

## Hart High Baseball Dugout Club Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 11, 2022  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Coach's Classroom - T209

### **Attendees:**

- Jim Ozella - Head Coach
- Steve Downs - President
- Julie Meinecke - Vice President
- Koi Howard - Secretary
- Parents of Hart Players

**I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. Steve welcomed the new parents to our first Dugout Club meeting of the season. He explained that we are the booster club for Hart Baseball and work together to meet the volunteer and financial needs of the program. The current operating cost of the program is approximately \$75,000 for the year. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and the bulk of our budget is garnered through fundraising. (Because of our non-profit status, minutes must be recorded at all of our meetings so please state your name when you speak or ask a question.) He introduced the members of the Board and Committee Chairs present. Coach O also welcomed the new and returning parents and appreciates our time and efforts in supporting the program.

### **II. Committee Business:**

- a. Media Guide:** Jodi introduced the Media Guide concept with our new parents. She encouraged each of them to take a sample and participate. The goal is for 100% participation for all families involved in the program. More information will be sent out via email with the forms for potential sponsors. The due date for turning in forms, ads and tributes will be December 9th. Please contact Jodi at [hartbaseballmediaguide@gmail.com](mailto:hartbaseballmediaguide@gmail.com) with questions or to submit forms for the guide. Many thanks to Jodi and Steve for all of the work hours and creativity they pour into our Media Guide, which is a great keepsake for our players and their families.
- b. Fundraising:** Julie reported that this year we will be doing fewer small fundraisers and will focus on the larger events and efforts like The Media Guide, Super Bowl Squares and Cornhole Tournament. We're also hoping to bring Double Good Popcorn back as a fundraiser for November. This company does ship so your out-of-state family and friends can participate. Super Bowl Squares will be happening in January. Banners/Signs for the players can be purchased later in the year and are nice mementos. The Cornhole Tournament will take place in the spring and was a big success last year. A Bingo/Poker Night may also happen this year. Thanks to Julie, and to all who support our fundraising efforts.
- c. Apparel:** Diana has put together 3 options for the freshmen to purchase their workout apparel, plus equipment bags, hats and batting helmets. Information and a Google form for orders will be emailed to each family. She needs the orders by October 17th and asked that we email her with any questions or concerns. Checks can be brought to her classroom. She sympathizes that it is expensive, but reminded us that the boys need a lot of gear that they will use throughout the year. To returning parents, she reminded us to put names on hoodies as these get misplaced. There will be a need for a parent to volunteer to organize apparel for next year, so please consider that as an opportunity to step up. (Chris Fitzsmith's wife nominated him!) Thanks so much to Diana.
- d. Canteen:** Kim announced that she has a gift of a free gatorade or water for each of us as a friendly reminder for each family to donate a case of water and sodas or gatorade and to sign up to volunteer in the canteen. She will send out something on a team Group Me or Sign-Up Genius soon. The canteen is simple to run with instructions posted on the fridge to make things easy. It is a fun way to support the program and is a nice vantage point from which to watch the games. Students can volunteer and earn service hours for their time. You can volunteer to offer a special meal or menu item, like barbecue or brisket sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers, donuts or ice cream, just keep the receipt for your expenses if you

need a reimbursement. All donations to the canteen are appreciated so continue bringing in snacks and drinks. Thanks to Kim for all of her hard work and to those who have donated and volunteered to make our canteen so successful.

- e. **Social Media:** Kerrie keeps our social media platforms updated. We are on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook: one for parents and one for the public. Our hashtag is #harthighbaseball. Please join in and “like” these sites. Feel free to share pics and highlights from the games to post. Thanks to Kerrie for her time and efforts.
- f. **Website:** This is an area needing a parent to step up as our Website Chair. Steve has been keeping the site updated and can help train a volunteer for this position. Check out our link at <http://harthighbaseball.com/>
- g. **Calendar of Events:**
  - 1. **Meet the Coaches Night** - Tuesday, January 17, 2023 (event/meeting)
  - 2. **Alumni Game** - Sunday, February 5, 2023
  - 3. **Dugout Club Meetings** - (Tuesdays) December 13, 2022;  
2023 Meetings: January 17; February 14; March 14; April 11; May 16

**III. Treasurer’s Report:** Unfortunately, Shawn is not feeling well this evening so Steve gave a brief report. We ended the year with roughly \$9,000, but do have some expenses that are coming in, including a transportation bill and pending tournament fees. Our operating budget is approximately \$75,000 and with 52 players that equates to about \$1,500 per player. Our goal is to raise that amount or more so the fundraising is really important.

**IV. Coach’s Update:** Coach O welcomed the new parents. He thanked both new and returning parents for coming and supporting the baseball program. He’s been at Hart since 2000 and appreciates that the Dugout Club takes care of the money issues so the coaches can focus on coaching. Our field is the oldest in the area and the district doesn’t give us much to maintain it. The batting cages were just updated with new nets thanks to the efforts of you and your sons. He expressed his gratitude for the time put in and the fundraising that makes the program run smoothly. He realizes it’s a lot of work and remembers how it is to raise kids; all three of his kids are grown, but he’s been there and knows the effort it takes to put in volunteer time. Coach said that he hopes this will be a positive experience and that he’s here to help teach the boys the valuable life lessons that they can learn from baseball. He said that they are making progress; the current scrimmages are fun and competitive. He reported that the majority of the players are already in the 6th period class and the rest will join next semester. He appreciates the parents’ efforts to get them to the early morning weight training workouts 4 days a week. The boys are getting stronger and in better shape and it is building a good habit for them as athletes. The schedule might be cut down to 2 days per week during the spring semester because of games. Coach is concerned that some of the boys aren’t getting enough nutrition, so please check that they are eating well during the day. He mentioned that hamstring pulls can be due to a lack of nutrition. Remember to talk with your sons about their diets: eating well and drinking enough water. Also encourage them to keep working hard in their classes. So far, there are only 5 students who have a grade of a C- or below in one class. There is time to speak with their teachers and improve the grades that they need to maintain to play baseball. Our sincere thanks to Coach O for all that he does and means to our families.

**V. New Business:** We will be honoring Larry Fiscus, who is greatly missed, with a memorial patch on each of the uniforms. Larry was a Hart graduate who took care of the equipment and scoreboard and was a loyal friend and supporter. Tracy and Koi will help coordinate the sewing. We need additional volunteers as team reps, to serve in the canteen, as scorekeepers during games and to chair the website this year. Next year, we’ll need volunteers to take over the responsibilities for apparel and the Media Guide. Please let Steve know if you can help in any of these capacities. Thank you for attending and for your support of Hart Baseball!

**VI. Next Meeting Date:** December 13 at 7:00 p.m.

**VII. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.