

Niskayuna Athletics Booster Club, Inc.
Board of Directors
Meeting Date: November 15, 2023 at 7:00 pm
Meeting Location: Virtual

1. **Call to Order:** 7:04
2. **Roll Call of Officers and Directors** to ensure quorum (Currently 11 directors so 6 directors are needed to be present for a quorum per Article VI(I))

Andrew Katz	Present
Corey Ausfeld	Present
Therese Assalian	Absent
Frank Ferrucci	Present
Terri Dutcher	Present
Greta Jansson	Absent
Lori Birmingham	Present
Sarah Johnson	Present
Danielle Marquis	Present
Larry Gillooley	Present

Also attending: Jessica LaFex, Christine Bowers, Michelle Hines Abram

3. **Minutes:** Motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes from our 10/11/23 meeting

All in Favor: 7 Opposed 0 Abstain 0

4. Officers' Reports

- i. **President's Report** Andrew Katz
 - a. Group met with Vince Bianchi about the Senior Scholarships, will report later.
 - b. Addressed requests from varsity football coach Brian Grastorf and also football parents for funding of post-season events. This included funding tickets for up to 100 Niskayuna students to attend the Sectional Championship at Guilderland, and contributing \$500 to a bus taking students and the Cheer team to the Regional football game. These expenditures were approved by the board.
- ii. **Co-President's Report** Corey Ausfeld
 - a. Help needed for November 16 concession, Football All-Star game

- iii. **Vice President's Report** Therese Assalian
 - a. Hannaford community grocery bags are for sale, \$ goes to our club December
- iv. **Treasurer's Report** Frank Ferrucci
 - a. Busy October, especially with concessions.
 - b. Girls cheer, volleyball, wrestling and basketball all had fundraisers, smoe using BoosterSpark.
- v. **Secretary's Report** Terri Dutcher
 - a. Fall newsletter in progress; waiting for end of post-season events
 - b. Role of team directors will also be addressed in the letter.

5. Committee Reports

- i. **Banquet Committee**
 - a. Much activity in recent days and upcoming, with 6 banquets scheduled for The Edison Club. It works well for larger teams, the price is right, coaches seem to like it.
 - b. Sports teams using the Booster Club tax exempt certificate must have the Club cut the check for the event, and be in touch with Frank and/or Greta about the process.
- ii. **Budget Committee** Frank Ferrucci–Nothing to report.
- iii. **Concession Committee** Lori Birmingham
 - a. Busy time of year, lessons learned from our first outdoor season.
 - b. The mice enjoyed some of our offerings, so we need to look into better storage for the spring outside. Considering the amount of lead time we had, things were done well.
 - c. Supplies need to be moved inside, as the tower will be closed up for the winter before Thanksgiving. There isn't a large refrigerator at the indoor concessions, so that is a concern to be addressed. There isn't space for one either.
 - d. Have there been discussions with Winter season teams/coaches about using concessions and helping to staff it? Boys basketball usually covers their own, but historically some of the other teams need more assistance.
- iv. **Membership Committee** Danielle Marquis
 - a. Sponsor signage has all arrived and been used outside when the wind has allowed it. The signs work better inside.
 - b. Annual event has added a team level sponsorship; the event is discussed later on in the minutes under New Business.
 - c. The letter has been updated for parent outreach, including for teams that may not have included a letter in the fall season.

- d. The Club has 21 Corporate Sponsors and 76 family members. We need to add new banners, since we have five new sponsors since the creation of the other banners.
- e. Reach out to more local businesses is on the horizon; some discussion about whether it is for the resort of the school year, calendar year, or starting in summer. Tabled until next meeting.

v. **Nomination Committee** Nothing to report

6. **School Board Member's Report** Jessica LaFex

- a. Congratulations to all the fall teams.
- b. Referendum presentation shared with the Board of Education last night for Phase 2 of the Capital Project. This would include weather-proofing for the HS Auditorium, work on VA and the elementary schools.
- c. 1% or less will be asked of the community, as State Aid and the reserve account will also be utilized. TArget date is mid-February.
- d. Discussed Firefighters tax exemptions.
- e. Acquisition of a new location for the District Office is in process, since VA will be under construction.
- f. The Board of Education will be adopting and revising policies, including Concussion Management, in the near future.

7. **Athletic Director's Report** Larry Gillooley

- a. Thanked parents and community members for their support of the Niskayuna athletic program. There were many team and individual successes.
- b. A member of our Girls tennis team placed 2nd in the state tournament.
- c. Both the boys and girls soccer teams made it to the Class AA Sectional championship game, where they were runners-up.
- d. The football team won Class AA Sectionals and Regional championship games. They lost in the State semifinal game to Somers, who went on the win the State tournament title.
- e. The XC teams ran in Sectionals and Regionals. Individually, a runner made ot to the Nike XC Nationals in Oregon, where he placed in the top 100. He was the 4th palace finisher for NYS.
- f. Winter practice season begins on November 13 for Varsity/JV athletes. The numbers are up for wrestling, basketball, and swimming.
- g. Concessions: very successful for the outdoor season, with several sectional events hosted at our new facility.
- h. Indoor concessions also happened frequently, and now the full shift is to inside where there are events 3-4 days a week.
- i. Weight room questions:
 - i. In-season sports have priority.
 - ii. OUt of season sports have 2nd priority.
 - iii. If open, students can use the WR facility if there is space and supervision.
 - iv. Coaches have keys during their season.

- v. No program is favored over another. It is all for the kids.
- vi. As far as other facilities (fields, gyms, cafeterias, etc), our students have priority but they are also rented out for events, with a written commitment/contract.
- vii. A person does not have to wait for a meeting to raise a concern; feel free to email or call Mr. Gillooley.

8. Team Director Reports	NONE this evening
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 Barberick
xvii. Ice Hockey	Vacant
xviii. Indoor Track Boys	Vacant
xix. Indoor Track Girls	Vacant
xx. Lacrosse Boys	Christina Calabrese
xxi. Lacrosse Girls	Sarah Ciesinski
xxii. Outdoor Track Boys	Vacant
xxiii. Outdoor Track Girls	Vacant
xxiv. Soccer Boys	Vacant
xxv. Soccer Girls	Jean Foti
xxvi. Softball	Jason Isabelle
xxvii. Swimming/Diving Girls	Karen Splendido
xxviii. Swimming/Diving Boys	Vacant
xxix. Tennis Boys	Vacant
xxx. Tennis Girls	Vacant
xxxi. Volleyball Boys	Matt Petrangelo
xxxii. Volleyball Girls	Amanda Jeffs
xxxiii. Wrestling Boys	Vacant
xxxiv. Wrestling Girls	Jocelyn Rockower

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

10. **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)

11. New Business

- i. Report on items since the October meeting
 - a. **Adoption of policy regarding providing tickets to Sectional Championship Games.**
 - i. In the event of a Niskayuna team reaching the Sectional championship in any sporting event, the Booster Club will pay for 100 students, up to \$1000, to attend the game. 91 students attended the Sectional football game at Guilderland HS.
 - ii. A personal letter was sent to soccer coaches Colby and Sloan about this new policy, since it was adopted AFTER they participated in their sectional championship games.
 - ii. **Review on Scholarship criteria**
 - a. Information about the meeting was mailed out to Board members to consider. It wasn't clear before about how students expressed interest in the scholarship.
 - b. There will be an avenue for students to apply, instead of relying solely on coaches to submit their names.
 - c. In past years, there have been four awards of \$500 each. It is probable that this will continue.
 - iii. **Topics from the floor:**
 - a. **Discussion of the Annual Event for sponsors and patrons of the Booster Club.**
 - i. Mission: To thank our sponsors for their support, including plaques and signs. Update on accomplishments of our students. Visuals, information, sponsor ads.
 - ii. Fundraising at Gala: Silent Auction baskets, possible alumni items, games, raffles.
 - iii. Adults only, cocktail attire, April 2024
 - iv. Locations to be discussed.

12. **Executive Session** None

13. **Announcements from the President**

14. **Adjournment at 8:20.** Next meeting is Wednesday, December 13. 7:00 pm, online.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Dutcher