

Sentinel Booster Club Meeting **January 13, 2020**

Attendees: Gina Blahnik-Elliott, Amy Dupras, Carlett Hogan, Lisa Mecklenberg Jackson, Sindie Kennedy, Michelle Machek, Charlotte Nelson, Dane Oliver, Corryl Rupert, Randy Rupert, Molly Stockdale and Carla Woehler

Guests: Dan Lande (Computer Science), Ron Beck (Wrestling), Maria Bray (DECA) and Michelle Manning (Families in Transition)

Welcome and Introductions

Sports/Activity Updates

Dan Lande, Computer Science Club/Robotics Club – the Computer Science Club meets on Wednesdays during lunch. The group participates in several competitions that are put on by the Air Force Academy, titled Cyber Patriot, a cyber security competition. Students must find and correct all security flaws. They go through qualifying rounds and then a state round competing against other Montana teams. If they score high enough, they advance to the semi-finals at the end of this month. Team members achieved second and third in the state. This is the first year Sentinel has not won. It is usually between Great Falls and Missoula. Sentinel has one team going to the state competition. Cyber Patriot costs \$200 per team, which usually includes four to six teams every year. The team's primary fundraising effort is working the concession stand during home games. In the spring they will participate in the American Computer Science League competition, which is a math-based computer science competition. Team members solve a math problem and a written exam. Butte hosted the state competition last year. The team competes in other smaller competitions throughout the year. This year, there are 25 students (there are usually between 20 and 30 students each year). There are four cyber security teams this year. Participation ebbs and flows. Cyber Patriot is popular and appeals to students. Computer Science/Cyber Patriot is only at Sentinel. The other high schools do not offer this program. A middle school team will start next year at Washington. There is also the Civil Air Patrol Division within Cyber Patriots that competes locally. Students must meet for six hours to fix a security flaw. There is live scoring where students can see what everyone else is scoring. The students enjoy it. This is Dan's fifth year teaching at Sentinel.

Ron Beck, Wrestling – the team is having a busy week. Sentinel is hosting 31 other teams Friday and Saturday for the Rocky Mountain Classic. We have a young team this year. We just started the feeder program a week ago. The USAW schedule lasts six weeks. About 32 wrestlers signed up. The state tournament is February 14. It is a short season due to the limited schedule at Billings Metro. The team consists of four seniors and four juniors, with the remaining team made up of sophomores and freshmen.

Maria Bray, DECA – Ms. Bray is the new marketing teacher and DECA advisor. Computers are a need in the DECA classroom. They have limited access to computer labs. Chromebooks would be an inexpensive solution, costing \$239 to 259. Ms. Bray has raised enough funds to purchase 10 ChromeBooks. She is using crowd fundraising, such as DonorsChoose. Parents want to see some technology in the DECA room; some have made donations. There have never been computers in the classroom. Ms. Bray tries to fill the classroom with 30 students per period which amounts to 150 students. She is also trying to get phone chargers to get the phones out of students' hands. She has to purchase the devices through the district IS department. She hopes to obtain 30 ChromeBooks (right now, she has 15). A link to DonorsChoose could be shared on the booster club Facebook page. Molly suggested that Maria check with Dan Lande because he uses DonorsChoose. Ms. Bray will not know if there is building funds available until almost the end of the year. Perkins funding is going towards the DECA program because they were not making any money through SpartaMart. Mr. Rettig allowed them to start selling Cup O'Noodles out of SpartaMart again, which has allowed them to start making money again.

Fifty students are going to state this year, which is at Fairmont. Out of that 50, the top three for each category go to the National Tournament in Nashville. Plane tickets cost anywhere between \$500 to \$700. She hopes to take as many students as possible.

Michelle Manning, FIT - various schools in the district have Family Resource Center coordinators. Michelle works 20 hours per week. She works predominantly with students that are educationally homeless, based on federal law. She is working with the families with the greatest needs. Michelle also works closely with Sarah Kragelund, the Sentinel social worker. The Sentinel Family Resource Center offers clothing, toiletries, a food pantry and holiday gift cards. Ms. Manning distributed nearly 100 gift cards for \$50 each to families in need during the holidays. More Sentinel families are spending their money on rent, leaving little remaining to spend on basic needs. The Sentinel family is incredibly supportive and generous. Ms. Manning is also able to get help through the Missoulian. A meeting attendee asked if students get help with graduation gowns. Ms. Manning stated she does not have funding to support graduation gowns but can help with activity fees, other fees and transportation costs. She cannot help with driver's education courses. Used graduation gowns can be donated to Beth Riley, the school secretary. She has a storage space in the basement of the school. We need to advertise to get families to donate their caps and gowns. Ms. Manning can take clothing donations. She does not advertise this need because of her limited space. She still uses My Student in Need. She will always take clothing. The Missoula Organization of Realtors also offers clothing and shoes. MOR is amazing. They give Michelle a debit card (\$300 to \$400) that can be used at any store or to buy gas cards. An attendee asked if they could donate used spirit gear. Ms. Manning indicated the booster club has donated multiple times. She indicated clothing and food donations can be dropped off at the front office. Empower Packs through the Missoula Food Bank are distributed at Sentinel; right now, there are 16 packs distributed per week. Michelle has a food pantry of non-perishable items. The front office can access the closet. The need is increasing. She has received personal calls from parents asking for help with school supplies. The cost of living is

rising. Numbers were up during the holiday drive. They have a recycling laptop program, to include recycling teacher laptops to students. She can take other laptops and recycled cell phones. The FIT program appreciates the booster club's donations. The program received \$4,000 in donations this year.

Mission and Purpose of SBC: Raise and distribute money for the benefit of Sentinel students; promote Sentinel internally and within the community; facilitate trophy cases; offer scholarships. Cheer on our Sentinel students!

December Minutes (Sindie Kennedy)

Carla Woehler moved to approve the minutes. Molly Stockdale seconded. All approved.

Treasurer's Report (Amy Dupras)

Financial activity has been a bit slow because of the break. There has been some Purple Rush activity. The booster club will be paying out those funds to the district. Amy has had some trouble reconciling the account on the US Bank website. She paid out the donations to Cheer, Dance and the FIT program. We might owe volleyball money for the state tournament. The spirit sales are higher this year relative to this time last year. Lisa asked members if they approve of donating money to DECA for ChromeBooks. There was consensus of donating enough to cover the cost of two ChromeBooks. Lisa motioned to donate enough money to purchase two Chromebooks (approx. \$500). Carlett seconded. All approved.

Molly asked if Robotics received the \$250. Amy indicated the funds are added to Sentinel's general fund. Those funds must be transferred to the robotics account.

Purple Rush Locker Room Project (Randy Rupert) – Randy shared some pictures on the progress. Construction started on December 16, as planned. As layers have been peeled back, it has been interesting to see the construction practices of the 60s. Contractors had to take out an entire wall. Asbestos was found (approximately six inches around the elbow of pipes). The district paid for the abatement. This slowed down the schedule (they are about one week behind). The project includes reconstructed ventilation system, new shower heads, increased lighting, urinals and toilets, partitions and doors for privacy. We are fixing 50+ years of old stuff. Behind the wall was about \$10,000 of new plumbing needs. The district cannot afford that. The urinals were so calcified that liquids could not flush. Plumb Tech (Lance Hogan) came in and helped with the plumbing. Once the project started, the district spent an additional \$5,000 to \$7,000 after digging in and discovering what was there. Burley and the district have been great to work with. When done, the locker room will be a healthier environment and should last for a long time. The girls' locker room will get partitions and doors. The girls' locker room was updated recently but the boys' locker room has not been updated in many years.

Donors have committed funds, but some have not yet written checks. The project will be done this week. The boys will start showering there soon. The locker room still needs new lockers. Sentinel could possibly get old Griz lockers. The lockers will be auctioned and picked up by the Montana High School Association. Sentinel could potentially get those lockers for free. New lockers could also be a student project in woodshop. Randy has been involved in the project, including helping with the manual labor.

Spirit Store Update

The store has been open frequently. Sales have been good. There are still shifts available for working the store for any activity needing to meet the requirement. Molly is working tomorrow night. The booster club has been working with students to sell GOAT shirts. That has been working well.

Winter Activity Report

Boys' Basketball – the varsity team is undefeated and ranked second in the state. It is a tough week. Going to Helena. Super Saturdays where both girls and boys play at the same site (western AA). Boys must travel twice to Helena. At the end of the year, they don't have to travel. Creates logistics problems. JV and sophomore teams are doing well.

Girls' Basketball – the team is undefeated.

Swimming – the team had a meet last week. They are doing well. The Sentinel boys are strong. There has been some transition with the new coach. It is challenging managing three high schools. Swimming is hard to follow since the meets are not here.

Wrestling – see above.

Year-round Activity Report

Band – Pep Band has been playing at the basketball games. They are playing tomorrow. They are planning a trip for next year. They have started to fundraise for next year. Four Sentinel students are travelling to Billings for the All-state Jazz Band Festival this weekend. Jazz Band is traveling to Moscow, Idaho in February for a national festival.

Orchestra – the AA festival is in February. They just finished coffee sales. They are still coming up with little fundraisers for their trip to Seattle, to include working concessions.

Choir – no update.

Cheer – the team is getting ready for the GOAT game. They will host a kids' camp. The booster club will try to promote that. The camp starts at 1:30 February 8 and will result in a performance at a Griz game.

Dance – the team is getting ready for the GOAT game. They will perform at their first basketball game tomorrow. They are teaching the boys their dance for the Battle of the GOAT. The girls made a sign to thank the booster club for their donation.

Drama – they are getting ready for the thespian convention (ThesFest) for the first weekend in February. It is a state festival where all the thespians in drama clubs go to the university and compete. The Sentinel troupe is doing a one-act play that Max Dupras wrote and is directing. It is a 12-person show. There will be judges. They do monologues and improvs. Hellgate is doing a one-scene musical. The drama program will perform Clue in the spring.

Robotics – they are in the build season for robotics right now. The team got together at CTA and connected with the live feed of the reveal for the tournament. This year will be a Star Wars theme. R2D2 was there. They all get the challenge at the same time. Afterwards, they get to work and design their robot. This year, they must figure out how to throw a ball to a target. They call it Coop-a-tition where they work with other teams. The team is conducting fundraising to raise money to get to Salt Lake City. There is a GoFundMe campaign right now. The booster club could promote the fundraising efforts on their Facebook page. Molly will send Lisa a link to the GoFundMe campaign, as well as information about a Five on Black fundraiser. The robotics team coordinates restaurant fundraisers on meetings nights so the students can go to dinner together after their meeting.

Speech and Debate – the team did well in Frenchtown at a JV meet. Sentinel placed first. There were so many students in attendance. They must select a final team to go to the state competition. There are approximately 85 students. The team travels to Butte this weekend. With national qualifiers, someone does not have to win multiple times. They could qualify with one speech.

Ongoing Business

Trophy Cases – the new cases are not fully done but will be done within the coming weeks. One of those is the combined case for cheer and dance. Lisa is trying to remind groups to get their trophy cases updated. We want to wait until construction is done before we start decorating the new cases. There are locks for all cases.

Updated Spartner List

Lisa shared an updated list with attendees. The booster club is getting coaches to the meetings. We need to get more volunteers to work closet shifts.

New Business

Report from Principal Ryan Rettig – planning for the Battle of the GOAT is progressing well on our end. Sentinel's pep band wants to compete with Hellgate during the Battle of the GOAT. Hellgate does not want to compete and instead wants to perform as one band. There will be a dance performance at halftime. The tailgate is a go for the 31st outside at 5PM. The Pep Band will lead us in. Shirt sales have been very good.

The robotics team ran the robot today. It is quite cool. Mr. Rettig went to the kickoff.

School construction is nearly finished. The floor is getting sealed in the IT building. There is a blue-list punch list. The acoustics in the band room will hopefully get addressed. It was poorly designed. The architects are getting in there. In the end, that should be quite good. Window coverings are about \$42,000 to sound-proof the windows. Mr. Rettig gave Pat McHugh a list of items that need to be addressed, which will likely happen this spring. The ventilation system in the STEM center will likely get addressed this summer. Progress is being made.

Cram-fest is this Thursday. Finals week is next week.

Sentinel is playing at Big Sky on January 24. Mr. Rettig has coordinated a tailgate gathering for the Big Sky parking lot for the double header game.

50/50 at Jug Beck Wrestling Tournament – Molly will try to identify computer science parents who could work the event.

Booster Club Fundraiser – visit Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakburger on January 22 between 4 and 8PM; the booster club will receive 15% of sales. Customers must show the flyer.

Spartan Showcase – February 3, 6 to 7PM. This is for incoming freshmen. All incoming freshmen and parents can visit the gym to learn about all of the activities and core classes. The Spirit Store could be opened. Sentinel has 200 more students than the two other high schools.

Divisional Tournaments – the Boys and Girls Basketball Divisional Tournaments are at Sentinel March 4, 5 and 6. The booster club will sell the divisional shirts at Sentinel (no other merchandise will be available). For spring state events at Sentinel, the booster club was asked to sell event programs.

Athletic Director Report (Dane Oliver)

Video streaming of games is getting a lot of views. Dane has not seen the revenue outcome. The funds are distributed quarterly. He is still waiting to see how the cost sharing works. We could make money through advertising. If Stockman Bank paid \$500 for an ad, Sentinel would get all of it. There were 247 viewers of basketball games and approximately 2,000 viewers of football games. There is an on-demand option. The coaches have a huddle camera to view games.

Dane Oliver was awarded the Athletic Director of the Year for the state.

Next Booster Club Meeting: February 10, 6:30 PM