

Viking Backers General Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 16th, 2019 @ 6:30 pm

Media Center

1. Introductions - Srinii
 - All attendees introduced themselves and indicated any sport or club affiliation they have.
2. Administrative report
 - No report presented
3. SGA Rep
 - No report presented
4. Concessions – Dana
 - **Volunteering** - This year, Concessions is being run by a committee of five, and it is working well and has been fun. The sign-up genius for volunteers has very few openings, and many new parents have volunteered. Dana thanked the team reps for getting the word out to their parents, and she plans to email all team reps encouraging them to continue sending out the link weekly and to remind parents they do not need to sign up to work at the same sport their child participates in (allowing them to be able to watch their child compete). Since VB also provides financial support to clubs, there is also a need to reach out and encourage club members to also volunteer.
NOTE: Dana also indicated that if there are no volunteers signed up to run concessions for an event, we will be unable to open it, and a sign will be placed indicating it is closed due to lack of volunteers. Fortunately, we have not had to do that so far this year.
 - **Sales** - Friday was the first home football game, and over 2,000 attended which was a very large crowd. Food sales were very successful. We sold out of everything, except for some candy. New menu items (chicken nuggets) were popular, and everything has been restocked.
 - **Operations** - The water filter is broken, and although it was reported to HCPSS months ago, it has not been repaired yet, so VB is looking into hiring a plumber to repair it. It was also mentioned that for busy events, we should consider using an additional microwave and/or hot pot.
5. Basket Bingo - Dana
 - **Sales** - Tickets are on sale online for event (11/2 from 7 to 10pm with doors opening at 6pm). Only 300 tickets will be sold and each is \$30.

A. Viking Backer Rep Discussion/Clubs and Athletic Teams

 - **Donations** - In lieu of merchandise, the basket bingo committee has requested the team reps ask parents to donate cash to be used for purchasing items for baskets. A suggested donation is \$10 per player, and manila folders have been distributed for collecting. Donations are due back by 10/4 to allow time for the committee to purchase items and make the baskets. One attendee indicated she may have some merchandise to donate, so Dana will have the basket bingo committee coordinate with her.

6. Spirit Wear - Dana
 - **Sales** - Spirit Wear is selling very well (over \$6,000 sold already this year), and Dana will be putting in another order in advance of Homecoming. Approximately \$1,200 of merchandise was sold at Friday's game compared to last year when only \$500 was sold. Softer shirts were requested and are selling well. Backers sponsored a t-shirt giveaway for the first 200 attendees, and the shirts were gone in two minutes. Bracelets were also sold with proceeds going to a charity supporting those with childhood cancer.

7. Treasurer Report- Chris/Aida
 - VB committed to spend approximately \$122,000 this school year. This is double the amount spent 5 years ago.
 - VB entered the fiscal year with a cash balance of approximately \$110,000 (after factoring in amounts due and unpaid for FY 6/19 – mostly summer camps)
 - The decision-making process for all clubs/sports/activities funding was reviewed and discussed.
 - Dana mentioned Brian Rau has requested all sports teams make any financial requests through him rather than coming directly to Backers.

8. Membership – Monican Heinlein
 - This is the first year VB membership is strictly online. Compared to last year, there are a greater amount of online payments (\$8,000 so far), but considerably less has been collected overall (last year both online and cash / check payments were accepted and Membership reached \$15,800.) More than one attendee indicated the process was confusing to them since it involved two steps, and after the first step, they thought they'd completed the process. Monica was already aware of this issue, so notes were added on the membership website highlighting the two step process, but as of now, there is no easy way to shorten the process. Srini indicated there will be a club parent meeting, and Monica indicated she would be willing to attend to encourage club members to also join VB. Another suggestion made to bring in more members was to create a QR Code to the website, print it out, and place it at places such as concessions and spirit wear sales. Srini indicated we should continue discussion of this issue at a future meeting.

9. Viking 5K - Michael Bosilovich
 - **Volunteers** - Since this is Michael's last year with students at MHHS, a new director is needed to shadow him this year. The sign-up genius for volunteering has already been created and has been published in the Valhalla Voice. "Walk-up" volunteers on race day are also welcome. The course marshalling will be done by the cross-country team.
 - **Prizes** - Prizes are still being collected. Donations of gift cards have been granted by numerous businesses, and Laura Munns indicated Michael should be sure to coordinate with Jenise Dunn to assure the same businesses are not solicited again for donations in the near future.

10. Driver's Ed ?? (A/C issue) - Laina McGinnis
 - Not discussed at this meeting, however, Joanne Gales had a conversation with Brian Rau earlier today, and he indicated there is no fee for A/C for PTSA or Viking Backers.

11. PTSA Liaison - Laura Munns
 - Laura indicated the first PTSA meeting was held last week, it was well attended, and the budget passed.
 - The mulch sale fundraiser will be held.

- A position statement was approved at the PTSA meeting regarding redistricting and the Attendance Area Committee, and it will be presented by a team of four on 9/17/19. The PTSA position is that high school students shouldn't be redistricted to another high school once they've already begun at a high school.
12. MTH Marketplace - Lisa Scarbath
 - Dana spoke with Lisa and all the vendor slots have been taken, and there is a wait list.
 13. Sponsorships - Jenise Dunn
 - No report presented
 14. Available positions: Holiday Tree Trim Sale
 - Currently, Jim is handling this fundraiser. In the past, a landscaping company handles all the set-up and tree sales, and Backers just has to coordinate with Dr Miller to ensure set-up is done in the correct place. Clubs will have to sign up to sell items such as hot chocolate. There seems to have been changes in contacts at the landscaping company, but Jim will continue to follow-up.
 15. Open floor to hear from new parents
 - Shannon Berk made a suggestion to sell MHHS personalized snow stakes as a possible fundraiser. Dana will follow-up with her, since it sounds like it could be a great addition to Spirit Wear.