

# Viking Backers General Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 7, 2019 @ 6:30 pm

Media Center

1. Welcome - Jim
2. Administrative report - Brian Rau
  - Many events are coming up on homecoming weekend (10/18 to 10/19) including Field Hockey “under the lights” on Friday night plus the traditional Saturday events including pancake breakfast, parade, football game, and dance.
3. Membership
  - Good news - Vinu Lingam indicated she is taking over Membership next year and is currently shadowing Monica.
  - Vinu attended the most recent home football game in the hopes of signing up more families, and several (3) did sign up, but the game was predominantly attended by students rather than parents. Vinu was able to assist signing people up by showing them how to do it on their phones.
  - Twelve new ice hockey players are joining and the check will be provided.
  - A Diwali event is coming up on Saturday, so plans were made to try to sign members up at the event.
  - Jim indicated we will have a more in-depth discussion about membership in the future. He also mentioned membership might’ve decreased due to going “paperless”. He also noted he recently attended a County-wide high school booster leaders meeting, and it was mentioned that membership was down across the board and specifically mentioned River Hill and Glenelg.
4. Viking 5K - Mike Bosilovich
  - The event ran smoothly, and many prize donations came in allowing there to be several awards given to the top finishers in each age category.
  - Unfortunately, sign-ups were down. There was discussion as to the reasons for this. Some reasons mentioned were:
    - ❖ Students don’t want to get up early on a Sunday
    - ❖ Competition with other 5K’s
    - ❖ It used to be held in the Spring
    - ❖ Part of the course is trail running, and that doesn’t appeal to some
  - To increase participation, one recommendation was to move the event back to the Spring. It would allow more time to get additional sponsors to be printed on the t-shirts. It also needs to be determined who the target demographics are (parents, staff, students, others), since it seems unlikely students will want to get up early on a Sunday.
  - The Backers thanked Mike for his leadership and for the numerous years he’s coordinated the event.
  - Good news - A new chair for next year’s event has been found, Paul Carter, and Mike will be coordinating with him to pass on electronic files.
5. MTH Marketplace - Lisa Scarbath

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- Lisa Scarbath and Beth Snyder are co-chairs. Lisa will be a vendor, so Beth will be leading the “day of”.
- This will be the second time the MTH Marketplace will occur, and the event is scheduled for Sat, 10/26 between 10am and 3pm in the cafeteria, gym, and auxiliary gym. (The first time the event occurred was in Spring 2019, and it raised approximately \$5,000.)
- There will be approximately 110 vendors with each paying \$40 for an 8x8 space.
- Approximately half the vendors are returnees from the MTH Marketplace event held in Spring 2019.
- Changes from the last MTH Marketplace event include eliminating the raffles and door prizes.
- Jim & Amy Bahel will run concessions at the event.
- Volunteers are needed on Friday to help with set-up and on Saturday prior to, during, and after the event.
- Lisa and Jim will coordinate the production of signs.
- Lisa invited all clubs to man a table, but none of them have shown interest.
- We are unsure whether there will be interest or availability for an additional event in March 2019.

## 6. Concessions – Dana

- **Volunteering** - There has been no shortage of volunteers for any shift. Although there are available spots in the sign-up genius, it's not unusual for attendees to volunteer to help on the spot.
- **Sales** - Chick-fil-a sandwiches have been very popular, and since football games continue to be very well attended, concessions has already made \$5,000.
- **Operations** - There are still ongoing issues with the hot water dispenser.

## 7. Basket Bingo - Dana

- Paula has received 109 donations.
- 100 tickets have been sold which is ahead of last year's sales at the same date.
- Dana told team reps she is still collecting monetary donations.

## 8. Spirit Wear - Dana

- The last football game was a “pink out” for Breast Cancer Awareness, and all pink spirit wear shirts were sold.

## 9. SGA Rep Report

- No report provided.

## 10. PTSA Liaison Report - Laura Munns

- The October PTSA meeting was rescheduled to 10/10 with a social at 6:30 and meeting beginning at 7pm.
- Information was shared pertaining to redistricting.

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11. Treasurer Report - Aida
  - The financial summary for September 2019 was distributed.
  - Jim indicated we are operating where we should be.
  
12. Parent reps for popular clubs - Srin
  - Srin reported that after speaking to parents of Centennial students who are successful in clubs such as Future Business Leaders of America and Science Olympiad, they have a much greater parent involvement in the management of the club (similar to team reps) which allows the teacher sponsor the ability to focus on the purpose of the club. Dana indicated when she has attempted to coordinate with club sponsors in the past, she hasn't gotten much feedback, so Jim indicated he would send an email to the club sponsors recommending they promote more parent involvement. Unlike teams, clubs currently only list teacher sponsors as contacts for communication with Backers.
  
13. Mentoring students in STEM area - Srin
  - Srin brought up that he would like to try to put together a group of mentors who could be resources for students interested in STEM fields.
  
14. Holiday Tree Trim Sale - Jim
  - Jim has been in contact with the vendor who has provided the trees, workers, etc. and he will continue to coordinate with them as well as with Brian and Joelle.
  - A suggestion was made that Jim needs to reach out to the EMS coordinator to reserve the sites on the dates and times required.
  
15. New Business:
  - A. Intern Program for graduate with Special Needs - Sarah Bates
    - Sarah Bates presented an idea for a pilot project she would manage to provide a paid internship for a recent MHHS graduate who has special needs. She would do her own fundraising, and would not need any additional funding from Viking Backers, but was hoping the program could be run thru Viking Backers so their 501c(3) designation could be utilized.
    - The purpose of the program is to allow the intern to work within MHHS, gaining experience in an environment in which they are familiar around coaches and staff who could use their assistance. This will give the intern valuable experience they could use to help procure employment outside the MHHS community and give them the pride that comes with earning a paycheck..
    - Sarah would like to receive feedback from the parents of the intern, and she knows of a potential individual whose parents are willing to allow their child to be the intern as part of the "pilot project".
    - Brian indicated there would need to be discussions with HCPSS Risk Management since there are many issues that would need to be considered.
    - Jim indicated the issue would be discussed at the executive board meeting, and he would meet with Sarah to discuss this in more detail and provide her with a list of questions.

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## B. New Fundraising

- Joe D'Alonzo is a MHHS parent, and he presented a new fundraising idea and provided samples as well as an information packet. His business is called Authentico Gourmet Italian Foods and is similar to Joe Corbi's and involves selling pizzas, sauces, and dessert items. Each item sold will result in 20% of the cost of each item going back to the fundraising organization.
- This fundraiser could be done by Backers, teams, clubs, or other school organizations. They recommend the fundraising organization run the campaign for 4 weeks, and would involve promoting the campaign using social media. No forms are involved, and all orders are made using a code. The items are delivered in a refrigerated truck at an agreed upon date, time, and location.
- Jim thanked Joe for his presentation.

## 16. Sponsorships - Jenise

- Sponsorships are being run differently this year, so Jenise is requesting that anyone with knowledge of the agreements that were reached regarding banners currently hanging in our venues contact her.
- There will be four tiers of sponsorships offered: \$250, \$500, \$750, and \$1,000.
- From now on, any agreements with sponsors involving publications or banners will be for a single year.
- A new idea is to offer "Shout-outs" of sponsor advertisements during sporting events.
- Jenise mentioned the possibility of a "Booster Board" being created somewhere in school that would show the names of sponsors who reach a certain level.
- Jenise is looking for someone to handle the ordering of banners.