

## Hart High Baseball Dugout Club Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 10, 2023  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Coach's Classroom - T209

### **Attendees:**

- Jim Ozella - Head Coach
- Chris Frithsmith - President
- Chris McCarty - Treasurer
- Koi Howard - Secretary
- Parents of Hart Players

- I. Call to Order:** Chris called the first meeting of this school year to order at 7:01 p.m.
- II. Welcome:** Chris welcomed each of us and gave a brief history of Hart's outstanding baseball program and our responsibilities as a booster club.
- III. Executive Board:** Chris congratulated Mike Verdi as our new Vice President. He received and accepted the nomination after Jeff had to step down due to his son transferring to another school. Chris called for a confirmation vote of Mike as Vice President, which was carried unanimously by all members present. Chris also reminded the Club that we have an open position for a Member-At-Large on the Executive Board and asked for nominations/volunteers who consent to be on the ballot for an email vote. (As of this recording of the minutes: Elaine Edey, Mike Hogan, and Mike Rogozik will be slated.)
- IV. Committee Business:** Chris introduced the chairs for an overview of the committees that serve the Club. Anyone interested in serving on a specific committee can speak with the following volunteers.
  - a. Fundraising:** Vice President Mike V is going to oversee fundraising, but Chris pointed out that it will take the participation of every family to raise sufficient funds for the program. Thanks to Mike for being the point person for all of us as we work to make sure the teams have the resources they need for a successful year.
  - b. Finance:** As Treasurer, Chris M will head up this committee, but would appreciate help with fundraising. He is always available to go over our Club's budget and expenditures. Thanks to him for all of the time he devotes to looking after our finances and organizing the sponsorship forms and payment platforms.
  - c. Game Day:** Keith will be helping with the responsibilities for game days, which are busy and can always use parent volunteers. Thanks to Keith for serving in this capacity.
  - d. Facilities:** Chris said that he will oversee facility issues and communicate with Coach O as needed. We appreciate our new president and all the time and effort he pours into our program.
  - e. Events:** Patti will be coordinating special events which are great opportunities for parents and family members to volunteer and help out the program. We really appreciate her stepping into this role.
  - f. Apparel:** Thanks to Ken Marshall for his willingness to take on organizing the apparel and orders for the club this year. Ken reported that an online store is coming in the next few weeks to accommodate direct orders. He printed up a useful handout of apparel items that are available to order through him and that new families can reach out to him anytime regarding Spirit Pack apparel and equipment. We certainly appreciate Ken's time and efforts.
  - g. Canteen:** Kim reported that she needs everyone to assist in running the canteen. Please sign up for a shift to work in the canteen on game days when you're available. It is easy, organized, and fun. She also needs donations of popular drinks, candy, and snacks that can be dropped off on game days or during practices. Many thanks to Kim for her continued hard work and organization of our canteen.
  - h. Social Media:** Kerrie asked that we "follow" Hart High Baseball on all the platforms we use. We are on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Our hashtag is #harthighbaseball. Please join in and feel free to share pics, highlights, and articles with her to post. Thanks to Kerrie for keeping our social media sites up-to-date.

i. **Website:** Ben regularly updates our website, including the Club's calendar, though please have your student check Google Classroom for the most current game information. Thanks to Ben for his hard work on the website. Check out the link at <http://harthighbaseball.com/>.

j. **Calendar of Events (Details TBD):**

1. **Begin Soliciting Media Guide Sponsors - October**
2. **Friends & Family Fundraiser - November**
3. **Media Guide Submissions Due - Early December**
4. **Meet The Coaches Night - January**
5. **Alumni Game - February**
6. **Varsity's San Diego Overnight: Game - Saturday, March 2nd**
7. **Graduation - May 28th**
8. **Dugout Club Meetings - Tuesdays: (2023) November 14th; December 12th; (2024) January 16th; February 13th; March 12th; April 9th; May 14th**

**V. Treasurer's Report:** Chris explained that Chris M will be joining us later as he is attending his daughter's volleyball game. We appreciate Chris M for supplying us with a detailed budget that includes the overall cost of the program and projected expenditures that we'll need to prepare for this year. His report itemized last year's expenses that included the field renovation and totalled \$134,031. It also listed our total income that amounted to \$128,874. Therefore, we fell short of our budget at the end of the 2022-2023 school year by \$5,157. Chris encouraged full participation in fundraising efforts since our new target for this year is \$100,000. He said that copies of our finances are always available and questions about expenses are welcomed. Chris M will continue to prepare detailed reports for our members. The field renovation project did go well and we can all see the benefits of those efforts. Chris M's handout highlighted the various costs of the program's necessities such as game and practice balls, uniforms, bases, tournament and umpire fees, insurance, transportation, training equipment, repairs, field maintenance, etc. Clearly, the players' training is supported well when we pool our resources and pursue additional donations to cover the ongoing costs of the program. Thanks to Chris M for his extensive report.

**VI. Player Registration:** Chris handed out packets and pointed out the essentials on the smart screen so that we can easily register our students. He explained that with the costs that he just went over on the Treasurer's Report, parents really need to help as much as possible. There are varying levels of support and ways to pay in installments if that is helpful. He also encouraged finding out if your employer or company has a gift-matching program that could benefit our program. As a non-profit, it is a nice way for companies to give, so please look into those options. He showed us the QR code via Give Butter that is an easy way to make and collect payments.

**VII. Fundraising:** Chris reported that most of our up-front money will come from player registration participation, but an additional fundraiser will be a Friends and Family email drive to ask for support. More information will come on that and will most likely be in November, but this is a great one for out-of-state family members to get involved in to help. It was mentioned that Giving Tuesday is coming up in November and might be an effective launch date for the Friends and Family drive. Chris assured us that we'll try to keep smaller event fundraisers to a minimum, but will add other activities like restaurant nights when necessary. He also mentioned that apparel orders and canteen purchases do raise funds so our support of those benefits the program too.

**VIII. Media Guide:** Our annual Media Guide is a huge part of our fundraising each year. Chris handed out past guides so that every parent or player has a sample to show their potential sponsors. Company sponsors can place ads in the guide and there is a list of businesses that are available as well as a list of those that are already taken by current families in the program. Both paper handouts and electronic forms can be used for sponsors. Chris thanked Coach O for allowing us to offer packages that include banner presence on and near the field. The board hopes that these will be a popular way to raise funds. We are needing to limit the number of banners offered this year since it's our first time trying this. We'll see how they look and make sure that Coach is happy with the placements. Families can also buy ads in the guide to highlight favorite photos of their boys and memorialize special messages of support to them. Business card space is

another good way for family companies or smaller businesses to have a presence in the guide. The Media Guide is a wonderful keepsake for the players.

**IX. Coach's Update:** Coach O welcomed both new and returning parents and let us know that the newest players will be added to Google Classroom next semester. He posts useful baseball videos and advice for the boys there as a tool for extended learning. He reminded us to ask our sons to stay updated on practice and game times that are posted on Google Classroom. He encouraged us to check Infinite Campus concerning our students' assignments and grades. He explained that the school uses a progress report system, so that every five weeks they should know in which classes they need to improve. The ten-week mark for grades is this Friday. Good grades are important for their transcripts and to stay in athletics too, so he asked us to remind our sons to keep up with their work. He is an advocate of the new policy to have students put their phones away during school; they are more focused without the distraction. He teaches history classes, but makes time to have meetings with the players and is here to help them progress academically and on the field. He asked us to stay involved and aware of our sons' needs with their coursework and as baseball team members. Coach said his own children are grown now and to enjoy this time with our kids. Tell them you love them and are here for them; that goes a long way. Coach watches the players at game time and sees that they may try to be subtle about it, but they do check the stands to see who is there to watch them play. They might not say it, but they appreciate your being there. He expressed his appreciation for the help and support of all the parents and feels blessed to have a strong booster club. He announced that Saturday is a work day for the boys from 9:00-12:00. They will be cleaning up the field. Their winter game schedules are out, but watch for details to shift. The Lakewood game is now at home; other changes will be passed along as Coach gets them. Spring schedules are also done with 28 games for Varsity and JV, and 27 for Frosh. Chris said that he will do his best to send out updated schedules. Coach O said that teamwork is needed for the Dugout Club just like it's needed for the players. The more involved the parents are, the more successful the program will be, so Coach recommends that we each get as involved as we can. Thanks for all of your wisdom and encouragement to us as parents and to our boys, Coach! We appreciate you and your assistant coaches.

**X. New Business:** Thanks to last year's Team Reps for communicating with parents and for organizing team dinners: Patti Rhodes (Frosh), Kimmie Frithsmith (JV), and Trisha Cooper (Varsity). As the players move up, so do the parent representatives, so we need a new Frosh Team Rep for this year. Please let Chris know if you are interested in volunteering for that role. Thanks to each of you for attending and for your support of the Hart Baseball program!

**XI. Next Meeting Date:** November 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

**XII. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.