

Niskayuna Athletics Booster Club, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
Date: May 10, 2023 @ 7pm
Meeting Location: Virtual <https://meet.google.com/eyt-pyzf-nae>

1. **Call to Order** at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Roll Call of Officers and Directors** to ensure quorum (Currently 15 directors so 8 directors are needed to be present for a quorum per Article VI(I))

Andrew Katz	Present
Corey Ausfeld	Present
Therese Assalian	Present
Frank Ferrucci	Present
Terri Dutcher	Present
Mathew Tully	Present
Greta Jansson	Present
Lori Birmingham	Present
Sara Najafipour	Present
Danielle Marquis	Present
Erin Massaroni	Absent
Michael Barberich	Absent
Matt Petrangelo	Present
Sarah Ciesinski	Present
Larry Gillooley	Excused
John Moskov	Present

3. **Minutes**: Motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes from our April 5, 2023 meeting by the President and seconded by Co-President.

In Favor: All Opposed 0 Abstain

4. **Special Presentations** (7:05-7:38)

a. **School Budget Presentation** by Superintendent Mummenthey and Assistant Superintendent Leon

- 500 community survey responses this year
- The proposed budget is \$107.8 million
- Bus propositions asks for \$1.5 million to cover the cost of nine new buses
- The tax levy of 2.34%, is once again below the tax cap
- Board of Education vote: three well-qualified candidates are running to fill two open seats.
- All current student programs & services are being maintained
- 30 new positions will be added in the areas of Instruction, Support, and Maintenance
- Foundation Aid has been returned to school for the first time in 22 years, which has helped with new investments that include:

- UPK, in connection with JCC
- 12.2 positions at the middle school level
- In-district Special Education, including a new Communications Class at Iroquois
- Additional full time school psychologist
- Elementary content-specials at each building, paid by a stipend
- IT/software/more help-desk staffing
- Field trips and assemblies re-instituted
- The budget is $\frac{2}{3}$ covered by local property tax and $\frac{1}{3}$ covered by State Aid
- Many other specifics were shared that had previously been addressed in the budget hearings held at BofEd meetings, in mailings, and online.
- Of much interest to those attending this meeting was the mandate for all electric buses by 2035. The buses on the proposition this year weren't to be electric. It was explained that it is early in the development of the electric bus technology, so they are waiting to see how the early versions work out in neighboring districts.
- Other bus questions:
 - would it be possible to have smaller buses for smaller teams, since the driver shortage is an issue that has impacted sports teams.
 - Is the district looking at ways to extend the bus driver pool? There was a driver open house in June 2022; there will be training in July 2023 as well.

b. Presentation on the Stadium Entryway Project by Zak Cassady-Dorion & Pete Micieli

- Coaches/alumni/supporters have gathered and formed a group to look into creating an entryway for the new track and fields.
- They formed in connection with Niskayuna Youth Football, as they needed a 501C-3 tax-deductible group that was already in existence. This does not preclude other groups from benefiting, obviously, as it is a great community plan.
- They have hired an engineer & architect who have created a plan for construction.
- There will be a ticketbooth and storage on top of a cement pad that was laid out in the plan. This includes the needed electricals and future water lines; the actual building is what is missing.
- A Committee was formed that created a GoFund Me campaign, has contacted 150 local businesses, and had a fundraiser night at The Broken Inn.
- Bricks will also be sold as a fundraiser as well.
- Superintendent Mumenthey has sent a Letter of Intent to the NYSED about this future project.
- Forms and information are available locally, on social media, and will also be shared on the Niskayuna Athletics Booster Club website.
- The Niskayuna Athletics Booster Club has pledged \$2500 toward this project.
- If the group has raised \$200K by the end of July, they could begin construction.

5. Officers' Reports (7:53-8:01)

i. **President's Report**

Andrew Katz

There will be a table set up at NiskaDay to publicize the club and hand out swag/gifts for those who have already signed up.

ii. **Co-President's Report**

Corey Ausfeld

May is our club month at The Broken Inn.

iii. **Vice President's Report**

Therese Assalian

Most of the report falls under Concessions, as there has been much success in a short time frame.

iv. **Treasurer's Report**

Frank Ferrucci

The club has \$15,000 on hand. The financial reports are online, including a memo with revenue highlights.

v. **Secretary's Report**

Terri Dutcher

The newsletter will be sent out in late June or July, with news and results of the school's athletic teams over the year.

vi. **Parliamentarian's Report**

Mathew Tully

Thanked the Superintendent for his attendance and presentation this evening as well as his assistance with the club since its creation in January 2023.

6. Committee Reports (8:01-8:15)

i. **Audit Committee**

Identified but not appointed.

ii. **Banquet Committee**

Greta Jansson

- Hasn't heard from any spring sports team regarding banquets except Boys' lacrosse.
- There seems to be a disconnect between this group and its role in connection to the sports program. John Moskov said he would speak to team coaches again, and prior to each season.

iii. **Budget Committee**

Frank Ferrucci

- Shared screens with budget information, which is being formulated for the next meeting.
- The hope is that the Club will be able to offer six scholarships to senior athletes next year.
- Grants (that are available on the website) are not tied to any specific team fundraising. However, the projects should be run by the Club PRIOR to the work being done on whatever project is done.

iv. **Council of Captains** Andrew Katz

v. **Council of Coaches** Terri Dutcher

These two have not really gotten off the ground this year, but a goal for next year is to establish their role, as well as the role for Team Directors.

vi. **Concession Committee** Lori Birmingham

- Would like to attend the meeting of coaches in the fall, to explain concessions to them.
- Try to make concessions a sport-wide effort.
- Tour will help the group get to know the concessions lay out, since some have only worked inside for basketball, wrestling, etc.
- Get work out through team meetings, to get athletes involved and supporting each other.
- Contact Concession@niskyboard.com with any questions.

vii. **Executive Committee** Nothing to report

viii. **Fundraising Committee** Sara Najafipour

- The club earned \$250 with the Blaze fundraiser.
- The online auction has 14-15 items so far; a Parent Square announcement will go out when it begins.
- The sub-committee will meet soon.

ix. **Membership Committee** Danielle Marquis

- Two new corporate sponsors have joined since the last meeting: Lia AutoGroup and Crowne Plaza Desmond.
- Eight new personal members have joined.
- The promotional items have arrived and will be distributed at NiskaDay, a future meeting, and hand-delivered as needed.

x. **Nomination Committee** Corey Ausfeld

xi. **Special Committees** None

xii. **Ad hoc Committees** None

7. **School Board Member's Report** Judy Tomisman (8:16-8:19)

- a. Supt Mumenthey and Asst. Supt. Leon covered budget information
- B. School Budget and BoE vote is on Tuesday, May 16.
- C. VA plans are nearing completion

8. **Athletic Director's Report** Larry Gillooley **tonight by John Moskov

- Many championship possibilities in upcoming sectionals
- The track was painted mainly red, with gray used for the "hand off" zones
- Sod will be put in next week

- Niskayuna is in good position to host Sectional events next school year
- Concession: expect more night games in the fall, with up to 4 night games for football and up to 2 per other teams. **Concessions are a major fundraiser for this booster club.

9. Team Director Reports

Thank you to the community members who have signed up to represent a team sport. The description is on the website, but adding it here might be helpful as well.

i. Alpine Ski Boys	Vacant
ii. Alpine Ski Girls	Vacant
iii. Baseball	Vacant
iv. Basketball Boys	Vacant
v. Basketball Girls	Vacant
vi. Bowling Boys	Vacant
vii. Bowling Girls	Vacant
viii. Cheerleading	Vacant
ix. Crew Boys	Vacant
x. Crew Girls	Vacant
xi. Cross Country Boys	Vacant
xii. Cross Country Girls	Vacant
xiii. Field Hockey	Vacant
xiv. Football	Vacant
xv. Golf (Boys)	Erin Massaroni
xvi. Golf (Girls)	Michael Barberich
xvii. Ice Hockey	Vacant
xviii. Indoor Track Boys	Vacant
xix. Indoor Track Girls	Vacant
xx. Lacrosse Boys	Vacant
xxi. Lacrosse Girls	Sarah Ciesinski
xxii. Outdoor Track Boys	Vacant
xxiii. Outdoor Track Girls	Vacant
xxiv. Soccer Boys	Vacant
xxv. Soccer Girls	Vacant
xxvi. Softball	Vacant
xxvii. Swimming/Diving Girls	Vacant
xxviii. Swimming/Diving Boys	Vacant
xxix. Tennis Boys	Vacant
xxx. Tennis Girls	Vacant
xxxi. Volleyball Boys	Matt Petrangelo
xxxii. Volleyball Girls	Vacant
xxxiii. Wrestling Boys	Vacant
xxxiv. Wrestling Girls	Vacant
+	

10. **Unfinished (old) Business** None

11. **Privilege of the Members** (Any member may raise issues, concerns, or ask questions for a maximum of 3 minutes per member and for a cumulative maximum of 30 minutes for all members. The President or other Directors should attempt to address any issues but this time isn't to debate with members)

Question: Since Superintendent Mummenthey was in attendance: Given that NYS has been addressing the issue of indigenous mascots and team names for years, why was the "Silver Warriors" name printed on the new field?

Answer: The District thought NYS would be more supportive of the case here, since any indigenous imagery has been retired by the District as far back as 1997. The district thought NYS had not really addressed the idea at the time of the field lay out.

*****May 2023 note:** the District has addressed this issue and the path forward in a recent Parent Square. A District committee of stakeholders will be formed to work on a new name.

12. **New Business**

- i. Appointment of Jason Isabelle as the Softball Team Director
- ii. Appointment of Terri Dutcher as Lacrosse Boys Team Director
- iii. Appointment of Karen Splendido as Swim & Diving Team Director
- iv. The Niskayuna Athletics Booster Club is the Broken Inn "Organization of the Month" for May 2023
- v. Topics from the floor

13. **Executive Session** None

14. **Announcements from the President** None

15. **Adjournment**

Moved by Mat Tully, seconded by Corey Ausfeld; voted at 8:31 p.m.

***The next Niskayuna Athletics Booster Club meeting will be on Wednesday, June 14. It will begin with a 6:00 tour of the new Athletic Facilities; the meeting will begin immediately after that in the Old Cafeteria.**