

Hart High Baseball Dugout Club Meeting Minutes

Date: December 12, 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 7:02 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes: The minutes from our last meeting were approved.

III. Team Reps & Communication: Chris thanked our team reps for volunteering: Elaine for Varsity, Dio for Junior Varsity, and Manny for Frosh. Chris said that using the TeamSnap app for communication would cost us \$400 per year. Tracy reported that there is a free app called Band that JV used last year. There are places for the team rosters and calendars. She said that photos can be saved there without any extra fees, with last year's JV photos amounting to over 5,000 pictures that were stored at no cost. She can create files that will allow parents to drop in their photos or videos. She also told us that the app can be used for text messages. Chris said that the free Band app works best for our purposes so Tracy will send out an email to parents with links for joining. Thank you to our team reps and to Tracy for ensuring good communication with parents as we head into the busy spring season.

IV. Committee Business:

- a. **Apparel:** Ken was unable to be here tonight. Chris reported on his behalf that all apparel and bags for the new players have been ordered. An online store was opened in November and a link will be sent to those who placed an order during that window of time. This will give further information on receiving the items. Chris also reported that new home and away jerseys have been ordered for each of the teams. Thanks to Ken for his work organizing the apparel for our players.
- b. **Facility:** Chris had a man come out to the field as the grass is less than stellar right now. The man reported that it looks like someone has burned the field with fertilizer, most probably the district. It looks like a ring was sprayed around the mound which now resembles a bullseye target. He also thinks that the field needs to be re-seeded and the district lawn mower is not sharp or low enough to cut the grass correctly. Therefore, we are looking into getting donated or purchasing a better lawn mower. A used model would be about \$1,400, which would come out of the Field Budget where we have approximately \$4,000 in savings. In future, the boys may need to mow the grass. The windscreen is also in bad shape and the city knocked down some of our fencing when they trimmed trees. We are working with the city and the district to get these things fixed. Thank you, Chris, for the extra time you invest in making sure that our facilities are well-maintained.
- 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. Chris reminded us that we have two events coming up: Meet the Coaches Night on January 30th at the Meadows' house and the Alumni Game on February 4th. Chris reported that John Dow will be helping out with that event. Patti reminded us that we will need volunteers on that day for set-up, check-in, grilling, and break-down. We really appreciate Patti for taking the lead on events.
- d. **Canteen:** Elaine reported that the canteen was well-stocked and ran smoothly for the weekend games. We had some young volunteers from the softball team who seemed to enjoy their time working. She asked us to encourage any students who need service hours to volunteer. Hot chocolate, donuts, pizza, and nachos were popular items.

She did say that donations are welcome so if you happen to be in the grocery store and see something like waters, sodas, or gatorades on sale, feel free to pick those up to help stock the canteen. She stressed that donations are encouraged but not mandatory. It was mentioned that we can use Square for payments, but Elaine has an Android so volunteers with iphones will need to help with that. Chris M said that he can get a Square attachment for Android and that the Zelle code should be in the canteen. Coach O asked that we not leave large amounts of cash in the drawer since so many people come in and out. Elaine reassured us that she only leaves \$30 in small bills for change. Chris M encouraged her to give the larger amounts to him to deposit. Thank you, Elaine, for stepping into this role and doing such a great job.

- e. **Media:** Kerrie and Ben were unable to attend this evening. Kerrie keeps us updated on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Our hashtag is #harthighbaseball. Please join in and feel free to tag and share pics, highlights, and articles with her to post. Ben is in charge of our website and is transitioning us to a Google site, but there shouldn't be any down time with that. Though the calendar is posted on the website, please continue to encourage your student to check Google Classroom for the most current game information. Thanks to Kerrie and Ben for administering our media sites. Website address: <http://harthighbaseball.com/>.
 - f. **Audiovisual:** Chris announced that we still need photos for the Media Guide. Chris M said that he has Tom's, Tracy's, and Reina's that we can use so we should be covered. Chris M did ask Tom for a Varsity team photo, which he thinks he has. Tom reported that he took plenty of senior photos that can be used for both the banners and the Media Guide. Thanks to Tom for donating his time and talents.
 - g. **Game Day:** Keith reported that we will need parents to volunteer to run the scoreboard and do the announcing at games. We will train them for that so please volunteer if you can. Chris said that we will also train parents to help with the live streaming for the spring season. He said that Steve donated his camera and he has one that we can use, so we are in need of one more camera to cover each of the three teams. If you can help with that, please reach out to Chris. Each team can decide if they would like to use Game Changer to keep track of the score. Reach out to your team rep if you would like to facilitate this for your son's team. Thanks to Keith for handling the various gameday issues.
 - h. **Fundraising:** Mike reported that only 23 out of the 47 players in the program are participating in the Friends and Family fundraiser for uniforms so he is encouraging more involvement. Chris put up the tracking data on screen and reminded us that there is an award for the top 3 sellers if we reach \$10,000. \$15,000 is our ultimate goal to cover the cost of the uniforms. The deadline is December 31st so please send out the link to friends and family who can lend some support to this effort. The hot link is included in the agenda and Chris will send it out again. Mike went to all the car dealerships to solicit more Media Guide ads and sponsorships. Chris has a tracker for ads and sponsorships which can help evaluate businesses to approach. Chris M said that he will take submissions up to December 31st and the guide will be printed in January. Diana presented an idea at last month's meeting 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 said that his wife took some things, but to check their list of items that they accept. She found that the place next door to Whimby's will take items they don't accept. Mention that you're donating to benefit Hart Baseball so we get a percentage. Thanks to Mike for all of his work on fundraising for the program.
- V. Treasurer's Report:** Chris M passed out copies of his financial summary to date. He highlighted the total participation rate in fundraising, which is 94% of the players. The percentage breakdown by grade shows 100% in all grades except the freshmen whose rate is 77%. Participation includes registrations, sponsorships, ads, and the Friends and Family email. It doesn't include apparel purchases. He reported that there is \$56,153 in our bank account currently. The summary shows \$9,348 in expenses from October 1st to today, which include costs for things like administration fees, baseball and field expenses. There are line items in his report of income received that includes \$32,793 from player registrations, \$14,950 from media ads and sponsorships, and \$2,977 from the Friends and Family email drive to name a few. He said that we do have some invoices coming in. Chris F replied that he was handed another invoice today, which is why we need to keep fundraising. Chris M shared that he got some quotes for our tax prep that will cost about \$800. Quickbooks is \$80 per month and is an online service that will be easy to hand over and can be viewed by any parent who wants to see our records. There are wish list items like a new turtle net that runs about \$2,000. There are obvious upcoming printing needs for the Media Guide. Each one costs about \$18 to print, but he thinks he can get the total printing of 200 copies under \$4,000; last year's cost was \$5,500. The year-end banquet expenses look high on paper, but he said that includes the funds to pay our coaches, purchase senior gifts and food, plus produce the video. Ultimately,

reaching a fundraising goal of \$100,000 would be ideal to make sure all of our costs are covered for the year. Thanks to Chris M for his dedication to our club's finances and his helpful reports.

VI. Coach's Update: Coach O informed us that the field will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the holiday break for the boys to work out. Final exams are this week and these are end-of-semester transcript grades. At the end of every year, he writes many letters of recommendation for college-bound seniors. Each semester, he asks the players to remember that they are not just athletes, but student-athletes and that it's important to keep their grades up. He thanked us for coming out to the games this past weekend, especially with the challenging weather. He reminded us that we're lucky to be in a part of the country where baseball can be played during winter months. Coach said he had some news to share. To our surprise, he announced that he had turned in his retirement paperwork. He put his letter addressed to the Hart Baseball Family on the screen that will be quoted here: "I am writing to inform you that I have submitted to the Hart School District administration and Hart HS Principal Jason D'Autremont my retirement announcement that the spring 2024 season will conclude my teaching/head coaching career at Hart High School. My 25-year coaching association with Hart Baseball and teaching at Hart High School has been the highlight of my life, and I have been blessed by the hundreds of parents and thousands of players involved in their dedication to our Baseball program. Hart HS is truly a special place, and my thanks to Gary Fuller, Collyn Nielson and Jason D'Autremont for their dedication to our program as the school's principals in my years in the Hart Baseball program. I am truly excited to end my career this spring with a hard-working group of young men, and my plan is to provide our program with another season of highlights and "dog piles" in my concluding year. My best to all of the Hart Baseball alumni, and my thanks for the years of walking through the gate and dedicating yourself to the proud traditions of our program. Sincerely, Jim Ozella." He said that he has enjoyed teaching and coaching and expects one more great season here. He expressed his love of the kids and the efforts they put in and called it a challenging and fun ride. His news and message of gratitude was met with a grateful round of applause from all in attendance. Chris expressed our sincere thanks to Coach and hopes he'll allow us to honor him through this final season. Thank you to Coach O for his many years of dedication that has had a tremendous impact on all the student-athletes, and their families, who have come through this amazing program.

VII. Calendar of Events:

- 1. Meet The Coaches Night - Tuesday, January 30th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Meadows' Home**
- 2. Alumni Game - Sunday, February 4th**
- 3. Varsity's San Diego Overnight: Game - Saturday, March 2nd**
- 4. Graduation - Tuesday, May 28th**
- 5. Dugout Club Meetings - Tuesdays: (2024) January 16th; February 13th; March 12th; April 9th; May 14th**

VIII. New Business: Tracy shared that Michelle has graciously donated Family 4-Pack/Park-Hopper Disneyland tickets for a raffle fundraiser. Each player is encouraged to sell 20 tickets at \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. Players who sell 20 will receive an extra raffle ticket to put into the drawing. She is looking for a donation prize for a possible separate raffle for the top-selling players. Sellers are in charge of tracking their sales and marking tickets sold, then turning in the total amount of money raised to Chris M. Tracy will email information with the details that can be shared on social media to promote sales. Please come to the January meeting to pick up your family's raffle tickets. The due date for players will be the Friday before the Alumni Game to determine the top sellers. Tickets will also be sold at the game before the drawing. Thanks so much to Michelle and Tracy for arranging this fun fundraiser. Thank you to those who attended this evening and for your continued support of Hart Baseball.

IX. Next Meeting Date: January 16, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

X. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.