

Greely Hockey Boosters Meeting 10-19-05

Attendance: Damian Bolduc, Nancy Bolduc, Scott Pickett, Brian Saucier, Becky Allyn, Dave Swan, Ruth Stevenson, Terry Beckman, Maria Bowden, Ralph Nelson, Peter Blais, Tom Allen, John Moody, Paul Godin, Joel Harris.

I. TREASURER'S REPORT

Terry Beckman reported: cookbook revenues are coming in and the fund-raiser will break even with the sale of 14 more books; middle school and girls' team registration fees have all been collected; and few major expenses have been paid so far this year.

II. SECRETARY'S REPORT - Sept. 19 Meeting

Motion to accept last month's report by Stevenson and seconded by Godin. Report accepted.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cookbooks - Bowden reported that a volunteer is needed to co-chair this fund-raiser with Liz Otley. Anyone interested should contact Otley.

Middle School Dances - Stevenson reported the first dance of the year raised \$900 in revenues. The next one is scheduled for Nov. 10.

Golf Tournament - Allen and Moody reported golf tourney revenues should be allocated in the following manner between the boys' and girls' programs: the putting-string revenues will be allocated between the boys' and girls' programs based on the percentage of teams each program brought into the tournament; revenues from auction items will be divided evenly between the two programs, which will amount to about \$230 apiece; tee-sign revenues are still being determined. Moody motioned revenues be allocated as proposed. Damian Bolduc seconded. Motion passed.

Caribbean Raffle - Godin and Swan reported: 250 tickets have been ordered that will sell for \$50 apiece; the program will operate the same as last year; the tickets will be available by Nov. 8.

IV. PROGRAMS

Girls - Nelson reported: 11 girls have registered for this year's program with another six expected to do so; four potential girl skaters have transferred to other schools; the kickoff meeting is scheduled for Nov. 10 at the Family Ice Center (FIC) Pond House; player handbooks are being developed; the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department has agreed to donate \$1,000 to the program again this year; this year's schedule includes 22 practices, seven away games and nine home games; dates for the alumni and faculty games are yet to be determined.

High School Boys Varsity/JV - Bowden reported: registration is scheduled for Nov. 8 at 7 p.m. at the high school library; the season officially starts with the first practice on Nov. 21; the first regular-season game is scheduled for Dec. 10 at Hampden; the traditional spaghetti dinner will take place on Dec. 9; Brunswick and Kennebunk are two new opponents added to this year's schedule; Greely's pre-season Icebreaker tournament is scheduled for Nov. 25-26 at FIC with Deering, Gorham and Yarmouth the other teams; the team will participate in the Falmouth pre-

season tournament the following weekend at FIC; the annual Sherbrooke, Quebec, trip is scheduled for Dec. 16-18; the alumni game is scheduled for Dec. 28 at FIC; the Dudley Cup will be held Saturday, Dec. 31 because New Years Day, the traditional day for the event, falls on Sunday in 2006; the varsity Dudley Cup game will begin at 5 p.m. and Falmouth will be the host school this season.

Middle School - Stevenson reported: the "B" team needs pucks; this winter's "Sports Done Right" informational meeting, scheduled for Nov. 9, will discuss the role of middle school sports.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Donations - Godin will discuss with Coach Barry Mothes what should be done with the Sevee & Maher donation in memory of Jon Derrah.

Alumni Fund - Bowden reported that Susan Bisbing has sent letters to 79 former Greely boys' skaters soliciting donations for the alumni fund. She plans to follow up on the letters shortly.

Girls Sanctioning - Bowden reported the Girls' Sanctioning Committee made a presentation to the school board on Sept. 19, requesting that the board authorize the administration to send a letter to the Maine Principals Association (MPA) notifying them of Greely's intention to field a varsity team if/when the MPA sanctions girls ice hockey. While the board seemed favorably disposed to supporting the program, there were many questions and some concerns. First, there was a degree of skepticism as to the urgency, when the Committee had appeared before the Board only a year ago indicating that MPA sanctioning was probably two to three years away. Second, if Greely turned out to be the 10th team, the concern was raised that the Board's action might serve as the "trigger" to set in motion onerous MPA and Title IX rules and restrictions (the "chicken and egg" question). Finally, in light of the district's upcoming "Sports Done Right" discussion and study, there was an inclination to wait and see what issues arose out of that process. Although our proposal involved a self-funding model, there were many questions and concerns raised about finances and the district's priorities given the pressures on the district's finances overall. No vote was taken (the intention was to vote at the next meeting on Oct. 6).

As a result of discussions with members of the school board, the Committee reluctantly agreed to a tabling of the issue for the time being while the board performed additional due diligence (working informally with the committee). The Sanctioning Committee has been provided with an assurance that, if the MPA did sanction girls hockey in the interim, the board would take up the issue again to prevent Greely from being excluded from league play.

The committee has decided to proceed with the girls capital-fund campaign and will be meeting soon to discuss a strategy.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Bylaw Revisions - Those in attendance voted to keep the bylaws the same pending further discussion about changing the date booster dues are collected.

Yearbook Ads - Bowden reminded booster members that yearbook ads are due by Nov. 4. Those who choose not to solicit ads are expected to make a \$90 contribution to the boosters.

Opt-out fee - Bowden noted that it costs about \$1,000 annually to put each Greely boys' varsity skater on the ice. The school pays about a third of that cost and registration fees pay a third. That leaves the boosters to fund the final third through various fund-raisers that require parental and skater involvement. Unfortunately, only a handful of parents participate in fund-raising efforts. Those in attendance discussed assessing an opt-out fee that could amount to several hundred dollars apiece to those skaters and parents who choose to not get involved in fund-raising efforts. The issue will be discussed at future booster meetings. ALL booster members are encouraged to get involved in those discussions. The boosters need more parents to become involved in fund-raising efforts if they want to keep participation fees at current levels.

VII. KEY DATES

- Nov. 8 - Varsity boys registration and parent meeting at 7 p.m. at high school library.
- Nov. 9 - Sports Done Right informational meeting at 7 p.m. at Greely High School.
- Nov. 10 - Mandatory girls' team meeting at 7 p.m. for players and parents at FIC Pond House
- Nov. 10 - Middle School Dance at Wescustogo Hall.
- Nov. 15 - Next booster meeting at 7 p.m. at Greely High School.