



**Amherst Tigers Booster Club
December Meeting Minutes
Monday 12/7/2020**

In attendance: Mike Serotte, Karen Stelley, Neil Faller, Jeffrey Wheaton, Alex Alicea, Lisa Roy, Marnie Belle-Isle, Amy Kantz, Brian DeCicco, Jim Mullane, Melissa Calandra, Jamie Tiberi, Michelle Ferreri, and one additional participant by phone.

Approval of October Minutes: First motion by Lisa Roy. Second motion by Alex Alicea.

President's Report – Mike Serotte

1. Women's Varsity Tennis: Charitable Fundraising Update

- a. Pet Emergency Fundraiser -- Mr. Biddle reported through Mike Serotte that Women's Varsity Tennis exceeded their fundraising goal for this charity and raised well over \$3000 this fall.

Athletic Director Report – Jeffrey Wheaton

1. Fall Sports Updates

- a. Men's and Women's Varsity Cross Country -- Both teams are Class B 1 Sectional Champions. Congratulations!
- b. Women's Varsity Field Hockey -- Class B Sectional Champions. Congratulations!
- c. From the feedback of the fall sports teams, the overall "win" was the fact that so many student athletes were able to participate on some level.
- d. Fall College Signing Event -- Three seniors signed letters of intent to play college athletics.
 - 1. Emma Klein -- Division 1 Soccer at Syracuse University.
 - 2. Ella Wanzer -- Division 1 Basketball at SUNY Binghamton
 - 3. Krista Frankowski -- Division 2 Lacrosse at Slippery Rock University.

Please note: Spring College Signing Event -- TBD -- Solomon Konosky (Division 2 Soccer at Roberts Wesleyan)

2. Winter Sports Updates

- a. Low-risk sports may begin practicing as of 12/14/20, as long as school is in session. Low-risk sports include: bowling, indoor track and field, and swimming and diving (men's).
- b. ACSD started random COVID testing Friday (12/4) to be in compliance with NYS mandates.
- c. Tentative Plan: Students return Monday, December 14th. Winter low-risk sports begin Wednesday, December 16th.
- d. High-risk sports (basketball, wrestling, hockey, and cheerleading) are tentatively scheduled to begin on Monday, January 4, 2021. However, school districts are still waiting for direction from Governor Cuomo.

3. Amherst masks for fall athletes: Outstanding balance will be forwarded to Boosters to pay in full.

4. Wall Graphics near South Gym: The quote for replacing the graphic on the men's locker room door and adding a graphic to the women's locker room door is \$765. The Boosters will fund this project. Mr. Wheaton will initiate the project ASAP.

5. Indoor Track and Field: Updates

- a. Head Coach -- Kevin Wartinger
- b. Assistant Coach -- Nick Gray
- c. ACSD recently purchased a pole vault mat for \$5000. This mat cost \$30,000 originally. However, ACSD was able to purchase it at a very reduced cost from another school district because the mat was mismeasured for the other district's facility.

Vice President Report -- Lisa Roy

1. Fundraising Possibilities Discussion Summary

- a. **Virtual MEAL Raffle** -- Potential for high profitability, but quite a bit of work to organize and execute.
- b. **Cash/Luxury Item Raffle** -- By keeping the price per ticket affordable (\$20 or \$25 per ticket) and relying on volume of sales, there is a potential for high profitability. Very little work to execute, other than marketing effectively. Any winner(s) would be responsible for the taxes on their winnings.
- c. **Virtual Trivia Night** -- Low profitability. Perhaps Boosters could sponsor a Trivia Night for community building/something for the athletes to do together outside of their sport. Lisa Roy is organizing a virtual trivia competition for another organization. She will report back on its success in January.
- d. **Super Bowl Pool** -- No legwork needed to structure the pool. Brian DeCicco has all of the logistics already established. Conversely, there are several Super Bowl pools already in existence, so there will be competition. (There was also some conversation that the Amherst football team might run a pool.)
- e. There was a new suggestion about using a website to fundraise, where the team received part of the money and a charitable organization received a percentage as well. (Mr. Biddle and the Women's Tennis Team used this model.) Some concern was expressed with this model because the coordinating website also takes a percentage of the profits, cutting into the amount of money the Boosters could earn. Alex Alicea shared **onetiger.net** is equipped to set up a fundraiser with the system we currently have.
- f. There was another fundraising idea related to calendar squares that coincide with the lottery numbers. PTSA is not doing this fundraiser during 2020-2021. Biggest challenge: explanation of the fundraiser to the community and advertising/selling the "squares".
- g. ***The general consensus was that the Cash/Luxury Item Raffle would be the easiest to execute with the greatest potential to make several thousand dollars.***
- h. Mr. Pigeon is familiar with the parameters surrounding pools/raffles/fundraising in schools. Mr. Wheaton will consult with Mr. Pigeon and others to determine the feasibility of our ideas.

Treasurer Report -- Alex Alicea

1. **Balance: \$5595.14.** Outstanding expenses -- fall masks for athletes and BSN (wall graphics).
2. **Online "Black Friday" Sale** is bringing in some money. There is limited supply of apparel items because we have not ordered new apparel in some time due to the pandemic and limited athletic competitions.
3. **Discussion of the pros and cons of carrying stock versus going with a vendor who will fulfill orders on an ongoing basis.**
 - a. Carrying stock -- A significant investment of Booster funds initially. Higher profit margin on each item, giving Boosters more overall profit. Quick turnaround: item(s) can be delivered within days of an order being placed.
 - b. Vendor distributed stock -- No risk to Boosters because there is no initial investment in stock. More potential stock without the possibility of selling out of styles/sizes. Lower profits because vendor charges more \$\$ per item. Longer turnaround time for order fulfillment.
 - c. Boosters have always made the initial investment to carry stock and use the apparel sales as part of our fundraising.
 - d. Mr. Wheaton will provide Alex with our BSN representative to see what kind of pricing they are willing to offer if they distribute items. Cost effective to let BSN "manage" orders?
 - e. Discussion tabled until Alex speaks with BSN representative.

Additional Business

1. **Winter Sports Poster** -- Almost all photos are taken. Poster will be ready for distribution the first or second week of January. Excelsior is not an option as the poster sponsor. A few other possibilities were discussed. Michelle Ferreri will pursue a possible sponsor. If anyone has an idea for a sponsor for the poster and/or the poster's design, contact Neil Faller. Sponsorship typically is set at \$300, but is negotiable to just cover expenses (approximately \$235).

- 2. Use Microsoft Teams?** Alex Alicea suggested Booster sub-committees might want to use Microsoft Teams because it provides a greater level of collaboration/communication on its platform. Platform is robust. Greatest advantage: Participants can see the history of the committee. This can be critical as some Booster members “graduate” out and others join in as new participants. Trial for the Fundraising Committee.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Karen Stelley.

**Next Meeting: Monday, January 4, 2021
7 pm (via ZOOM)**