

## Sentinel Booster Club Meeting Minutes

### September 11, 2017

**Attendees:** Julissa Bencia-Hensel (Volleyball), Gina Blahnik-Elliott (Orchestra and Dance), Kim Brown (Basketball), Kathi Descharme (Basketball), Ryan Davis (Orchestra, Instructor), Deb Glass (Dance), Marria Hegel (Wrestling), Sindie Kennedy (Band and Tennis), Malissa Lannoye (Basketball), Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson (Soccer, Track, Band, Orchestra), Liana Messer (Football), Michelle Quinn (Soccer), Megan Rodriguez (Dance), and Carla Woehler (X-country, Band, Track).

### **Introduction**

Ryan Davis - Orchestra

Sentinel has two orchestras - intermediate (32 participants) and advanced (55 participants). The program keeps growing. The inventory is set-up for when there were less students. Uniforms are an issue. They don't have dresses for the girls. Mr. Davis splits his time between Sentinel and Hellgate.

Six students made All-state Orchestra. Sentinel had a violinist who was the best player in the state for two years in a row. Missoula Youth Symphony is made up of the top players from the area. They have been invited to play at a teacher convention.

Part of the new construction at Sentinel will include a new music wing. He hopes the addition will include an orchestra room which will allow a symphonic group to incorporate woodwinds. They have a trip planned for this upcoming year [Chicago and Cleveland].

Bill Holland, a previous orchestra director, teaches at a fine arts program in Maryland. Mr. Davis has worked with him to create an opportunity for students in both programs to play together. A previous group of Sentinel students went to Washington, D.C. to play together. The students can also participate in All-state Orchestra. The students play an instrument and record it and it is sent to a blind adjudicator. The students are picked to participate in the All-state Orchestra. They all meet and play together. State is covered in terms of cost. Every other year, the best players can participate in the Northwest group which includes the players in the northwest. The cost is \$200 per student to participate.

Mr. Davis was informed that the Booster Club could provide \$5 per participating student for the All-state Orchestra. The Booster Club could also provide the orchestra with \$250, if two parents can work a Booster Club closet or 50/50. Mr. Davis will share this information with parents and follow-up with the Booster Club.

### **Treasurer's Report**

No report this month.

The financial situation will be different this year. We lost a big selling opportunity with our first football game of the year getting canceled due to smoke. The next home game is Thursday against Butte. The Booster Club can sell 50/50 tickets and spirit gear at that game. Football is the biggest selling opportunity and there are only four home games remaining. Kim will follow-up with the Boots group. They were going to make hats. Up Top is popular. A participant asked if items could be offered on the website? Everyone agreed this would be good, but the district website is limiting and it is very costly to get a point-of-sale system on a website. Some ideas included adding images of gear and the closet schedule to the website. Another idea was to hold a contest to get people to visit the website. The closet schedule could be advertised during the games. Julissa offered to take an announcement to the game.

Liana reported that sponsorship letters went out. She suggested identifying 10 businesses per week to send letters to. Florence Coffee contacted Kim and offered money (they don't have any students at Sentinel). Letters could be sent to those businesses where Sentinel students frequent (e.g., Krispy Kreme, Little Caesars, etc.).

Open House is coming up. That event provides an opportunity to connect with last year's members. There are a lot of new members. Sending the membership form home was a great idea. Families learned that Sentinel Booster Club supports a lot of activities, not just sports.

### **Booster Closet**

The closet has not been open much yet. Marria sent a sign-up list around. Sign-up.com is available for parents to register to work a closet shift. Parent reps for each supported activity are needed to work the closet and to attend the monthly Booster Club meetings to provide an update.

The coaches support the Booster Club, but they do not have time to attend meetings. Gina offered to represent Dance.

Closet shifts can be broken up if needed (football shifts are 4-hour shifts).

A Booster Club closet banner and a schedule of closet openings will be posted in the hallway.

Gina wondered if business banners could go in the gym. Kim explained that is not allowed. It is a district policy. Kim explained that AT&T contacted her and offered a bunch of money if they could display their banners. Kim was told that was not allowed.

Another attendee suggesting giving away Booster Club Member t-shirts: "Ask me where I got my shirt."

The Booster Club will not make buttons this year. If any group wants to make buttons as a fundraiser, the equipment will be provided. The Booster Club will provide the supplies, which cost

around \$1.51 per button. LifeTouch offers buttons on their order form. Once they started doing that, the Booster Club could not sell buttons because it was too late. Julissa suggested taking orders. The Booster Club could buy the supplies and charge a bit more (\$1.60) per button. Julissa will make buttons for volleyball.

Marria is opening the closet on Fridays from 11:30 to 12:30 (during lunch period).

An attendee offered an idea for driving traffic to the Booster Club Facebook page: Selfie of the week. Have students send selfies to Facebook (will have to be approved). Include a weekly theme. Other attendees suggested Instagram would probably work better. High school students do not use Facebook as much as their parents might.

### **Fall Activity Report**

Golf - Jack Johnston did great. He was nominated for Athlete of the Week.

Cross Country - first meet was at the Equestrian Park. Hellgate boys and girls won. Sentinel girls are young. Last week was canceled due to smoke. This Friday, Sentinel is hosting a meet at the Fort. The consensus was that Booster Club did not need to be there to sell items.

Football - they have been able to play outside (the smoke has lifted some). They did lose to Big Sky. They did win against Great Falls. They head to Flathead this Friday. The schedule has changed. Butte is playing Thursday nights. They will play Hellgate for Homecoming. That is a big cross-town game.

Girls Soccer - they had a rough start. Games have been canceled and they have been practicing in the gym (due to the smoke). Both JV and Varsity have 2-1 records. This week they play in Kalispell. They are winning.

Boys Soccer - no report.

Volleyball - One of the players got hurt. The varsity lost. They are doing great otherwise.

Dance - Deb went to parent meetings and tried to get parents to come to Booster Club. Their coach got them a spot on NBC news. The dance team performed at the Big Sky football game. Gina has a senior and a sophomore in dance. They have 19 girls. The dancers at the Sentinel/Big Sky game filled in for the cheerleaders. It was a small group.

Kim announced the annual essay contest at the end of the year. The award for the best essay is \$250 scholarship. The seniors have to write a themed essay: "What does it mean to be a Spartan." The contest is held in April and will be announced on the Facebook page. Parents have to be a member.

We need to get the word out. The support staff members in the office choose the winners. The funds are sent directly to the college.

Another attendee suggested having people check-in on Facebook when at a sporting event and give them a discount on spirit gear.

### **Year-round Activity Report**

Band - marching band is the main activity right now. They submitted a recording and were selected to play at Carnegie Hall in 2019.

Speech and Debate - not started.

Choir - just starting.

### **New Business**

Business Partnership - talked about designating a board member to just be responsible for memberships. This would include identifying new memberships. Some strategies for eliciting more business membership was to address letters to the business owners (not To Whom It May Concern). Business owners will be more responsive if they receive a personalized request. Liana stressed we should be sending 10 letters per month. Gina Blahnik-Elliott and Megan Rodriguez could take that role on.

Other ideas for increasing participation included creating a spirit contest on Facebook to increase social media presence. Kim informed the attendees that new trophy cases will be installed soon. Dane ordered trophy cases to replace those that are in the hallway. When the trophy cases are here, the Booster Club will host a decorating contest. We will ask parent liaisons from each sport to own their trophy case. We will do one for fall, winter and spring sports. This could kick off the remodel coming in two years.

### **Mr. Oliver's Report**

Did not attend.

Adjourned at 7:45.