

Dakota Boosters General Membership Meeting

October 13, 2015

Board members Maureen Lafleure, Diane Micale, Kelly Swanson, Christina Akoma, Blair Malian, Scott Zmija, Jackie Ribbentrop, Michelle Alfred and Grace Caporuscio were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Maureen Lafleure, President.

Principal's Report: Given by Mr. Sibley.

The first coffee of the principal of this school year was held this morning. A lot of the information that he discussed at that meeting he will also be discussing this evening.

The committees are now set for the School Improvement Team. There are 15 different committees made of 142 core teachers and 20 ancillary staff.

This is the first year for a district accreditation vs. a building accreditation. The evaluating team consists of a group of teachers and administrators whose lead person will be from out of state. They will spend 4 days/3 nights in our district and will visit up to 10 buildings. They are only required to evaluate one high school but will probably go to both DHS and CVHS to evaluate for consistency between the two of them. Students and teachers have already been selected to go to the school improvement conference as well as the core team consisting of the chairs of the 15 committees and Mr. Sibley.

The Juniors will be writing the PSAT/NMSQT tomorrow. The Freshmen will also be writing a mini PSAT. Students will receive their personalized results in December as well as their personal study tool through the Khan Academy. Currently there is no fee for the use of the Khan Academy. The Khan Academy tools can be used by any level K-12.

Mr. Abraham and Mr. Sibley will be going to a principal's conference in Kalamazoo on November 2 and 3. The conference will focus on helping students with interpreting their test results.

The bottom scoring 30% of kids are invited to attend a free tutoring program after school to help them raise their test scores.

Homecoming was held at the ninth grade center as well as the main building on Saturday October 3. There were over 1500 students in attendance and there were no issues reported. The administration made sure to get on every party bus to greet and talk with all of the students to ensure they were not using illegal substances.

Teachers are using the Kagen techniques (rally coaching) which helps students better analyze and problem solve as well as work together.

The first semester of Forensics class is a huge hit. They just investigated their first 'crime scene' which was very true to life. The teachers are enjoying the class as well. Mr. Sibley is hopeful this class will be a permanent addition to the curriculum at Dakota.

Parent-teacher conferences will take place this Wednesday and Thursday. Parents are encouraged to take the online survey as we need a 20% participation rate.

The second school walkathon will take place on October 30. Last year \$6500 was raised. This money is held in a separate account and monies are used solely for staff and student development. There are special prizes awarded according to amount of donation. A \$50 donation will allow the student to have a speed pass for lunch for the school year. A \$100 donation will allow a student to have their own personal parking spot for the rest of the school year. A \$100 donation in the ninth grade center will allow that student and three of their friends to leave class on an assigned day and watch a movie in the auditorium. Mr. Sibley he will print out a report of what is in the account for public knowledge if requested.

Part of the money raised last year was awarded to teachers who applied for classroom makeover grants. He was able to award 11 teachers with \$300.

The staff is also planning to hold the staff variety show again this year. Last year the show was held to raise money for the Anne Marie Timpf scholarship fund. The fund will provide scholarships to students who wish to pursue a career in social work. The show was a huge success with over 1200 people in attendance.

The parent volunteer meeting will be held on October 20 at 6:30.

The collage concert will be held on October 28 and 29, 2015.

Mr. Sibley commented on the support of our families and how wonderful it is to be part of such a supportive community. A father (Tom VanSlambrouck) offered to do some landscaping around the school using plants and flowers from his own garden. All he requested is the mulch. He created a flower bed by the atrium doors as well as potted mums at the entrances.

Treasurer's Report: Given by Christina Akoma, Treasurer.

The treasurer's report from September 15, 2015-October 13, 2015 was distributed to the group. A copy is attached to these minutes. The available balance in the Boosters account is \$41,983.85.

Donations Report: Given by Diane Micale, Donations Trustee.

Diane listed the credits earned per group through October 8, 2015. This is as follows:

Band 4, Marching Band 2, Baseball 5, Boys Basketball 4, Girls Basketball 45, JV Cheer 6, Varsity Cheer 6, Choir 23, Cross Country 18, JV Dance 14, Varsity Dance 4, Football 47, Model UN 4, Quiz Bowl 4, SANP 8, Softball 2, STUGO 9, Boys Swim 7, Girls Swim 23, Track 11, Volleyball 17.
Total credits=263.

Craft Show Report: Given by Maureen Lafleure, President.

The booster board has taken over the organization of the craft show as the previous chair resigned about a month ago. We are in the process of working on increasing advertising to bring in more crafters as well as customers.

Please repost/retweet Craft Show post if you receive it.

We are also investing in more signs for more visibility. We have approximately 80-90 tables committed at this time. Last year we had 150 crafters. We are also planning to visit other local craft shows over the next few weeks to distribute flyers to the crafters offering \$10 off the table space.

Fine Arts Report: Given by Grace Caporuscio, Fine Arts Trustee.

The choir will be hosting a cabaret benefit on 11/19 at 7 p.m. to raise funds for their upcoming New York trip. Admission will be \$15 per person. Items for raffle baskets are being collected until 10/16.

There is an ongoing raffle of a performance of Unaccompanied Minors at the winner's home.

The choir is also having a cookie dough fundraiser.

Marching band festival is tonight at L'Anse Creuse North High School. The marching band is also competing this Saturday at Brandon High School. Senior night is this Friday at the football game.

There is an ongoing \$10 raffle to 'Win the marching band' on Thanksgiving for a performance outside the winner's home.

They are also having a linen as well as Little Caesar's Pizza Kit fundraiser.

Service Report: Given by Michelle Alfred, Service Trustee

Michelle emailed all of the service leaders requesting information to report at the booster meeting. She only heard back from Tammy Andersen, Band Parent President. Tammy requested the group be reminded of the "Win the Band" raffle.

Athletics Report: Given by Scott Zmija, Sports Trustee

The Boys Cross Country team is Mac Red Division champions! The Boys Tennis team are Mac White champs. The Boosters have voted to donate funds to help pay for t-shirts for these winning teams.

Following are the standings for our other DHS teams: Volleyball placed third in Mac Red.

Golf third in Mac White.

Girls Cross country second in Mac Red.

Soccer is third in Mac White.

Varsity football is currently tied for first in Mac Red. Will be playing Stevenson at home this Friday. October 25th is Selection Sunday.

A swim parent requested a new electronic scoreboard for the pool. The current one is old and in disrepair. According to the parents Grosse Pointe schools will not even come to Dakota to compete. Mr. Sibley offered to research if the district can pay for this needed improvement.

It was also stated by the swim parents that the record board has not been updated for a couple of years which is disappointing for those students who break records and are not able to have the honor of having their accomplishment posted. The parents state they have provided Mr. Fusco with various options as to how to update record board but no action has been taken. Mr. Sibley is planning to meet with Mr. Fusco to discuss these issues.

A parent also mentioned that Track and Field does not have a record board.

A swim parent also was concerned as to the limited hours our athletes receive from our trainer. She feels that a lot of students with minor injuries are overlooked and have the potential for these injuries progressing to something more serious without proper guidance. This parent stated that other school districts provide their athletes with more time and proper direction from their trainers. They were also concerned that a trainer is not even present at track meets and most practices.

A parent voiced a concern that Dakota hosted a state track meet back in the spring and there was no trainer or the Athletic Director present.

New Business

Don Lafleure, assistant coach for Girls Varsity basketball requested subscription to two very useful online programs: skilldevelopmentcoach.com as well as basketballhq.com, cost \$250/yr and \$100/yr respectively. These programs allow the coaches to personalize training for up to 12 girls at a time. This would help bolster the efforts the coaches are making as they are limited to only physically being able to work with 4 girls at a time. The girls would receive direction for development of various skill sets.

The coaches have been spending a lot of time trying to open up skill sessions for current high school students as well as middle school students. They held an open gym in July with various skill sessions and had a great turnout. The ultimate goal is to develop our middle school girls' abilities to allow them to develop their skills to a high level by high school while at the same time providing extra instruction for current high school players.

The board agreed to fund the subscriptions for these two programs. To be reevaluated at end of year.

Old Business: Mr. Sibley

Mr. Sibley requested that Boosters agree to provide a credit to each group/team represented at each General Booster meeting starting with the next meeting. This is in hopes to increase attendance and participation at the meetings. This was agreed upon and will be in effect for the November 10, 2015 meeting. This will be reevaluated at the end of the school year.

A few parents complained about how difficult it is to sign up to volunteer for Booster events. The slots are filled very quickly once they are posted on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 10 at 7 p.m.

