

Utica Athletic Boosters – January 25th, 2024

The Utica Athletic Boosters Meeting on December 14th, 2023 was called to order at 5pm at Utica High School, Room 107.

Attendance – Jennifer Wygle, Cecil Renner, Danielle McInturff, Jessica Krueger, Debra Paxton, Heather Hampshire, Mamie Hollenback, Andrew Hollenback, Mark Rakoczy, Rusty Redman, LeeAnn Renner, Brian Beaver, Jami McKinney, Kevin McKinney, Brian Radabaugh

The Treasurer report - \$46,622.25. Rusty Redman made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Heather Hampshire second the motion.

Rusty Redman made a motion to approve the December 14th, 2023, meeting minutes and Cecil Renner seconded the motion. Minutes of last meeting were approved.

Concessions Report: Concessions has been going well, it's not as busy as it had been the last few years.

We have the Wrestling tournament coming up and then the Wrestling LCL will be back at Utica this year. Big Thanks to Mr. Radabaugh for volunteering to host again, it's a good day for us in concessions.

We have had to raise the price of Nachos and Suckers—Changed suckers to 50 cents (We would have only made \$0.01 on a box of Caramel Apple Pops had we not) We also raised the prices of Nachos to \$3.50 up 50 cents.

The Health Department was in to complete the yearly inspections, NO violations were observed at either inspection, The Food License is up for renewal in March.

Committee Report: Gun Bash tickets are available. \$75 per ticket and we have 300 tickets to sell. Proceeds benefit the Track improvement project. Would like to have a beer sponsor for Gun Bash, possibly \$1,000.00. Possibly need items to raffle off for the ladies.

Athletic Director Report: Track project has started Phase 1.

Old Business: The following officers ran unopposed and will assume the following offices for the Utica Athletic Boosters. President – Jessica Krueger, Second Vice President – Mamie Hollenback, Secretary – Danielle McInturff.

New Business: Andy Hollenback made a motion to donate \$100 towards the Hall of Fame night at the High School Basketball game and Jessica Krueger seconded the motion. Motion carries.

See page 3 for additional ideas Jessica Krueger has for Utica Athletic Boosters.

Coaches Reports: Mark Rakoczy, wrestling coached thanked the boosters for the girls wrestling teams new uniforms and warm ups.

Next meeting is Thursday, February 22nd, 2024, at 7 pm in room 107 of the high school. Meeting re-scheduled to Thursday, February 29th, 2024 due to a boys basketball game scheduling conflict.

Rusty Redman made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Cecil Renner seconded the motion.

Goals for 2024-2025 Utica Redskin Athletic Boosters

1. Reach out to the NorthFork Youth Athletic Board and petition that they select a representative to the Athletic Boosters
 - a. Why? To attract active participants in the Athletic Boosters as children active in athletics grow older.
 - b. To attract active participants and mutual support of fundraising efforts.
 - c. To identify needs of the youth programs and goals to assist development of future Redskin Athletes as it pertains to the boosters ability to help.
2. Fundraising - New Opportunities
 - a. Hartford Fair Food Stand - Ideas?
 - b. Velvet Ice Cream Festival
 - c. Live Stream Fees and Advertising on Hudl.
 - i. EVERY other school in the area that has Hudl charges a fee to livestream. It is disclosed that this is to continue to provide livestreaming. We are no longer in COVID times and there is no reason to maintain this as a free service.
 - ii. \$11,750 /year + Spectrum bill monthly during football season.
 - d. TailGate Party before Football - 1-2 times per year, catered event, entertainment??
 - i. Barbeque....or food trucks and a Concert before the game for 1-2 hours with a band/pep rally feel. On Practice Field in end of stadium.
 - ii. \$40/ticket.
 - e. Reserved Seating Sales - Football & Basketball
 - i. Options in new stadium project.
 - f. Auction Off Special Seating Opportunity at the football game. Covered, possible heated seats with catered food during the game, auctioned at the home game prior or via ONLINE auction.
 - i. Idea for Tent in stands with lights and good chair backs ?
 - g. Boosters Membership Campaign along with special events for Booster Members - This might be a lofty goal but can be a way to attract more legacy participation in the Athletic Boosters.
 - i. Leveled Membership with member benefits.
 1. Platinum Member - \$500
 2. Gold Member - \$250
 3. Silver Member - \$100
 4. Bronze Member - \$25
 - ii. STILL FREE TO BE A VOTING MEMBER WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE CONSTITUTION. Membership is more of a sponsorship of operating costs and special invite to Booster Exclusive Events.
 - iii. Membership includes invite to a minimum of 2 annual special events and
 - h. Quarter Auction/Spaghetti Dinner
 - i. Donation for Items to be Auctioned off - Full Profit.
 - ii. Spaghetti Dinner

- i. 5K During Homecoming Festival or Ice Cream Festival
 - i. Draw from Outside of the community because runners are always looking for these opportunities.
- 3. Capital Campaign to stimulate the Stadium/Track Renewal Project.
 - a. **Must be pursued AFTER Levy passes for success.
 - b. Stimulate Athletic Department to look into design for updates to the Stadium that compliment the new school project.
 - c. Work with Park National & Licking County Foundation
 - d. Target time frame of Nov/Dec when corporations/businesses are thinking about giving.
- 4. Continue to support traditional Athletic Booster fundraising programs and expand where we can. These work. Open to ideas for expansion and/or updates.
 - a. Trivia Night - Spring & Fall
 - b. Steak Dinner (A new date that doesn't interfere with Hartford Fair)
 - c. Golf Outing
 - d. Gun Bash
 - e. Basketball Concessions
- 5. Complete Transparency
 - a. Publish agenda Monday before each meeting in order to allow our supporters to attend when they have ideas or input on new discussions.
 - b. Post visibly in the stadium & HS Gym/mezzanine a "Goal & Achievement" Board
 - ** This would list our current paid members/levels, our fundraising GOALS, our upcoming events and how much \$\$ we have contributed within the year.
- 6. Communication Goals
 - a. Encourage In Season Coaches or a representative of the Coaching Staff to report to meetings during season so we can help support needs, publicize efforts, address real time concerns.
 - b. Student Liaison - A Student representative to speak to us about the needs of the Athletic Programs
 - c. Website? How can we help the Athletic Department have a more "one stop shop" for communication
 - d. Continue Facebook efforts.
- 7. Divide & Conquer Fundraising Efforts
 - a. Assign a member to spearhead each campaign, "Trivia Night Chairman". DOES NOT HAVE TO BE AN OFFICER, but someone who is passionate about the project and has knowledge to complete the duty. A consistent complaint from past Booster Members is that it was the work of the few for the benefit of the many however I feel that by spreading out responsibilities we will be able to achieve more and our lofty goals shall not overwhelm our numbers this way. Also, this will allow those passionate previous officers to continue to offer their support and expertise in these areas without being overwhelmed.