

PRAIRIE RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL BOOSTER CLUB

Monday, October 16, 2023 @ 7:00pm

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the PRHS Booster Club was held on Monday, October 16, 2023, at 7:00pm in the PRHS Library.

Board Attendees: Sieglinde Savas, President; Tatiana Gray, Treasurer; Shannon Vrbancic, VP Operations-Concessions; Katie Czarnecki, VP- Spirit Wear; Margie Palmer, Secretary; Kevin Koeppen, Vice Principal and PRHS Booster Club Liaison

Call To Order: Prairie Ridge High School Booster Club President, Sieglinde Savas, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the September 18th, 2023 meeting, was seconded and carried.

Vice Principal Report: Mr. Koeppen welcomed parents and provided a debrief on this year's Homecoming activities and dance. Approximately 700 students attended the dance, and the event was held without incident. There were some complaints about the DJ, but that feedback is typical. Recognizing how very hectic the week had been, parents were thanked for participating in activities ensuring a memorable high school experience for the students. Those who participated in and assisted with the Homecoming Parade were especially thanked for their efforts. Mr. Koeppen noted in particular how the youngest parade onlookers view the students marching as heroes and look forward to being in their shoes one day. The time between Homecoming and Thanksgiving is what faculty and administration call the "Homecoming Hangover" time. Parents were encouraged to keep students active and focused, and to share any ideas or improvements that might be made, as a school, to keep students motivated and engaged during this interim time before winter break. Lastly, he indicated that the winter sports season is kicking off with open gym time and tryouts for Boys/Girls Basketball. Additionally, the fall play "Failure: A Love Story" opens on Friday, the 19th, with three performances throughout the weekend. Finally, the Booster Club's biggest fundraiser of the year, RidgeFest, is scheduled for Saturday, October 21st at the Dole Mansion. Parents were encouraged to purchase their tickets and bring friends.

Introduction of Attendees: Sieglinde initiated a round of self-introductions among the Board and meeting attendees.

BOARD REPORTS:

President/Fundraising Report: Sieglinde reported on a very busy month of September happenings for the Booster Club. The fall football season has kept the Booster Club busy with stocking the field house kitchen, ordering and organizing the fall offerings of spirit wear, securing a huge corps of volunteers to staff the sales windows, man the grills, negotiate pricing among our food vendors, Papa Saverio's, Chick-Fil-A and Jersey Mike's, as well as entering into a new partnership with Dunkin' Donuts so that we can provide hot chocolate in the colder weeks. Homecoming Week was a flurry of activity. Once again, we participated in the Chick-Fil-A Crosstown Challenge against Cary-Grove High School. There was much school spirit involved, as the PR Super Fans spent a Sunday afternoon decorating a section of the Chick-Fil-A dining room with PR colors; and teams, clubs, students, faculty and administration submitted videos for the Booster Club to feature on our FB page. These efforts really served to energize and created a friendly rivalry among all school factions to see who could be most creative. As a result of our extraordinary efforts, PR won the challenge for the second year in a row, with \$2883.69 in total sales. The Boosters also assisted with the sales of the fundraiser Barbie themed Homecoming t-shirts.

Looking ahead, RidgeFest, the Booster Club's largest fundraiser of the year, is scheduled for Saturday, October 21st at the Dole Mansion. Sieglinde reminded members that the main goal of the Booster Club is raising money to support our clubs, activities and athletics; what we do is for the students. Everyone is encouraged to attend or to consider a Pup Sponsorship of \$100 if unable to join the festivities. To date, 126 tickets have been sold. This year will feature music bands, including

the Dollar Giraffes and BluesBerrys. The PR Marching Band will be entertaining our attendees as they walk into the venue. Food offerings will be provided by ForkItFoods, Country Donuts and PR's own Culinary Arts II class. Summer Moon Coffee will also be provided. As the Booster Club moved to include support of all clubs and activities, we are realizing a significant increase in the number of Raffle baskets. Baskets are being showcased and featured on the Booster FB page and in the weekly emails as they are received in order to give event attendees a taste of what to expect. The Booster Board is getting together later in the week to begin the process of organizing between Raffle, Silent Auction and Live Auction features. Volunteers are still needed for set-up and throughout the event. However, all shifts will be concluded by 8:30pm to ensure all can enjoy the evening. The business community has been incredibly generous in serving as sponsors. Sponsors secured to date are as follows:

\$1500 for Entertainment Sponsor - Tim Lydon Real Estate

\$1000 Hospitality Sponsor– (1) JD3 Entertainment, (2) Guzman Y Gomez and (3) Miranda Alt from Keller Williams Success Realty

\$500 Wolf Sponsor – Asphalt Restoration Inc.

\$500 Wolf Sponsor - Copley Roofing

\$100 Pup Sponsor - Kelli Wegener McHenry County Board Member, Plaspros Inc., The Koch Family, The Donahue Family, and The Gilbert Family.

The Pup Sponsor category is growing as those unable to attend identify this as a medium for supporting the event. For those unable to attend and still wanting to take advantage of the amazing raffle baskets being offered, consider purchasing tickets and asking a friend who is attending to place your tickets for you. Winners need not be present.

As always, the Booster Club loves to promote our students. As such, parents were encouraged to keep sending pictures and posts for the Booster FB page. Having parents out in the community with our students is a tremendous help to the Booster Club in showcasing the many accomplishments of our very talented students.

VP Operations/Concessions: Shannon Vrbancic reported on concessions sales to date. The fall season was very strong, with the exception of the last game due to the rainy weather. As an example, the Dundee Crown game netted \$7,000 in concession sales vs. last week's net of \$2,700. The discrepancy was due to the inclement weather, which also necessitated changes in both game time and location for the Frosh/Soph Team game. These changes ultimately eliminated an entire shift of sales. In spite of this anomaly, sales are strong, and volunteers were thanked for their generosity of time. Special thanks were also extended to Garrin and Will Kay who offered to deep clean and fix the grills. As a result, the grills look amazing and will be pristine for the start of next year's football season. Additional recognition was given to Jim Heisler and his sons who ran the concession stand last weekend since the majority of the Booster Board members were not available. They, along with Tatiana Gray, held down the fort and ensured a seamless production. Closing out the football season, it is anticipated that PR will be in the playoffs which includes a chance of a home game at the end of the month. Parent Volunteer, Victoria Van Jacobs will be sending out information to the Dance Team, who will run the concessions that game, and will require at least 14 volunteers to staff.

Spirit Wear Report: Katie thanked everyone who has volunteered to help sell spirit wear, especially during the home football games. She noted how we all love to watch our kids in their sport of choice, and the generosity of time from volunteers allows her to be able to watch her own sons play football out on the field. It was noted that sales were down last week due, in large part, to the inclement weather, at \$613, vs. Homecoming night sales of \$3,475. Total sales for the regular game season has totalled \$12,500, thus far. In looking ahead to future sales, Katie noted there would be a spirit wear table at RidgeFest, where two new sweatshirt items will be debuted. These designs will appeal more to the adult/parent customers. There may possibly be one other item featured, but she could not confirm it would be ready in time. It was also reported that mittens are back in stock. The design features PR colors in felted wool from recycled sweaters. Currently, there are approximately 15 pairs in stock priced at \$45 each, all of differing designs. Finally, the Ugly Christmas sweatshirts are making a comeback and will be available for sale around Thanksgiving.

Treasurer: Tatiana Gray reported it was a good month for the Booster Club with revenue of just under \$30,000 vs. expenses of \$10,560. The Bank Balance as of October 12, 2023, was \$63,125. Concessions and Spirit Wear sales brought in almost \$23,000 alone. Tatiana reported expenses and revenue are on track.

Team & Activity Reports:

Jr. Wolves & PR Wolves: This year's annual joint fundraiser will be hosted by Raising Canes on Tuesday, October 17th. Everyone was encouraged to attend and take the night off of cooking and come out to support our football programs.

National Honors Society: The Food Drive previously scheduled for last weekend was postponed due to the anticipated weather. The event will be rescheduled.

Elections Update: Sieglinde reminded members that the Board traditionally holds elections for open positions in November. However, it was discovered during the last round of elections that this practice conflicted with the Booster Club stated ByLaws, which indicates May elections. It is assumed this process was changed in order to give the incoming leadership more autonomy and ownership in determining fundraisers and other efforts. As such, the current Board will begin the process of revising and updating the By Laws to ensure relevancy. As a result, it was decided that we will keep to the stated outline of the By Laws and hold elections in May 2024. That being said, anyone interested in pursuing a position on the Board was encouraged to reach out to Board members. While existing positions are filled and will continue with incumbents, there is a position that has remained unfilled of Vice President for Fundraising. Anyone with interest in exploring this opportunity was encouraged to contact Sieglinde directly. It was noted that this current board is keen to work towards establishing a strong succession plan for all future leadership. We are excited about the trajectory of the Board and all that the PR Booster Club, as a whole, has accomplished. Since we are in keeping with the existing stated By Laws, no vote or approval is required. The floor was opened to questions. No discussion followed.

Upcoming Dates:

- **Fall Play** this weekend...Thurs, Fri and Sat at 7:00PM. Come support Fine Arts!
- **Booster Club Meetings:** Nov. 20th, Jan. 8th, Feb. 12th, March 11th, April 8th, May 13th;
- Saturday, October 21st: **RidgeFest @ The Dole Mansion 6:00pm**
- **Thanksgiving Break** – Wed. 11/22-Friday, 11/24
- **December 8th:** Spirit Wear Sale during 1st Boys/Girls Basketball night (Wrestling Balcony)
- **Saturday, December 9th 11am - 1pm:** Boosters Holiday Spirit Wear Sale in front hallway

\$100 Raffle Winner: Colleen DeLaurentis : Choir

A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Margie Palmer, Secretary PRHS Booster Club