

**St. Anthony sports Boosters Softball Association (SABSA) Minutes
December 5-6, 2016 Meeting
Online "Virtual Meeting"**

Call to Order:

President Al Bates convened the virtual meeting online at 12:32 pm on Monday, December 5, 2016 via email to voting Board Members, cc recent frequent member attendees.

Virtual Attendees:

Al Bates, Danielle Bogucki, Jerry Welch, Scott McCleary, Rossi Cannon, Rick Ballot, Dirk DeWester, Lamar Brendemuehl, Melody Herlofsky, Kirsten Stendahl, & Pat Clark.

Meeting Reason:

Al shared the reason for the meeting – an urgent request from Member Jesse Kiemele, following up for/on behalf of the Boosters Board suggestion that all sports boards so interested indicate their support for exploration of an alternative construction plan at Wilshire Park Elementary, one that would also provide increased gym space.

Danielle Bogucki moved "that SABSA provide a support letter for exploring the possibility of additional gym space for the Wilshire Park expansion plan."

Scott McCleary and Al Bates seconded the motion, and the 'virtual floor' was opened for discussion.

Online discussion ensued:

- Danielle Bogucki: I think it's important to emphasize the increased numbers in our program over the last few years and the difficulty in finding gym space for clinics, practices, and tryouts. I'm also concerned about high numbers in small spaces such as the Wilshire gymnasium. I really look at this as a safety issue.
- Rossi Cannon: I support a letter of support for the request for more gym space. I've made my arguments through the online survey and in person as well, but I think they include increased PE time (this cannot be overstated! My daughters have 1-2 sessions of PE a week for 50 minutes. They should have that daily! No wonder kids can't sit still and focus); more access for boosters and secondary athletes year round regardless of sport; more space for concerts and other events like banquets, ceremonies, fundraisers; space for kids to practice when there are concerts and games; ability to host more/larger tournaments and events (i.e. in-house basketball) to generate revenue or offset costs...) I could probably go on.

At any rate, what a letter from a booster's sport focuses on might not be so broad in scope, but perhaps as an organization that has seen the ebb and flow of participation we can speak to the demand for gym space even when participation isn't high. We can speak to the fact that our enrollment in softball has doubled in the last few years, and that this trend will continue as enrollment at Wilshire continues. Not only are our classrooms at capacity, so are our gyms. We

already have kids practicing basketball until 9:30, and it's not appropriate. While sports aren't the central focus of our educational system, they do protect kids from at-risk behavior, enhance a sense of community, and build lifelong skills that make them better students, employees, and citizens. The schools are the crown jewel of St. Anthony, but part of that is the opportunity for all kids to participate in extracurriculars.

- Jerry Welch: I'm going to vote yes.

With comments received, Al closed the 'virtual floor' to discussion, and called for a vote at 9:57 pm on Monday, December 5, 2016.

Voting commenced, with the last vote coming in at 10:31 pm.

At 6:07 am on Tuesday, December 6, 2016, Al declared the voting closed and the Motion Passed with 5 votes in favor, 0 against, and 4 abstentions, volunteered to prepare the letter and declared the 'virtual meeting' adjourned.

POST MEETING NOTES:

- At 12:50 pm on Dec. 6, Al shared the draft letter with the group, and asked for feedback, and if any of the abstainers wanted to add their names to the letter.
- Feedback was received as follows:
 - Dirk DeWester: Looks good. You can add my name.
 - Jerry Welch: Looks good.
 - Kirsten Stendahl: Looks good to me... (corrected a typo). You can add my name as a supporter.
 - Rossi Cannon: Looks great!
 - Scott McCleary: Looks good.
 - Lamar Brendemuehl: I would ... support this.
 - Rick Ballot: ...You can add my name.
- Al corrected the typo and forwarded the letter of support to Jesse Kiemele for presentation to the St. Anthony - New Brighton School Board at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Al Bates, SABSA Pres. 2016