

BUENA BASEBALL BOOSTER CLUB

General Membership Meeting

December 10, 2008

Board Members Present: Anthony Espitia, Lester Miyasaki, Eric Norris, Kim Wilkins, Tom Burke, Rachel Bravo, John Zeman, Lori Urban, Randy Jordan, Julie Boys, Scott Zeman

Board Members not Present: Gloria Flores, Jeanne Dietz

Also Present: Matt Burke, Jonny Urban, Michael A. Espitia, Shirlyn Burke, Phyllis Zeman, Chuck Brady, Jay Jacobs, Drew Jacobs, Weston Miyasaki, Logan Norris, Mido Gallardo, Matt Bravo, Jeff Shoop, Tracy Shoop, Steven Henry, Shelly Henry, Frank Dodge, Alex Gallardo, Trish Richmond, Becky Schwartz, Robert Dietz, Dan Sanchez, Jana Miyasaki, Yolanda Alamillo, Fran Buker, Terry Buker, Brian Wilkins, Susie Gallardo, Ernie Flores, Kathy Hammerand, Rene Tovar, Colin Jones, RJ Dietz, Justin Henry, Isaac Tovar, Debby Norris, Ryan Jones, David Farlow, Lyssa Brady, Jack Fitzgerald, Sean Fitzgerald, Patrick Bower, Ken Milbery, Trevor Jordan

- Meeting called to order by Lester Miyasaki at 6:40 pm.
- Introduced Principal Kyunghae Schwartz and Vice Principal Tim Loomer. Talked about the fence coming down. Will table approval of November Minutes until the next meeting in the interest of saving time. Encouraged everyone to ask questions and have a positive and progressive meeting.

Dr. Schwartz noted that the Buena Administration is also part of our team. Thanked the parents for their commitment and dedication. Wants to address concerns; was disheartened by the feeling of not having the respect of the other Buena teams.

Mr. Loomer noted his background in athletics from playing high school volleyball to running the Ventura High School volleyball program. He is looking forward to working with the athletic programs at Buena.

John Zeman noted that the Buena Baseball program was told that the fence could be put up once football ended and that when it was put up, it came back down after only five days. Loomer noted that he talked with the coaches (stakeholders) about spacing issues. JV football felt there was a safety issue and needed the fence taken down. He spoke to Joe Vaughn (former BHS AD) who said there was a field space issue. There was a miscommunication with Lester about the fence and was never in contact with Anthony about the fence going back up. Once the fence did go back up, there were many complaints.

Debby Norris noted that the Buena Baseball Boosters are a new club and are highly motivated. Thousands of dollars and man-hours have been spent on the baseball fields. We lose this money every time the fence comes down. Why not make changes? Dr. Schwartz noted that once the spring season ends, the plan is to get all stakeholders together and negotiate change. She asked that we bear with them this year and work on making changes in May.

Julie Boys asked what the school can do during the interim to ensure the integrity of our field. Mr. Loomer will send out an email to the maintenance department and the band about driving across the field. He has already asked that the soccer teams respect the space. Dr. Schwartz also noted that the chemicals necessary to control gofers could be harmful to students.

Shirlyn Burke pointed out that baseball is now year-round. Mr. Loomer appreciates the coaches who are taking on the challenge of year-round coaching. He also noted that all sports are able to operate year-round and the space issues that will create.

Tom Burke noted that there was a similar problem at Ventura High School and that there was cooperation between coaches of all sports. That cooperation seems to be lacking at Buena. He also pointed out that football has taxpayer money for the stadium and that baseball doesn't have that money. Mr. Loomer noted that he is concerned about the cooperation between the coaches and that there does seem to be hard feelings. He appreciates the money being put into the fields, etc. by the boosters. Talked with ASB about getting money for baseball and with the district office.

Randy Jordan noted that it's clear that soccer uses the field up against Victoria Ave. The fence being taken down was a waste of our money. It seems that soccer could share the JV field even with the fence up. Asked when the fence would go back up. Mr. Loomer pointed out that he has asked Anthony to bring a field usage plan to the end-of-season meeting. The soccer boosters don't feel they have enough space with the baseball fence up, so the fence will go back up once the soccer season ends.

Dr. Schwartz wants to address the athletic programs as a whole because there clearly is a problem that will have to be taken care of once the spring season ends. She noted that the VP in charge of athletic and the Athletic Director are both brand new. Next year, unfair situations will not repeat themselves. She asked that we recognize the sensitivity of Mr. Loomer as someone who has been a coach and student athlete. Buena will move into the next stage – it's obvious that the time has come. There are two components: academic and athletic which must move forward together and must all be on the same page.

Becky Schwartz would like to see everyone from all athletic programs SHARE.

Robert Dietz noted that he'd like to see more space for the other sports, too. He feels that baseball is getting the raw end of the deal. Our campus is open which leads to the destruction of our fields. Is there any way to get the campus locked down? Dr. Schwartz noted that she has asked this for safety reasons.

Mike Espitia has been trying to get the year-round baseball program going. Basketball, Football, Volleyball and Swimming programs at Buena all have beautiful facilities. All the Baseball program is asking for is one field. Dr. Schwartz mentioned that the meeting she had with Lester and Eric was the first time she realized the costs going into our program's field maintenance.

John Zeman noted that there will still be coaches who have been around for many years who will say the same thing. He pointed out that JV football could move a few yards north. Soccer doesn't seem to need that space at all. There are about 25 baseball programs in Ventura County; some of which use our field that we pay the money to maintain. Keeping the fence up year-round will keep at least one Buena Baseball field in decent shape. It is also a great idea to sell banners as a fundraiser. Dr. Schwartz noted that banners are a sensitive issue which must be discussed further.

Shirlyn Burke asked if access by little leagues to the JV field could be limited. Lester noted that they get permits from the district and there did not seem to be away to keep them off or to police the situation. Mr. Loomer will email the district to inquire; however it's district property. Discussion held.

Lori Urban noted that soccer isn't using the area where the fence was. Doesn't think waiting until May is a good idea – thinks it should be solved now. Dr. Schwartz thinks soccer should be able to finish the season without one more thing to worry about. Would like to see a list of the costs/needs/expenses and also a list of requested changes so that BHS Administration can work with the district on our needs.

Ernie Flores noted that he was a student athlete at BHS and that nothing has changed on the baseball field in at least 30 years. Does the administration have any future plans for baseball? Mr. Loomer noted that there is money left from the stadium fund – perhaps the fields can be moved down to utilize the space better. He has many more ideas. Discussion held. Dr. Swartz noted that having a vision is a positive step in the right direction.

Alan Hammerand asked if the Buena Baseball Boosters need to approach the district directly. Mr. Loomer noted that he already has an email in to the district. Dr. Schwartz will follow up if necessary. Part of the problem is historical and changes do need to be made. Alan noted that there is no doubt that if the fence was made permanent, other teams would adjust. Mr. Loomer wants to see the chain of command followed to ensure the best possible outcome.

Tom Burke noted that the permit from the district to use our field is only \$10.00 and there are many liability issues. Would like a blueprint of the facility in order to be able to plan properly. He noted that football also did major damage to the baseball scoreboard.

Rachel Bravo asked about the meeting in the spring. Will the other sports' coaches also be required to provide a plan or will baseball be the only program begging for field usage? Dr. Schwartz noted that the reason for requesting a plan is to familiarize herself with our needs when pleading our case to the district. Wants to provide administrative support and is not guaranteeing anything. She pointed out that she will not be making the decisions – it will be a consensus.

Logan Norris noted that we have three baseball teams and two fields while soccer has six teams and four places to practice. If baseball can make it work, why can't soccer? All six soccer teams never practice at the same time. All basketball teams make one gym work. Dr. Schwartz noted that using outdoor fields in the early morning would not work in the surrounding residential neighborhood. Will also need to get a practice schedule from the coaches.

Jana Miyasaki asked if soccer was required to provide funds to help maintain the fields that they help tear up. Mr. Loomer noted that they've had to in the past and isn't sure why they don't now.

Eric Norris thanked everyone for attending noting that there were many good ideas. Noted that there are teams in Ventura County who have dedicated baseball fields with much less space so the space issue argument doesn't fly. The status-quo argument isn't a good argument either. Other sports don't even look at our fields as baseball fields. They aren't purposely trying to pick on us, but the status-quo must be changes. We as a program feel like second-class citizens. All we are asking for is to change the mindset – baseball shouldn't be bombarded by other sports. If all other sports are using our field, they should be financially supporting keeping the fence up or maintaining the field. One way to keep our field nice is to keep the fence up.

Lester noted that many of our players only play baseball – no other sports. Baseball does not really have a home at Buena with no fence. This decision in May needs to come from the top down; not simply a vote between coaches where other coaches can gang up on the baseball program. Again, Lester is asking for management from the top down. These kids are Buena's future and the fence/baseball program is their future. They must be able to practice to ensure the possibility of playing college baseball after graduation. Thanked Mr. Loomer and Dr. Schwartz for their attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Next meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, January 14, 2009.