

## February 9th, 2015

Meeting began at approximately 6:15 p.m. and adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

In attendance: Zeke Lopez (Athletic Director), Yasmin Wofford, Kari Finch, Lori Bates, Kendra Knowles, Loree Bruckmann-Harmon, Stephen Dunkle, Michael Saaf, Marilyn Cassin, David Neuman and Allan Maris

### (Bolded items = actionable items)

- I. Approval of PAHS Meeting Minutes from January 12th, 2015. Minutes were approved as written.
- II. Update on Football Security Discussion from Administration
  - A. Yasmin sent out a letter with various options to the football coaches and received a reply. Input from current and former football parents is requested.
  - B. Yasmin sent out the letter via email and the letter will be attached to end of minutes. **If you would like to contribute feedback, please send your comments to Zeke by February 27th.**
  - C. After further input from parents, Zeke will review the solutions and then send it to the administration.
  - D. Further discussion was tabled until March.
- III. Vote to Combine AMS Boosters with PAHS
  - A. A motion was made to approve the proposal to combine AMS Boosters with PAHS. Motion was unanimously approved.
- IV. 2015-16 Budget (Preliminary)
  - A. PAHS budget for the 2015-16 school year was reviewed.
  - B. The new budget would require cuts.
  - C. Cuts to all programs for tournaments is under consideration.
  - D. A suggestion was made that Wrestling be cut by \$2000, \$1000 next year and \$1000 the following year.
  - E. The budget will be approved in April and further conversation will take place at the March Meeting.
  - F. **It is requested that all programs send a representative to March's meeting to give input on the 2015-16 budget. Zeke will send an email to all coaches.**
- V. Cheerleading as a Sport
  - A. The conversation began regarding having the cheer squad be designated as a sport rather than a club. PAHS members had several questions such as: will PAHS be responsible for paying the coach, will PE credit be given for cheerleading, will it be considered a 1 season only sport, and will the ETC be

- the same as other sports?
- B. PAHS needs to ensure that cheer will be able to contribute their fair share to PAHS.
  - C. The conversation will continue during March's meeting and a vote will take place in May.
  - D. Yasmin requested that Lori bring cheer financial information to the next meeting.**
- VI. Financial Report
- A. Every team, except Boys Soccer, is in good financial standing.
  - B. Discussion started as to what the consequences will be if Soccer can not afford to pay their bills.
  - C. Conversation on this issue will continue in March.
  - D. Venture discussions were discussed.
  - E. PAHS is requesting that Venture provide us with a spreadsheet of revenue earned, per game per sport.
  - F. PAHS would like Venture to provide suggestions as to how they can improve revenue.
  - G. Zeke will request this information from Venture.**
- VII. PAHS Executive Committee Nominations for 2015-16 School Year.
- A. PAHS will have an opening for President and Vice-president.
  - B. There has been some interest in the positions and we have a few possible nominees.
  - C. PAHS elections will be held in April.
- VIII. Cougar Challenge 2015 (Volleyball)
- A. Not discussed as a Volleyball rep was not present.
- IX. Actionable items - **in bold**
- XII. Future Agenda Items – Next meeting March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- A. Update on Football Security Decision from Administration.
  - B. Continue discussion on PAHS 2015-16 budget cuts
  - C. Continue discussion regarding cheer as a sport.
  - D. Continue Financial Report discussion and consequences for Boys Soccer Team.
  - E. Venture

From: Albany High Football Program  
To: Albany High School Administration  
Re: 2015 Season Cougar Field Security Proposal

The Albany High Football program—its student athletes, coaches and families—understand and support the decision by the administration to have hired security at the home games.

Our primary priority is the safety of our children on the field, and their supporters off the field.

Our secondary priority is to maximize the event while managing costs. Friday nights in the fall at Cougar Field are more than just two teams on the field, it is a wholesome family centric event where Albany High students, families and the community come together to support our student athletes on the field, regardless of the score of the game. The reality is that we could raise the price of the tickets and concessions, but we would end up driving away our fans by making the event less accessible and enjoyable. In an effort to ensure everyone's safety and enjoyment while managing costs, we would like to propose:

1. **Consistency:** At this time the administrators at the football games are in a rotation between one principal, two vice principals, one athletic director, one alternative education coordinator and one AHS security guard. These six individuals each have their own method and style of overseeing the football games. From game to game, the administration of Cougar Field changes significantly depending on who is present. We recommend that all administrators make rounds of the entire area.
2. **Identify and agree upon priorities:** Different administrators focus primarily on the visitor stands, on the admissions table, on the fourth curve of the track, on the parking lot and on the home stands. Determination of priorities, and identifying alternate options, will maximize the value of attention from our administrators. For example, keeping a walkie talkie at the admissions table would allow parents to communicate issues quickly to the administrators, allowing them to increase the range of their oversight instead of standing near the table.
3. **Identify and explore chronic problems that are not resolved by hiring security guards:** Hiring guards is essentially crowd control; it does not address problems that can be alleviated by other means, such as higher fences or better lighting. In addition to having the football program pay for security guards, an investment by the district or Albany High may eliminate certain problems once and for all.

The Albany High Football program would like to work with the administration to identify specific priorities, options and solutions. We have listed some items to begin the process:

- A. **Cart:** The cart is used inconsistently
  - Some administrators drive it, most do not.
  - Training, manuals and/or keys could be subsidized by the football program or PAHS, as this would be a directed benefit to the Football program and athletics.
  - After 3pm, the connecting driveway from the blacktop to Spokane Avenue, and

the gate near the entrance to Cougar Field, are chained. If they could remain unlocked until the end of the game the administrator on duty could drive the cart from the field to the blacktop parking area.

- There is no cost to keeping the gates unlocked, as all administrators have the keys to the field.
- These minor changes in practice would result in better administration of field events and could reduce the security costs.

**B. Fence:** The low and hidden areas of the fence allow students to climb over

- Loss of revenue from students who climb the fence is NOT a priority to the Football program to the extent that security guards are required—yes, we need gate money to support our team but the few students who climb the fence is a significantly lower loss than the cost of hiring security guards.
- We do understand that fence climbing is a discipline issue that administration has to address, and that it is a liability to the district if a child is injured, given the frequency of the occurrences.
- Having the AHS security guard spend most, if not all, her time behind the visitor stands or at the third curve of the track has not reduced fence climbers in that area—we suggest:
  - i. Installing security lights behind and on the visitor stands. Well lit areas have less issues/problems than dark or dimly lit areas.
  - ii. Raising the fence between the AMS blacktop and Cougar Field. In some sections the fence is as low as 3.5 feet high.
- The cost for the fence could be shared by AMS, AHS and AUSD, as the benefit is shared by AMS and AHS, and the liability of an injured child is to the entire district.
- The cost for lighting can be minimized by using solar powered lights to avoid electrical work, and placing them on the existing poles/visitor stands/basketball hoops. The cost could be shared by AMS and AHS.
- These one-time improvements to Cougar Field infrastructure would mean that on a weekly basis an administration resource would not be dedicated to policing behind the visitor stands, and could reduce the security costs.

**C. AMS blacktop parking:** Parking on the blacktop is a congestion problem for all AMS/AHS events

- Parking issues occur whenever the blacktop is used for AMS or Cougar Field events. The blacktop is used for parking daily, and even with just a handful of cars parked near the Cougar Field entrance cars get blocked in by inconsiderate or unaware drivers.
- The Football program has the least parking issues. Drivers communicate if they are blocked in to the admissions table, which then communicates to the game announcer, who then announces the vehicle plates to the crowd.
- Painting parking spot lines on the blacktop will alleviate most, if not all, issues that arise from parking issues.
- The cost of this painting could be shared by AMS, AHS and AUSD.
- These one-time improvements to the AMS blacktop would reduce parking issues

year round, and could reduce the security costs.

D. **AMS blacktop crowd control:** Entering and exiting fans sometimes congregate on the blacktop

- Installing solar power lights on the existing basketball hoops, not requiring any electrical installation, will light up the central blacktop. Well lit areas have less issues/problems than dark or dimly lit areas. See point B.
- Parking spots will ease congestion and reduce the time fans spend on the blacktop. See point C.
- Cart usage, combined with open gates for ease of access, will allow the administrator on duty to make efficient rounds of the blacktop. See point A
- These improvements to the AMS blacktop access and usage could reduce the security costs.

E. **Increased security lighting:** Well-lit areas have less issues/problems than dark or dimly lit areas

- The blacktop, the walkways around the field, the area behind the concessions stand and the area behind the visitor stand could all have brighter lighting.
- When the field lights are on, these areas are at least dimly light, but some of them become extremely dark when the field lights are off, which happens quickly after the end of the game out of deference to the neighbors.
- Per point B, the blacktop and behind the visitor stands could benefit from having solar powered lights installed.
- The area from the admissions gate, around the 4<sup>th</sup> curve of the track and to the concessions stand could all benefit from stronger lighting, perhaps replacing the existing lights. The cost would be shared by AMS, AHS and AUSD.

F. **Entry hand stamps:** All paying customers are stamped for in/out privileges

- Many adults prefer not to be stamped, and some only get stamped if they leave the field and plan to return.
- Previously, only paying students were stamped. Students who had the Cougar Pass—granting admission to all AHS sports events for one flat fee—were not stamped as they could show their card for re-entry. In order to aid in the process of determining if students had jumped the fence, the admissions table began stamping all students who entered the game.
- Due to administration concerns that some students may have purchased the same claw stamp, the admissions table changed to a football stamp.
- Due to administration concerns that students were ‘sharing’ stamps by pressing wet ink onto their friends hands, the admissions table changed from football and claw stamps to one without a mirror image so that a reversed ‘shared’ stamp would be identifiable.
- In order to address these concerns, options could include purchasing a custom stamp that includes text so that students could not share or purchase their own stamp.
- Wristbands could be used as a highly visible confirmation of authorized admission.

· The cost for a custom stamp or wrist bands would be assumed by the Football program.

The Football program would like to increase the number of AUSD staff and employees that attend the games at Cougar Field. Even if a teacher is not actively working, their presence in the stands can have a positive effect on the students attending the game. We distribute schedules to all AHS teachers, and this past season even gave out vouchers for a complimentary meal from the concession stand. We also distribute the game schedule to all elementary and middle school teachers. Any suggestions and support from the administration to increase teacher and staff attendance is much appreciated.

This proposal is intended to be a starting point for a dialogue between the administration and the Football program for the 2015 season and beyond. The safety of our sons on the field, and the Albany High community in the stands is a priority we all share.

Please let us know if there are any points that require further elaboration or explanation prior to an in person meeting to further our 2015 planning.

Thank you for your time,  
Yasmin Wofford  
Albany High Football Parent