

West Booster Club

Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2011

21 Members Present: John Lyscars, Ed Ithier, Denise Rinker, Cheryl Andrew, Sarah Dumais, Lolli Bonte, Mark Cormier, Melanie Cormier, Sharon Glennon, Dan Hebert, Steve Mandeville, Pauline Roth, Ron Sample, Karen Stone, Tracy Terrio, Gary Therrien. Also present were team coaches Colleen Ahman, Leo Ducharme and Michael Beaulac, and special guests Al Heidenreich and his wife, Barbara.

John Lyscars opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. by asking all to introduce themselves.

Special Guest - Mr. Al Heidenreich, Class of 1949, spoke briefly about his years at West as a member of the Booster Club, and its formative years. He noted that next year is the 90th anniversary of West (the school opened in the fall of 1922) and how he and other alumni would like to see a celebration. Al also provided history of Homecoming celebrations that earlier Booster Club members had enjoyed and described how he still bled West High blue! He offered his assistance for next year's Homecoming and repeatedly encouraged the group with how well we are carrying on the purpose in our efforts to support the athletes of West High School.

Secretary's Report - Cheryl Andrew
September minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Old Business

Football Game Concession Fundraisers: the remaining three games are scheduled: 10/14 – Cross Country, 10/21 – JV Cheerleaders, 11/4 – Alpine Skiing. There is no availability for other school groups this year.

Booster Club Letters: Cheryl Andrew has just been given the labels for the fall roster of athletes. John Lyscars provided the letter inviting parents to join the Booster Club which will go out this week.

Hannaford Book Sale: Dan Hebert has been in contact with the store manager. The late fall months are taken by other organizations; we are hoping for September. Dan will confirm this by the next meeting.

Game of the Week Sponsors: Gary Therrien explained this program for newer members and visitors. John Lyscars secured Merchant's Automotive Group in Hooksett through Stephen Singer who sponsored the Homecoming game and we distributed backpacks filled with coupons, snacks and other giveaways. Merchant's has donated \$1000 for this game, representing an extra \$200 donation, which we will secure in December. Gary reported Dunkin Donuts will sponsor the 10/21 game, leaving the 11/4 game open for another sponsor (it is too late for the 10/14 game). Colleen Ahman will check with a contact she has at Warner Auto.

Coach's Award: Sarah Dumais is all set to order the plaque. The nomination letter will be framed and presented to the coach at the Sports Awards nights. The Booster Club is only responsible for paying for the plaque, Sarah Dumais will take care of the rest.

Homecoming Review:

MCTV filmed the pep rally and parade. The video can be shown next year to encourage interest in the events. John Lycars discussed the idea of holding a Booster Club "adult night" at a local establishment, like Jillians, to enjoy a viewing of the video together over drinks and appetizers. This would be funded by members, not Booster Club funds. The Manchester Monarchs sent Max and are willing to participate in other such events.

Successes - Attendance at the games was up due to the promotional raffle. The Game of the Week promo was a big hit. The new parade route was successful and the savings (not needing to hire police) were used to purchase the Ipod Touch 32GB, 32" RCA Flat Panel Television and \$100 cash for the free raffle. John Lycars secured the \$100 gift card was donated from WalMart. Ron Sample built an air gun used to toss tee-shirts into the crowds at the pep rally and the game, as well as a long pole structure for carrying the Booster Club banner. The concession stand used tickets to keep the crowds moving – purchase a grill item or French fry ticket and move over to the grill area for your food (which was an idea developed by Sharon Glennon, previous Director of Concessions). We had help from a student at SNHU, Hunter Judd. All fundraising efforts went well – a 50/50 raffle plus tickets to the Palace Theatre (donated by Tina Kelly). John Lycars sent out thank you letters to Stephen Singer at Merchant's Automotive Group, Mayor Ted Gatsas, the Hooksett Banner, West English Teachers, Sports Advisors, Tina Kelly at the Palace Theatre and WalMart managers .

Needs Improvement - Lots of no-show ticket numbers called. Sarah Dumais came up with the idea that students will drop tickets into a bin next year as they arrive at the front gate. Some students complained about not receiving a ticket. The committee discussed this, and Sarah Dumais had announced that anyone not receiving a ticket should see her; no one did. Ways to increase participation of sports teams and clubs were discussed. There will be a banner for West Athletes to march behind. The parade judging should be in front of the crowd next year, not off to the side. The mascot did not appear at the game, a back-up person(s) should be identified. The Student Council is responsible for this, so John Lycars will discuss this with David Dionne, the Student Council advisor. Sharon Glennon offered to give the mascot some pointers about cheerleading at the events. At future events, we should identify a photographer to take pictures. The concession stand ran out of water due to the warmth of the day, and the fact that there is cooler no storage in the concession stand. A first-aid kit was needed; the committee noted there is one but must be inventoried.

Treasurer's Report - Denise Rinker

Teams have been fundraising. It is important for the participants to know that a percentage does come to the Booster Club, but is given right back to the students in the form of awards nights, tee-shirts and scholarships. The Homecoming fundraisers paid for this year; we still have \$3,000 available for future Homecoming celebrations.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Committee Reports

Team Parent Liaison: Pauline Roth

There was discussion on how to encourage parents to step up and take interest in supporting their child's sport activities, fundraisers and the Booster Club. Many coaches find it difficult to engage parents.

Website Committee: John Lyscars

Thank you to Cookie Hebert who responded to John Lyscars's request for someone to begin training and take over management of the website next year. John Lyscars will approach local colleges to offer as a student design project the updating of our website. SNHU was approached by John Lyscars, however they wished to be hired for the task. John Lyscars will approach UNH, NHTI and possible Manchester Community College.

Food Committee: Denise Rinker, Chair

The concession schedule is all set for the rest of the season. Denise will re-stock the concession stand and purchase food for the Fall Sports Awards night.

Community Relations Committee: Melody Reno, Chair

John Lyscars spoke with Jerry Liptak at the Hooksett Banner about articles on West sports. There is now a "Manchester West Roundup" appearing regularly in the Banner, featuring Hooksett athletes attending West. The Hooksett Banner provided two consecutive articles on West High School after John Lyscars spoke with the staff there.

Print Media Committee: Ed Ithier, Chair

Ed will work on a banner for "all athletes" to march behind for next year's Homecoming. A motion was made to purchase the banner but Ed will try to find a sponsor first.

Student Booster Club:

There have been no volunteers to head this organization at school. How can we promote this?

New Business

Booster Club Event Participation Log:

The Booster Club offers scholarships to students whose parents are active members in the Booster Club. Active membership includes volunteering at two or more events throughout the year. The log is a means of recording which parents are active. John Lyscars will post this updated log on the web site.

Fall Sports Awards Night: November 9, 2011 at 7PM

Money Makers:

John Lyscars obtained the Market Basket fundraising contact information and will follow up with that. John Lyscars also brought in information from TD Bank who have a program by which account holders can direct TD Bank to give a percentage to a charity of their choice, with no loss or penalty to the account holder. The tee-shirts that Denise purchased to toss were such a hit that the board approved her to purchase more and use some to sell at each event, at a low cost to students, but to achieve a profit for the Booster Club.

Cheerleaders Warm-Up Suit Proposal:

John discussed a proposal that the Booster Club purchase warm-up suits for the JV squad. Discussion included the fact that cheerleading is a sport, and if we purchase uniforms for this team, we are setting a precedent that other teams may request like funds. The board decided this was not something we wish to pursue.

Other

There were still several items left on the agenda, but the meeting had already overrun the proposed time frame, so further mention or discussion was tabled.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted,
Cheryl Andrew
Secretary