**Mendham Fencing Parents Association Meeting**

Minutes from Tuesday, February 21, 2017

**Fencing Season**

Recap of the season. Congratulations to the Girls’ Team. Reminder of upcoming Girls’ Final Meet against Montgomery on Wednesday, 2/22. Squad states take place on Saturday, 2/25 (Girls) and Sunday, 2/26 (Guys) – both at North Hunterdon. Individuals to take place on Sunday, 3/5 at Montgomery.

**Pizza Party**

Pizza Party took place on 2/3. Thank you to Jodi, Ella, Angela and all who donated.

**Pasta Party**

Pasta Party will take place on Friday, March 3rd from 6:00-9:00 at the Tambini’s – 36 Chesterfield Drive, Chester. All spots on Sign-Up Genius have been filled. Still need a few people to help with clean up at the end.

**Banquet**

The annual fencing banquet is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12th at Basking Ridge Country Club from 6:00-10:00. Invitations have been sent out. Liz Tambini will work on centerpieces. It was decided that we do not need extra give-aways for the fencers. Seniors will be provided with $50 gift cards and portraits. Ed Persau brought up the possibility of the Parent Association paying for the fencers’ meals. Discussion tabled due to other potential expenses for the team for the 2017-18 season.

**Yearbook**

Pictures were taken before the Ridge Meet on Tuesday, 1/24. Due to the photographer being Normandy Studios, the Parents’ Association was being asked to pay for photos which are $9.95 (low grade) and $19.95 (original). Coach Medeiros was contacting the company to see about getting the photos at no cost. \*

Well-wisher ads are due by March 3rd. \*\*

We desperately need parents to solicit businesses for ads in the yearbook. Through the business ads, we have not had to pay for the yearbooks out of the Fencing Budget for the last few years. Discussion took place on how to keep track of businesses so that no one ‘hits up’ a business multiple times.\*\*\*

**Treasurer/Budget**

Athletic Department budget restructuring took place over the last few month. It was determined that the sports programs were severely underfunded. The athletic budget for the 2017-18 school year has been increased by 100% which will be approximately a $90,000 increase. The budget, while fluid, will be spread across all the sports teams so that each will be adequately funded to run the individual programs. It is the hope that much of the financial burden taken on by the various Parent Associations will be alleviated.

The Athletic Director, Mr. Panfile, recently contacted Kathy to inform our Parents’ Association that in all likelihood, a new aluminum strip will be purchased for the team for next season. Mr. Panfile, asked if the Parents’ Association may wish to purchase a second matching strip. Raj assured the group that we have the funds to do this.

A new aluminum strip costs between $3,000 - $3,500. Both Absolute Fencing and Blue Gauntlet will give a %20 discount for the purchase. No special consideration will be given to ordering 2 strips.

Discussion also took place on storage. The athletic department will need to find an appropriate place on the gym level for storage. It was also agreed that a cart or two will be needed to transport the strip pieces from storage to the gym. A cover for the strips was also recommended when not in use.

Finally, $1,175 will be available through the Athletic Department to purchase new equipment for the 2017-18 season. An inventory of equipment needs will take place after this season ends.

\*Update on photos: Coach Medeiros obtained the photos throught the School Yearbook staff. Still missing 3 senior photos, hope to obtain soon.

\*\* In the last email, deadline was extended to March 10th.

\*\*\*Tara Skirzenski put together a google doc listing businesses so that we can keep track of the solicitations. This link was emailed to the group.