

CONANT HIGH SCHOOL BOOSTERS 2018-2019

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, August 13, 2019

Welcome from President – Elizabeth Paveza opened the meeting at 7:01pm and welcomed all in attendance. All members introduced themselves.

Seventeen (17) Board members were in attendance: Liz Paveza, Melanie Tomaso, Katie Palomo, Sky Capriolo, Molly Bryant, Carol Hominac, Jen Schols, RoseAnne Caboor, Tracy Gebhardt, Yassi Delgado, Dan Sarich, Dynette Lucas, Angie Catania, Julie Henry, Jenn Reiger, Paula Waterman, John Williams

Fourteen (14) General members were in attendance: Patty Jennings, Maria Ruffolo, Amanda Piecuch, David Piecuch, Pam Drone, Jean Ferris, Kathleen Henry, Patty Perry, Shiv Prasad, Vritti Sharma Grover, Jodi Cry, Radhika Nellutta, Thirymal Nellutta, Aminata Sene

Recording Secretary – Elizabeth asked for a Board member motion and a second to approve the April 9th meeting minutes. Sky Capriolo made the motion and Carol Hominac seconded it.

Principal Report - Julie Nowak was present and reported a big thank you to the Boosters for Incoming Freshman Night. Over two thirds of the freshmen families attended. This year we switched from a picnic to an evening event with a pep rally that included the fight song for a taste of school spirit. This is the first year that Boosters has done a welcome back breakfast for the teachers and staff and it was an amazing start to the new year. Yesterday was a positive, smooth, and quiet start to the new year. There are 12 new teachers. Yesterday's email was the longest that will be sent since it had a lot of information for the start. Safety week has been moved up to this week and safety information will be sent to parents at the end. Freshmen had their expectations assembly today and did great. This year, there will be a program for Global Competitive Skills. It provides fun, entertaining, and educational opportunities to cover basic work skills, such as shaking hands and sending emails. The staff is also providing information on vaping. There have already been 2 instances of students vaping this year. This summer studies have come out about the dangers and we are trying for an educational push against it. The new electronics rule is up to the individual teachers. "Put it away unless I say" is the main phrase. There is a big push for student involvement. Students that are involved have an average 1.5% higher GPA. Involvement also contributes to school safety. The district is at the beginning stages of finding a new superintendent. The current superintendent, Dr. Daniel Cates, is retiring after over 20 years at the end of this year. Parents can fill out a form online to be part of the decision. August 29 is the parent open house at 7pm. There is a college session at 6 in the auditorium that is recommended for junior and senior parents.

Activities Director Report – Mark Langer was present and reported building updates. The fields are almost done. In the future, the stadium turf will get redone. We are almost ready for the marquee/monument. Schaumburg is getting theirs first since theirs is not digital. We are working on final details with the architects. Windows was updated recently, causing old messages to pop up on the current sign, which is old. This is another reason we want the new marquee/monument. Next Friday is the activity fair to help students join things. Everyone should

try at least one sport and one activity. Academic awards will be the same night as the open house.

Athletic Director Report - John Kane was present and reported that sports started right away, which helps get the kids going in a timely manner. Sports registration is still open. There is opportunity for all freshmen in every sport. Friday August 23 is a parent meeting. There will also be scrimmages for soccer, volleyball, and football. The main meeting will be followed by individual team meetings. This would be a good night to have the spirit store open. The baseball and softball fields are almost done. Sod was placed on the varsity fields. The other fields were seeded so they are taking longer. There is a pathway for walking and running and the fields will be really nice. There will be an open house sometime in the fall. The stadium turf will be redone next year and should take about a month to complete but could take all summer. The turf is a great color and will have more "Conant Cougar" branding. Sports picture day will be this Saturday and August 26th. 17 student athletes were brought to a leadership workshop that promotes leadership, physical growth, and personal growth. This is an interesting program we are starting to implement now. The wil go all year and eventually include other students as well. Mostly sophomores went to the workshop as the focus will be on students growing the program. We are hosting girls golf regionals, boys soccer regionals, and girls volleyball regionals. Fremd is getting new locker rooms next year and we will be after that. The project will likely be tired to other big projects such as the air conditioning.

President – Elizabeth Paveza was present and gave out paper for board member contacts.

Vice President Report – Debbie Anestopoulos was not present and reported liz reported that mini grants were due last friday. Julie Nowak will go over them and give them to us soon. Mini grants are monetary requests from teachers for things like classroom materials and trips. We will have a committee meeting to review the grants.

Treasurer Report – Melanie Tomaso was present and reported that the audit took place over the summer and was completed by Carol Hominac, Angie Catania and Dynette Lucas. They went through all the books, transactions, etc and signed off that everything was good after a few typos. Mel asked committee chairs to go over the numbers she sent to make sure everything was correct. Check request forms are available at meetings and on the website under the meetings tab. Tax exempt forms are available if needed. The proposed budget for this year is available. The budget committee was made up of Liz Paveza, Debbie Anestopoulos, Melanie Tomaso, Katie Palomo, and Sky Capriolo. They planned the budget based on plan of works given by the committee chairs. The scholarship awards budget was upped from \$15,000 to \$20,000. We will vote on the proposed budget at the next meeting. A lot of time was spent considering the needs and benefits of the Boosters and the students.

Corresponding Secretary Report – Sky Capriolo was present and reported sending a congratulations card to Andy and Jennifer Mikrut for their baby boy and a condolence card for Donna Vukelich for her father that passed away.

Committee Reports

Communications - Sky Capriolo was present and reported she sends a big email blast at the beginning of each month and will send out smaller blasts when needed. You can write

something up or ask Sky for help. She wants more pictures of Booster events to show what we do. She also needs emails for the parents who want information but didn't join Boosters.

Conant Social Fundraiser - Traci Garcia was present and reported the first casino night social was last year was more of a fundraiser than a social. There were raffle, donated prizes, food, wine, and beer. About \$5400 was raised. This year will also be a casino night. It will be Saturday, February 29 at Chandlers. They are working on a deal with Lyft for discounts. Everyone is welcome, age 21 and over.

Concessions - Dan Sarich and Yassi Delgado was present and reported the first home game for volleyball concessions will be on September 26. Molly was a great volunteer last year. Email Dan or Yassi to volunteer. The available shifts are 4-6 or 6-8. Paula will put it on the website.

Craft Fair - Tracy Gebhardt was present and reported craft fair will be September 28th this year. The craft fair will be the whole first floor with 270 booths. 246 booths are full already. Admission is a dollar and it is a lot of fun. There is a concession stand, door prizes, and raffles. Volunteers are needed from 6am-6pm and there is a sign up sheet. If you are planning to just shop, please put on a green volunteer shirt. The crafters like to see a lot of green shirt volunteers but rarely ask questions. She has flyers available to put up. This is a huge fundraiser. A police officer will be there also.

Craft Fair Concessions - Angie Catania was present and reported they had a meeting with last year's chair to finalize the plan of action. They plan to use NHS students to help as runners. A lot of places in the community are willing to help.

Dances - RoseAnne Caboor were present and reported that the dance committee assists at the Homecoming dance on October 19th and the Winter Formal on February 1st. The 2 things they do are coat check and concessions. Coat check is usually checking phones, purses, shoes, etc. Usually 4 or 5 kids lose their tickets. Concessions volunteers pour water and lemonade, and put goldfish and cookies into cups. The night goes pretty quick and it's fun to see everyone all dressed up. You can sign up on signup.com to volunteer.

Fundraisers - Carol Hominac and Jenn Reiger were present and reported that they divide and conquer to take lead on multiple fundraisers. The first is Cougar Crazyies which is a spirit organization that have themes to support the sports teams. We picked a few weeks such as blue out or white out and the shirts say Cougar Crazyies 2019. They are \$10 each or 3 for \$25 to support 3 weeks of football. Orders can be placed on the boosters website or in the spirit store. This fundraiser helps us raise money and helps students that tend to forget to buy a shirt until the night before. The second fundraiser is Savers. We collect household items and clothes and get paid per pound. Last year we made about \$1000. This year will be Friday, September 13 during the football game and the following Saturday morning until noon. Books, clothes, household textiles, and purses are all good, but no large furniture. Other fundraisers include the mattresses, holiday gift cards, Amazon Smiles, and Buffalo Wild Wings.

Grill - John Williams was present and reported that last year we won the best grilled burger in the Northwest suburbs. We grill during home Varsity and JV football games and there will be 4 this year. We need 5-6 volunteers for each game to grill, wrap, etc. We also need a co-chair.

Hospitality - Molly Bryant was present and reported we are looking for a co-chair. Hospitality is in charge of the open house, NHS induction, Honors convocation, back to school breakfast, and janitor dinner. She also needs help with open house theme ideas.

Membership - Paula Waterman and Jen Schols were present and reported great turnout so far online. During registration, we had about 370 memberships purchased and 120 staff. Staff price dropped to \$10. If you want to buy additional athletic passes or cultural passes, you can add them on to your membership with a price break. You do not have to come to a meeting or volunteer to be a member.

Volunteers - Signup.com is live and ready to go. Savers fundraiser, craft fair, dances, grill, post prom, spirit store, and the social events all up already. Let Jen know if you need volunteers. It will go on website and in email blast. Let her know if you have changes. You can change your volunteer availability online if necessary and signup.com will send you a reminder.

Post Prom - Adrienne Bolbot was present and reported we need 2 new co-chairs. One for volunteers that has to attend the event, and one for tickets that does not have to attend. They will be responsible for organizing tickets and volunteers for data entry. This year's Prom is on May 2nd. We have the Spirit of Chicago boat instead of the Odyssey. It is smaller but has games. This boat has a capacity for 600 and last year we had 700 attendants.

Scholarships - Kelly O'Hara was not present. Liz reported that Kelly O'Hara is the new chair.

Cougar Corner Spirit Store - Julie Henry and Paula Waterman were present and reported that the Spirit Store will be open 2 Fridays a month during lunch periods. The store will stay stocked with merchandise. We are working on having product available during football games. You can purchase items online and send your student to the store to pick up. Custom spirit items are available. The store will be open for the open house and the sports information meeting. If you have product ideas, let Julie or Paula know. We offer t-shirts, sweatshirts, stadium seats, and Cougar Crazies shirts. We are trying to get visors and waterproof stadium blankets. Membership packets will also be available to pick up at the store. Things purchased online are usually available at the next open store day.

Website – Paula Waterman was present and reported that all signup links should be up and active. The website has everything including meetings, agendas, calendar, signups, forms, etc.

Extra - Molly suggested that we wear name tags for Booster events. Carol suggested we get Boosters t-shirts made. Paula said that Booster polos and fleece are available for \$10 off per item for members. Liz reported this is the longest meeting of the year and for new members to reach other to anyone for more information.

Liz - longest meeting of the year. Reach out to anyone for more information

Adjournment – Elizabeth Paveza adjourned the meeting at 8:29 pm

Next Meeting - Tuesday, September 10th at 7:00 pm in the Media Center

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by
Katie Palomo
2019 - 2020 Recording Secretary