board with suggested amount.

Greg read funding requests: Boys’ Soccer has requested Team Bonding Funds for their players to use toward snacks on way to/from Conestoga/NE City game. $5 ea. x 40 athletes/coaches = $200. Curt motioned to approve. Brittanie seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Greg said the BPS district is looking to buy a mini tractor to use for new Anchor Pointe Elementary. The tractor may have maintenance uses for servicing softball field, Legion and Hickey Fields, and other district grounds as well. The cost range for tractor is $2,100-$5,900 and is expected to be purchased in July. Greg will keep us posted and forward a partial funding request if made.

Curt motioned the election of booster board officers for 2019-20 school year. Linda is stepping down as secretary, as her youngest student is graduating. Joni Schultz was nominated by Curt for the secretary position. (No challengers stepped forward to run.) All board members voted FOR Joni’s appointment as secretary.

James Bartels has agreed to stay on a second year as treasurer. Curt nominated him for the position for 2019-20. (No challengers stepped forward to run.) All board members voted FOR his appointment as treasurer.

Tracy Behnken agreed to stay on a second year as Vice President. Curt nominated her for the position for 2019-20 (No challengers stepped forward to run.) All board members voted FOR her appointment as VP.

Curt has agreed to stay on a third year as President. (No challengers stepped forward to run.) All board members voted FOR him as president for 2019-20.

New Business - Curt said he’s discussed a partnership with BAL to build a small concessions stand near the softball field and they are on board. BAL has committed to funding half the cost. Cost of cement pad, building, and electrical/plumbing costs is estimated at $9,500. Curt has privately raised $1,200 for the project from an anonymous donor. Booster Board discussed having us fund the concessions stand instead, without outside donations, and agreed this might be best.

Linda motioned to approve up to $5,000 of Booster funds (essentially the other half of cost) toward the project. Kairi seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Curt said he will visit with the private donor to see if they want to pull their funds or still contribute toward expenses.

Curt will visit with Brad Baumert and Chad Colvert and initiate construction asap. (Post-script: Since the meeting, the project has been put on hold, pending decisions about improvements to the softball field and other items discussed at school board meeting.)
Curt, Devin Byrd and Danita Diamond make up the booster scholarship committee and will meet this week to decide on the final four Booster scholarship recipients, to be announced at the Bennington Schools Foundation awards on April 28th.

Greg said Spring Sports Awards will be held on Tues., May 15th at 5:30, just prior to the Academic Awards Night at 7pm. The next board meeting will be held Wed., May 1st at 5:30 pm (Amended, per Curt Bohn). Curt called the meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.