

EPGBA BOARD MEETING

February 25th, 2024 7:00pm



Our mission is to create a fun, fair and safe basketball environment that is focused on providing skills development as well as fostering respect for others, self-confidence, leadership and teamwork in our Eden Prairie student athletes. We will strive to provide the best competition at all levels while maintaining the highest degree of participation and sportsmanship.

MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present: Bill Lahti, Scott August, Ashley Young, Gretchen McQuillan, Tracie Anderson, Michelle Jones, Kelsey Gempeler, Kevin Vandrovec, Lori Kelly

Board Members Absent: Richard Peterson, Mark Archuleta, Jodi Archuleta,

Non-Board Members Present: Ellen Wiese, Angie Wenning, Andrew Diehl, Katie Williams, Eric Peterson, Henry Hampton

Meeting called to order: 7:03 pm by Gretchen McQuillan

Meeting Agenda:

- *Motion to adopt meeting agenda made by Lori Kelly and seconded by Scott August. Motion carried.*

Previous Meeting Minutes:

- *Motion to approve January board meeting minutes made by Michelle Jones and seconded by Lori Kelly. Motion carried.*

Regular Business Agenda Items

Finance Committee – Michelle Jones

- Still waiting on tournament numbers but made around \$20K.
- January books are almost done, but settled up through December.
- The bank reached out to Michelle about our balance and they wanted to see about making investments. He offered a certificate of deposit for 5%. Do we want to take \$50k and hold it to make 5%? We have made \$3k money in certificates/bonuses this year.
- Lori asked about if coaches are paid out? No they haven't. They will get paid when bags are returned.
- Lori – do you know what was in each bag for inventory check when returned? Lori and Tracie will connect to finalize a list.
- Kevin – Is there money to help families in need for the out-of-town tournament expenses Michelle said she doesn't think we have paid for hotels before. Gretchen confirmed that last year we were able to help a family stay for one night. Is this something we can consider? We are always willing to talk about helping with fees as needed. It is important that all girls and families can participate.
 - Bill, how do they reach out to us for financial assistance? Michelle answered that we need to revamp this process as not many people do it or do it correctly. Michelle will work on revamping this. Tracie notes that we should let team managers know next year that financial assistance is available if needed.

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- Still waiting for coaches to submit their hotel receipts
- Kelsey brought up that we have a lot of money in the account and what the plan is? Is the goal to be making money or should we be pumping money into additional opportunities for the girls? Are there any "rules" for how much money a non profit can make? Michelle states we should be able to have a years worth of expenses available. We should be making \$5k/year as a non profit. We could look at lowering fees for families or other options.

In House – Gretchen McQuillan

- Season wrapped up this weekend. K-3 had jamboree on Saturday morning. High school girls were there to sign balls and jerseys. There was a lot of positive feedback on the weekend. 2/3 grade had a little tournament play. Overall lots of happy girls.
- West Metro league, 4th-8th grade, the 5th grade team took 2nd in the B bracket. They had a very positive
- There have been 2 8th grade parents reach out asking about a 9th grade in house option for next year? West metro said they have an in-house high school league going, Wayzata and Minnetonka have the most teams involved. The 8th graders are very interested in joining that league vs playing high school. Kevin – is it just 9th grade of a mix? Gretchen states that it is a mix of grades.
 - Scott states that he gets this question a lot and agrees that this is something we should look into. Advertise it and make it available to high school kids. Tracie suggests that one of the interested parents should help head it up. Gretchen states that they want our help in getting gym space for practice once/week and make sure our insurance covers 9-12 grade as well. They would provide coach. Gretchen thinks it would be a great thing to have and help make the program stronger. Lori suggests we could promote it so that if you don't make a high school team, you still have an opportunity to play. *does this need to come to a vote? Gretchen wants to communicate this information to the 8th grade girls. No vote needed, we will move forward, and provide west metro for high school kids
- *To do: Gretchen and Michelle follow up on our insurance plan. They don't believe adding a few teams shouldn't change the dynamic of the insurance policy
- Do we provide spring/summer training for 9-12 in house? No, that is on their own.
- Gretchen would like to order new jerseys and basketballs so they are ready for the beginning of the season. Want to make sure all girls have a ball and jersey.

Marketing and Operations

- Ashley – nothing to report
- Bill – We are all wrapped up and will get ready for next year's fundraising and sponsorships soon

Travel

- There is a coaches social on Tuesday.
- End of season surveys are coming in. Amazing at the range of responses we have from having too much practice time to not enough.
- Michelle – another association states that equal play goes away in 6th grade. Those are our association rules not MYAS rules.
- Try out policy: last month, Kevin reviewed the changes that are being proposed. Kevin's recap:
 - Going from independent evaluators to evaluations coming from high school coach and one other high school staff. A separate individual will run the try outs. They will be involved in day 1 and day 2 when coaches are able to come evaluate as well.
 - If a parent coach's kid isn't in top 4, someone needs to help act on the team's behalf as coach isn't able to attend day 2.
 - We added that if team placement or decision making feedback is needed for families, the coaching director will deliver that information, not a volunteer parent who wasn't attending tryouts.
 - Added notes on playing up into high school as this may be a scenario next year. Added that team formation committee and coaches have the option to change the travel team

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roster if a player moves up to the high school level. High school try outs are after travel teams are formed.

- QUESTIONS:
 - Bill L. - last year when policy changes were made, we saw things that could make things better and more transparent. What was the overall focus on the changes this year and what wasn't liked? Kevin giving his perspective – questions on end results of independent evaluators and is it worth paying them money? Saw that it was important for familiar faces help evaluate to avoid picking players based on one good day/bad day at try outs in front of strangers. Important for coaching director to be the one informing parents of team placements vs a volunteer parent. Lori chimed in with last year, the independent evaluators made a choice that coach didn't agree with but policy states she should have made it. Bill states that maybe it is a process issue vs a policy issue. Kevin states that policy wasn't really changed but it was more a process change.
 - Scott – asked about using previous years coaches. Feels that is important feedback for evaluators and coaches to use. It is noted that that piece of information is always available. Also asked if coaches can go to both days? Yes, paid coaches can attend both days.
 - Tracie – thinks that playing up in high school needs to be decided prior to travel team formations are formed. Ellen can't make that decision before the travel season starts as high school try are later.
 - Is it fair for a girl to decide what team she wants to play for without a guaranteed spot in either? The biggest compromise is that we come to Ellen and say "player X wants to try out for high school" and then she would provide feedback to parents about whether yes, they are ready, no they aren't, etc. Too harsh for a kid to decide between high school or travel when there are no guarantees.
 - Gretchen – do you expect a lot of girls going out for high school next year? Will allowing them to try out for high school if already on a travel team make more kids try out for high school? Ellen doesn't see this happening
 - EPGBA states if you play up, you need to provide 28 days notice, but if going up to high school you don't need to notify anyone.
 - Bill – asked about paid vs parent coaches. Was there a decision made? If a parent coach is just as qualified or more qualified than a paid coach, keep that parent around but if a paid coach is necessary that will happen.
 - Lori provided information that a parent coach needs to submit an application and will be interviewed by coaching committee.
 - *VOTE motion to approve changes to try out policy –
 - Tracie makes the motion to approve the policy changes and seconded by Ashley Young. Is there anyone opposed? All in favor to the policy tryouts. ***Policy changes have been approved. Policy will be updated on website by May.**
 - Spring training – Angie will be running the clinics. Registration will be coming out soon. Scott is waiting for SE to finalize a few things. Hoping to have things up and ready for sign up by March 1. Michelle and Scott will talk about discount codes.
 - Clinics will be Tuesdays/Wednesdays in May. If you want both days you would register for both sessions. These are open to current 3-8th graders.
 - Lori - parents didn't feel like the clinics were worth it last year. They planned to not participate this year due to this. Families feel that our girls are way behind fundamentally. They want to know how to get our teams better to compete at higher levels.

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- Gretchen – we want them to grow in EP and not outsource and come back.
- Ellen – for clinics and camps, you usually separate by grade. Within EP there is a huge difference in talent by grade. It is very hard for any coach to coach 16 players, A-C level equally. What ends up happening is looking at mid-range skill development. Registration will be capped at 30 for the clinics. Hoping by limiting the numbers we can focus on the more serious players. Angie is working on summer training ideas as well.
 - Board recruitment – a few people have shown interest.
 - Eric Peterson, thanks for welcoming us in. Would like more info on roles and expectations, Gretchen or Tracie will send out. Andrew Diehl would also like info.
 - Do we want to meet in March over spring break weekend? Or wait until April and have board meeting and annual meeting at that time? At the annual meeting, we welcome new board members and vote on new roles. Bill L prefers we do back to back in April. Others agree. April 21st is third weekend in April.
 - Lori, what happens if nobody takes on president or VP? She asked Molly and Donnell and there was a year we had to go under the boys association.
 - Ellen, shared section info. Wednesday at 7pm, home against Waconia and if they win they play at home on Saturday at noon.
 - Kelsey shared that she has meeting notes dated back to 1994. We need to figure out how many years worth of notes we need to keep. Looks like indefinitely.
 - Kevin – Minnetonka coaches go through clinics to “learn” how they, as an association, play and develop. Ellen and her team go through a few plays, etc. with travel coaches in October.
 - Those interested in joining the board need to attend the meeting on Sunday, April 21st. If they aren’t able to make it, and want to be part of the board, they need to come to 3 consecutive meetings and then they are able to be official members.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Bill Lahti and seconded by Lori Kelly . Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:22

Next Board Meeting (monthly and annual meeting): April 21st at 7:00 pm via Zoom - Respectfully submitted by Kelsey Gempeler, EPGBA Secretary