**OKEMOS ATHLETIC BOOSTERS MEETING – Wednesday, March 15, 2017**

**Present:** Julie Staky, Lisa Plascencia, Betsy Meschke, Steve Karlzen; Ira Childress, Karen Cohn, Caryn Rhodes; Guest: Mike Nevells

**Call to Order:** 7:05 pm

**Approval of Minutes –**

Minutes from the Feb 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

**Guest Presentation -**

Mike Nevells spoke regarding the Adam Nevells Memorial Fund - who Adam was, about the memorial fund and athletic scholarship, upcoming events, and how the OAB could potentially help. He is making the rounds to all of the areas that Adam was involved in and where the family has started scholarships: church, boy scouts, OHS athletics, and Band. There are several ways the Boosters can help with upcoming fundraisers at Buffalo Wild Wings and their annual Golf Outing.

The group discussed the possibility of sponsoring a student foursome or giving a flat donation amount. Julie will talk with more with Mike about the best way we can help and we will re-visit this at the April meeting.

**Athletic Director’s Report –**

Winter sports are done and overall it was a good season. Hockey finished 2nd in the league. Wrestling won more matches than many years past. Cheer did another great job supporting the teams. Boys Basketball had a good regular season, but a tough playoff start. Girls Basketball was the youngest team in the conference, and made it all the way to the district championship game, where they lost on a last-second shot. Ski had a rough time with the lack of snow, but the girls were still able to qualify for States as a team for the first time ever. Boys had one individual quality for States. The Boys Swim team was undefeated and won their 10th straight league titles, with several individuals qualifying for States.

Spring sports are just getting started. OHS will be hosting Districts in Baseball and Softball this year, and also Girls Lacrosse Regionals. Dates to be determined.

Ira reached out to the all of the coaches and received some really good feedback regarding volunteers to join the Boosters. Julie will contact each person individually and invite them to the April meeting.

Ira also met with the Gus Macker group to get more info on how the OAB will be involved. They will need help with set-up, and also gave their OK to our ideas regarding selling water/Gatorade, and having a 50/50 raffle. There are many more questions without answers yet, i.e. could we have mobile sales? get student help? should we wear OAB t-shirts or visors to identify ourselves? Lots more to come on this topic.

**Concessions -**

Still struggling somewhat to get bodies on a regular basis.

There was discussion regarding the purchase of a hot chocolate machine, as anyone who has worked that station at a home football game knows how difficult it can be without one. Cost is about $1200-1700. Everyone felt positive about purchasing one. Karen Cohn will investigate regarding cost for sure, and need for a water line. She will report back next meeting.

More discussion about how to handle concessions going forward. The kitchen staff approached Karen re: running concessions themselves and getting paid for it (they have employees who want overtime). She will ask them if they are including outdoor concessions too and if they understand how many events there will be.

Also mention of starting a conversation with the administration regarding the district taking back some of the uniform expenses, since that is a very large part of our fundraising needs each year. Possibly suggest a multi-year goal, reducing our amount each year. Also the need to promote more of the other things the Boosters do, to increase awareness and also reach a larger audience. Social media is a great way to do this - possibly adding a Social Media person to the Chair list and listing the OAB social media sites in News and Notes.

**President’s Report -**

Meet The Chiefs is on Monday, March 20th. Boosters members, please attend if you can.

Winter Event - Toast To the Chiefs was a little smaller than last year (some other local events that same night), but still a very successful event, with an estimated $17,000 profit.

**New Business -**

Brian Harrod submitted a funding request for a Track Timing System. The current system failed several times last year - it is out of date and replacement parts are no longer available. Cost is $7249, and Chippewa Middle School has committed to paying $2400 (they will use it also). A motion was made to match the Chippewa donation, motion passed.

There is a group that is currently raising money to put lights on the soccer field. They are not asking the OAB for money, they would just like a sub-account under the Boosters to hold the money while fundraising is ongoing. Julie will check with Lou to make sure there are no legal issues with that.

Chrissy Schoonover would like to take the money OAB had set aside for new softball pants for this year and use it to repair their pitching machine instead. They will repair old pants instead of buying new ones. A motion was made to increase the stipend to $700 to help with both the pitching machine and pant repairs. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be on April 19th at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm