**November 14, 2016 AHS Booster Club Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Susan Rietano Davey, Janet Stokesbury, Jim Stapleton, Susie Downey, Esther Aronson, Susan Arciero, Staci Purcell, Mary Deppe, Jennifer Jeandell, Nicole Leavens, Maria Mascoli, Sue Chadha, Greg Zacchio, Diane Oberhausen, Holly Zacchio, Valerie DiBella, KC O’Brien, John Jones, Sam Batchelder, Jack Schmittlein

Start time: 7:36 pm

Introductions and News from Audience: We had a strong finish to our fall sports season and an update was provided on all sports. This information appears in the Booster Bulletin.

Minutes Approved: S. Arciero/S. Purcell

Treasurer’s Report: Jim Stapleton

Financials Approved: S. Davey/S. Arciero

Booster Club broke even on the Falcon 5K. If there are any questions regarding balances, they should be directed to Jim Stapleton (j.stapleton@comcast.net).

Membership Report: Janet Stokesbury

All official voting members must pay their dues. If you want to be eligible to vote on Booster Club Capital Disbursements, you need to be a paid member and have attended 3 meetings by the voting date.

P.O. Box is being phased out by the end of the year. Any future mail should be sent to the school, we have a box there.

Events: Susie Downie

If anyone is having a fundraiser, please send the information to Susie and she can help promote it through the school, on the website and in the Booster Bulletin. Her email is susiedow@aol.com.

Swimming and Diving is having a Poinsettia Sale.

Falcon 5k was considered a success and we are looking to have it again next year as a way to raise school spirit, perhaps on a different date.

Team Reps, please make sure to forward the Booster Bulletin and all other communication in a timely fashion.

Presentation by the Falconatics – Jack Schmittlein, Jack Jones and Sam Batchelder

* The Falconatics build community spirit by encouraging attendance at games, coordinating outfits among the attendees and leading chants. They have worked with the administration to ensure that chants are not offensive. They taught some chants at this year’s Pep Rally.
* Overall, the Falconatics felt they had a successful Fall season, maintaining the Avon section of the bleachers pretty full both at home and at some away games like Simsbury.
* They consider their biggest rivalries to be Simsbury and Farmington and those games bring out the biggest crowds.
* The Falconatics do not have regular meetings as their primary way of disseminating information to the student body is through social media: twitter, Facebook and snapchat. They estimate about 400 current students belong to their Facebook group and there are an additional 300 members that are alumni or from the community.
* This year they found it hard to support Senior Nights because of scheduling conflicts among the many fall sports.
* They like the use of “Fat Heads” and think they are a great way to motivate players.
* While they can try to organize fan buses for away games, this didn’t really work this year because many of the games were in the afternoon and students have conflicts with their own sports.
* The Falconatics recognized that they need to identify a succession plan. They are looking to identify students in the stands who are loud and have a following and an ability to motivate people.
* Another suggestion that was discussed was the possibility of organizing a Flash Mob, although they recognize that it is a challenge to coordinate major plans as they don’t often know exactly who will show up at the games.

President’s Report: Susan Rietano Davey

* Long time AHS Baseball and Soccer Coach Marty deLivron is being inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches Hall of Fame on November 17 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington if anyone wants tickets.
* The Sports Panel entitled “So You Want To Play Sports In College” was a great success and we will probably do it again next year. The Students on the panel were outstanding, particularly regarding their presentations on “a day in the life”. Those in attendance also felt that the 360 degree perspective acquired by having parents, coaches and students present was very enlightening.
* The Booster Club has committed to take over the maintenance of the Records’ Boards which are funded by the school. Under the 2016-17 school budget, 4 new teams are slated to get new Records Boards: Volleyball, Lacrosse, Tennis and Golf. This is the schedule that was agreed upon initially by Mary Ann Smith, who pioneered this project, and the school. Other teams that still do not have record boards are Indoor Track, Crew and Field Hockey. This is not a Booster Club activity, but we have decided to take it over because we know that parents have been upset about the progress in this area. Nevertheless, the schedule regarding when teams get records boards and the payment of updates is managed by the school. Team Reps need to work with the coaches to provide the records to be added. The coaches have discretion on the type of records to include on the boards. Forms for record board updates will be sent via email to all the Team Reps.

Questions and Suggestions from Audience:

Maria Mascoli indicated that the Vie For The Kids Fundraiser which took place during Spirit Week was a great success. Collectively, AHS raised $2,335 for this worthy cause. Thank you to all the teams for their support.

Nicole Leavens passed out another sign-up sheet requesting volunteers to sell Spirit Wear on Wednesdays at the school.

Meeting Adjourned 8:22 pm (S. Downey/J. Stokesbury)

Respectfully submitted, Esther Aronson