Harrison Central School District

Booster Clubs

Working together to ensure their viability and vitality

Harrison High School

Sirius Black Box Theater

November 6, 2014

Louis N. Wool, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Outcomes for tonight’s meeting

- What is the appropriate role of a booster club?
- How can we facilitate booster club support of interscholastic and extracurricular programs?
- What are the district’s expectations for booster clubs in raising funds for district teams or co-curricular activities?
- How can booster clubs work collaboratively to limit working at cross purposes?
- Is there an opportunity for booster clubs to collaborate to reduce overhead and redundancy?
- What are green light, yellow light, and red light activities for booster clubs?

The district must ensure that fundraising activities associated with clubs and teams comport with the district mission, board policy, insurance requirements, and most importantly, the health, safety and well-being of all students.
Sustaining a Booster Club: The Significance of Bylaws

- Parents often cycle out of booster club participation
- How can we ensure that institutional memory is not held by one or a small number of individuals?
- What are the key issues that should be addressed in by-laws?
- How do bylaws protect individuals from liability?

The district will require each booster organization to operate as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and to adhere to board policy in providing gifts and/or financial donations for the express purpose of supporting a particular team or extracurricular activity.
Essential elements of Bylaws

- Who can be a member?
- Election to the executive board?
- Description of Executive Board Function/Length of terms?
- Decision-making authority?
- What is the process to determine how funds raised/distributed and for what purposes?
- CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS AND FUNDS?
- Ex officio membership to the executive board
- Alignment with the district’s core values

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Guidelines, questions, gray areas and no way!

- Who should the booster club executive board consult prior to engaging in fundraising for a particular purpose?
- What is the role of a coach/advisor in requesting funding or equipment from booster organization?
- How can the booster clubs partner with the district to support field trips?
- How can we limit the personal liability of booster club members?
- What are appropriate ways to raise funds and fundraising activities that are problematic?

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