



Amherst Tigers Booster Club
June Meeting Minutes--ANNUAL MEETING
Monday 6/1/2020

In attendance: Mike Serotte, Karen Stelley, Neil Faller, Jeffrey Wheaton, Alex Alicea, Marti Precurato Grubb, Kristen Starck, Marnie Belle-Isle, Lisa Murdock, and Paul Biddle.

Secretary Report -- Karen Stelley

1. **May Minutes:** Motion to approve by Mike Serotte. Motion seconded by Kristen Starck.
2. **Next meeting:** *Tentatively Monday, August 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm (ZOOM or in person meeting TBD)*

Athletic Director Report – Jeffrey Wheaton

1. **Spring Updates:** An email was sent on 5/27/20 to all ACSD families about the athletic plans for the remainder of the school year.
 - a. **Senior Athlete Spotlight**--one student athlete will be recognized per day. Coordinated by Kristy Grossman. Seen on a number of social media platforms: Twitter, ACSD website, Instagram (@amhersthsathletics).
 - b. **College Signing**--Scheduled for Wednesday, 6/3/20 at 7 pm on Local Live. All senior student athletes who have committed to a college will have their virtual college signing.
 - c. **Light the Night**--Friday, 6/5/20. Duke McGuire will honor all of the senior student athletes. Duke will be at the field and utilizing the PA system, but the program will be on Local Live at 8:20 pm (20:20 military time).
 - d. **Senior Athlete Shout Out Video**--posted on Friday, 6/12/20. The video is a compilation of "shout outs" to senior athletes from coaches and other student athletes. Video clips were sent to Tessa DeCicco (grade 11), who created the video for the senior athletes on behalf of the ACSD Athletic Department.
 - e. **Equipment Drop-Off and Award Pick Up**--Thursday, 6/11/20 and Friday, 6/12/20 from 9 am -2 pm. Student athletes are asked to return any ACSD equipment and/or uniforms. In addition, senior athletes will receive their athletic awards (letters, pins, etc.) and tee shirts (courtesy of AdPro). Underclassmen will receive their athletic awards at a later date. Amherst Athletics screen will be set up for photo opportunities.
2. **Grant Request: Girls' Field Hockey** (Mrs. LeGoff)--There was no opportunity for a spring fundraiser, so the field hockey's team funds are lower than expected. The field hockey team is asking for \$500 to offset the inability to fundraise. Typical team grants are \$250.
3. **FALL SPORTS**--The NYSPHSAA is creating a task force to look at the feasibility of fall sports and what they may look like if/when school reopens. Three individuals from our region will be on the task force. Decisions will be based on a number of factors, as well as with the guidance of several other agencies, including the CDC's Youth Sports Guidelines. The CDC has made several recommendations about social distancing and the use of masks while playing sports, as well as the use of disinfectants. Many questions remain unanswered. Overall, the NYSPHSAA has made it a priority to maximize athletic participation in the fall. Some sports are able to comply more easily with current athletic guidelines (tennis/golf/cross country), however other sports will prove to be more problematic (football/soccer).
4. **No athletic programs or staffing cuts have been made at this time.**
5. **Fall Athletic Kick-Off--Scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2020 (rain date: 8/28/20) on the athletic field.** This is the tail end of the first week of fall sports. The athletic field is a good venue to accommodate social distancing. In total, there are approximately 2000 seats (1500 home side/500 visitor's side) at the field. Typically about 200 student athletes and parents attend the kick-off.
 - a. **Food Trucks**--Will be available in the back circle before the kick-off. In the past, this has been used as a fundraiser for the cheerleaders. Mr. Wheaton will reach out to the squad to determine if they would like to organize again.

b. Guest Speaker--Mike Serotte had the idea to ask Richard Walsh, ACSD alumni and athlete, to be the guest speaker for the kick-off event. Currently, Richard is an on-air personality for Spectrum News.

6. Hall of Fame--There was no Hall of Fame induction this year because the Tiger Gala was canceled. Perhaps the induction ceremony would take place during the Athletic Kick-Off in August. More discussion to follow.

President's Report – Mike Serotte

- 1. Annual Meeting**--The Boosters' by-laws state that the Boosters must hold an annual meeting. A decision was made to designate the June meeting as our annual meeting. It allows us to recap the year as well as welcome new officers, etc. Today's meeting is considered our 2019-2020 annual meeting.
- 2. Tiger Cards**--Neil Faller will take the lead for organizing this project. Committee members for the Tiger Card: Mike Serotte, Neil Faller, Karen Stelley, Alex Alicea, and Brian DeCicco (card design). More volunteers welcome if interested.

- a.** Neil will send out an email to solicit Booster members' help to approach businesses who may want to participate. People can choose what business(es) they might want to approach. The first step is to retain the involvement of last year's patrons.
- b.** Discussion about making sure the participating food businesses will honor their discount on take-out orders.
- c.** Discussion about adding food trucks as potential patrons.
- d.** Willing to have a "Friends of Amherst Boosters" section on the Boosters' website. Perhaps a rolling scroll at the bottom of the website showing all of the businesses who contributed to the Tiger Card.
- e.** If there is no football season, we will have to think of other ways to sell the Tiger Cards. In the past, we have had a large number of sales at the home football games.

3. Sports Posters--Done and delivered to student athletes (featured on the poster) and a small number of local businesses. Message: Together we wait. Together we rise. The graphic artist, Ligia Hubert, an Amherst parent, did not charge us for the poster design. Thank you Ligia! We hope to have professional photos for the fall poster. Typically, those photos are taken in June. Mr. Wheaton will email coaches to get names of student athletes to represent each sport.

Treasurer Report - Alex Alicea

- 1. Balance: \$5,854.01.**
- 2. Apparel:** No new sales. Discuss over the summer about updating selection.

Additional Business

- 1. Snack Shack**--Marti Precurato Grubb voiced some questions/concerns about running the Snack Shack in the fall. Will there be restrictions about selling/serving food? Mr. Wheaton will give us guidelines/information as it becomes available. Within the next two weeks Marti will update the inventory and consolidate the items we have in storage (outside and inside). Any items close to the expiration date will be donated to the Tiger's Den.
- 2. Homecoming 2020**--Mr. Wheaton updated on the discussions/decisions that have been made to date.

- a.** The plan is to have a homecoming week, with an emphasis that ALL fall sports teams get a "homecoming" game.
- b.** The homecoming football game will remain on Friday night. Currently, Friday, October 16, 2020 (versus Starpoint) seems to be the best option. Concern: It may conflict with other sports' sectionals/playoffs.
- c.** Amherst Athletics would also like the community to participate more in the planned festivities. For example, some ideas included a community BBQ kick-off before a game, involving our school band for school spirit, and continuing with the Student Council's Fall Fest on Friday afternoon before the football game. Our goal: high attendance at each competition with athletes, non-athletes, and community members. There will be a focus on promotion for all of the competitions during Homecoming Week.

- 3. Football**--There has been a fourth home game added to the fall 2020 season
- 4. Mr. Biddle made some comments about what worked well this past year.** Specifically, he thought the information about donations from athletes and their families to the Snack Shack, working the Snack Shack, and

the importance of raising money through the Snack Shack was helpful. (MPG attended the coaches' meetings to talk about the Snack Shack.) In addition, Neil visited teams in the early weeks of the season and handed out gatorades. Very popular. Also, generates a commitment to the Snack Shack.

- 5. Retired Jerseys**--There was some discussion about how to retire a student athlete's jersey. Mr. Wheaton would like to have a process in place, similar to the nomination process for the Hall of Fame. Mr. Wheaton and Mike Serotte will research the history of the retired jerseys we have on display thus far. This will help with establishing criteria for a formal process moving forward. Marti Precurato Grubb and Paul Biddle will also help. Ideally, one or two student athletes will serve on the nominating committee as well. More discussion to follow.
- 6. Future meetings**--Typically, there is no formal Boosters meeting in July. The officers may meet, but it is an informal gathering to plan ahead. Assuming we stay with the current schedule of meeting the first Monday of the month, our next meeting is Monday, August 3, 2020. However, this meeting is marked as tentative in the event that plans change for the Athletic Kick-Off, fall sports, the opening of school in September, etc.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Karen Stelley.

Next Meeting: Tentatively Monday, August 3, 2020
7 pm (ZOOM or in person meeting TBD)
Please look for an email regarding August's meeting later in July!