

Hart High Baseball Dugout Club Meeting Minutes

Date: November 14, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Coach's Classroom - T209

Attendees:

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

- I. Call to Order:** Chris called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II. Welcome:** Chris thanked us for coming and allowed a printed copy of the minutes to be passed around for any who had not had a chance to read them. He also announced that the minutes of each parent meeting will be posted on our website.
- III. Executive Board Update:** Chris congratulated Mike Rogozik who won the vote for the position of Member-At-Large. We appreciate those who ran and encourage all members to volunteer somewhere within the organization.
- IV. Team Reps:** Now that the new season is underway, we need Team Reps to assist as liaisons between the board and parents. Team Reps communicate with the parents via an app like TeamSnap or Group Me. Group texts are also used to communicate. Currently, Manny has volunteered to be the Team Rep for Frosh. Thank you, Manny! We now need parent volunteers for both JV and Varsity. Please let Chris know if you are interested in serving in that capacity.
- V. Player Registration:** Chris M included a tally of participation percentages on his financial update handout, which was distributed to each parent present. So far, there is an 80% participation rate. Registration can be completed via the Give Butter link that was emailed and can be found on our website. Keith spoke up with a concern that others may have that \$1,000 is too high for many families and asked if this was decided by parents or was a board decision. Chris F answered that it was a board decision - though not voted on and without a final consensus on presentation details. We're aware that this is a sensitive issue with varying opinions and may need more careful consideration going forward. For some background on the decision, it was discussed with the Downs since there was some history with having to pay monthly fees during covid. It was also discussed at an executive board meeting where the depletion of our account from the field renovation project was an obvious problem without an easy solution. Jeff presented a registration packet for Hart's band program that asks for an even higher registration fee from parents. It was felt by some that an urgent request for funding was necessary for immediate expenditures. Chris M explained that with 50 players and a budget of \$100,000 per year, we needed some financial support upfront to start the program well. He said that the district does not pay for our costs so we hoped to ask parents for assistance. Chris F reiterated that last year, many of the fundraisers did not raise enough money and we're trying to find a way to fund the program like some of the other Hart teams do. He also mentioned the stress that Jeff had been under for the Casino Night event. This is a way to build the budget with our families, like paying the expenses for travel ball teams. Both Chris F and Chris M tried to assure the parents that ultimately, the registration fee is voluntary and any level of participation is appreciated. They added that raising funds with sponsorships for the Media Guide and the upcoming Friends and Family Fundraiser are alternate ways to contribute to the registration fee suggestion. Diana asked us to remember that Frosh families are already required to buy a Spirit Pack with apparel and gear, so a registration fee is expensive for them. Chris F encouraged reaching out to him individually to discuss concerns and options. Patti also said that West Ranch has monthly dues and they each pay for a uniform. Chris F brought up that our teams need new uniforms with a cost of around \$15,000, and once we place our order, we're stuck with that bill. Additionally, baseballs must be purchased soon, and senior gifts later. Coach mentioned that he has been conservative about spending money, and he understands not wanting to scramble at the end of the year, especially when it comes to paying the coaches. However, he wants us to remember that not everyone has the same income and that there are rules to non-profits. He said this has always been a money in, money out deal. Money was needed this weekend for umpires and that amount depends on the number of games we have on the schedule. Those kinds of expenses will

always come up, but there shouldn't be much money at the end of the year; it's supposed to be spent on the mission. For over 20 years since he's been here, there's been an effort to follow the rules of a non-profit. Coach said that he doesn't like going into parents' wallets, so there is a pressing need to look for outside avenues to raise money for the costs of running the program, and those funds should be spent as needed. He encouraged more people being involved with the Media Guide which is a good way to fundraise. We appreciate Coach's helpful reminder about our non-profit responsibilities, as well as every parent's suggestions regarding the ongoing financial needs that will support our boys and the coaches.

VI. Committee Business:

- a. **Fundraising:** Mike reported that only 11 players in the program are participating in fundraising so far. He said that he is open to fundraising ideas. Diana presented an idea to donate items through a thrift store in Canyon Country called Whimby's as they return a percentage back to the donor group. Chris F can send an email about that. Patti suggested a raffle for Disneyland tickets that the kids could sell since Michelle works for the company. These are helpful ideas as we look for creative ways to fundraise. Thanks to Mike for helping with our fundraising efforts.
- b. **Game Day:** We appreciate that Keith has volunteered to help with the responsibilities for game days. These can always use parent volunteers so please reach out to him for specific needs. Thanks so much to Keith for serving in this capacity.
- c. **Events:** Patti will be coordinating our special events which are wonderful volunteer opportunities. Please let her know if there is a particular event that you could help her with this year. We really appreciate Patti for all of her time and efforts.
- d. **Apparel:** An online store will be up and running soon for direct orders. There will be a limited window to place orders, so please watch for an email with dates and a link. Ken has put in the orders for the Spirit Pack apparel and equipment through Buddy's and will distribute those as soon as they arrive. Thanks very much to Ken for the great job he's doing for our teams.
- e. **Canteen:** Patti reported that Kim is stepping away from her role as Canteen Chair. She and Kim have talked about the lack of volunteers and finding a new lead on this. They are willing to assist in the transition with the new chair. Elaine graciously asked what the role entails. Chris told her that it mainly involves scheduling the volunteers and keeping the canteen stocked. Mike offered to help with that as he has twenty years of food and beverage experience. Chris M said that he would help her figure out the payment systems. Please volunteer to help out in the canteen on game days when you're available. Students can receive service hours for their volunteer time. We are grateful to Kim for her incredible organization of our canteen. Thanks too to Elaine, Patti, and Mike for offering to help keep our canteen running smoothly.
- f. **Social Media:** Kerrie keeps us updated 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. She did ask if there was a clearer copy of Eddie's recent homerun to which Elizabeth declared that to be a dad problem! Kerrie is happy to post great plays by the boys so share your videos with her. Thanks to Kerrie for handling our social media sites so well.
- g. **Website:** Ben regularly updates our website, including the Club's calendar, though please continue to encourage your student to check Google Classroom for the most current game information. Thanks to Ben for administering our website. Check out the link at <http://harthighbaseball.com/>.

VII. Treasurer's Report: Chris passed out copies of the financial summary to each of us. He encouraged anyone to contact him anytime with questions regarding our club's finances. He uses Quickbooks online to keep track and can run a report when requested. The summary highlights that about 80% have participated in player registration. That keeps building as more register. The second campaign is the Media Guide ads. There are 3 platinum sponsorships which is fantastic, however, we could use more help with players finding additional sponsors. We have about 18 sponsors so far but would like to triple or quadruple that. He reported that there is approximately \$35,000 in our bank account. The summary shows \$95,000 in expenses and \$101,000 in income. There are many details within each line item and Chris said that he is always available to discuss those. We do have some big bills coming our way like baseballs, uniforms, and tournament fees to pay. There are wish list items like a new turtle net and laser-leveling the field. There are printing costs for the Media Guide and the year-end banquet. Last year we ran out of money to pay the coaches so he'd like to

get ahead of that and plan now. This is where player registration has helped, though he reiterated that the \$1,000 fee is just a suggestion. We understand that the amount each family can contribute may differ. We are grateful for any contribution to the program with so many expenses to cover. Senior gifts were brought up as upcoming expenses that senior parents may be willing to pay like a personalized jersey. Diana suggested that senior parents vote on buying something extra for their players. Coach O brought up that in past years, senior parents could purchase photos taken by a professional photographer. Tom and Reina were heralded as excellent photographers who could possibly help with that. Chris F suggested a Senior Committee and special meeting for those decisions. Thanks to Chris M for his outstanding financial projections and summary.

VIII. Media Guide: As Coach O mentioned, our annual Media Guide has been a huge part of our fundraising each year. Chris handed out past guides at our last meeting so that every parent or player has a sample to show their potential sponsors. He has more if anyone would like an additional copy. 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. We are offering packages that include banner presence and we hope that these will be a popular way to raise funds. There is a limit to the number of banners offered so check with Chris on that if a sponsor asks. Families can also buy personalized ads in the guide to highlight favorite photos of their sons with special messages of support to them. Business card space is another good way for businesses to have a presence in the guide. Chris asked that if someone has graphic design or layout experience for the guide to please let us know or we'll have to outsource it. Chris M has an idea through work that is a possibility. The Media Guide is a wonderful keepsake for players and parents as well as a useful fundraiser.

IX. Field Renovation Update: Chris let us know that the boys seem happy with the renovation. He said not to be surprised at the appearance of the grass since it goes dormant in winter. The field is more level and the mound is much better. We are still repairing the outfield fence. When the city was trimming the trees, they knocked down part of the fence so it's missing a crossbar. The district is supposed to take care of that, but we're not sure about their timing. We did purchase some new rakes and brooms, plus updated the storage shed and rehung the windscreens. We also bought some tarps for the mound and home plate since rain is supposed to be heavy this year. The next projected field expense will be a new turtle net which will cost about \$2,000, but we'll hold off on that for now. Thanks to Chris F and all those who helped to make the long-time field renovation dream a reality.

X. Coach's Update: Coach O reported that we've hit the 15-week mark for grades. There are 3 weeks left before the end of the semester. He suggested giving our kids a heads up for finals and having them check their grades. The San Diego Varsity game with Mission Hills San Marcos in March has been moved up to 10:00 a.m. with a 20 to 30-minute break before the next game. They have offered to feed the team during the break. Hotel information is coming for that Friday night before the game day. Coach explained that the rosters aren't set yet and the schedules are on different days this year because of the umpire problems we had last year. Frosh games will be played on Saturdays. Coach has had individual meetings with all of the players and he's told some of the boys that they may need to play on two teams. This time of year he's trying to get them as many innings and at bats as possible. Coach advised the boys that it's better to get playing time no matter which team they're on; they should take the opportunity to play as much as they can to progress. Coach will try to make sure everyone knows where and when they're playing. His goal is to make sure they play and progress as much as possible. The winter schedule is preliminary and this Saturday's game has been switched. Long Beach Wilson bailed so we're playing Torrance at home instead. We appreciate you and your assistant coaches, Coach O!

XI. Calendar of Events:

- 1. Player Photos - Monday, November 27th (Thanks to Tom for taking these.)**
- 2. Friends & Family Fundraiser - Tuesday, November 28th**
- 3. Media Guide Submissions Due - December 15th (reach out to Chris M for ad submissions)**
- 4. Meet The Coaches Night - Tuesday, January 30th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Meadows' Home**
- 5. Alumni Game - Sunday, February 4th**
- 6. Varsity's San Diego Overnight: Game - Saturday, March 2nd**
- 7. Graduation - Tuesday, May 28th**

8. Dugout Club Meetings - Tuesdays: (2023) December 12th; (2024) January 9th; February 13th; March 12th; April 9th; May 14th

- XII. Approval of Minutes:** Ben made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Patti. With unanimous consent, Chris declared them approved and Ben reminded us that he would post them on the website.
- XIII. New Business:** Chris announced that a Friends and Family Fundraiser email would be sent soon. Player photos will be taken on Monday, November 27th at practice by Tom. Please have your boys bring a white shirt and black tie if they have one. Team Reps are needed for JV and Varsity. Please let Chris know if you are interested in volunteering for those positions. Thanks to each of you for attending and for your support of the Hart Baseball program!
- XIV. Next Meeting Date:** December 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
- XV. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.