

## **Booster Club Minutes October 24, 2016**

**Members Present:** Ann Borgwardt, Ann Commers, Margaret Hamburger, Kevin Huepenbecker, Shawna Jones, Aaron Kerr, Anne Levin, Ruth Ann Willard

**Attending:** Theresa Neal, Principal; Solvejg Wastvedt, MPR

**Minutes:** 9/19/2016 minutes were reviewed and approved.

**Introductions:** Solvejg Wastvedt, MPR's K12 Education Reporter attended the meeting as a guest. She is doing a long-term story on Como. Introductions were made around the table.

### **Principal's Report:**

- Homecoming – It was a great Spirit Week capped off with the parade, picnic, football game and dance. Principal Neal thanked the Booster Club for its efforts. Maria Cocchiarella liked working on Homecoming this year and maybe will sign up next year too. Ann C. noted that the Booster Club reached out to Maria and Christine Sommerville to have a conversation about Homecoming and how it might change next year.
- School start times for 2018/19. The Board is opening 8:30, 9:30 or 10:30 start times for discussion at its meetings. There is also the possibility of a staggered school day with 2 start times. There might also be a shift to students using Metro Transit busing instead of District busing. There has been a survey to staff.
- Facilities Master Plan – Como will soon know the dates for the phases of construction which will last 2 years. In Spring 2017 likely will start with mechanicals.
- The quarter ends Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. Teachers can elect to use Schoology or CampusPortal, but if they use Schoology, the final grades go into Campus Portal.
- Parent Outreach Coordinator: With Sandy Kestner's retirement, Como has 9 applicants for the position that they will be interviewing. The Booster Club noted how much they appreciated Sandy's help over the years – she was great! For now, for newsletter posts, robo emails, and morning announcements, send email with info to Principal Neal and copy Laurie Payton.
- Student enrollment was just under the projected amount – but no staffing adjustments were needed.
- Sports and Extracurriculars -- Como is participating in Kids' Vote through the Secretary of State's office. Kare11 came out last week and this week and the League of Women Voters is helping with the voting in the gym on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. Boy's Soccer is going to State for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row. JROTC will carry out flag at the Vikings game and will get to meet the players. There are a lot of

extracurricular opportunities. The year is going well and has been really calm.

- Cell phone usage – they are looking at if there is a need for a school wide policy and are starting with staff discussions. This will be a topic for a later Parent and Community Council meeting. There is no district wide policy.

**Booster Club meeting changes:** Ann C. noted that the Booster Club would like to hold its meeting every other month as part of the Parent and Community Council meeting to help accommodate busy schedules and to encourage more people to stand up. Principal Neal said that would be no problem.

**Homecoming:** The new football/soccer field will be ready for next year – it will be turf and regulation size. Hopefully the Homecoming game can be played at Como in 2017. Likely it will be Fri or Sat afternoon as there won't yet be full lights for the field. This offers opportunity to change up Homecoming activities. There won't be a press box though in the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the plan. Principal Neal thinks that a concessions stand at the field is part of the plan.

**Solvejg Wastvedt:** She is looking at what makes Como unique in St. Paul's high schools.

- Parents at the Booster Club meeting shared some of the reasons their kids and they chose Como -- Como's smaller size makes it welcoming; kids make good friends; many sports opportunities and awesome coaches. The Special Ed department is very welcoming and supportive. Como helps kids create communities, and there are many ways to be involved through clubs and sports. There are other choices of high schools like Central or Roseville and some students from Como area choose to go to other schools. Last year was a tough year, but the feeling is that it was an aberration. There is faith in Como. The friendliness of the atmosphere at Como draws kids and families.

**Give to the Max:** This year it is Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. Last year's goal was \$5,000 – which was high but should be doable. About \$3,016 was raised last year, with about \$574 spent on mailings.

- Como's Give MN webpage and it is working and Margaret has updated the copy for 2016. It was discussed if the donation period should be open ended, but it was decided not to leave open.
- Publicity -- a mailing is recommended to get the information out to each family. The district's printing office has good rates and there is a possibility of doing a postcard to save money. Other support is through Como's newsletter, robo calls and emails, the Parent and Community Council meetings, and possibly passing out info at concessions. Notice in the Park Bugle for November. Need student and teacher engagement. Have flyers for school.
- Promotions – Discussed possible promotions such as last year's drawing for jackets. Another option is to contact businesses such as St. Paul Federal

Credit Union, Medtronic, Hiway Federal Credit Union, Travelers, Thomson Reuters to see if they could do a match.

- The mailing and plans for the Give to the Max day were approved.

**Booster Club:**

- Meetings -- Goal is to decrease the number of meetings parents are attending – it's really hard to go to Booster Club meeting on Monday and then go to the Parent and Community Council the next night on Tuesday. People end up choosing one or the other. Now Booster Club can get the word out on activities and reach more parents when it meets with the Parent and Community Council meeting every other month – first time will be November 15th.
- Concessions – Kevin passed out a summary of the Fall concessions that showed what the Booster Club and other groups raised working Como concessions. He will check with AD Nate Galloway to see if this matches his tallies. The Booster Club worked 3 volleyball games at Como and worked 1 football game and 1 soccer section finals at Griffin Stadium (Central). There isn't any word yet on the Basketball schedule for concessions – the AD is checking with the coaches.
- Homecoming – Booster Club Spirit Wear sales raised \$177 at parade/picnic and \$135 at the game. The AD spirit wear sales were \$165. Kevin supplied \$50 for cash on hand to be reimbursed and for food he had \$153.19 in expenses to be reimbursed.

**Next Booster Club Meeting:** Tuesday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> – as part of Como's Parent and Community Council Meeting, 6:00-7:30 in the School Library.