

Falcon Booster Club, February 2018 meeting

The Falcon Booster Club met on the evening of Feb. 7, 2018, in the Multi-Purpose Room at St. John Paul II Catholic High School. Thirty-five people attended the meeting.

The meeting began with a prayer at 6:01 p.m. President Paul Andrzejewski began the meeting by saying how pleased he was with the turnout for a meeting with such an important topic. The status of JP II's athletic fields and facilities is the primary topic of tonight's meeting.

The minutes from the January meeting were approved. Treasurer Tricia Hall gave a financial report. She said there was no change from the financial report from the January meeting.

Vice President Sherri Ross gave a fundraising update. She said photographs were being taken Sunday for the spring athletic media guide. She said "things are moving along well" for the sales for the spring media guide. She said 8 new field signs were the goal in baseball.

President Paul Andrzejewski emphasized there was a big push on baseball signs. He praised Harry Day, the JP II baseball coach for the job he has done with improvements on the baseball field, saying the revamped scoreboard and field look "phenomenal."

Sherri Ross said all the envelopes have been sent out for the spring 20/20 fundraiser. The goal, she said, is to send those envelopes outside a 50-mile radius of Huntsville so the school is not tapping into its usual base of the local community. So far, the 20/20 fundraiser has raised \$12,930.

She said the Dancing with the Falcons is the major fundraising event for the spring. That event is being coordinated with the school's parent association. Colleen Davis, co-chair for the event, said the event will be April 21 at the Jackson Center. She said 10 couples will be competing; so far, six tables have been sold. Sherri Ross said the new date for the golf tournament is August 10. Paul Andrzejewski said the two golf courses at Redstone Arsenal will be the site.

Paul Andrzejewski gave an Athletic Director's Update and an update on the middle schools. He said the new buses are being utilized well. He added that the initial season with the middle schools in the Alabama High School Athletic Association has yielded good results. "It's all been very positive," he said. "We couldn't be happier for the first year." He praised Athletic Director Kyle Overstreet for the job he has done in compiling a detailed athletic budget, accounting for every athletic dollar at JP II.

Nicole Slyman gave an update on online spirit wear. She said a good job is being done on that. She said special shirts for various months will be done next school. She said those special shirts will be determined before next school year starts.

Todd Slyman said he accepted the job of spearheading facilities and fields at the school and has done a lot of work - work that might not be evident to all. He reiterated the details of the land swap with Madison Academy, which Madison Academy agreed to recently. With the land swap and the lease agreement in place, he hopes in eight weeks to have the final drawings finished and workers can begin moving dirt for the fields. "Now," he said, "all we need is a lot of money."

Said Paul Andrzejewski: "What's good is that we're moving forward." Said Todd Slyman: We had to make sure the land swap in place to do the final engineering. We believe the Diocese will allow us to go forward. It will be a long-term lease with the ability to renew." He said he hopes the dirt work will be donated. "That's a huge piece of the pie," he said.

John Zierdt, JPPII board member, said there will be a "phased approach" to building the fields and facilities. He estimated initial costs at \$4-5 million. A field house will not be built immediately. "Once people see the dirt, it'll be much easier," he said. Todd Slyman agreed, saying fundraising will be more viable once the dirt is visible. John Zierdt said the board's immediate priority is to get a new softball field in place.

Ultimately, said Todd Sylman, the approval for all of this falls under the Bishop. Said John Zierdt. "We run the school day to day. We report to the Bishop." John Zierdt addressed the school's current financial issues. "Before we can fix the fields, we have to solve the cash flow problems. It's a bit of a mess. Fees for athletics will have to go up."

Todd Slyman was optimistic about the future of fields and facilities. "I feel good about the dirt donation. It won't take as long as you think it will," he said. He emphasized the need for a plan going forward.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 6:56 p.m.

Attending

Paul Glosemeyer
Mike Petersen
Julie Burge
Paul Page
Mike Counts
Brian Hamaker
Russ Alexander
Deborah Woullard
Darrell Jefferies
Jeff and Patti Miller
Grant Davis
Colleen Davis
Noel Nicolle
Laura Stratton

David Lloyd
John Zierdt
Dave and Jeannette Custodi
Rod Hynes
Barbara Stokes
Sam Bennett
Jane Dodds
Todd and Nicole Sylman
Karl Batchelor
Vince Caruso
Sherri Ross
Darrell Brown
Mike Marshall
Tricia Hall
Paul Andrzejewski