

April 15, 2019

Dear Boosters & Families of Student Athletes:

People warned me that this school year would fly by with a Senior student, and they were absolutely correct!! **We only have THREE more general booster club meetings this year – April 22, May 20, and June 3.** (Mark your calendars now!)

NOTE: At the bottom of this email you will find some additional updates for ongoing activities and tasks.

People also warned me that finishing the year strong would be hard for my Senior and hard for the booster club organization. They were absolutely correct about that as well.

One of the biggest struggles for the athletics booster club is this: full engagement of HABC members throughout the year. We are ONE organization that encompasses 13 different sports (and more as new sports are being considered) with multiple teams in each sport (girls, boys, freshman, JV, varsity, etc.), and with over 600 student athletes and their families. The sports are seasonal and the athletes' involvement varies across the year. In contrast, the band booster organization supports one single band in marching season and 3-4 bands in concert season -- all made up of ONE large set of students and their parents who are involved consistently across the entire year. Because of this difference in our foundational setup, it has been incredibly difficult to engage involvement from Booster members / parents across the entire year. **And quite honestly, that needs to change in order for the HABC to be the organization that our kids and HHS deserve.**

The purpose of HABC is fundamentally this: **create a community that supports all Hays High School student athletes.** No team functions successfully when well over half of its members don't show up to play at any given time. The same can be said of the booster club. **We desperately need members to participate throughout the year, not just during your child's sport season.**

We need people to show up -- at booster club meetings, at volunteer opportunities, at games, at Red & Blue Rallies. Show up and bring your ideas and your enthusiasm. We need people to help -- working parking at football games, staffing membership drives, updating the website, contacting businesses for sponsorships (year round), herding some Bleacher Creatures, and more. It's not all about working in concessions -- but that's obviously a need too! Even if you can only do a little bit, it will be helpful and greatly appreciated. Sign up for one game, pursue one company for sponsorship, donate your time for one event or activity, make one Sam's run to stock a concessions stand. Just show up. Help. The old adage remains very true, "many hands make light work." Every single one of you has something to contribute that will make this organization better -- and without you our team is not as strong as it could be. **Show up. Help.**

As we move toward the end of the year, we still have many booster club activities ongoing and several important tasks to handle prior to calling this year a wrap. Come to the last three booster club meetings, consider filling an officer or committee role for next year, get out and cheer for

the teams that are still on the fields or track, help find business sponsorships...and more! There are tons of ways to be involved. We have such an amazing group of student athletes and families at Hays High School. Let's push on together and finish this year strong! **Fill the stands, bring the spirit, and support our Hays HS student athletes! Celebrate the H!**

Read below for information on the ongoing tasks and activities.

Ongoing Activities / Tasks:

- Concessions Ongoing
- Scholarship Committee Convenes
- Nominations for 2019-2020 Officers Now Open
- By-Laws Review
- Sponsorships for 2019-2020

Concessions

The Softball team moved their games to the freshly finished field at the new complex early in the season. Several amazing softball parents and booster club members performed the magical feat of moving concessions stand operations over to the new complex in a span of a few hours. We received notice that the team was moving to the new field around noon and by first pitch, the concessions were open and available in the new location. This included moving two refrigerators and all of the supplies! It was pretty amazing! Thank you softball parents – you made that move happen and you've done a fantastic job of staffing concessions.

Last Friday the varsity team had their first game at the new complex! It was fantastic to see the complex lit up on both sides. Huge thank you to all of the baseball parents who have volunteered in concessions so far this year, and to those who helped move the concession stand operations over to the combined location at the new complex.

Track concessions wrapped up as we supported the Hays HS feeder schools by supplying the middle school district track meet with concessions. (We also ran concessions for the Shelton Relays and for the Barton MS-hosted track meet.) It was CRAZY busy when the middle schoolers came to feed! This was a wonderful opportunity to support the future Rebels and to raise funds for the booster club. MANY HUGE THANKS to all of the middle school and HABC parents who showed up to help!

Scholarship Committee Convenes

The HABC budgeted \$10,000 for scholarships for senior athletes this year. Our scholarship application is bundled with the local scholarships process and managed through the HHS College & Careers team. Applicants must submit a local scholarship application online including the local scholarship essay, plus the supplemental HABC application with additional requirements and a supplemental essay. Trish Miller has agreed to chair the scholarship committee that will evaluate the packets provided by the counselors in the College & Careers office (sometime in early to mid-April) and will select this year's recipients. The committee is made up of parents of

non-Senior students and covers a mix of sports. The winners of the scholarships will be announced at the May 19 HHS celebration.

Nominations for 2019-2020 Officers Now Open

Nominations for 2019-2020 HABC officers are now open. If you – or someone you know – who is a member in good-standing (meaning, they paid their family membership fee for 2018-2019) would be interested in filling an officer or committee chairperson role, please email: HaysABC@gmail.com or call or text Jennifer at 512-751-9937. All positions are open for next year's term, and these are single-year terms.

- Officers:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
- Committees: (for committees we need a chairperson and members)
 - Sports Coordinators Committee
 - Concessions
 - Red & Blue
 - Sponsorships / Fundraising
 - Social Media / Publicity
 - Weiner Dog Races

Descriptions of each position can be found at the very end of this document. We hope to compile the slate of nominations in April and May, present the candidates at the May meeting, and will vote on new officers in June.

By-Laws Review

We will be reviewing some possible changes to the HABC by-laws at the April meeting. These changes will be presented for review at the April meeting and will be voted on at the May meeting. Most of the changes are intended to help streamline the activities of the HABC and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the officers. The changes will be posted on the HABC website for review after the April meeting. If you have any input or comments, please let us know.

Sponsorships for 2019-2020

Now is the time for us to be soliciting corporate/business sponsorships for the 2019-2020 season. The more we can get in place now, the better off we will be for next year. Our sponsorship page on the website gives most of the details of the levels and packages. If you are skilled at gathering support and would be interested in coordinating this work, please email Jennifer at HaysABC@gmail.com to discuss.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President. Responsible for the overall coordination of the HABC, communications with Athletics Department and parents, conducting regular meetings, oversight of all finances and committees and booster activities. (More details in the by-laws.)

Vice-President. Attends all meetings of the HABC and assist President in all duties. Provides primary oversight and assistance for the fund-raising activities of the HABC, including concessions (in coordination with the Concessions committee).

Secretary. Attends all meetings of the HABC and records the minutes of all meetings of the HABC and publicizes them via email, website and social media as necessary, maintains membership records and keeps them up-to-date, performs correspondence duties as necessary.

Treasurer. Creates the annual budget with input from other officers and committees. Maintains all financial records including tax filings, school district filings, and bank updates. Handles all incoming and outgoing funds and ensures proper procedures are followed for tracking all finances. Handles bank deposits and withdrawals, pays any outstanding bills. Presents monthly financial statements at the HABC meetings.

Committee Chair of Sports Coordinators. Responsible for coordination of all sport coordinators during season of each sport and to directly communicate with each sport coordinator and assists with membership. Each sport / team will have designated sport coordinators who will assist with passing communications and updates to and from the booster club, and who will assist with coordinating volunteer needs for each season's requirements (helping with Bleacher Creatures, assisting with football parking, staffing concession stands, etc.).

Committee Chair for RED & BLUE Rallies. Responsible for coordinating and enhancing the seasonal Red & Blue events -- one per sports season. The R&B events each consist of a meal for the athletes in that season's sports (Fall, Winter, Spring); participation by Band, Cheer, Color Guard, Highsteppers, and presentation of the athletes and coaches for the season's sports. Goals are to honor the athletes, support the teams, and encourage parent/family/community involvement. (*Note: Most planning for the FALL R&B is primarily handled by the Athletics department.)

Committee Chair for Concessions. This committee should be the largest committee of HABC. Each of the sports who are in need of concessions should have representatives on the committee (Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Baseball, and Softball). The chairperson will help to coordinate the scheduling, supplies, and inventory for the various concession stands. The staffing for each concession stand should be the responsibility of each sport (coordinated with their parent sport coordinator and the sport coach). The committee should also research and suggest alternatives to

traditional concession stand options (such as food trucks, vendors, etc.) for long term options for concessions.

Committee Chair for Weiner Dog Races (WDR). Responsible for the WDR planning. This committee should begin planning for the WDR event -- which is one of the biggest HABC fundraisers -- early in the year. Planning should include budgeting for and securing all necessary inventory (food) and supplies via donations or purchases; documenting/updating all procedures and the schedule for the WDR booth functions (when is the food prepared by Hays HS culinary department, who will purchase, pick-up, etc. how much food is needed when, how much inventory is used, etc.); coordinating scheduling for staffing with the sports coordinators/coaches (student athletes supply the labor). The committee chairperson should report on WDR planning progress monthly (or more as appropriate).

Committee Chair for Sponsorships / Fundraising. This committee will be focused marketing sponsorships and generating additional sponsorships for HABC. They will also research additional opportunities for fundraising and creative income options for the HABC.

Committee Chair for Publicity and Social Media. This committee will focus on maintaining and updating the website, keeping social media content current through communications and interactions with sports coordinators, and will aid in publicizing via email and social media all efforts of the booster club.