

Sentinel Booster Club Meeting November 11, 2019

Attendees: Gina Blahnik-Elliott, Amy Dupras, Carlett Hogan, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Sindie Kennedy, Michelle Machek, Laura Marshall, Trish Opitz, Dawn Podolske and Cindy Sandau

Guests: Aisley Allen/Lisa Anderson (Student Government), Katie Cassidy (Drama), Theresa McGeary (Robotics) and Lewis Nelson (Band)

Welcome and Introductions

Sports/Activities Update

Lewis Nelson - Band – The program had a busy fall. The bands performed nine times, including concerts, marching in the University of Montana’s and Sentinel’s homecoming parades and performing in the stands during football games. A holiday concert is coming up in December. The Jazz Band will travel to Moscow, Idaho in February for the biggest education festival in the U.S. Mr. Nelson is looking into opportunities for the bands to travel to California in spring 2021. He hopes to take more than one band, to include Wind Ensemble, Concert and Symphonic Bands. The cost will be between \$1,000 and \$1,200 per student and could include 205 students. The Sentinel band program includes three concert bands, one jazz band and a percussion ensemble. The marching band will play at the playoff football game this weekend. School is out that day so parent volunteers will supervise the students. Mr. Nelson does not know how many students will show up. Fifty-five students showed up last Friday. Mr. Nelson said he is proud of the students. They are doing a great job. The Booster Club commitments have been met for band therefore the program will receive \$250.

Lisa Anderson (faculty advisor), Aisley Allen (Student-body President) - Student

Government - Sentinel Student Government includes 40 to 50 students. Their objective is to raise money to return to Sentinel. They sold 500 tickets for the Fireside Dance at \$10 per ticket, which is their big fundraiser to support Sentinel homecoming expenses. The Fireside Dance nets around \$3,500 to \$4,000. They coordinate all homecoming activities, to include building a float, decorating and putting on a dance and a bonfire. Sentinel Student Government conducts a toiletry and a food drive for the FRC; they will adopt three families this year for Christmas. Michelle Manning, the FRC coordinator gives student government a wish list from families in need. The students go shopping at Walmart and wrap the gifts during a student government meeting. Michelle takes care of getting the gifts to the families. Student government’s role is to promote a positive environment. Student government decorates the halls; they are responsible for organizing the Golden Goat and talent show events; they coordinate pep assemblies - around five per year - which include the pep band. These assemblies are help break up the month. They hold elections every year. Student government also coordinates an elementary program with Lewis and Clark Elementary. A group of students visit the school, by grade, every week to spend lunch with the students. They raise funds for a Senior

Legacy project so seniors can purchase something for the school as a gift. Last year, the senior class purchased a water fountain. This year, the senior class will purchase a large spartan head for a wall near the gymnasium to include the statement, "Turn Back, Spartan Territory." Student government allocates funds from their fundraising to allow the seniors to leave their legacy. The Sparty Zone will get a sign to be placed under the helmet to state, "This is Our House." Student government will order spirit supplies for the Golden Goat event. They try to not get anything that the Spirit Store sells. They gave the football players pom poms during the volleyball game and told them they had to be the cheerleaders. The players loved that. Student government is not responsible for football-game themes. The seniors decide on themes. There is a student-managed Sentinel Instagram page. Big Sky and Hellgate students choose their own themes and have their own Instagram accounts. The theme might be decided Wednesday night or Thursday morning before a Friday game.

Katie Cassidy, Drama - They are in the midst of fall craziness. The drama program has a set schedule every year. The students go trick or treating for canned foods for the Missoula Food Bank. They go to a movie and then go trick-or-treating around the neighborhood. Next week is their fall play, 26 Pebbles. It is a drama. The kids have worked hard. It is a powerful piece. It will create some conversation. In February, the drama students participate in the state theatre festival at the University of Montana. In January, they will choose a piece to perform for the festival. In the spring, they will do a play titled Clue. Nine students will travel to New York with Big Sky and Hellgate June 16 for one week. They will see five or six shows and will visit the Statue of Liberty and Ground Zero. Students take this trip every other year. The drama program is offered as a class and an extra-curricular program. Some students take the classes and do not do the extra-curricular program and vice versa. The program includes 50 to 60 students who are hard-core drama kids. Ms. Cassidy is happy to have access to the theatre again after remodeling work. Performances of 26 Pebbles will take place next week on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$6.

Theresa McGeary, Robotics - Ms. McGeary is the faculty advisor this year. She has a son on the team and is an occupational therapist for the district. The team was struggling to find an advisor last year. Ms. McGarvey offered to help. The robotics team represents all levels. They have the biggest team this year. Twenty-seven students attended the Robotic Rewind event in November. Last year, they built a robot in January for a competition in Calgary. They watched a video to see the challenge that everyone in the country sees. They had six weeks to figure out how to build the robot. They traveled to Calgary. Missoula had the only team from Montana. They built a robot with pieces from other robots - a "trash" robot. The goal was to just get it to move. They got both of their robots out there. The first robot did not move. They worked on it to get it to move. There were a lot of students on the team; it can be challenging to keep them involved. With having two robots, they were able to have two 4-person teams. Both robots made it to semi-finals and their trash robot won the tournament. They won the Excellence in Engineering award at the Calgary competition. Missoula's team consists of students from Big Sky, Hellgate and Sentinel. Most are from Sentinel.

The team will travel to Salt Lake this year for a tournament. They could travel to Calgary again this year if they raise enough money. The fee to enter a competition is \$5,000. The Missoula team does very well. Teams they compete against have six-figure budgets. The team does get financial support from engineering and architecture firms – firms that wish to invest in the students that they may someday hire. The students get to show off their robots to their sponsors. The team members participate at craft fairs (Sentinel and Big Sky). They do a lot of metal crafts - cutting and sanding. This year they will add electronic light-up Christmas tree ornaments. They learn welding and other skills when making their crafts.

Minutes from Last Month

Amy motioned to approve the October minutes. Carlett motioned to second. All approved.

Treasurer's Report

Purple Rush - Amy checked in with Randy Rupert about the boys' locker room renovation project. Randy is underwriting the project and is actively trying to raise funds. It will cost around \$25,000 to \$28,000. Right now, we have raised \$12,075 from donations - including \$2,000 that Randy and Corryl Rupert will contribute. Randy will actively start promoting the project again.

The Booster Club is experiencing a lull in sales. 50/50 sells are at \$400 (this does not include the last game). Revenue from memberships is ahead of last year. Spirit sales has exceeded last year's sales already. The amount spent on apparel exceeds the budget, but the store sales are making up for the expense. The Booster Club now has a heat press for pressing transfers on t-shirts and sweatshirts to order. Students are wearing shirts with our first transfer and people are asking where they got it. We have \$20,000 in our account right now.

Spirit Store Update

The store will be open next Monday for the Winter Sports Meeting. The Booster Club will have a booth during the Sentinel Craft Fair. The basketball shifts will be on the web page soon. To get the \$250 donations from the Booster Club, parents have to work two shifts and the activity coordinator needs to report during a booster club meeting.

Fall Activities

Boys' Golf – The team achieved second place at state.

Cross Country - Boys took third place at state.

Football - The team made it to the playoffs.

Girls' Soccer - The team made it to the first round of playoffs.

Boys' Soccer - The team did not make it to the state tournament.

Volleyball – The team is travelling to Bozeman and is playing Billings West this week. The team will compete in the state tournament.

Year-round Activities

Band - Sindie shared that the Sentinel Jazz Band participated in a Missoula Jazz Concert at Hellgate High School. See Mr. Nelson's report above for more.

Orchestra - The group will travel to Seattle in the spring. They have a concert December 16.

Choir - They are at the AA festival this week.

Cheerleading - No report.

Dance - The team just finished performing during the football season. They are excited to go to state with the football team. They are working on new dances for upcoming events. They are preparing for the Goat. They got their pom poms stolen last game. They were taken during the last game - right before the game.

Drama - See the above report.

Robotics - See the above report.

Speech and Debate - There will be a two-day tournament at Sentinel this weekend. Judges are needed. Debate events will take place at Hellgate; Speech events will take place at Sentinel. Ms. Anderson judged before and did not have any experience, but it was fine.

Trophy Cases

Some cases have not been installed. Sindie said there seems to be trophy cases installed in the common area by the cafeteria.

New Business

Battle of the Goat – This will occur January 31 at the Adam's Center. Ms. Anderson explained in bigger cities, there is a rivalry that involves two teams. Sentinel decided to compete with Hellgate. It is a spirit contest that provides an opportunity to promote school spirit. It is a basketball game and a fundraiser. A meeting is taking place tomorrow to start planning the event. There is a big scorecard with scoring for various competitions (best t-shirt, loudest, etc.). Girdie is the name of the goat. The goat trophy is at Hellgate right now. Last year, judges included Mayor Engen and Chase Reynolds. To win the contest, Sentinel needs a lot of participation from students, parents, alumni and the community. The theme this year is a 90s throwback jock rock jam (e.g., 90s anthem rock shows). This year will be Hellgate's home game but at the Adams Center. We want to sell t-shirts online and

when the Spirit Store is open. The SWX sportscaster will be involved. A local newscaster will emcee the event. There will be news crews everywhere. It will be the SWX game of the week. The half-time show is supposed to incorporate people from other activities and sports. Mr. Rettig wants to have a tailgate party at 4:30. He wants to rent out the upper auxiliary gym at the Adam's Center. Mr. Rettig's request for the Booster Club is to provide hot dogs. He thinks he will be able to get beverages donated. It is the weekend of the Cat-Griz game. Girls are playing at 6 and boys are playing after. Students should not leave the games so there is support during both the girls and the boys' games.

The coordinators will plan half-time activities and give away door prizes. They want to start selling t-shirts. All proceeds will go to the Booster Club. One parent reminded the Booster Club to offer larger sized t-shirts. Emails will be sent out to encourage participation. This year they will have a pep assembly the day before. Carlett suggested the coordinators provide information about the event to parents. One suggestion was sending email, providing inserts in programs leading up to the January 31 game and a program during the event that includes directions for parents. The Booster Club could distribute flyers at the Spirit Store. Students want long-sleeved shirts. We must coordinate with Hellgate and offer the same shirts. If we offer long-sleeved shirts, Hellgate will need to agree to do the same. Rettig wants to get sponsorships to cover the costs of shirts for members of the dance and cheer teams, as well as members of athletic teams so more students have shirts.

Spartner Parent Reps - The Booster Club needs a parent representative for girls' basketball, wrestling, swimming and softball (some parents offered to do boys' basketball if their student's make the team). Cindy has a lead on a softball parent.

Social Media Presence

The Booster Club is on Facebook and Instagram.

Fundraising

The Booster Club participates with Buzzpoints (Clearwater Credit Union) and Amazon Smiles. Sindie has added details about these programs, as well as the Purple Rush fundraiser on the Sentinel Booster Club web page.

Track and Field - There is a fundraiser at the Meagher Bar December 30. The Booster Club can promote the fundraiser.

Athletic Director - no report this month.